

Volume 5: Appendix 6.3 – Consultation Matrix

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1. CONSULTATION MATRIX

1.1 Summary of Engagement

- 1.1.1 Throughout the design and Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) process, a number of engagements took place between the Applicant and the Statutory Consultees. A non-exhaustive summary of the key engagements is listed in **Table 6.3.1: Summary of Engagement** below.

Table 6.3.1: Summary of Engagement

Statutory Consultee(s)	Date	Summary of Engagement
Local Authorities (Aberdeen City, Aberdeenshire and Angus Councils), Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA), NatureScot, Historic Environment Scotland (HES) and Scottish Forestry	5 and 14 December 2022 (Two sessions)	Initial Statutory Stakeholder Meeting Presentation by the Applicant outlining the Kintore to Tealing 400 kV Overhead Line (OHL) Project, the Routeing Process and corridor selection and appraisal.
NatureScot	12 January 2023	Engagement regarding Ornithology survey methods (see Volume 2, Chapter 12: Ornithology).
Local Authorities (Aberdeen City, Aberdeenshire and Angus Councils), SEPA, NatureScot, HES and Scottish Forestry	18 and 19 January 2023 (Two sessions)	SSEN Transmission 2 nd Statutory Stakeholder Meeting Presentation by the Applicant providing an update on the Routeing Process and corridor and route selection and appraisal.
HES	16 March 2023	Engagement regarding Cultural Heritage assets along each route option, and on areas of potential sensitivity (see Volume 2, Chapter 10: Cultural Heritage).
NatureScot	21 March 2023	Engagement regarding Ornithology and Ecology survey methods (see Volume 2, Chapter 11: Ecology and Chapter 12: Ornithology).
Local Authorities (Aberdeen City, Aberdeenshire and Angus Councils), SEPA, NatureScot, HES and Scottish Forestry	28 March 2023	SSEN Transmission 3 rd Statutory Stakeholder Meeting Presentation by the Applicant providing an update on the Routeing Process and route selection and appraisal.
HES	18 August 2023	Engagement regarding the Cultural Heritage assets as part of the routeing selection process (see Volume 2, Chapter 10: Cultural Heritage).
Local Authorities (Aberdeen City, Aberdeenshire and Angus Councils), SEPA, NatureScot, HES and Scottish Forestry	7 September 2023	SSEN Transmission 4 th Statutory Stakeholder Meeting Presentation by the Applicant providing an update on the Routeing Process and route selection and appraisal.
Local Authorities (Aberdeen City, Aberdeenshire and Angus Councils), SEPA, NatureScot, HES and Scottish Forestry	8 November 2023	SSEN Transmission 5 th Statutory Stakeholder Meeting Presentation by the Applicant providing an update on the Routeing Process and new route selection and appraisal.
HES	17 November 2023	Engagement regarding the Cultural Heritage assets as part of the routeing selection process in Section F of the route (see Volume 2, Chapter 10: Cultural Heritage).
Local Authorities (Aberdeen City, Aberdeenshire and Angus Councils), SEPA, NatureScot, HES and Scottish Forestry	22 February 2024	SSEN Transmission Statutory 6 th Stakeholder Meeting Presentation by SSEN Transmission providing an update on the Routeing Process.
Aberdeenshire Council Planning and internal consultee teams	25 April 2024	Online pre-application meeting to present the application proposals.

Statutory Consultee(s)	Date	Summary of Engagement
SEPA	8 August 2024	Engagement regarding Hydrology assessments and watercourse buffer requirements (see Volume 2, Chapter 13: Hydrology, Hydrogeology, Geology and Soils).
Local Authorities (Aberdeen City, Aberdeenshire and Angus Councils), SEPA, NatureScot, HES and Scottish Forestry	13 August 2024	SSEN Transmission 7 th Statutory Stakeholder Meeting Presentation by the Applicant providing an update on the Routeing Process.
Forestry and Land Scotland (FLS)	13 August 2024	Meeting between Forestry and Land Scotland as a Landowner regarding the alignment.
NatureScot	15 August 2024	Engagement regarding the Loch of Park Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) and alignment design development, including discussion on the condition of the SSSI and approach to ecological and hydrological assessments (see Volume 2, Chapter 11: Ecology and Chapter 13: Hydrology, Hydrogeology, Geology and Soils).
NatureScot, HES, Aberdeenshire Council Planning, Heritage and Biodiversity Officers	10 September 2024	Site visit to review areas of interest along the proposed alignment within Section F – viewpoints close to Drum Castle, crossing of River Dee at Drumoak, Dunecht Garden and Designed Landscape (GDL), Loch of Skene Special Protection Area (SPA) and Loch of Park SSSI.
NatureScot and Aberdeenshire Council Biodiversity Officer	30 October 2024	Engagement to share preliminary ecological and hydrological site survey information and to discuss approach to assessment (see Volume 2, Chapter 11: Ecology and Chapter 13: Hydrology, Hydrogeology, Geology and Soils).
Aberdeenshire Council / Aberdeen Council Archaeology Service (ACAS) and HES	27 November 2024	Engagement regarding the Cultural Heritage assessment viewpoints (see Volume 2, Chapter 10: Cultural Heritage).
Local Authorities (Aberdeen City, Aberdeenshire and Angus Councils), SEPA, NatureScot, HES and Scottish Forestry	12 December 2024	SSEN Transmission 8 th Statutory Stakeholder Meeting Presentation by the Applicant providing a general project update and an update on the Routeing Process outlining the alignment design development stage.
Angus Council	18 December 2024	Engagement regarding alignment design development and alternative alignments developed at Location 3 Justinhaugh (see Volume 2, Chapter 9: Landscape and Visual Amenity).
Aberdeenshire Council / ACAS and HES	14 January 2025	Follow up engagement (to the meeting held on 27 November) to review the Cultural Heritage assessment viewpoints (see Volume 2, Chapter 10: Cultural Heritage).
NatureScot	21 January 2025	Engagement to discuss Scoping Opinion and request for additional information to be provided (see Volume 2, Chapter 11: Ecology).

1.2 Summary of Gate Check 1 Report Responses and Actions Taken

- 1.2.1 The Gate Check 1 report was submitted to the ECU on 24 January 2025 and was issued by the ECU to key consultees on 7 February 2025 in accordance with the Scottish Government good practice guidance for gate checking procedures¹. A summary of responses and subsequent actions taken is listed in **Table 6.3.2: Summary of Gate Check 1 Report Responses and Actions Taken**.

¹ Scottish Government, Updated July 2022. *Energy Consents Unit. Good Practice Guidance for Applications under Section 36 and 37 to the Electricity Act 1989*. [Online] Available at: <https://www.gov.scot/publications/good-practice-guidance-applications-under-sections-36-37-electricity-act-1989/documents/>. Note that new guidance 'Priority Applications for Transmission Infrastructure guidance: Section 37 of the Electricity Act 1989' was published by the Scottish Government in February 2025. This was published after the Applicant had submitted the Gate Check 1 Report. Available at: <https://www.gov.scot/publications/priority-applications-transmission-infrastructure-guidance-section-37-electricity-act-1989/>

