

APPENDIX 4.3: SCOPING MATRIX

Abbreviations

AA	Appropriate Assessment
AC	Aberdeenshire Council
BT	British Telecom
BHS	British Horse Society
BNG	Biodiversity Net Gain
BSBI	Botanical Society of Britain and Ireland
CEMP	Construction Environment Management Plan
CIRIA	Construction Industry Research and Information Association
CoWRP	Control of Woodland Removal Policy
CTMP	Construction Traffic Management Plan
DDSF	(Dee) District Salmon Fisheries Board
DIA	Drainage Impact Assessment
DWPA	Drinking Water Protection Area
ECoW	Environmental Clerk of Works
ECU	Energy Consents Unit
FCC	Feughside Community Council
FLS	Forestry Land Scotland
FRA	Flood Risk Assessment
GVA	Gross Value Added
GWDTE	Ground Water Dependant Terrestrial Ecosystems
HES	Historic Environment Scotland
HRA	Habitat Regulations Appraisal
HSE	Health and Safety Executive
JRC	Joint Radio Company
LCT	Landscape Character Type
LNCS	Local Nature Conservation Review Site
LTFP	Long Term Forest Plan
LVIA	Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment

MD-SEDD	Marine Directorate – Science Evidence Data and Digital
MOD	Ministry of Defence
NESBREC	North East Scotland Biological Records Centre
NESRSG	North East Scotland
NPF	National Planning Framework 4
NS	NatureScot
OHL	Overhead Line
PCA	Peat Condition Assessment
PMP	Peat Management Plan
PWSRA	Private Water Supply Risk Assessment
RSPB	Royal Society for the Protection of Birds
SAC	Special Area of Conservation
SEPA	Scottish Environment Protection Agency
ScW	ScotWays
SF	Scottish Forestry
SLA	Special Landscape Area
SM	Scheduled Monument
SuDS	Sustainable Drainage System
SW	Scottish Water
TS	Transport Scotland
UGC	Underground Cable
UKHab	UK Habitat Classification Survey
ZTV	Zone of Theoretical Visibility

Table 1 – Scoping Matrix

No.	Subject	Task	Consultee	Scoping Opinion Page Ref.	EIA Report Reference	Comments
1	Scoping Consultations	Scottish Ministers expect the EIA report which will accompany the application for the Proposed Development to consider in full all consultation responses.	ECU - 01	5	Volume 1 – All Chapters	All consultation responses received as part of the Scoping Opinion are summarised within this Scoping Matrix and addressed throughout the EIA Report, where relevant.
2	Scoping Consultations	Scottish Ministers are satisfied with the scope of the EIA set out within the topics of the scoping report.	ECU - 02	5	Volume 1 – All Chapters	This has been noted.
3	Private Water Supplies	Scottish Ministers request that the Company investigates the presence of any private water supplies which may be impacted by the development. The EIA report should include details of any supplies identified by this investigation, and if any supplies are identified, the Company should provide an assessment of the potential impacts, risks, and any mitigation which would be provided.	ECU - 03	5	Volume 1 - Chapter 9 – Geology, Hydrology and Hydrogeology	Potential impacts on private water supplies are summarised in Section 9.6 of Chapter 9 and reported in full in Appendix 9.5: Private Water Supply Risk Assessment (PWSRA).
4	Scottish Water Assets	Scottish Water provided information and advised the Proposed Development falls within the Inchgarth River Dee catchment	ECU - 04	5	Volume 1 - Chapter 9 – Geology, Hydrology and Hydrogeology	See Scottish Water response below.

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		which supplies Mannofield Water Treatment Works.				
5	MD-SEDD EIA Guidance ¹	Scottish Minsters reference Marine Directorate – Science Evidence Data and Digital (MD-SEDD), who provide generic scoping guidelines and standing advice for OHL development in relation to potential impacts on fish. The standing advice outlines what information, relating to freshwater and diadromous fish and fisheries, is expected in the EIA report. A checklist is provided to accompany submission.	ECU - 05	6	Volume 1 - Chapter 7 – Ecology Volume 1 - Chapter 9 – Geology, Hydrology and Hydrogeology	MD-SEDD standing advice and guidance ² has been noted and fisheries interests discussed where appropriate in Volume 1 - Chapter 7 – Ecology, with watercourses also discussed in Volume 1 - Chapter 9 – Geology, Hydrology and Hydrogeology. The required checklist will accompany the application.
6	Impacts on Fish Populations	In addition to identifying the main watercourses and waterbodies within and downstream of the development area, the ECU advises that Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) where fish are a qualifying feature are identified and considered along with felling operations, particularly in acid-sensitive areas.	ECU - 06	7	Volume 1 - Chapter 7 – Ecology Volume 1 - Chapter 9 – Geology, Hydrology and Hydrogeology	Detailed consideration of the potential for connectivity with the watercourses of the River Dee upper catchment is considered within Section 7.7 of Chapter 7. Furthermore, a Shadow Habitats Regulations Appraisal (sHRA) is provided within Appendix 7.8, specifically with respect to the River Dee SAC. The HRA has concluded that there will be no adverse effects on

¹ Scottish Government (online) Available at: <https://www.gov.scot/publications/freshwater-and-diadromous-fish-and-fisheries-associated-with-onshore-wind-farm-and-transmission-line-developments-generic-scoping-guidelines/> (last accessed 09/10/2025)

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						the integrity of the qualifying features and conservation objectives of the River Dee SAC following the implementation of mitigation measures.
7	Peat Landslide Hazard Risk Assessment (PLHRA)	Scottish Ministers consider that where there is a demonstrable requirement for peat landslide hazard and risk assessment (PLHRA), the assessment should be undertaken as part of the EIA process to provide Ministers with a clear understanding of whether the risks are acceptable and capable of being controlled by mitigation measures.	ECU- 07	6	Volume 1 - Chapter 9 – Geology, Hydrology and Hydrogeology	A site specific PLHRA is presented in Appendix 9.1 which has been prepared following best practice guidance published by Scottish Government ³ .
8	Landscape and Visual Impact – Visualisations	Scottish Ministers recommend viewpoints to be assessed within the landscape and visual impact assessment should be agreed in consultation with Aberdeenshire Council.	ECU- 08	6	Volume 1 - Chapter 6 - Landscape and Visual	Advice provided by Aberdeenshire Council during scoping has been considered and adopted in the identification and selection of viewpoints for the production of visualisations. Chapter 6 describes the viewpoint locations included in Volume 3 – Visualisations to NatureScot Guidelines.
9	Ornithology	It is recommended by the Scottish Ministers that decisions on bird surveys should be made following	ECU-09	6	Volume 1 – Chapter 8 - Ornithology	NatureScot were consulted to confirm that the approach and adopted methods to the surveys being employed

³ Scottish Government (2017) Peat Landslide Hazard and Risk Assessments: Best Practice Guide for Proposed Electricity Generation Developments

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		discussion between the Company and NatureScot. It is also recommended the most up to date records should be sought from the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB) and the North East Raptor Study Group (NERSG). Scottish Ministers recommend attention be given to the further confidential response and advice issued by RSPB on 7 February 2025 for the requirement of species protection. It is recommended by the Scottish Ministers that attention should be given to the advice provided by Aberdeenshire Council regarding protected and priority species.				were adequate to assess the baseline ornithological conditions (please see the relevant NatureScot consultation responses below). A data consultation exercise has been initiated with both the RSPB Scotland and the North East Raptor Study Group, however at the time of writing no data have been returned. Acknowledgment is made of the further confidential response from the RSPB Scotland and advice from Aberdeenshire Council.
10	Scoping Consultations	Scottish Ministers recommend that attention should be given to the advice provided by Aberdeenshire Council regarding Protected Species.	ECU - 10	6	Volume 1 - Chapter 7 – Ecology	The advice provided by Aberdeenshire Council regarding protected species has been addressed in Chapter 7: Ecology.
11	Traffic and Transport Assessment	The Scottish Ministers recommend that potential impacts of construction and completed development on safe and efficient operation of the railway	ECU-11	6-7	Volume 1 – Chapter 13 – Traffic and Transport	This has been noted. A traffic and transport assessment has been completed and is set out in the noted

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		are assessed. This includes conducting a Traffic Assessment and providing details of proposed construction and engineering works near the railway, as detailed in Network Rail's Scoping response.			Volume 4 – Appendix 13.1 – Transport Assessment	chapter and supporting appendix (Appendix 13.1).
12	Design	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.	ECU-12	7	N/A	No borrow pits are proposed as part of this application.
13	Cumulative	The Scottish Ministers request that the company assess the impact of the Proposed Development on existing and/or planned infrastructure.	ECU -13	7	Volume 1 - Chapter 5 – EIA Process and Methodology Volume 1 – Technical Chapters (6 – 13)	The approach to the assessment of cumulative effects is set out within Section 5.5 of Chapter 5, and cumulative effects have been considered throughout the EIA Report where relevant.
14	Construction Management and Health and Safety	Scottish Ministers request the company to assess if any flammable, toxic or explosive chemicals would be stored on site in quantities such	ECU-14	7	N/A	No hazardous substance consent required.