Table 6.3.2: Summary of Gate Check 1 Report Responses and Actions Taken

Consultee	Summary of Response	Action Taken
NatureScot	NatureScot (NS) is content with the content of the Gate Check 1 Report.	N/A
Angus Council	<p>Angus Council comment that it would be helpful if within the description of reasonable alternatives studied by the Applicant, considerations relating to undergrounding the transmission infrastructure and why alternative means of delivering power (e.g. offshoring the infrastructure) has been discounted are described.</p> <p>Angus Council note that the Applicant has indicated that alternative technology options and design solutions will be laid out within Volume 5 Appendix 4.1 Alternative Technology Options and Design Solutions, which is welcomed.</p> <p>Angus Council are happy to be consulted on the final landscape and visual viewpoints.</p> <p>It is welcomed that the approach to residential visual amenity assessment (RVAA) has been updated and visual receptor areas (VRAs) will take a case-by-case approach to consider individual or groups of residential properties within each VRA to determine the potential for the residential amenity threshold to be breached by the presence of the proposed development.</p> <p>It is also noted that the noise assessment methodology will address internal noise at sensitive receptors during operation of the development as requested by the council's environmental health team.</p>	<p>Volume 1, Chapter 4: Alternatives and the Routeing Process of the EIAR contains an explanation of why alternative options have not been taken forward. A separate appendix for Chapter 4 has not been included in the EIAR but the alternative technology options and design solutions have been included within Chapter 4 itself.</p> <p>A final viewpoint list was provided to Angus Council, as requested.</p> <p>The full list of representative viewpoints is set out in Volume 2, Chapter 9: Landscape and Visual Amenity.</p>
Angus Council	<p>During a meeting between Angus Council and the Applicant in December 2024, it was stated that the Council's response to the Section 37 application in relation to woodland loss issues would be based on the principles of the relevant policy in NPF4 and take account of the Council's Strategy, but recognised that the scale of the project meant that woodland could not be avoided in all locations.</p> <p>Angus Council noted that they would review the visualisation material to be provided and make any further comment as appropriate on the alignment alternatives, appreciating the explanations provided on the range of issues and constraints which had been considered by the Applicant in the appraisal process.</p>	<p>The EIAR includes a standalone Chapter on Forestry. A series of woodland reports is included as appendices to the Chapter. Information on management felling is also included within the EIAR.</p> <p>The proposals identify the extent of any net loss of forest or woodland and requirement for compensatory planting in line with the Scottish Government's Control of Woodland Removal Policy. Please refer to Volume 5, Appendix 8.1: Compensatory Planting Management Strategy.</p>
SEPA	<p>SEPA highlight that the following guidance:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Groundwater Dependent Terrestrial Ecosystems</i>; and • <i>SEPA's LUPS 31 Guidance on Assessing the Impacts of Development Proposals on Groundwater Abstractions</i>. <p>have been updated and replaced by:</p>	<p>The updated guidance has been taken into consideration during the assessment of impacts on groundwater abstractions/private water supplies and groundwater dependent terrestrial ecosystems within Volume 2, Chapter 11: Ecology and Chapter 13: Hydrology, Hydrogeology, Geology and Soils.</p>

Consultee	Summary of Response	Action Taken
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Guidance on Assessing the Impacts of Developments on Groundwater Dependent Terrestrial Ecosystems²; and Guidance on Assessing the Impacts of Developments on Groundwater Abstractions³. SEPA agree what is being proposed within the Gate Check 1 report in relation to their comments.	
HES	HES are broadly content that the details given within the Gate Check 1 report reflect HES's involvement with, and advice regarding, the EIA process for the Proposed Development. HES consider that they have been appropriately consulted at this stage, and that the proposed assessment is appropriate for their requirements. HES would welcome further consultation should any changes to the design and layout be proposed.	N/A

1.3 Scoping Matrix

- 1.3.1 An EIA Scoping Report was issued to the Energy Consents Unit (ECU) of the Scottish Government in September 2024 (see **Volume 5, Appendix 6.1: Scoping Report**). A Scoping Opinion⁴ was provided by the ECU on 19 December 2024 and is included in **Volume 5, Appendix 6.2: Scoping Opinion**.
- 1.3.2 The responses received from Statutory and Non-statutory Consultees and Community Councils regarding the scope of the EIA through receipt of the EIA Scoping Opinion is collated in **Table 6.3.3: Scoping Matrix**. **Table 6.3.4: Other Relevant Consultee Responses** collates other relevant consultation responses considered in the EIA.

² SEPA, August 2024. *Guidance on Assessing the Impacts of Developments on Groundwater Dependent Terrestrial Ecosystems*. [Online] Available at: <https://view.officeapps.live.com/op/view.aspx?src=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.sepa.org.uk%2Fmedia%2Fi2cnr03k%2Fguidance-on-assessing-the-impacts-of-developments-on-groundwater-dependent-terrestrial-ecosystems.docx&wdOrigin=BROWSELINK>

³ SEPA, August 2024. *Guidance on Assessing the Impacts of Developments on Groundwater Abstractions*. [Online] Available at: <https://view.officeapps.live.com/op/view.aspx?src=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.sepa.org.uk%2Fmedia%2Fijwd3q0y%2Fguidance-on-assessing-the-impacts-of-developments-on-groundwater-abstractions.docx&wdOrigin=BROWSELINK>

⁴ The Scottish Government, 2024. Energy Consents Unit (2024) *Scoping Opinion on behalf of Scottish Ministers under the Electricity Works*. [Online] Available at: <https://www.energyconsents.scot/ApplicationDetails.aspx?cr=ECU00005225>.

Table 6.3.3: Scoping Matrix

No.	Consultee and Comment Reference	Subject	Summary of Scoping and Consultation Comments	Scoping Opinion Page Reference	EIAR Reference	Application Response to Comments
Comments Provided in Overall ECU Scoping Opinion (Section 3, 4 & 5 of The Scoping Opinion)						
i	Energy Consents Unit (ECU) ECU01	Scottish Water drinking water assets and relevant mitigation	Paragraph 3.7: Scottish Water provided information on whether there are any drinking water protected areas or Scottish Water assets on which the development could have any significant effect. Scottish Ministers request that the company contacts Scottish Water (via EIA@scottishwater.co.uk) and makes further enquires to confirm whether there any Scottish Water assets which may be affected by the development, and includes details in the EIA report of any relevant mitigation measures to be provided.	6	Volume 2, Chapter 13: Hydrology, Hydrogeology, Geology and Soils	<p>The Applicant has obtained Scottish Water asset plans for the Proposed Development area. Scottish Water assets were considered and avoided, to the extent feasible, during design development. The Applicant and Principal Contractors will maintain consultation with Scottish Water before and during construction to be cognisant of all assets.</p> <p>The Proposed Development is not within the River Dee or River Tay Drinking Water Protection Areas (DWPAs). The DWPA on the River Tay and River Dee are ~ 32 km and ~ 10 km downstream of the Proposed Development, respectively.</p> <p>A small part (access tracks) of the Proposed Development is within the Buttery Burn DWPA. Scottish Water surface water DWPA are shown in Volume 3, Figures 13.3.1 to 13.3.15: Groundwater abstractions, water supplies and GWDTE and discussed in the assessment in EIAR Volume 2, Chapter 13: Hydrology, Hydrogeology, Geology and Soils along with appropriate mitigation measures and precautions.</p>
ii	ECU02	Private water supplies information and assessment	Paragraph 3.8: 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.	6	Volume 2, Chapter 13: Hydrology, Hydrogeology, Geology and Soils Volume 5, Appendix 13.2: Private Water Supply and Groundwater	<p>A detailed assessment of Private Water Supplies (PWS) was undertaken to inform the baseline and effects assessment. PWS data was collected via consultation with the local authorities, SEPA and residents (via questionnaires, consultation events and site visits to properties). The PWS baseline and assessment is provided in Volume 5, Appendix 13.2: Private Water Supply and Groundwater Abstraction Assessment and summarised in Volume 2, Chapter 13: Hydrology, Hydrogeology, Geology and Soils.</p>

No.	Consultee and Comment Reference	Subject	Summary of Scoping and Consultation Comments	Scoping Opinion Page Reference	EIAR Reference	Application Response to Comments
					Abstraction Assessment	
iii	ECU03	Consideration of fish and fisheries issues based on MD-SEDD guidance	<p>Paragraph 3.9: Marine Directorate – Science Evidence Data and Digital (MD-SEDD) provide generic scoping guidelines for overhead line development</p> <p>https://www2.gov.scot/Topics/marine/Salm onTroutCoarse/Freshwater/Research/onshore which outline how fish populations can be impacted during the construction, operation and decommissioning of a wind farm or overhead line development and informs developers as to what should be considered, in relation to freshwater and diadromous fish and fisheries, during the EIA process.</p>	7	N/A	<p>Noted. A separate assessment of potential effects on migratory fish was conducted and is reported in Volume 5, Appendix 12.3: Shadow Habitats Regulations Appraisal. Annex 12.3.2: Electromagnetic Field Effects on Fish and Freshwater Pearl Mussel.</p> <p>Embedded, Applied and Additional Mitigation measures set out in detail in this chapter will minimise the risk of pollution / siltation of downstream watercourses, which will also serve to protect fish and fisheries.</p>
iv	ECU04	Consideration of fish in catchments with SACs or which are acid sensitive	<p>Paragraph 3.10: In addition to identifying the main watercourses and waterbodies within and downstream of the proposed Development area, developers should identify and consider, at this early stage, any areas of Special Areas of Conservation where fish are a qualifying feature and proposed felling operations particularly in acid sensitive areas.</p>	7	N/A	<p>The MD-SEDD – EIA Checklist has been completed and submitted to the ECU which considers the information requested.</p> <p>Effects on downstream receptors, including Special Areas of Conservation, are considered in the effects assessment in Volume 2, Chapter 13: Hydrology, Hydrogeology, Geology and Soils and Volume 2, Chapter 11: Ecology. The potential for silt/sediment runoff and effects on water quality are assessed and presented in this Chapter.</p>
v	ECU05	Inclusion of information using checklist from MD-SEDD Standing Advice	<p>Paragraph 3.11: MD-SEDD also provide standing advice for overhead line development (which has been appended at Annex B) which outlines what information, relating to freshwater and diadromous fish and fisheries, is expected in the EIA report. Use of the checklist, provided in Annex 1 of the standing advice, should ensure that the EIA report contains the required information; the absence of such information may</p>	7	N/A	<p>The MD-SEDD – EIA Checklist has been completed and submitted to the ECU which considers the information requested.</p>