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		that a Hazardous Substances Consent would be required.				
15	Further Consultation	Scottish Ministers are aware that further engagement is required between parties regarding the refinement of the design of the Proposed Development and request that they are kept informed of relevant discussions.	ECU - 15	7	Volume 1 - Chapter 4 - Scope and Consultation	This has been noted. The Energy Consents Unit have been kept informed of any further discussions with consultees.
16	Mitigation	Scottish Ministers outlined that the mitigation measures suggested for any significant environmental impact identified should be presented as a conclusion to each chapter. The Applicant is also asked to provide a consolidated schedule of all mitigation measures presented in the EIA Report in tabular form.	ECU - 16	7	Volume 1 – Technical Chapters (6 – 13)	Mitigation measures are proposed at the end of each technical chapter (Chapter 6 – 13). Volume 1 - Chapter 3 - The Proposed Development also includes some general mitigation measures which apply across the Proposed Development. A consolidated Schedule of Mitigation is also presented as Appendix 14.1 - Schedule of Mitigation of the EIA Report in tabular form.
17	ECU Consultation	The Applicant is encouraged to engage with the ECU at the pre-application stage and before proposals reach design freeze.	ECU - 17	8	Volume 1 - Chapter 4: Scope and Consultation	The Applicant has engaged with the ECU during the pre-application stages. A Gate Check 1 Report was issued to the ECU and key stakeholders, prior to submission of the section 37 application, to outline consultations with statutory and non-statutory consultees,

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						engagement with the local community and how matters raised during the scoping process have been dealt with in the EIA Report.
18	Scoping Matrix	When finalising the EIA Report, the Applicant is asked to provide a summary in tabular form of where within the EIA Report each of the specific matters raised in the Scoping Opinion have been addressed.	ECU - 18	8	Volume 4 - Appendix 4.4: Scoping Matrix	This Scoping Matrix addresses the noted request.
19	Scoping Consultation	Aberdeenshire Council confirm that the EIA Methodology outlined within the Scoping Report appears to be typical for a development of this type and is considered acceptable.	AC-01	11	Full EIA Report	This has been noted.
20	Ecology and Ornithology	In relation to ecology and ornithology the issues covered by the scoping report appear to be comprehensive and cover the required topics including ecology, carbon/peat, ornithology, forestry and hydrology.	AC-02	11	Volume 1 – Chapter 7 – Ecology Volume 1 – Chapter 8 - Ornithology	Acknowledged.

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21	Ecology and Ornithology	Local knowledge on the use of the area by birds should be incorporated before scoping out species not seen during initial surveys. In addition to the issues covered in the scoping report the presence of species of regional and local significance should be considered in the assessment	AC03	12	Volume 1 – Chapter 7 – Ecology Volume 1 – Chapter 8 - Ornithology	The advice provided by Aberdeenshire Council regarding protected species has been addressed in Volume 1 - Chapter 7: Ecology and Volume 1 - Chapter 8: Ornithology
22	Strathfinella LNCS	The natural environment team agree with the scoping assessment in respect to sites designated for local and regional importance. Further information on the Strathfinella Local Nature Conservation Site (LNCS) is available from North East Scotland Biological Records Centre (NESBREC).	AC04	12	Volume 1 – Chapter 7 – Ecology Volume 1 – Chapter 8 - Ornithology	This has been noted. NESBREC have been consulted for further information in relation the Strathfinella LNCS. This is discussed further in Volume 1 - Chapter 7: Ecology and Volume 1 - Chapter 8: Ornithology
23	Uncommon Flora and Fauna Species	The area of the LNCS most likely to be impacted by these works is of botanical interest. In particular interest is the Slack of Birnie which is a steep sided den through which the Slack Burn flows. The rocky outcrops and screes at the northern end of the den have a number of locally rare botanical species. The higher ground	AC05	12	Volume 1 – Chapter 7 – Ecology	This has been noted. The potential impacts of the Proposed Development on the Strathfinella LNCS has been discussed further in Volume 1 - Chapter 7: Ecology.

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		within the LNCS is covered in montain and dwarf shrub heath and is very wet in places.				
24	Raptor Presence	Raptors were highlighted as an important issue in the Glen Dye windfarm application and will need to be considered in this proposal.	AC06	12	Volume 1 – Chapter 8 - Ornithology	Considerations of raptor species have been taken into consideration in Volume 1 - Chapter 8: Ornithology.
25	Scope Consideration	The scoping report proposes the scoping out of species not recorded during the initial surveys. Local knowledge of the use of these areas, particularly by birds which may use locations intermitently, should be incorporated into the decision to scope out any species.	AC07	12	Volume 1 – Chapter 7 – Ecology Volume 1 – Chapter 8 - Ornithology	This has been noted. NatureScot have been consulted to confirm the methological approach to bird surveys and those species which are to be incorporated into assessments as part of this application. The impacts on such species and mitigation methods are discussed further in Volume 1 - Chapter 8: Ornithology.
26	Protected Species	Protected and rare species including parsley fern <i>Cryptogramma crispa</i> , mountain-male fern <i>Dryopteris oreades</i> and northern damselfly <i>Coenagrion hastulatum</i> have been recorded within the vicinity of the Proposed Development. Consideration of these species should therefore be included within the EIA. The scoping report proposes scoping out species not	AC08	12	Volume 1 – Chapter 7 – Ecology Volume 1 – Chapter 8 - Ornithology	Noted. Detailed results of desk study sources are provided in Appendix 7.1: Desk study. Habitat survey results are provided within Appendix 7.2: Habitat and NVC Survey Report. Protected species surveys results are provided within Appendices 7.3 - 7.5. The results of the terrestrial ecology baseline surveys, including habitat and

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		recorded during initial surveys. Local knowledge should be incorporated into the decision to scope out any species.				protected species surveys, are summarised within Section 7.6 of Chapter 7 Ecology.
27	Protected Species - Wildcat	Wildcat <i>Felis silvestris</i> have been identified as a potential issue at the Fetteresso substation and Aberdeenshire Council's natural heritage planner agrees with objectors that wildcat should not be scoped out of assessment.	AC9	13	Volume 1 – Chapter 7 – Ecology	The potential for effects on wildcat arising from the Proposed Development is discussed in Section 7.7 with corresponding mitigation measures outlined in Section 7.8.
28	Further Habitat Database information	North East Scotland Biological Records Centre (NESBReC) has provided a list of the biological data information that it holds in their database. Additional information on locations of notable botanical interest is available from the Botanical Society of Britain and Ireland (BSBI).	AC10	13	Volume 1 – Chapter 7 – Ecology	Data collected from the sources provided by NESBReC and BSBI was reviewed to inform the assessment, as discussed in the noted chapter.
29	Application Scope for Biodiversity Enhancement	Any biodiversity enhancements must be relevant to the local environment and support local biodiversity objectives. Details of enhancements and their location is required.	AC11	13	Volume 1 – Chapter 7 – Ecology	A Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) Report is provided in Appendix 7.6: Outline Biodiversity Enhancement Plan of Chapter 7 Ecology, which outlines the habitat creation units required to achieve an overall enhancement of biodiversity. Opportunities for

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						appropriate enhancement measures to support local biodiversity are outlined within the report.
30	Corepaths and rights of way	Diagrams provided with the scoping report cover core paths and rights of way and any impact during construction and operational phase of the proposed works should be addressed. Further information on rights of way is available from ScotWays.	AC13	13	Volume 1 – Chapter 6 – Landscape and Visual, Chapter 12 – Socio-Economic, Tourism and Recreation, Chapter 13 – Traffic and Transport	The referenced recreational routes have been considered within the noted chapters. A draft Outdoor Access Management Plan is also included as an appendix (see Volume 4 – Appendix 12.1).
31	Flood Risk and Surface Water Drainage	Aberdeenshire Council's Flood Risk and Coastal Protection Team have noted that flood risk is not quantifiable at this stage, however it is not a major concern. Drainage details will need to be provided, to demonstrate how surface water will be managed at locations of permanent structures. Flood Risk Assessment (FRA) and Drainage Impact Assessment (DIA) may still	AC14	14	Volume 1 – Chapter 9: Geology, Hydrology and Hydrogeology	A screening of flood risk is presented in Section 9.6 of Chapter 9. Best practice that would be adopted, including the use of Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems (SuDS), to manage drainage and mitigate flood risk impacts are presented in this Chapter (Section 9.7). A commitment is made to provide further information on drainage measures which will be incorporated into the outline Construction

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		be required, depending on the location of permanent structures.				Environmental Management Plan (CEMP) (see Appendix 3.5).
32	Contaminated Land	Additional comments have been provided by Aberdeenshire Council's Contaminated Land Team who note that the site is in a historically poorly mapped area. Historically there are 3 quarries, and a limekiln recorded within the site boundary; there are likely to be more such land uses within the site boundary and, in common with other upland parts of the council area, places where shooting has taken place. Given the proposals are for an overhead line, the Proposed Development is unlikely to encounter potentially contaminated land except via pylon placement or substations along the route.	AC15	14	Volume 1 – Chapter 9: Geology, Hydrology and Hydrogeology	A commitment is made at the detailed design stage of the Proposed Development to undertake ground investigation and confirm ground conditions. The findings would be used to inform the design of all works that will result in ground disturbance and which will be incorporated into the outline CEMP, (see Appendix 3.5) for identification of measures to prevent pollution from areas of potential ground contamination.
33	Cultural Heritage Scope	Advised that they agreed with the issues proposed to be scoped out.	AC17	14	Volume 1 – Chapter 10 - Cultural Heritage.	The issues that have been scoped out of the assessment are set out in Sections 10.3.8 to 10.3.11 of Chapter 10.
34	Cairn o'Mount Scheduled Monument	Aberdeenshire Council have some concerns regarding potential setting	AC18	14	Volume 1 – Chapter 10 - Cultural Heritage.	The potential setting effects from Cairn o'Mount cairns Scheduled Monument are considered in Chapter 10: Cultural

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		impact on the Cairn o' Mount cairns Scheduled Monument and would expect detailed visualisations to be provided in due course.			Volume 3 - Visualisations to NatureScot Guidelines	Heritage. A visualisation has been prepared from this location and is included within Volume 3 – Visualisations to NatureScot Guidelines.
35	Cultural Heritage Assets	Noted that the criteria for assessing the impact of the Proposed Development on cultural heritage assets should apply to all categories of listed buildings regardless of their designation and advised that a minimum search area of 5 km from the Site should be used for the assessment.	AC		Volume 1 – Chapter 10 - Cultural Heritage.	The bare-earth ZTV (Figure 10.3: Built Heritage Assets within 1.5 km - 5 km) indicates that theoretical visibility of the Proposed Development is generally limited in the wider landscape. Appendix 10.3 provides details on the built heritage assets (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) recorded within the wider 5 km area. The majority of these lie within the urban centres of Auchenblae and Drumlithie, located over 3 km away from the Proposed Development. The Proposed Development comprises steel trident poles with an average height of approximately 14 m. Given the scale of the development, at 3 km away the Proposed Development would barely be distinguishable within the wider landscape surrounding the built

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						heritage assets; therefore would not significantly affect their settings. The impact of the Proposed Development on built heritage assets beyond 1.5 km is therefore not discussed further.
36	Further Consultation	Aberdeenshire Council anticipate that archaeological mitigation will be required, however until the final route and location of the various assets (poles, underground cabling, tracks and compounds etc) is confirmed we would not be able to provide a detailed response.	AC19	14	Volume 1 – Chapter 10 - Cultural Heritage.	This has been noted. See Chapter 10 for further details.
37	Built Heritage Assets	Aberdeenshire Council's Built Heritage team note that a full assessment of the historic assets will be undertaken as part of the EIA (including photo montage visualisations) and the accompanying report to this enquiry, already highlights some of the historic assets in the vicinity that will be assessed as part of this, irrespective of the grade category of designation.	AC20	14	Volume 1 – Chapter 10 - Cultural Heritage.	This has been noted. See Chapter 10 for further details.

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38	Built Heritage Assets	The suggested criteria for assessing the impact of the Proposed Development on cultural heritage assets as identified in Section 7 of the report would be considered generally acceptable; however, it should apply to all categories of listed buildings regardless of their designation, and we would expect the area of scope to be a minimum search area of 5 km from the Proposed OHL Alignment.	AC21	14	Volume 1 – Chapter 10 - Cultural Heritage.	This has been noted. Details of the search area and built heritage assets are discussed further in Chapter 10.
39	Setting	Requested that the assessment should include a Zone of Theoretical Visibility (ZTV) and photomontage visualisations for any assets identified within the assessment which could be impacted as a result of the Proposed Development.	AC22	15	Volume 1 – Chapter 10 - Cultural Heritage. Volume 3 - Visualisations to NatureScot Guidelines	The methodology and scope of the assessment are set out in Sections 10.3 and 10.5 of Chapter 10. The assessment has been informed by a bare-earth ZTV (Figure 10.2a-c) produced for the Proposed Development. A visualisation is provided from Cairn o'Mount cairns (SM4968) (Volume 3: Figure 3.2.1a-b: VL1 - Cairn o'Mount).
40	Landscape and Visual	Aberdeenshire Council state that the Scoping Report sets out the approach to the LVIA assessment, and that this is generally satisfactory.	AC23	15	Volume 1 - Chapter 6 – Landscape and Visual	This has been noted.

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41	Landscape and Visual Impacts	The LVIA should consider the potential disruptive visual and perceptual effects of introducing any vertical structures to the open and simple rolling moorlands in the western part of the corridor, noting that there are similarities in landscape to Route Option 1a of the 2023 Route Options Appraisal of the Tealing to Kintore Transmission line, which was discounted.	AC24	15	Volume 1 - Chapter 6 – Landscape and Visual	The LVIA includes an assessment of the effects of the Proposed Development on landscape designations, landscape character and visual amenity, including cumulative effects.
42	Landcape and Visual Scope of Assessment and Design and Mitigation	Aberdeenshire Council also request that full and robust consideration should be given to short/long term effects (given any weathering of finishes) in the LVIA. The effects of construction compounds and access tracks should also be considered in the LVIA.	AC25		Volume 1 - Chapter 6 – Landscape and Visual	Chapter 2: The Routeing Process and Alternatives, provides discussion on the reasonable alternatives that have been considered for the Proposed Development. The LVIA considers the short and long-term effects of the Proposed Development, including ancillary development such as access tracks. As described in Chapter 3 – The Proposed Development, temporary construction compounds would be confirmed by the Principal Contractor

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						and a separate planning permission / application sought, as required.
43	Alternatives	Clarification should be given to the finish of the proposed steel poles and their ability (or otherwise) to be camouflaged by the darker heather-clad hill slopes in the open moorland in the western part of the route.	AC26	16	Volume 1 – Chapter 3 - The Proposed Development	The finish of poles is described in Chapter 3.
44	Landscape and Visual	Aberdeenshire Council acknowledges that the consented Glen Dye windfarm will incur significant adverse effects on the Special Landscape Areas (SLAs) covering the open hills in the western part of the site and further diminishment of the wild qualities of the area should be addressed. The LVIA should assess the effects of the proposal on the character and special qualities of the Clachnaben and Forest of Birse and the Braes of the Mearns SLA's.	AC27	16	Volume 1 - Chapter 6 – Landscape and Visual	The LVIA includes an assessment of the special qualities of the Clachnaben and Forest of Birse and the Braes of the Mearns SLA's, including consideration of other existing or proposed infrastructure (see Section 6.7 of Chapter 6).
45	Landscape and Visual	The Council consider that the two viewpoints identified for visualisations of the proposal are insufficient given the sensitivity of the	AC28	16	Volume 1 - Chapter 6 – Landscape and Visual	Following this advice from Aberdeenshire Council, an additional viewpoint has been included as supporting information to the LVIA from