No.	Consultee and Comment Reference	Subject	Summary of Scoping and Consultation Comments	Scoping Opinion Page Reference	EIAR Reference	Application Response to Comments
			necessitate requesting additional information which may delay the process. Developers are required to submit the completed checklist in advance of their application submission.			
vi	ECU06	Peat landslide hazard and risk assessment (PLHRA)	Paragraph 3.12: 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. The Peat Landslide Hazard and Risk Assessments: Best Practice Guide for Proposed Electricity Generation Developments (Second Edition), published at http://www.gov.scot/Publications/2017/04/8868 , should be followed in the preparation of the EIA report, which should contain such an assessment and details of mitigation measures. Where a PLHRA is not required clear justification for not carrying out such a risk assessment is required.	7	Volume 5, Appendix 13.6: Peat Landslide Hazard and Risk Assessment (PLHRA)	Peat was avoided to the extent feasible in the design development. There are a few areas where peat could not be fully avoided, which are described in Volume 5, Appendix 13.3: Peat Depth Survey Report and Appendix 13.4: Outline Peat Management Plan (PMP) . A PLHRA has been undertaken and is presented in Volume 5, Appendix 13.6: Peat Landslide Hazard and Risk Assessment .
vii	ECU07	Landscape and Visual viewpoint assessment	Paragraph 3.13: The scoping report identified viewpoints at Table 5.1 to be assessed within the landscape and visual impact assessment. See Guidance note on options for this section.	7	Volume 2, Chapter 9: Landscape and Visual Amenity Volume 2, Chapter 10: Cultural Heritage	A clear explanation as to the reasons for selecting specific viewpoints and a summary of the consultation undertaken on proposed viewpoints is included in the Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment (LVIA) and Cultural Heritage Chapters of the EIAR (Volume 2, Chapter 9: Landscape and Visual Amenity , and Chapter 10: Cultural Heritage respectively).
viii	ECU08	Lighting of OHL towers and impacts for aviation	Paragraph 3.14: The Scottish Ministers note in the Scoping Report the Company states there is no requirement for the OHL towers to be lit at night. The Scottish Minister would however recommend that when the	8	Volume 1, Chapter 3: Project Description	Consultation between the Applicant and the Ministry of Defence (MOD) has confirmed that there is no requirement for operational lighting of the OHL.

No.	Consultee and Comment Reference	Subject	Summary of Scoping and Consultation Comments	Scoping Opinion Page Reference	EIAR Reference	Application Response to Comments
			Company undertakes further consultation on this issue then it considers the proximity to flight paths, local air traffic, and landscape impact. The Scottish Ministers advise using low-intensity, directional lights wherever feasible to reduce environmental disturbance, while ensuring compliance with CAA and MOD standards. It is important to evaluate the need for obstruction lighting on tall structures. It is noted that the Company's consultation to date with relevant stakeholders has identified that there are no significant concerns in relation to technical safeguarding for national en-route air traffic control. However, consultation will be continued through the EIA and pre-application process with aviation organisations to ensure that the proposals are designed, constructed and operated to avoid adverse impacts.			
ix	ECU09	Ornithology Surveys	Paragraph 3.15: It is recommended by the Scottish Ministers that decisions on bird surveys –species, methodology, vantage points, viewsheds & duration - site specific & cumulative – should be made following discussion between the Company, RSPB and NatureScot.	8	Volume 2, Chapter 12: Ornithology	NS were consulted on the Ornithology Surveys and the methodology was agreed upon. RSPB were also consulted but no response was provided.
x	ECU10	The Construction Traffic Management Plan	Paragraph 3.16: As detailed in Section 2.8.5 materials will be obtained from on-site borrow pits or imported from local quarries. The EIA Report should include detailed information regarding their location, size, and nature. And also include details of the proposed depth of the excavation compared to the actual topography and water table, proposed drainage and settlement traps, turf and overburden removal and storage for	8	Volume 5, Appendix 14.1: Transport Assessment	Borrow pits have not been included as part of this EIAR. The final location and design of any borrow pits and quarries that may be necessary for construction would be confirmed by the Principal Contractors and separate planning permissions would be sought as required. For the purpose of the assessment in Volume 2, Chapter 14: Traffic and Transport it has been assumed that all stone would be imported as a worst case scenario.

No.	Consultee and Comment Reference	Subject	Summary of Scoping and Consultation Comments	Scoping Opinion Page Reference	EIAR Reference	Application Response to Comments
			reinstatement, and details of the proposed restoration profile. The impact of such facilities (including dust, blasting and impact on water) should be appraised as part of the overall impact of the working. The Construction Traffic Management Plan should evaluate and include potential cumulative impacts associated with the proposed Development and other consented developments in the area to ensure cumulative impacts and borrow pit use to source local materials are considered, and also that the sharing of borrow pit locations are properly considered in order to reduce traffic.			
xi	ECU11	The Construction Traffic Management Plan	Paragraph 3.17: The Scottish Ministers recommend that potential impacts of construction and completed development on safe and efficient operation of the railway 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.	8	Volume 2, Chapter 14: Traffic and Transport Volume 5, Appendix 14.1: Transport Assessment	A Transport Assessment is provided as Volume 5, Appendix 14.1: Transport Assessment and shows the study area for the purposes of this assessment. It is not anticipated that the rail infrastructure will be impacted as a result of the construction of the Proposed Development.
xii	ECU12	Socio economic assessment	Paragraph 3.18: With regards to Socio-Economics, the Scottish Ministers note that Socio-Economics will be scoped out of the EIA, however the Company have confirmed it will provide a stand-alone Socio-Economics report. The Scottish Ministers would therefore recommend that in the stand-alone report the Proposed Development should be appropriately and fully assessed on both a national and local scale, with consideration of the relevant Planning Authority Development Plans. The Scottish Ministers also request the submitted report	9	N/A	A Socio-Economic Assessment has been submitted as part of the Section 37 application as a separate document to the EIAR.

No.	Consultee and Comment Reference	Subject	Summary of Scoping and Consultation Comments	Scoping Opinion Page Reference	EIAR Reference	Application Response to Comments
			estimates who may be affected by the Proposed Development, in all or in part, which may require individual households to be identified, local communities or a wider socio-economic grouping such as tourists and tourist related businesses, recreational groups, attractions and events. The Socio Economic report should also include relevant economic information connected with the proposed Development, including the potential number of jobs, and economic activity associated with the procurement, construction, operation and decommissioning of the proposed Development. This should set out the impact on the regional and local economy, not just the national economy. Any mitigation proposed should also address impacts on the regional and local economy.			
xiii	ECU13	Cumulative assessment of associated SSEN Transmission projects	Paragraph 3.20: Regarding cumulative assessment, it is recommended by the Scottish Ministers that in order to assess the full environmental impact of the Development, the Company include within the cumulative impact assessment, OHL and Substation infrastructure that is associated with SSEN Transmission Accelerated Strategic Transmission Investment (ASTI) projects.	9	Volume 2, Chapter 16: Cumulative Effects	Volume 2, Chapter 16: Cumulative Effects of the EIAR includes OHL and substation infrastructure that is associated with SSEN Transmission ASTI projects.
xiv	ECU14	Assessment of impacts on archaeology and cultural heritage	Paragraph 3.21: The assessment on archaeology and cultural heritage impacts should be carried out in line with relevant legislation and standards as detailed in section 6 of the scoping report, and should also include the recommendations by HES, Angus Council, and Aberdeenshire Council within their own consultation responses.	9	Volume 2, Chapter 10: Cultural Heritage	The relevant legislation and standards have been utilised within Volume 2, Chapter 10: Cultural Heritage of the EIAR. Responses to the recommendations by HES, Angus Council and Aberdeen Council can be found below.