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		open hills on the western part of the route. An additional viewpoint should be selected from the B974, close to a point where the line would cross the road, with the visualisation showing views of the overhead line both to the east and west.			Volume 3 - Visualisations to NatureScot Guidelines	the B974. The viewpoint selected illustrates views of the OHL to both the east and west from the road. The visualisation is included in Volume 3 - Visualisations to NatureScot Guidelines.
46	Landscape and Visual	There are a number of major consented and proposed developments in the vicinity of the Proposed Development which have been identified within the scoping report. Robust and clear analysis is needed in the cumulative LVIA to identify key effects associated with multiple large scale infrastructural projects.	AC29	16	Volume 1 – Chapter 6 – Landscape and Visual	Cumulative effects on landscape and visual receptors are considered in Section 6.9 of Chapter 6.
47	Forestry	Forestry issues appear to be adequately covered and the requirement for compensatory planting is addressed. Details of the location and nature of any compensatory planting will be required. This should be included at the application stage.	AC30	16	Volume 1 – Chapter 11 - Forestry	The Applicant recognises the requirements of compensatory planting within Section 11.9: Mitigation of this Chapter. Detailed compensatory planting, including location, are to be provided by the Applicant post consent.

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48	Traffic and Transport Parking	Construction parking details are requested.	AC31	16-17	Volume 1 – Chapter 13 – Traffic and Transport	Construction parking details will be detailed in the Construction Traffic Management Plan (CTMP). No on-street parking on public roads will be permitted.
49	Traffic and Transport Assessment	Details should be provided of the following; vehicle types and frequency of the access and egress, junction dimensions, drainage, gradients, materials, swept path analysis, visibility splays and proposed construction traffic routes. The internal construction traffic route should be detailed from the public road, including the turning and passing provisions.	AC32	16-17	Volume 1 – Chapter 13 – Traffic and Transport Volume 4 – Appendix 13.1 – Transport Assessment	Vehicle estimates for the construction phase and their routing have been provided in Appendix 13.1: Transport Assessment. Where required junction upgrades have been detailed by the Applicant and are provided in Appendix 13.1: Transport Assessment. The internal layout is illustrated in Figure 2 of Appendix 13.1: Transport Assessment.
50	Traffic and Transport Assessment	Details of how the construction traffic interaction with the existing public roads will be managed, passing provision, visibility windows, road widening and any associated improvements should be provided. An appraisal of the roads along the delivery route will also be required.	AC33		Volume 1 – Chapter 13 – Traffic and Transport Volume 4 – Appendix 13.1 – Transport Assessment	Vehicle estimates for the construction phase and their routing have been provided in Appendix 13.1: Transport Assessment. Descriptions of the road network used for construction access is provided in Section 5.3 of Appendix 13.1: Transport Assessment.

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51	Socio-Economic, Recreation and Tourism	Aberdeenshire Council agrees with the proposal that assessment in the EIA Report will consider the implications of any effects identified for the tourism sector in the local area and wider region. These issues are likely to be of interest to the local communities. Aberdeenshire Council's Economic Development Team are working on their "Charter for Energy Development in Aberdeenshire".	AC34	17	Volume 1 – Chapter 14 – Socio-Economic, Tourism and Recreation	Presentations of a socio-economic and tourism baseline position and stated impact in terms of economic (jobs, turnover and Gross Value Added (GVA)) and social impacts, and the wider community impacts are provided in this Chapter of the EIA Report. The Charter for Energy Development in Aberdeenshire (19th March 2025) has been reviewed as part of this assessment.
52	Information to be included in the EIA Report.	It is agreed that the noted issues are to be scoped out of further assessment within Section 12 of the EIA. It is drawn to the attention of the developer however, that the clear rationale for scoping out these issues should be included within the EIA and/or elsewhere within supporting information accompanying the application, for the purpose of clarity. It is noted that these issues are still likely to be of interest to Aberdeenshire Council's communities and specifically, it is noted that concerns have already	AC35	17-18	Chapter 4: Scope and Consultation	This has been noted. Details for scoping out particular topics are included within Chapter 4.

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		been raised in relation to similar overhead line proposals regarding the human health impacts relating to electric and magnetic fields. It is likely other issues will be raised during consideration of the full application/consultation.				
53	Scope of Assessment	Historic Environment Scotland (HES) welcome that the environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) undertaken in support of the development will include an assessment of impacts on the historic environment. This assessment should be undertaken by a suitably experienced heritage professional with an understanding of heritage issues.	HES1	46	Volume 1 – Chapter 10 - Cultural Heritage.	This has been noted. The methodology and scope of the assessment are set out in Sections 10.3 and 10.5.
54	Scope of Assessment	HES advised that they were generally, content with the proposed scope of the EIA report and welcomed that the assessment will be undertaken in line with the EIA Handbook and the Managing Change guidance series.	HES2	47	Volume 1 – Chapter 10 - Cultural Heritage.	This has been noted. The methodology and scope of the assessment are set out in Sections 10.3 and 10.5.

No.	Subject	Task	Consultee	Scoping Opinion Page Ref.	EIA Report Reference	Comments
55	Scope of Assessment	HES are broadly content with the proposed methodology for the assessment and welcome that it will be undertaken in line with the EIA Handbook and our Managing Change guidance series.	HES3	48	Volume 1 – Chapter 10 - Cultural Heritage.	This has been noted. The methodology and scope of the assessment are set out in Sections 10.3 and 10.5.
56	Scope of Assessment	HES note that section 7.5.7 (of the scoping report) refers to the "direct impacts" as being separate from setting impacts. HES is of the view that effects on setting are direct effects, as defined in appendix 1 of the EIA Handbook (paragraphs 44a-d. <i>HES recommend that assessment terminology follow this guidance</i>).	HES4	48	Volume 1 – Chapter 10 - Cultural Heritage.	This has been noted. The methodology and scope of the assessment are set out in Sections 10.3 and 10.5.
57	Potential Cultural Heritage Asset Setting impacts	HES confirmed that there are no assets within HES remit located on the Proposed Development Site.	HES6	48	Volume 1 – Chapter 10 - Cultural Heritage	This has been noted.
58	Scheduled Monuments	HES advised that there are three Scheduled Monuments within 1.5 km of the Proposed Development and potential impacts on their settings from the Proposed Development should be considered. These include:	HES7	48	Volume 1 – Chapter 10 - Cultural Heritage	Following finalisation of the Proposed Development design, both Cowie Line, pillbox and earthworks (SM6437) and Clochanshiels, cairns, houses and field systems (SM4857) now lie outwith the 1.5 km Outer Study Area. The bare-earth ZTV (Figure 10.2a-c) indicates that there is no predicted visibility of the Proposed Development

No.	Subject	Task	Consultee	Scoping Opinion Page Ref.	EIA Report Reference	Comments
		- Cairn o'Mountcairns (SM4968); - Cowie Line, pillbox and earthworks (SM6437); and - Clochanshiels, cairns, houses and field systems (SM4857).				from these Scheduled Monuments or their immediate surrounding landscape, and the Proposed Development would have no effect on the Scheduled Monuments or their settings. They are therefore not assessed further. Assessment of the impact of the Proposed Development on the setting of Cairn o'Mount cairns (SM4968) is set out in Section 10.8 of Chapter 10.
59	Cairn o'Mount cairns Scheduled Monument	HES note that the scheduled monument has two well preserved burial cairns located to the north of the summit of Cairn o'Mount, which are particularly sensitive to new development.	HES8	48	Volume 1 – Chapter 10 - Cultural Heritage	Assessment of the Cairn o'Mount, cairns (SM4968) is set out in Section 10.8 of Chapter 10.
60	Cairn o'Mount cairns Scheduled Monument	Although the alignment option selected for the OHL has not been confirmed in the EIA scoping report, we are pleased to have been involved in the pre-application discussions. As part of this HES were able to view visualisations of all alignment options and highlighted that Alignment Options 3 combined with Variant 3a would have less of an impact on the setting of the	HES9	48	Volume 1 – Chapter 10 - Cultural Heritage	This is noted. The potential setting effects from Cairn o'Mount cairns Scheduled Monument are considered in Chapter 10: Cultural Heritage. A visualisation has been prepared from this location and is included within Volume 3 – Visualisations to NatureScot Guidelines.