No.	Consultee and Comment Reference	Subject	Summary of Scoping and Consultation Comments	Scoping Opinion Page Reference	EIAR Reference	Application Response to Comments
xv	ECU15	Assessment of operational noise levels	Paragraph 3.22: It is recommended by the Scottish Ministers that an assessment be undertaken and included within the EIAR to predict noise levels internally at noise sensitive receptors during the operation phase.	9	Volume 2, Chapter 15: Noise and Vibration	An internal noise assessment during operation at sensitive receptors is included within Volume 2, Chapter 15: Noise and Vibration of the EIAR.
xvi	ECU16	Compliance with UK guidelines on exposure to Electric and Magnetic Fields (EMF)	Paragraph 3.23: The proposed Development must be designed in compliance with the ICNIRP Guidelines, and also the UK Government's Code of Practice entitled "Power Lines: Demonstrating compliance with EMF public exposure guidelines" which implements the policy to comply with the ICNIRP guidelines. The Company's approach to design also takes into account their statutory requirements in relation to the minimum height of overhead lines and ground clearance, and the position, insulation, and protection of OHLs to ensure compliance with the Electrical Safety, Quality and Continuity Regulations 2002. The Scottish Ministers note that a separate human health and population impact assessment chapter will not be presented in the EIAR, however welcome the Company's commitment to provide a separate report alongside the EIAR demonstrating the compliance of the electricity transmission systems for the proposed Development with the UK guidelines on EMF exposure.	10	The Applicant has provided an EMF Study Report separate to the EIAR as part of the Section 37 application.	SSEN Transmission develop, build, and operate their infrastructure to meet all health and safety legislation and guidance set by relevant bodies including the UK Government, Scottish Government, the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) and Ofgem – including that associated with Electric and Magnetic Fields (EMF). In respect of EMFs, SSEN strictly follow the guidance as set by the UK Government, which in turn is informed by international guidance. SSEN Transmission have provided an EMF Study Report separate to the EIAR but as part of the Section 37 application.
xvii	ECU17	Level of detail relating to Compensatory Planting and off site biodiversity enhancement	Paragraph 3.24: The inclusion of a specific Forestry Chapter within the EIAR is welcomed. The Scottish Ministers recommend this Chapter should commit to compensatory planting, however it is understood that detailed information on compensatory planting sites may not be fully	10	Volume 2, Chapter 8: Forestry	This guidance has been taken into consideration when writing Volume 2, Chapter 8: Forestry of the EIAR.

No.	Consultee and Comment Reference	Subject	Summary of Scoping and Consultation Comments	Scoping Opinion Page Reference	EIAR Reference	Application Response to Comments
			known at this stage and are therefore not required to be included in the EIAR. It is also recognised that other offsite planting and biodiversity measures are not able to be included within the EIAR with certainty as these are subject to landowner agreement.			
xviii	ECU18	Descriptions of Public Road Improvement Works	<p>Paragraph 3.25: The Scottish Ministers consider the assessment scope and methodology of the Traffic and Transport Chapter to be acceptable. It is noted that consultation responses, together with feedback awaited from the relevant local authority roads departments, will be addressed in the Chapter. The traffic and transport assessment to be presented in the EIAR will also take account of any further relevant guidance and standards advised by the local roads and planning authorities. It is recognised that detailed specifics of Public Road Improvement Works will not be available at the time of the EIAR, however it is expected the Company will be able to include within the EIAR descriptions of the works supported by maps showing indicative locations.</p>	10	Volume 2, Chapter 14: Traffic and Transport and Volume 5, Appendix 3.5: Public Road Improvement Works	<p>Volume 5, Appendix 3.5: Public Road Improvement Works presents high-level information which will be progressed further at the detailed design stage, including environmental information and mitigation. Location plans and construction methodology and specification is also provided in Volume 3, Figures 3.8.1 to 3.8.19: Indicative Public Road Improvement Works and Volume 3, Figures 3.9.1 to 3.9.3: Passing Places Indicative Design.</p> <p>Proposed works on the public highway will be agreed with the appropriate Council prior to any works commencing in the public highways. It is proposed that this would form an appropriately worded planning condition.</p> <p>The traffic and transport assessment has been undertaken in line with guidance and methodology noted by Transport Scotland as well as the Planning Authorities.</p>
xix	ECU19	Assessments relating to Consultation Zones	<p>Paragraph 3.26: The Scottish Ministers request that the Company should carry out the necessary assessments to confirm if any part of the proposed Development is within the consultation zone of any of the following:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a licenced explosives site; • gas (or any other) pipeline; • existing overhead electric lines; • underground cables; 	10	N/A	<p>Infrastructure (including existing OHLs and pipelines) have been considered as part of the design development stage for the Proposed Development and have been avoided through the routing and alignment selection stages of the design development.</p> <p>As part of the initial routing design development, SSEN also commissioned a detailed Unexploded Ordnance (UXO) Desk Study and Constraints Assessment to gain a representative view of the UXO hazard and areas have been avoided where</p>

No.	Consultee and Comment Reference	Subject	Summary of Scoping and Consultation Comments	Scoping Opinion Page Reference	EIAR Reference	Application Response to Comments
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • water pipes; • telecommunications links. 			possible through the routeing and alignment selection stages of the design development for the Proposed Development.
xx	ECU20	Hazardous Substances Assessment	<p>Paragraph 3.27: Scottish Ministers also request the Company to assess if any flammable, toxic or explosive chemicals detailed in The Town and Country Planning (Hazardous Substances) (Scotland) Regulations 2015 would be stored on site in quantities such that a Hazardous Substances Consent would be required under section 2 of the Planning (Hazardous Substances) (Scotland) Act 1997.</p>	10	N/A	This will be covered by the Principal Contractors detailed Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP) which will be submitted pre-construction.
xxi	ECU21	Ongoing Consultations between Applicant and Consultees	<p>Paragraph 3.28: Ministers are aware that further engagement is required between parties regarding the refinement of the design of the proposed Development regarding, among other things, surveys, management plans, peat, radio links, finalisation of viewpoints, cultural heritage, cumulative assessments and request that they are kept informed of relevant discussions.</p>	11	N/A	This has been noted.
xxii	ECU22	Schedule of Mitigation	<p>Paragraph 4.1: The Scottish Ministers are required to make a reasoned conclusion on the significant effects of the proposed Development on the environment as identified in the environmental impact assessment. The mitigation measures suggested for any significant environmental impacts identified should be presented as a conclusion to each chapter. Applicants are also asked to provide a consolidated schedule of all mitigation measures proposed in the environmental assessment, provided in tabular form, where that mitigation is relied upon in relation to reported</p>	11	Volume 2, Chapter 17: Schedule of Mitigation	Mitigation has been included in each technical chapter and within Volume 2, Chapter 17: Schedule of Mitigation of the EIAR.

No.	Consultee and Comment Reference	Subject	Summary of Scoping and Consultation Comments	Scoping Opinion Page Reference	EIAR Reference	Application Response to Comments
			conclusions of likelihood or significance of impacts.			
xxiii	ECU23	Summary of how issues raised in Scoping Opinion have been addressed	Paragraph 5.6: When finalising the EIA report, applicants are asked to provide a summary in tabular form of where within the EIA report each of the specific matters raised in this scoping opinion has been addressed.	Page 11	Volume 5, Appendix 6.3: Consultation Matrix	A summary has been provided within Volume 5, Appendix 6.3: Consultation Matrix (this document).
Comments Provided by Individual Consultees in Response to Scoping Consultation by ECU (As collated in Annex A to the Scoping Opinion)						
1	Aberdeenshire Council (ADC) ADC01	Consideration of Underground Lines	ADC request that the advantages of undergrounding the line are set out in full (both environmental and technical) within the EIAR.	Annex A pages 1-21	Volume 1, Chapter 4: Alternatives and the Routeing Process	Alternative technology options and design solutions are considered within Volume 1, Chapter 4: Alternatives and the Routeing Process .
2	ADC02	Landscape and Visual Amenity	<p>ADC noted relevant comments from the July 2023 consultation include the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recommends thorough consideration of undergrounding sections to minimise effects on the most sensitive landscape and visual interests in undertaken. • A principal constraint is the Braes of the Mearns SLA with potential effects on the integrity of policy woodlands around Fettercairn, the setting of Fettercairn and nearby designed landscapes a key concern. Other sensitive locations include well-known viewpoints where the appreciation between the Highland Boundary Fault and the Howe of Mearns is strongest. • Design will need to minimise effects on the special qualities of the Dee Valley SLA including the integrity of woodland and landscape perception experienced from recreational routes along the Dee. 	Annex A pages 1-21	<p>Volume 1, Chapter 4: Alternatives and the Routeing Process</p> <p>Volume 2, Chapter 9: Landscape and Visual Amenity</p> <p>Volume 5, Appendix 9.1: Landscape Assessment</p> <p>Volume 5, Appendix 9.6: Outline Landscape Mitigation Design Guide,</p> <p>Volume 5, Appendix 11.5: Outline</p>	<p>Alternative technology options and design solutions are considered in Volume 1, Chapter 4: Alternatives and the Routeing Process.</p> <p>The landscape assessment set out in Volume 5, Appendix 9.1: Landscape Assessment considers effects on the special qualities of the Braes of the Mearns Special Landscape Area (SLA) and the Dee Valley SLA.</p> <p>A summary of the landscape findings is provided in Sections 9.6 and 9.7 of Volume 2, Chapter 9: Landscape and Visual Amenity.</p> <p>Information on on-site planting, landscape restoration and enhancement, and biodiversity measures has been included in Volume 5, Appendix 11.5: Outline Biodiversity Enhancement Plan and Volume 5, Appendix 9.6: Outline Landscape Mitigation Design Guide.</p> <p>Embedded mitigation measures adopted during the routeing and design process are set out in Section 9.5 of Volume 2, Chapter 9: Landscape and Visual Amenity and Volume 1, Chapter 4:</p>

No.	Consultee and Comment Reference	Subject	Summary of Scoping and Consultation Comments	Scoping Opinion Page Reference	EIAR Reference	Application Response to Comments
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Landscape mitigation and enhancement measures should include off-site woodland and hedgerow planting to assist with screening from roads and residential properties. 		Biodiversity Enhancement Plan	Alternatives and the Routeing Process of the EIAR.
3	ADC03	Landscape and Visual	<p>ADC confirm that the proposed methodology and the scope of the landscape and visual interests is considered to be satisfactory. ADC welcome the opportunity to agree final representative viewpoints.</p> <p>ADC request that wider landscape and biodiversity enhancement measures in accordance with NPF4 requirements are considered. The location, design and composition of compensatory planting should be carefully considered.</p>	Annex A pages 1-21	<p>Volume 1, Chapter 4: Alternatives and the Routeing Process</p> <p>Volume 2, Chapter 9: Landscape and Visual Amenity</p> <p>Volume 5, Appendix 9.6: Outline Landscape Mitigation Design Guide</p> <p>Volume 5, Appendix 11.5: Outline Biodiversity Enhancement Plan</p>	<p>Agreement noted.</p> <p>The Council was consulted via email on the final list of representative viewpoints on 18 October 2024.</p> <p>The full list of representative viewpoints is set out in Table 9.2: Representative Viewpoint Locations of Volume 2, Chapter 9: Landscape and Visual Amenity of the EIAR.</p> <p>Information on on-site planting, landscape restoration and enhancement, and biodiversity measures has been included in Volume 5, Appendix 11.5: Outline Biodiversity Enhancement Plan and Volume 5, Appendix 9.6: Outline Landscape Mitigation Design Guide.</p> <p>Embedded mitigation measures adopted during the routeing and design process are set out in Section 9.5 of Volume 2, Chapter 9: Landscape and Visual Amenity and Volume 1, Chapter 4: Alternatives and the Routeing Process of the EIAR.</p>
4	ADC04	Forestry	ADC note that Tree Preservation Orders (TPOs) do not appear on any constraints map and need to be considered. TPOs at Luthermuir, Durris and Drumoak are close to the proposed route and should be noted in the case of further route changes.	Annex A pages 1-21	N/A	TPOs have been considered as part of the Proposed Development design and have been avoided through the routeing and alignment selection stages of the Proposed Development.
5	ADC05	Cultural Heritage	ADC state that the scope is acceptable. All designated heritage assets should be identified and views from and to any	Annex A pages 1-21	Volume 2, Chapter 8: Forestry	Information on compensatory planting, offsite planting, landscape planting within the operational corridor and biodiversity measures

No.	Consultee and Comment Reference	Subject	Summary of Scoping and Consultation Comments	Scoping Opinion Page Reference	EIAR Reference	Application Response to Comments
			<p>designated historic asset must be considered. Compensatory planting should be included in the Cultural Heritage Assessment. Clearly demonstrate how landscape prevents any impact on the setting of Castle Fraser.</p>		<p>Volume 2, Chapter 9: Landscape and Visual Amenity</p> <p>Volume 2, Chapter 11: Ecology</p> <p>Volume 2, Chapter 10: Cultural Heritage</p>	<p>are included within Volume 2, Chapter 8: Forestry, Chapter 9: Landscape and Visual Amenity and Chapter 11: Ecology of the EIAR or appendices associated with these Chapters where available. However detailed information will need to be provided at a later stage to take account of landowner agreements which is clarified and confirmed in the relevant Chapter of the EIAR. A cultural heritage assessment of any compensatory planting proposals will be undertaken as required when the land for compensatory planting has been identified and agreed.</p> <p>At its closest, Castle Fraser Garden and Designed Landscape (GDL) (GDL 91) lies circa 2.2 km from the Proposed Development.</p> <p>A Zone of Theoretical Visibility (ZTV) for the Potential Alignment indicates that there would be no predicted visibility of the Proposed Development from Category A Listed Castle Fraser (LB 2924), which is sited towards the centre of the GDL. The ZTV suggests that there is potential for some limited visibility of the Proposed Development from higher slopes within the northwest of the GDL, however, visibility of the Proposed Development would be mostly screened by intervening topography (at Braeneil, Lumphanan Hill, and Lauchintilly Wood) and by woodland policies.</p> <p>The Proposed Development would not be visible in key views from the principal (north and south) elevations of Castle Fraser (LB 2924), nor would the Proposed Development be visible in key views to the Castle, including from the tree lined avenue to the north of the Castle. Key views from the northern edge of the GDL looking across the River Don and to the Bennachie Hills would be unaffected.</p>

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						<p>The key aspects of the Castle's setting are the parkland and woodland policies in which it stands, its relationship with other listed buildings and designed features within the GDL, and views to and from the principal elevations from within the GDL. Given the separation distance it is unlikely that the Proposed Development would compromise the setting of Category A Listed Castle Fraser or its associated GDL.</p> <p>The potential impact of the Proposed Development on the setting of Castle Fraser will be fully addressed in the EIAR in Volume 2, Chapter 10: Cultural Heritage.</p>
6	ADC06	Ecology	ADC ask for consideration of North East Scotland Biodiversity Partnership (NESBiP) Locally Important Species to be included in paragraphs 7.2.3 and 7.3.1. The EIA should include consideration of data from North East Scotland Biological Records Centre (NESBReC) and assess (i.e. include in 7.7) any potentially significant effects. Table 7.1, key habitats appears incomplete e.g. Acid grass land and upland birch woodland are both present on Local Nature Conservation Sites (LNCS) within the route corridor.	Annex A pages 1-21	Volume 2, Chapter 11: Ecology	In relation to the NESBiP Locally Important Species for consideration, water shrew has been included in desk study considerations. It has been noted some of the additional habitats recommended should be considered including upland birchwood and acid grassland. Acid grassland is included in the Scottish Biodiversity List (SBL) where it occurs in the enclosed lowlands. Upland birchwood is also included in the SBL. Both of these habitats are included in the EIA assessment if/where identified that they are present and could be impacted. A full response to a data request has been received from NSBReC (July 2024). These considerations are also addressed in Volume 2, Chapter 11: Ecology .
7	ADC07	Ornithology	ADC state that the scope of Ornithological surveys seems to be acceptable.	Annex A pages 1-21	N/A	This has been noted.
8	ADC08	Hydrology	ADC would expect the EIAR to include a Flood Risk Assessment (FRA).	Annex A pages 1-21	Volume 2, Chapter 13: Hydrology, Hydrogeology, Geology and Soils	<p>Site-specific FRA reports are not required for the Proposed Development, as flood risk areas have been avoided in design development.</p> <p>However flood risk impacts have been assessed more generally and the findings are presented in</p>