No.	Subject	Task	Consultee	Scoping Opinion Page Ref.	EIA Report Reference	Comments
		monument compared to other alignment options.				
61	Designated Historic Sites	HES are broadly content to agree with the findings of the EIA scoping report, that impacts on these scheduled monuments are unlikely to be significant	HES10	48	Volume 1 – Chapter 10 - Cultural Heritage	This is noted. The potential setting impact on designated assets are considered in Chapter 10: Cultural Heritage.
62	Scope of Assessment	The scale and nature of this proposal is such that its effects on the natural heritage have potential to be significant.	NS-01	49	Volume 1 – Chapter 7 – Ecology	The potential for effects on Nature Conservation Designations arising from the Proposed Development is discussed in Section Error! Reference source not found. with corresponding mitigation measures outlined in Section Error! Reference source not found. of Chapter 7. The potential for effects on flora and fauna arising from the Proposed Development is discussed in Section Error! Reference source not found., with corresponding mitigation measures outlined in Section Error! Reference source not found. of Chapter 7.
63	Approach to Surveys	NatureScot consider the approach to gathering baseline information and range of surveys undertaken is appropriate to inform the applicants EIA. NatureScot agree on the	NS-02	50	Volume 1 – Chapter 7 – Ecology	This has been noted.

No.	Subject	Task	Consultee	Scoping Opinion Page Ref.	EIA Report Reference	Comments
		Applicant's decision on issues to be scoped out.				
64	River Dee SAC	Due to the proximity of the underground cable (UGC) section and the majority of the western section of overhead line (OHL) to the River Dee catchment (including the River Dee Special Area of Conservation (SAC)), measures will need to be taken, particularly in respect to handling peat soils, to ensure that no pollution of local watercourses could result in SAC species and their supporting habitats being adversely impacted downstream. The Applicant will provide information to inform a Habitats Regulations Appraisal (HRA).	NS-03	50	Volume 1 – Chapter 7 – Ecology Volume 1 – Chapter 9: Geology, Hydrology and Hydrogeology	A shadow Habitats Regulations Appraisal (sHRA) and Appropriate Assessment (AA) has been undertaken. This is provided within Appendix 7.7: Shadow Habitats Regulations Appraisal (sHRA). The sHRA concludes there will be no adverse impact on the integrity of any European site following the implementation of mitigation measures. For clarity, UGC sections associated with the Proposed Development would fall under the Applicant's permitted development rights. The environmental effects of the installation of the permitted development UGC are considered within Appendix 1.1: Permitted Development Works Appraisal and form part of the cumulative assessment (Section Error! Reference source not found. of Chapter 7).
65	Peatland	The UGC and OHL passes through areas of Class 1 peatland; therefore, wherever possible the alignment,	NS-04	50	Volume 1 – Chapter 7 – Ecology	Route and alignment optioneering has undergone iterative design changes informed by peat probing results to

No.	Subject	Task	Consultee	Scoping Opinion Page Ref.	EIA Report Reference	Comments
		access tracks and other associated infrastructure should avoid sections of deep peat and protect priority peatland habitats.			Volume 1 – Chapter 9: Geology, Hydrology and Hydrogeology	avoid deep peat and protect priority peatland habitats where possible (see Chapter 2: The Routeing Process and Alternatives). The potential for effects on peat arising from the Proposed Development is considered within Chapter 9 Geology, Hydrology and Hydrogeology and the potential for effects on peatland habitats is discussed within Section Error! Reference source not found. of Chapter 7. Mitigation measures will be implemented and outlined in Section Error! Reference source not found. of Chapter 7 to avoid significant adverse effects.
66	Protected Species	There is potential for the UCG/OHL to be within core range (6 km) of breeding raptors (golden eagle (<i>Aquila chrysaetos</i>)). The Scoping Report does not suggest golden eagle have been noted in surveys to date. The Applicant should seek the most up to date records that the RSPB and the North East Raptor Study Group hold.	NS-05	50	Volume 1 – Chapter 8 - Ornithology	A data consultation exercise has been initiated with both the RSPB Scotland and the North East Raptor Study Group, however at the time of writing no data have been received.

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67	Landscape and Visual Amenity	NatureScot advise that the Proposed Development will not have a significant adverse impact on the Special Landscape Qualities of any National Scenic Areas or the Cairngorms National Park. NatureScot consider that the impacts of the proposal do not raise landscape and visual issues of national interest, but that this should not be interpreted as meaning there are no other significant effects that need to be considered when determining the application.	NS-06	50	Volume 1 - Chapter 6 – Landscape and Visual	The LVIA includes an assessment of the effects of the Proposed Development on landscape designations, landscape character and visual amenity, including cumulative effects. Other potential effects are addressed in separate technical chapters.
68	Landscape and Visual Amenity	There are likely to be some significant localised effects from the western routes on Clachnaben and Forest of Birse SLA and the Braes of Mearns SLA.	NS-07	50	Volume 1 - Chapter 6 – Landscape and Visual	The potential effects on the special qualities of these SLAs have been considered in the LVIA (see Section 6.7).
69	Landscape and Visual Amenity	There is the potential for localised significant impacts on the landscape character type (LCT) 29 Summits and Plateaux – Aberdeenshire, including the potential for cumulative effects with the existing OHL at Strathfinella and south of Fetteresso.	NS-08	51	Volume 1 - Chapter 6 – Landscape and Visual	The potential effects on landscape character, including cumulative effects, are considered in the LVIA (see Section 6.7).

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		It could also generate localised to wider significant effects on LCT 24 Coastal farmed ridges and hills – Aberdeenshire.				
70	Landscape and Visual Amenity	There is potential for significant visual effects on the B974 as the OHL crosses the more open section of this route, with the potential for significant effects on short sections of the B974 and views from the Cairn o'Mount Summit and viewpoint. There is also potential for cumulative effects with the existing OHL at Strathfinella and Glendye Wind Farm.	NS-09	51	Volume 1 - Chapter 6 – Landscape and Visual	The LVIA includes an assessment of the effects of the Proposed Development on landscape designations, landscape character and visual amenity, including cumulative effects. This includes route receptors and outdoor receptor locations. Visualisations have been prepared from the B974 and Cairn o'Mount cairns Scheduled Monument, both of which are included within Volume 3 – Visualisations to NatureScot Guidance. There would be no visibility of the Proposed Development from the Cairn o'Mount viewpoint itself, due to topographic screening.
71	Presentation of Information	To avoid delay and potential objection the EIA submission must contain a series of scale drawings of sensitivities, for example peat depth, peat condition, Groundwater Dependent Terrestrial Ecosystems	SEPA-01	53	Volume 1 – Chapter 9: Geology, Hydrology and Hydrogeology	See Figures 9.1 to 9.8. Peat depth, peat slide risk and peat condition figures are presented in Appendix 9.1, 9.2 and 9.3, with information regarding private water supplies presented in Appendix 9.5.