No.	Consultee and Comment Reference	Subject	Summary of Scoping and Consultation Comments	Scoping Opinion Page Reference	EIAR Reference	Application Response to Comments
						Volume 2, Chapter 13: Hydrology, Hydrogeology, Geology and Soils of the EIAR.
9	ADC09	Traffic and Transport	ADC would expect the EIAR to include full details of construction traffic to each site from the adjoining trunk road network. Full details of how the construction traffic interaction with the existing public roads will be managed should be provided. Parking requirements should be detailed. Engage with Roads Development via the Planning Service.	Annex A pages 1-21	Volume 1, Chapter 3: Project Description Volume 2, Chapter 14: Traffic and Transport	<p>Construction traffic is detailed within Volume 2, Chapter 14: Traffic and Transport of the EIAR and a Construction Traffic Management Plan will be implemented as part of the Proposed Development through the CEMP. An Outline CEMP is provided in Volume 5, Appendix 3.4: Outline Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP).</p> <p>With regards to the details on Public Road Improvement works, the ECU (in section 3.25 of the Scoping Opinion) acknowledge that <i>“It is recognised that detailed specifics of Public Road Improvement Works will not be available at the time of the EIAR, however it is expected the Company will be able to include within the EIAR descriptions of the works supported by maps showing indicative locations.”</i> The EIAR contains descriptions of the Public Road Improvement Works required and maps are provided showing indicative locations as part of Volume 1, Chapter 3: Project Description.</p> <p>During construction, the construction compounds will have a safe area for parking away from public roads. These will form part of a separate planning application.</p>
10	ADC10	Noise	ADC state that there does not appear to be any proposal to predict noise levels internally at noise sensitive receptors. It was advised previously that an indoor noise criteria of NR25 daytime and NR20 night-time at noise sensitive premises would need to be applied. If the final noise impact assessment excludes this, this will likely mean this service will	Annex A pages 1-21	Volume 2, Chapter 15: Noise and Vibration	An internal noise assessment during operation is included as part of Volume 2, Chapter 15: Noise and Vibration of the EIAR.

No.	Consultee and Comment Reference	Subject	Summary of Scoping and Consultation Comments	Scoping Opinion Page Reference	EIAR Reference	Application Response to Comments
			have to object to the proposal on the grounds of insufficient information. The indoor noise criterion would also need to consider the cumulative impact			
11	ADC11	Population and Human Health	ADC state that the scope is accepted but concerns remain regarding electric and magnetic fields, therefore clear rationale is required.	Annex A pages 1-21	N/A	SSEN Transmission develop, build, and operate their infrastructure to meet all health and safety legislation and guidance set by relevant bodies including the UK Government, Scottish Government, the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) and Ofgem – including that associated with Electric and Magnetic Fields (EMF). In respect of EMFs, SSEN Transmission strictly follow the guidance as set by the UK Government, which in turn is informed by international guidance. SSEN Transmission has provided an EMF compliance Report separate to the EIAR but as part of the Section 37 application.
12	ADC12	Scoped out topics	ADC agree that Air Quality, Climate Change, Major Accidents are to be scoped out with clear rationale included.	Annex A pages 1-21	N/A	This has been noted.
13	ADC13	Contaminated Land	ADC agree that the proposals in respect of contaminated land are acceptable.	Annex A pages 1-21	N/A	This has been noted.
14	Angus Council (AC) AC01	Landscape and Visual	AC have concerns that significant effects may occur beyond the modest 3 km wide offset and should be increased to 5 km on either side. Exploring route options through an iterative LVIA process is welcomed. AC raised that the numbering in the proposed viewpoints list does not match the location of viewpoints. AC provide a list of additional viewpoints which should be considered.	Annex A pages 22-39	Volume 2, Chapter 9: Landscape and Visual Amenity Volume 4, Visualisations	The study area has been increased to 5 km either side of the Alignment, which is considered proportionate to the scale of the Proposed Development and will cover the area where likely significant effects are anticipated to occur. The LVIA study area is illustrated on Volume 3, Figure 9.1: Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment Study Area . Local Landscape Areas are included within the LVIA alongside an explanation as to the basis for selecting specific viewpoints in Volume 2, Chapter 9: Landscape and Visual Amenity of the EIAR. The

No.	Consultee and Comment Reference	Subject	Summary of Scoping and Consultation Comments	Scoping Opinion Page Reference	EIAR Reference	Application Response to Comments
						viewpoint list has been agreed with Angus Council.
15	AC02	Scope of EIAR and Consideration of Alternatives	AC are largely satisfied with the scope of the EIAR. It is important that the EIAR sets out a description of the reasonable alternatives.	Annex A pages 22-39	Volume 1, Chapter 4: Alternatives and the Routeing Process	Volume 1, Chapter 4: Alternatives and the Routeing Process of the EIAR outlines the design process through the corridor, routeing and alignment selection stages and also describes the alternatives considered in determining a proposed alignment.
16	AC03	Recreational Receptors	AC's Countryside Access Officer requests that consideration be given to additional recreational receptors in Volume 2, Chapter 7: Land Use and Prime Agricultural Land , and generally agree the proposed approach to scoping.	Annex A pages 22-39	Volume 2, Chapter 7: Land Use and Prime Agricultural Land	<p>Effects on recreation and tourism from the Proposed Development have been scoped out of this EIAR for the reasons set out in Volume 2, Chapter 7: Land Use and Prime Agricultural Land of the EIAR. However, the location of recorded Right of Way (RoW), Paths, core paths, National Cycle Network (NCN) routes, rivers used for recreational fishing and recreational airfields within the Limit Of Deviation (LOD) are described in Volume 2, Chapter 7: Land Use and Prime Agricultural Land of the EIAR.</p> <p>Measures to prevent and reduce effects from the Proposed Development on land use and land users during construction are set out in the Land Use chapter; these are also included in Volume 2, Chapter 17: Schedule of Mitigation of the EIAR.</p> <p>An outline Outdoor Access Management Plan (OAMP) has been provided in Volume 5, Appendix 7.1: Outline Outdoor Access Management Plan. The outline OAMP sets out measures specifically to protect recreational receptors.</p> <p>In addition, enhancement measures delivered through SSEN Transmission's Community Benefits Funds will seek to ensure a positive legacy for local communities. The priorities for local funding will be decided in consultation with local communities and could include the improvement of outdoor and recreational facilities.</p>

No.	Consultee and Comment Reference	Subject	Summary of Scoping and Consultation Comments	Scoping Opinion Page Reference	EIAR Reference	Application Response to Comments
						Effects on the amenity of recreational receptors are considered in Volume 2, Chapter 9: Landscape and Visual Amenity and Chapter 15: Noise and Vibration of the EIAR.
17	AC04	Local Landscape Areas	AC state that the Scoping Report indicates (at 5.6.7) that the Local Landscape Areas in Angus have yet to be formally adopted. These were approved by AC on 16 April 2024 and are no longer subject to change, so should be scoped in.	Annex A pages 22-39	Volume 2, Chapter 9: Landscape and Visual Amenity	This has been noted and an assessment of the predicted effects of the Proposed Development on Local Landscape Areas is included within Volume 2, Chapter 9: Landscape and Visual Amenity of the EIAR.
18	AC05	Landscape and Visual	The Landscape and Visual advisor at AC commented that the proposed 170 m general threshold for the Residential Visual Amenity Assessment (RVAA) may not capture all significant impacts on housing.	Annex A pages 22-39	Volume 2, Chapter 9: Landscape and Visual Amenity	The purpose of RVAA is not to identify significant impacts on views, but to establish where such impacts may be so great as to affect the 'living conditions' experienced by residents. Since the scoping report was published, the approach to RVAA has developed. A proposed 'case by case' approach was outlined in previous correspondence with Angus Council. However, during the assessment process it became apparent that this would not result in a robust and comprehensive assessment, and that a distance-based study area was a more consistent basis for inclusion. As such, the RVAA study area is now based on a distance of 225 m from the Alignment at suspension towers and 270 m at angle towers. The study area distances have also been informed by relevant guidance, the average height of proposed towers and the Horizontal LOD. Further information on the RVAA study area is provided in Volume 5, Appendix 9.3: Residential Visual Amenity Assessment .
19	AC06	Cultural Heritage	The Archaeology Service at AC agrees with the proposed scope, methodology and matters to be scoped out and mitigation. Requests that compensatory planting areas	Annex A pages 22-39	Appendix 11.5: Outline Biodiversity Enhancement Plan	Information on on-site planting, landscape restoration and enhancement, and biodiversity measures has been included in Appendix 11.5: Outline Biodiversity Enhancement Plan and

No.	Consultee and Comment Reference	Subject	Summary of Scoping and Consultation Comments	Scoping Opinion Page Reference	EIAR Reference	Application Response to Comments
			are subject to historic environment / cultural heritage assessment.		<p>Volume 5, Appendix 9.6: Outline Landscape Mitigation Design Guide</p> <p>Volume 1, Chapter 4: Alternatives and the Routeing Process</p>	<p>Volume 5, Appendix 9.6: Outline Landscape Mitigation Design Guide. However detailed information will need to be provided at a later stage, due to the need to obtain landowner agreements.</p> <p>Embedded mitigation measures adopted during the routeing and design process are set out in Volume 1, Chapter 4: Alternatives and the Routeing Process of the EIAR.</p>
20	AC07	Ecology and Ornithology	The Environment Service at AC are satisfied with the Ecology and Ornithology methodology.	Annex A pages 22-39	N/A	This has been noted.
21	AC08	Traffic and Transport	The Roads Service at AC are satisfied with the Traffic and Transport methodology.	Annex A pages 22-39	N/A	This has been noted.
22	AC09	Noise	The Environmental Health Service at AC are generally satisfied with the approach proposed for construction and operational noise, but suggest it is not clear that an assessment of internal noise levels within sensitive receptors during the operational phase will be undertaken, and requests that this requirement is identified in the scoping response.	Annex A pages 22-39	Volume 2, Chapter 15: Noise and Vibration	An internal noise assessment during operation at sensitive receptors is included within Volume 2, Chapter 15: Noise and Vibration of the EIAR.
23	AC10	Soils and Contaminated Land	The Council's environmental protection officer notes the approach to considering land contamination and provides additional comment in relation to that matter, having regard to the location of farmsteads, airfields or military sites and former railway lines.	Annex A pages 22-39	<p>Volume 2, Chapter 13: Hydrology, Hydrogeology, Geology and Soils</p> <p>Volume 5, Appendix 13.7:</p>	A Phase 1 Geo-environmental Preliminary Risk Assessment has been undertaken to identify potential risks from soil and groundwater contamination that may affect the Proposed Development. Six separate reports have been provided; one for each Section of the Proposed Development (Sections A to F). Each report has concluded that based on the information contained within that report, there is a low risk

No.	Consultee and Comment Reference	Subject	Summary of Scoping and Consultation Comments	Scoping Opinion Page Reference	EIAR Reference	Application Response to Comments
					Contaminated Land Reports	with respect to contaminated land. The reports are appended in Volume 5, Appendix 13.7: Contaminated Land Reports of the EIAR.
24	Historic Environment Scotland (HES) HES01	Cultural Heritage - visualisations	<p>HES are generally content with the proposed study areas but advise including the following Inventory Garden and Designed Landscapes (GDL):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Brechin Castle (GDL00070) Fasque House (GDL00178) Edzell Castle (GDL00169) <p>The additional visualisations are also suggested:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Glamis Castle (LB11701): roofwalk at the Castle may provide views along the Glamis Castle Inventory Garden and Designed Landscape's (GDL00189) northeast avenue towards the proposed OHL route. Glenbervie House (GDL00194): suggest a wireframe visualisation is produced from its western edge. Careston Castle (LB4656): suggest a wireline visualisation is produced looking towards the castle's principal elevation with the OHL behind. <p>HES generally do not recommend that forestry is used as screening mitigation. Wireframes and photomontages suggested do not take into consideration views towards assets. These should be included or an explanation provided.</p>	Annex A pages 40-54	Volume 2, Chapter 10: Cultural Heritage Volume 4, Visualisations	<p>The three Garden and Designed Landscapes listed by HES have been included in the assessment reported within Volume 2, Chapter 10: Cultural Heritage of the EIAR.</p> <p>During separate consultations with HES and ACAS further cultural heritage viewpoints were identified for inclusion in the assessment, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Droop Hill (SM 4778); Glack Cairns (SM 12120); Glamis Castle (LB 11701 / GDL 189); Glenbervie House (GDL 194); Careston Castle (LB 4656); and Barmekin Hillfort (SM 57). <p>Consideration has been given to potential effects of the Proposed Development on views towards and from these assets, and the assessment findings are included within Volume 2, Chapter 10: Cultural Heritage of the EIAR.</p>

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25	HES02	Cultural Heritage	HES refer to the HES EIA Handbook ⁵ for best practice advice on assessing cultural heritage impacts. HES recommend a wider search area of cultural heritage assets than what was proposed in the scoping report, and that an appropriately detailed ZTV should be used to identify potential setting impacts.	Annex A pages 40-54	Volume 2, Chapter 10: Cultural Heritage	<p>The methodology employed for the assessment has taken account of the guidance set out in EIA Handbook Appendix 1.</p> <p>Additional consultation with HES in October 2024 advised that the following Inventory Gardens and Designed Landscapes (GDLs): Brechin Castle (GDL 70), Fasque House (GDL 178) and Edzell Castle (GDL 169), which lie partly or just outside the 3 km study area should be included in the EIA. These designated heritage assets are included in the assessment. All additional consultation which has been undertaken with HES is detailed within Volume 2, Chapter 10: Cultural Heritage of the EIAR.</p> <p>A ZTV has been produced to identify heritage assets with potential setting impacts, and is shown on Volume 3, Figures 10.2.1-10.2.11: Designated Heritage Assets: Outer Study Area (and those outwith the Outer Study Area included in the Assessment).</p>
26	HES03	Cultural Heritage	<p>HES provided a list of Cultural Heritage assets that are located within the vicinity of the route that had the potential to be impacted by the Proposed Development:</p> <p>Section A:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Balkemback Cottages, stone circle, Arniefoul, cairn, Carlunie Hill, cairn; Nether Arniefoul unenclosed settlement, Kirkton, homestead moat <p>Section B:</p>	Annex A pages 40-54	Volume 2, Chapter 10: Cultural Heritage	<p>These assets have been noted and are considered within Volume 2, Chapter 10: Cultural Heritage of the EIAR (where relevant following the design evolution of the Proposed Development). Please refer to entry No. 5 of this table above regarding Castle Fraser.</p>

⁵ Historic Environment Scotland, May 2018. *Environmental Impact Assessment Handbook*. [Online] Available at: <https://www.historicenvironment.scot/archives-and-research/publications/publication/?publicationId=6ed33b65-9df1-4a2f-acbb-a8e800a592c0>.