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		(GWDTE) and proximity to watercourses, overlain with the Proposed Development. This is necessary to ensure the EIA process has informed the layout of the development to firstly avoid, then reduce and then mitigate significant impacts on the environment. We request that the issues covered in Appendix 1 of the scoping response be addressed to our satisfaction in the EIA process. This provides details on our information requirements and the form in which they must be submitted.				
72	Scope of Surveys	SEPA are in general agreement with the baseline data and range of surveys conducted across particular topics and that these are appropriate to inform the assessment of environmental effects.	SEPA-02	53	Volume 1 – Chapter 9: Geology, Hydrology and Hydrogeology	This has been noted.
73	Flood Risk Assessment and Development Design and Infrastructure	A detailed flood risk assessment – In general we agree this can be scoped out and we would refer you to our Standing Advice on Flood Risk for more information relevant to this type of development. However, if	SEPA-03	54	Volume 1 – Chapter 9: Geology, Hydrology and Hydrogeology	It is confirmed that a 20 m buffer from permanent infrastructure to watercourses has been applied where technically feasible, as shown on Figure 9.1 . With the exception of a small part of a proposed permanent track, no

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		landraising is proposed on site then we will expect further detailed information to establish whether compensatory storage will be required, to ensure the development complies with NPF4 Policy 22. Additional information will be needed if landraising is proposed within SEPA's recommended watercourse buffers or SEPA Future Flood Mapping extents. An update to our surface water maps (the new official title will be SEPA Surface Water and Small Watercourse Maps) will go online sometime in early 2025.				development is proposed within mapped floodplains. It is noted that no land raising is proposed at this location in the floodplain, as discussed in Section 9.7 of Chapter 9. A flood risk screening assessment is presented in Section 9.7 of Chapter 9 which uses the latest SEPA flood mapping.
74	Water Quality Monitoring	Baseline water quality monitoring – notwithstanding the possible requirement for water quality monitoring in association with any private water supply monitoring required, we are in agreement this can be scoped out.	SEPA-04	54	Volume 1 – Chapter 9: Geology, Hydrology and Hydrogeology	Confirmatory predevelopment, construction and post construction water quality monitoring is proposed which would be agreed with consultees during the detailed design stage of the Proposed Development and be contained within the CEMP. Principles for water monitoring are discussed in Section 9.8 of Chapter 9 and within Appendix 9.5.
75	Geomorphological assessment of	A geomorphological assessment of watercourse crossings – we highlight we have identified potential geomorphic risk on the following	SEPA-05	54	Volume 1 – Chapter 9: Geology,	With the exception of watercourse crossings, micro-siting allowances will be used to maintain a buffer of at least

No.	Subject	Task	Consultee	Scoping Opinion Page Ref.	EIA Report Reference	Comments
	watercourse crossings	watercourses which lie within the proposed route corridor: - Water of Charr; and - Spittal Burn. We agree with the scoping out of a geomorphological assessment of watercourse crossings, if no development occurs within a 10 m buffer of affected watercourses. Should the placement of a watercourse crossing, or other construction element, occur within these buffers, a detailed geomorphological assessment maybe required.			Hydrology and Hydrogeology	10 m from working areas to the Water of Charr and Spittal Burn (see Figure 9.1), during construction of the Proposed Development.
76	Disturbance and Re-use of excavated peat and other carbon rich soils	Where proposals are on peatland or carbon rich soils, the following should be submitted to address the requirements of NPF4 Policy 5: - Demonstrate avoidance of near natural peatland and impacts on peat are minimised. - Layout plan showing all permanent and temporary infrastructure, with the extent of	SEPA-06	57-60	Volume 1 – Chapter 9: Geology, Hydrology and Hydrogeology Volume 1 - Chapter 7 – Ecology	Chapter 9 contains information on peat soils and depths present along the Proposed Development and an overview of peat management measures during construction. An Outline Peat Management Plan (PMP) and Peatland Condition Assessment (PCA) is provided in Appendix 9.2 and Appendix 9.3, respectively, of Chapter 9: Geology, Hydrology and Hydrogeology. Detailed results from UKHab and NVC surveys and associated target notes

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		excavation required. This should be overlain on: ○ Peat depth survey (showing peat probe locations and interpolated peat depths). ○ Peatland condition mapping. ○ National Vegetation Classification (NVC) survey. An Outline Peat Management Plan should also be provided.				(including for notable species) are include in Chapter 7 and associated appendices.
77	Disruption to GWDTE and existing groundwater abstractions	Groundwater Dependant Terrestrial Ecosystems (GWDTEs) must be considered, being protected under the Water framework directive. A National Vegetation Classification (NVC) survey must be carried out and a set of drawings showing all GWDTEs within a 100 m radius of all excavations shallower than 1 m and within a 250 m radius of excavations deeper than 1 m must be provided. If the minimum buffers cannot be achieved, a detailed site-specific risk assessment is required in line with SEPA's "Guidance On Assessing	SEPA-07	60	Volume 1 Chapter 7 – Ecology Volume 1 – Chapter 9: Geology, Hydrology and Hydrogeology	Comprehensive habitat surveys, including National Vegetation Classification (NVC) have been undertaken, with results included in Chapter 7 and associated appendices, in particular Appendix 7.2: UKHab and NVC Survey Report. This has informed the assessment of potential GWDTEs, that are subsequently considered in full, in terms of groundwater dependency, within Chapter 9: Geology, Hydrology and Hydrogeology.

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		The Impacts Of Developments On Groundwater Dependant Terrestrial Ecosystems” (amended January 2025) ⁴				
78	Private Water Supplies	The Layout and design of the Proposed Development must avoid impacts on private water supplies.	SEPA-08	61	Volume 1 – Chapter 9: Geology, Hydrology and Hydrogeology	Potential impacts on private water supplies are summarised in Section 9.7 of Chapter 9 and reported in full in Appendix 9.5: PWSRA .
79	Forest removal and forest waste	The submission must include a map with boundaries of where felling will take place and a description of what is proposed for this timber.	SEPA-09	61	Volume 1 – Chapter 11 - Forestry	Chapter 11 and associated appendices provides specific details of felling requirements and an assessment of forestry interests.
80	Pollution prevention and environmental management	A schedule of mitigation supported by site-specific maps and plans must be submitted. These must include reference to best practice pollution prevention and construction techniques and regulatory requirements.	SEPA-10	61	Appendix 14.1: Schedule of Mitigation	A Schedule of Mitigation is included within Appendix 14.1 of the EIA Report.

⁴ Scottish Environment Protection Agency: Guidance on Assessing the Impacts of Developments on Groundwater Dependant Terrestrial Ecosystems (online) Available at:

<https://view.officeapps.live.com/op/view.aspx?src=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.sepa.org.uk%2Fmedia%2Fa1yh0blq%2Fguidance-on-assessing-the-impacts-of-developments-on-groundwater-dependent-terrestrial-ecosystems.docx&wdOrigin=BROWSELINK> (last accessed 08/10/2025)

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81	Access	The British Horse Society (BHS) note that the Proposed Development would pass through Mearns Forest, managed by FLS. This area is highly valued by equestrians. Consideration particularly around Clatterin' Brig and Glen Dye should be given to how access to hill tracks will be maintained and managed during the construction phase.	BH-01	96-97	Appendix 12.1: Draft Outdoor Access Management Plan	A Draft Outdoor Access Management Plan is provided within Appendix 12.1 which includes consideration of horse riders using tracks within the vicinity of the Proposed Development.
82	The River Dee Special Area of Conservation	Tributaries within the western extent of the Proposed Development are hydrologically connected to the River Dee SAC and therefore direct and indirect impacts to the SAC should be considered, including impacts on water quality.	DDSF02	102	Volume 1 – Chapter 7: Ecology	The potential for effects on aquatic interests arising from the Proposed Development is discussed in Section 7.10 of Chapter 7, with corresponding mitigation measures outlined in Section 7.11. Furthermore, a sHRA and AA is provided within Appendix 7.7 specifically with respect to the River Dee SAC European Designation. The sHRA has concluded that there would be no significant adverse effects on the integrity of the qualifying features and conservation objectives of the River Dee SAC following the implementation of mitigation measures.

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83	Scope in relation to aquatic interests	The DDSFB strongly disagree that drainage impact assessment, water quality monitoring, cumulative impacts and increased flood risk (caused by the operation and maintenance of the Proposed Development) should be scoped out, as these have the potential to significantly impact salmonid populations within the area. Consideration should be given to other indicator species such as aquatic invertebrate communities. Baseline surveys of these species could support water quality monitoring. The DDSFB are of the opinion that it cannot be assumed that the development will not impact endangered Atlantic salmon (<i>salmo salar</i>) and other environmental features within the River Dee and its tributaries and seek further consultation with the developer throughout the development process. There is the potential for sediment and other pollution to enter the River	DDSFb-01	102-107	Volume 1 – Chapter 7: Ecology Volume 1 – Chapter 9: Geology, Hydrology and Hydrogeology Volume 4 – Appendix 3.5: Outline CEMP Volume 4 – Appendix 7.7: Shadow HRA Volume 4 - Appendix 9.4: Schedule of Watercourse Crossings	The potential for effects on aquatic interests arising from the Proposed Development is discussed in Section 7.10, with corresponding mitigation measures outlined in Section 7.11 of Chapter 7. Mitigation and pollution / contamination prevention measures will be incorporated into a site-specific Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP), an outline of which is included in Appendix 3.5. This document would form the basis and describe the measures of all pollution prevention and construction method statements to be employed, to ensure there will be no pollution/contamination incidents during construction. This will also detail the biosecurity measures that will be adhered to during the construction and operation phase of the Proposed Development. Watercourse crossings (detailed in Appendix 9.4: Schedule of Watercourse Crossings) will be designed in accordance with best

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		Dee and surrounding watercourses as a result of the construction phase of the Proposed Development. Strict adherence to SEPA's pollution prevention guidelines is required and Construction Industry Research and Information Association (CIRIA) guidance on "The control of water pollution from construction sites (SP156)"⁵ should also be followed. Sediment and pollution control measures should always remain effective during and post construction and these must be checked and maintained on a regular basis. The construction phase of the Proposed Development has the potential to both directly and indirectly affect fish and aquatic invertebrates as a result of increased sediment loads; habitat loss; obstructing fish migration and transmission of pathogens and non-native species.				practice measures during the detailed design stage and reviewed by a hydrologist as discussed in Chapter 9 Geology, Hydrology and Hydrogeology. The Applicant will also consult with DDSFB during this period. Detailed consideration of the potential for connectivity with the watercourses of the River Dee upper catchment is considered within Section 7.10 of this Chapter. Furthermore, a sHRA and AA is provided within Appendix 7.7 specifically with respect to the River Dee SAC European Designation. The sHRA has concluded that there would be no significant adverse effects on the integrity of the qualifying features and conservation objectives of the River Dee SAC following the implementation of mitigation measures. An ECoW will be present during the construction phase of the Proposed Development.

⁵ Masters-Williams, H., Heap, A., Kitts, h., Greenshaw, L., Davis, S., Fisher, P., Hendrie, M., and Owens, D. (2001) Control of water pollution from construction sites. Guidance for consultants and contractors (C532D), CIRCA, London.

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		Where possible, water crossings should be designed so that they do not impact the bed and banks of the watercourse and CIRIA guidance on “Culvert design and operation (C689)⁶” should be followed. Temporary watercourse diversions and instream works within the Dee catchment, including Cowrie and Carron waters, should be consulted on with the DDSFB in advance. Appropriate consideration should be given to the design and construction of access tracks, borrow pits, hard standing and Site drainage to minimise impacts on watercourses and it is expected that Scottish Natural Heritage best practice guidelines on “Constructed Tracks in the Scottish Uplands” (2013⁷ are followed. The DDSFB suggests that an Ecological Clerk of works (ECoW) should be present during the				

6 CIRIA: Guidance on Culvert Design and Operation (online) Available at: <https://www.ciria.org/ItemDetail?iProductCode=C689F&Category=FREEPUBS&WebsiteKey=3f18c87a-d62b-4eca-8ef4-9b09309c1c91> (last accessed 08/10/2025)

7 NatureScot (formerly SNH) Construction Guidance in the Scottish Uplands (online) Available at: <https://web.archive.org/web/20221020132020/https://www.nature.scot/sites/default/files/2022-09/final%20-%20Publication%202015%20-%20Constructed%20tracks%20in%20the%20Scottish%20Uplands.pdf> (last accessed 08/10/2025)

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		Proposed Development. Furthermore, the DDSFB wish to be provided with further information on the proposed biosecurity measures to assess the risk of pathogens and non-native species between the River Dee and other catchments.				
84	Military Aircraft	Ministry of Defence (MOD) have confirmed that following a review of the application documents, the Proposed Development falls outside of MOD safeguarded areas and does not affect other defence interests. The MOD therefore has no objection to the development proposed. The MoD should be consulted at all future stages for this Proposed Development.	MOD-01	108	N/A	This has been noted. The relevant information will be provided to the MoD on submission of the application.
85	Peatland and Tourism	The majority of the area is peat bog, important as a carbon sink and as a water store to limit flooding down the valley. Any peatland restoration proposed should be properly funded with robust independent monitoring and reporting.	FCC-01	109-111	Volume 1 – Chapter 7: Ecology Volume 1 – Chapter 9: Geology, Hydrology and Hydrogeology	A detailed programme of peat depth probing and a site-specific peatland condition survey has been undertaken and used to inform the design of the Proposed Development. Potential impacts on peat and proposed safeguards are summarised in Section 9.8 of Chapter 9 and discussed in full in Appendix 9.1: PLHRA and Appendix 9.2: PMP .

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						The condition of peat is discussed in Appendix 9.3: PCA. A Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) Report is provided in Appendix 7.6: Outline Biodiversity Enhancement Plan, which outlines the habitat creation units required to achieve an overall enhancement of biodiversity. Opportunities for appropriate enhancement measures to support local biodiversity are provided within the report.
86	Landscape and Visual	The Community Council note their concerns about the impact an OHL could have on two SLA's; the scenically popular B974 which the Proposed Development is required to cross and the Cairn o'Mount , including cumulative effects. The Community Council note their position that undergrounding should be considered.	FCC-02	109-111	Volume 1 – Chapter 6 – Landscape and Visual Volume 1 – Chapter 2: The Routeing Process and Alternatives	The LVIA includes an assessment of the effects of the Proposed Development on landscape designations, landscape character and visual amenity, including cumulative effects. This includes route receptors and outdoor receptor locations. Chapter 2: The Routeing Process and Alternatives, provides discussion on the reasonable alternatives that have been considered for the Proposed Development, including discussion on undergrounding.
87	Ornithology	Feughside Community Council (FCC)note concerns on the potential prescence of golden eagle and note	FCC-03	109-111	Volume 1 – Chapter 8 - Ornithology	An assessment of the Proposed Development in relation to ornithology is included within Chapter 8 .

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		the objection raised by RSPB to the Glendye Wind Farm development.				
88	Heath and Saftey Executive (HSE)	HSE note that their response is limited to their role in the land use planning system fo the control of major industrustial hazards involving hazardous substances. HSE are not responding in their regulatory role in the health and saftey system.	HSE-01	112	N/A	This has been noted.
89	Development design	The Proposed Development, being an Overhead Line is not a type that would store or process hazardous substances in quantities relevant to the potential for industrial major accidents with respect to the Town and Country Planning (Hazardous Substances) (Scotland) Regulations 2015.	HSE-02	112	N/A	This has been noted.
90	Development Location	The Proposed Development is not located within a safegaurding zone of an explosives site.	HSE-03	112	N/A	This has been noted.
91	National Gas Infrastructure	There is a potential to initiate a major accident during the construction and operational phase of the Proposed Development due to the	HSE-04	112-113	Volume 1 – Chapter 2 – The Routeing Process and Alternatives.	Consultation has taken place with National Gas during the routeing, alignment and EIA stages of the Proposed Development.

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		development intersecting the gas pipeline location. HSE suggests that the EIA shows that the operator of the pipeline has been consulted regarding the issues stated in their scoping response.			Volume 1 – Chapter 4: Scope and Consultation	
92	Traffic Assessment	Network Rail strongly suggest 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 to enable Network Rail to assess the possible impacts to network rail infrastructure crossings and their suitability.	NR-01	117	Volume 1 – Chapter 13 – Traffic and Transport Volume 4 – Appendix 13.1 – Transport Assessment	A Transport Assessment has been undertaken, the results of which are included in Chapter 13 and Appendix 13.1.
93	Scope of Assessment	Golden eagle: “In addition to the species found during the surveys listed in the scoping report, we are aware of a golden eagle territory in proximity to the proposed route. We do not agree that this species should be scoped out as it was not recorded during the surveys. We recommend that an assessment should be carried out on	RSPB-1	119-120	Volume 1 – Chapter 8 - Ornithology	Although golden eagle were not registered at the time the scoping request was submitted for consideration, a flight registration was subsequently made (please refer to the Species Accounts Section, para. Error! Reference source not found. and Error! Reference source not found. for Chapter 8 or further details). This is considered in full within the context of the Proposed Development and the

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		the impacts on golden eagle and include the potential displacement and disturbance impacts as well as an assessment of the potential risk of collision and electrocution due to the proposed overhead line. We have strong concerns regarding the cumulative impact of proposed and consented developments on breeding golden eagle. RSPB Scotland objected to the now consented Glendye wind farm due to high collision rates for golden eagle, white-tailed eagle and red kite and a loss of range for golden eagle, which would have a significant impact on these populations. Unfortunately, although it was known that a grid connection would be required for the windfarm, details of this were not required at the S36 application stage for the windfarm. RSPB Scotland recommends that the Applicant's cumulative impact assessment captures loss of open ground due to commercial forestry plantations in addition to other operational, consented and proposed				potential for negative impacts and effects. A data consultation exercise has been initiated with both the RSPB Scotland and the North East Raptor Study Group; however at the time of writing no data have been received. Acknowledgment is made of the further confidential response from the RSPB Scotland and the details relating to FLS records referred to therein. A comprehensive suite of mitigation measures has been included as part of the Proposed Development (please refer to para. Error! Reference source not found. to Error! Reference source not found. and Sections Error! Reference source not found. and Error! Reference source not found. of Chapter 8). Further specific precautions are anticipated to be incorporated into the pre-construction stage as required and will be agreed, confidentially, with NatureScot, RSPB Scotland and FLS.

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		development in the planning system, this is especially important due to the clear cumulative pressures faced by breeding golden eagles in this area. We recommend contacting the North East Scotland Raptor Study Group (NESRSG) to provide up-to-date information on the golden eagle pair present in this area. A data request can be made to RSPB Scotland via this link... Other Species: "We recommend that Forest and Land Scotland (FLS) are contacted for any relevant data that they may hold on Schedule 1 or Annex 1 species in the forested area. Baseline and survey data collected as part of the Hurlie 400 kV Substation Environmental Assessment should also be considered."				
94	DWPA	The OHL route, proposed bridges or culverts and temporary access tracks all fall within the Inchgarth River Dee catchment which supplies Mannofield	SW-01	121	Volume 1 – Chapter 9: Geology, Hydrology and Hydrogeology	Details of relevant DWPAs is presented in Section 9.7 and committed measures to safeguard water quality to the water treatment works are given in Section 9.8 of Chapter 9.

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		Water Treatment Works. Scottish Water abstractions are designated as Drinking Water Protected Areas (DWPA) under Article 7 of the Water Framework Directive. Given the location within the catchment, the activity should be low risk, however water quality mitigations will be required, and it would be appreciated if we could get a timeline for when work is expected to start and finish.				
95	Asset Impact Assessment	Scottish Water records indicate that there is live infrastructure in the proximity of your development area that may impact on existing Scottish Water assets. The applicant must identify any potential conflicts with Scottish Water assets and contact our Asset Impact Team via our Customer Portal for an appraisal of the proposals.	SW-03	122	Volume 1 – Chapter 9: Geology, Hydrology and Hydrogeology	Potential impacts on the water environment, including Scottish Water assets, is presented in Section 9.7 of Chapter 9 .
96	Woodland Removal and Compensatory Planting	Woodland removal should only be carried out if there is no other option and where significant and clearly defined additional public benefits	SF-01	124-125	Volume 1 – Chapter 11 – Forestry	The Scottish Government's CoWRP and implementation guidance is referenced and followed in Section 11.11: Mitigation Measures of Chapter 11 .

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		would be achieved. Where woodland felling is necessary, design approaches should minimise the amount of felling required and compensatory planting must be carried out in line with Policy 6: “Forestry, woodland and trees”, within National planning framework 4⁸ Scottish Government policy on the “Control of woodland removal (2019)⁹” should also be adhered to and felling, restocking and compensatory planting must be carried out in line with the UK Forestry standard¹⁰. Any additional felling not included within the planning application requires permission from Scottish Forestry under the “Forestry and land management (Scotland) act, 2018¹¹.” Any compensatory planting may also need to be considered under the				

8 National Planning Framework 4 (online) Available at <https://www.gov.scot/publications/national-planning-framework-4> (last accessed on 08/10/2025)

9 Scottish Governments Policy on the control of woodland removal: Implimentation Guidance (2019) (online) Available at: <https://www.forestry.gov.scot/publications/349-scottish-government-s-policy-on-control-of-woodland-removal-implementation-guidance/viewdocument/349> (laast accessed 08/10/25]

10 The UK Forestry Standard: 5th Edition (2023) (online) Available at <https://www.forestresearch.gov.uk/tools-and-resources/fthr/uk-forestry-standard/> (last accessed on 08/10/2025)

11 Forestry and Land Management (Scotland) Act 2018 (online) Available at: <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/asp/2018/8/contents> (last accessed 08/10/2025)

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		“Forestry (Environmental Impact assessment) (Scotland) regulations, 2017” ¹² and should follow Scottish Forestry’s guidance booklet: “Woodland creation application guidance” ¹³ .				
97	Forestry Assessment	National Planning Framework 4⁸ - Policy 6 Forestry, Woodlands and trees identifies the following themes that should be considered relevant to this application – <i>c) 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.</i> <i>d) Development proposals on sites which include an area of existing woodland or land identified in the Forestry and Woodland Strategy as</i>	SF-02	125	Volume 1 – Chapter 2: The Routeing Process and Alternatives Volume 1 – Chapter 11 - Forestry	The Proposed Development has been subject to a routeing exercise that has sought to minimise impacts on woodland and forestry as far as practicable (see Chapter 2: The Routeing Process and Alternatives). Where felling is required within the Operational Corridor (OC), a strategy for compensatory planting requirements is proposed (see Appendix 11.4: Compensatory Planting Management Strategy). Furthermore, the Applicant is committed to delivering biodiversity enhancements, details of which are outlined in Appendix 7.6: Outline Biodiversity Enhancement Plan. Discussion on the compatibility of the Proposed Development to relevant planning policy is included within a

¹² The Forestry (Environmental Impact Assessment) (Scotland) Regulations 2017 (online) Available at: <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ssi/2017/113/contents> (last accessed 08/10/2025)

¹³ Scottish Forestry: Woodland Creation Guidance (2016) (online) Available at: <https://www.forestry.gov.scot/publications/109-woodland-creation-application-guidance/viewdocument/109> (last accessed 08/10/2025)

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		<i>being suitable for woodland creation will only be supported where the enhancement and improvement of woodlands and the planting of new trees on the site (in accordance with the Forestry and Woodland Strategy) are integrated into the design.</i>				separate Planning Statement that is submitted alongside the EIA Report.
98	Management Felling	Any additional felling which is not part of the planning application will require permission from Scottish Forestry under the Forestry and Land Management (Scotland) Act 2018 (the Act). For areas covered by an approved Long Term Forest Plan (LTFP), the request for additional felling (and subsequent restocking) areas needs to be presented in the form of LTFP amendment.	SF-03	125	Volume 1 – Chapter 11 - Forestry	Any felling undertaken outside of the OC, referred to as management felling, would be solely under the control of the landowner. Management felling is considered within Section 11.9 of Chapter 11 .
99	Scope of Assessment	Transport Scotland note that they are content with the proposed approach to assessment. Transport Scotland acknowledge that the A90(T) is located approximately 7 km from the Proposed Development and is unlikely to be significantly impacted. Transport Scotland have asked that	TS-01	127-128	Volume 1 – Chapter 13 – Traffic and Transport Volume 4 – Appendix 13.1 – Transport Assessment	This has been noted. A traffic and transport assessment has been completed and is set out in the noted chapter and supporting appendix. The A90 has been included in the assessment.

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		the A90(T) is screened to support this view.				