No.	Consultee and Comment Reference	Subject	Summary of Scoping and Consultation Comments	Scoping Opinion Page Reference	EIAR Reference	Application Response to Comments
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Battledykes, Roman camp and Battledykes, cairn; Law of Baldoukie, Baldoukie soutterains; Vayne Castle; Vayne, standing stone; Law of Windsor, cairn; Ballinshoe Castle • Careston Castle Section C: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mill of Balrownie; group of monuments around West Water; Stracathro, Roman fort and camp Section D: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Droop Hill, cairns Section E: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nether Auquhollie, inscribed stone Section F: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tillyorn, moated homestead; New Wester Echt, stone circle; South Leylodge Steading, stone circle. <p>A list of SMs outwith the route; Category A listed buildings and GDLs is also provided:</p> Section A: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • St Orland's Stone; Glamis 1; Craig Hill, fort and broch; Glamis Castle Section B: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Caterthins, hillforts; Finavon, fort; Kirkton of Tealing, Kintrockat House, Brechin Castle Section C: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Witch Hillock, burial mound and stone setting; Edzell Castle, Edzell Old Church and Lindsay Burial Aisle; Stracathro 			

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			House/Stables, Balbengo Castle, Fasque House Section D: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cairn o' Mount, cairns; Phesdo House, Glenbervie House Section E/F: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Raedykes, Roman camp; Easy Finnercy, cairn; Normandykes, Roman camp; Upper Corskie, stone circle and Pictish symbols; Barmekin of Echt, fort; Standing Stones of Echt; Clune Wood, stone circle; Crathes Castle, Park House, Drum Castle, Echt Parish Church, Dunecht House, Castle Fraser 			
27	NatureScot (NS) NS01	Landscape and Visual	NS state the Proposed Development is unlikely to raise issues of national interest in relation to landscape and visual matters.	Annex A pages 55-66	Volume 2, Chapter 9: Landscape and Visual Amenity	This has been noted.
28	NS02	Collision Risk Modelling (CRM)	NS are happy with the proposed approach to Collision Risk Modelling. They welcome the consideration of the post-construction Beauly-Denny monitoring. NS welcome the fieldwork carried out thus far. They generally do not advise on CRM methods. NS advise the best approach would be line marking in any high-risk areas.	Annex A pages 55-66	Volume 2, Chapter 12: Ornithology	Line marking of conductors have been included within the design of the Proposed Development as embedded mitigation where required and are detailed within Volume 2, Chapter 12: Ornithology of the EIAR. Further consultation is being undertaken with NS on the mitigation proposed.
29	NS03	Fresh Water Pearl Mussel	NS state there is evidence of Fresh Water Pearl Mussel on the River South Esk and tributaries, and also on the River Dee. NS state that it is unlikely that the OHL will need to avoid the rivers and access to the channels themselves, but a survey is likely to be required. NS are content with proposed survey approach. NS expect that surveys are undertaken to inform construction and any further works	Annex A pages 55-66	Volume 2, Chapter 11: Ecology	Surveys have been completed following methodology agreed with NS through separate consultation in May 2024. The predicted effects of the Proposed Development on Fresh Water Pearl Mussel are reported in Volume 2, Chapter 11: Ecology of the EIAR. They are also considered as part of a Habitats Regulations Appraisal (HRA) which is

No.	Consultee and Comment Reference	Subject	Summary of Scoping and Consultation Comments	Scoping Opinion Page Reference	EIAR Reference	Application Response to Comments
			<p>where Fresh Water Pearl Mussel or their habitat could be adversely affected by silt-laden runoff (via towers/access tracks).</p> <p>Surveys should be undertaken with a minimum of 100m upstream and 500m downstream and in line with advice: https://www.nature.scot/doc/standing-advice-planning-consultations-freshwater-pearl-mussels⁶.</p>			included in Volume 5, Appendix 12.3: Shadow Habitats Regulations Appraisal of the EIAR.
30	NS04	Scope of EIAR	<p>NS agree with topics scoped in/out. They refer applicants to policy (NPF4)⁷, standing advice and guidance documents⁸, Guidance on assessment and mitigation of impacts of power lines and guyed meteorological masts on birds⁹ and opportunities for biodiversity enhancement¹⁰. NS are aware that the OHL may have an impact on protected areas but are working with SSEN Transmission to try to avoid significant adverse effects.</p>	Annex A pages 55-66	Volume 2, Chapter 11: Ecology Volume 2, Chapter 12: Ornithology	<p>This has been noted. The Applicant continues to have ongoing discussions with NS. Impacts on protected areas are also covered within the Habitats Regulations Appraisal (HRA) presented in Volume 5, Appendix 12.3: Shadow Habitats Regulations Appraisal.</p> <p>Volume 5, Appendix 11.1: Desk Study and Legal / Policy Context details the sections of NPF4 relevant to the ecological impact assessment.</p>
31	NS06	Ecology and Ornithology	<p>NS raised specific concerns about potential impacts to the Firth of Tay and Eden Estuary Special Protection Area (SPA), Outer Firth of Forth and St Andrew's Complex SPA, Loch of Kinnordy SPA, Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) and Ramsar, Loch of</p>	Annex A pages 55-66	Volume 5, Appendix 12.3: Shadow Habitats Regulations Appraisal	<p>This has been noted. The Applicant continues to have ongoing discussions with NS. Impacts on protected areas are also covered within the Habitats Regulations Appraisal (HRA) presented in Volume 5, Appendix 12.3: Shadow Habitats Regulations Appraisal of the EIAR.</p>

⁶ NatureScot, August 2024. *Standing advice for planning consultations - Freshwater Pearl Mussels*. [Online] Available at: <https://www.nature.scot/doc/standing-advice-planning-consultations-freshwater-pearl-mussels>.

⁷ Scottish Government (2023). *National Planning Framework 4*. [Online]. Available at: <https://www.gov.scot/binaries/content/documents/govscot/publications/strategy-plan/2023/02/national-planning-framework-4/documents/national-planning-framework-4-revised-draft/national-planning-framework-4-revised-draft/govscot%3Adocument/national-planning-framework-4.pdf>

⁸ NatureScot, November 2024. *Planning and development: standing advice and guidance documents*. [Online] Available at: <https://www.nature.scot/professional-advice/planning-and-development/planning-and-development-advice/planning-and-development-standing-advice-and-guidance-documents>.

⁹ NatureScot, 2016. *Guidance - Assessment and mitigation of impacts of power lines and guyed meteorological masts on birds*. [Online] Available at: <https://www.nature.scot/doc/guidance-assessment-and-mitigation-impacts-power-lines-and-guyed-meteorological-masts-birds>.

¹⁰ NatureScot, September 2024. *Planning and Development: Enhancing biodiversity*. [Online] Available at: <https://www.nature.scot/professional-advice/planning-and-development/planning-and-development-advice/planning-and-development-enhancing-biodiversity>.

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			Lintrathen SPA, SSSI and Ramsar and the River Tay Special Area of Conservation (SAC).			
32	Network Rail (NR) NR01	Traffic and Transport – Rail lines	<p>NR suggests a traffic assessment should be included in the EIAR to assess the effects of construction traffic on existing traffic flows and the public road network. Preferred construction traffic routes should be indicated to allow NR to assess possible impacts of crossings over/under their infrastructure.</p> <p>Details of proposed construction works in the vicinity of railway lines (including location, design and construction of buried cable where it crosses under the railway) should also be included.</p>	Annex A pages 109-110	Volume 2, Chapter 14: Traffic and Transport	A traffic assessment is included as an appendix to Volume 2, Chapter 14: Traffic and Transport of the EIAR. A transport assessment is provided as Volume 5, Appendix 14.1: Transport Assessment and shows the study area for the purposes of this assessment. It is not anticipated that the rail infrastructure will be impacted as a result of the construction of the Proposed Development.
33	Scottish Forestry (SF) SF01	Woodland Management and Tree Felling	<p>Policies, guidance and data sources ^{11 12 13 14 15 16 17} were provided by SF. SF state that the EIAR should include a stand-alone Chapter on 'Woodland management and tree felling', and provides guidance on what should be covered. Potential cumulative impact in respect of the local and regional context should be considered.</p>	Annex A pages 123-125	Volume 2, Chapter 8: Forestry	<p>The EIAR includes a standalone Chapter on Forestry. A series of woodland reports is included as appendices to the Chapter. Information on management felling is also included within the EIAR.</p> <p>The proposals identify the extent of any net loss of forest or woodland and requirement for compensatory planting in line with the Scottish Government's Control of Woodland Removal</p>

¹¹ Forestry Commission Scotland, February 2009. The Scottish Government's *Policy on Control of Woodland Removal*. [Online] Available at: <https://www.forestry.gov.scot/publications/285-the-scottish-government-s-policy-on-control-of-woodland-removal/viewdocument/285>.

¹² The Forestry Commission, 2023. *The UK Forestry Standard; The governments' approach to sustainable forestry*. [Online] Available at: <https://www.forestry.gov.scot/publications/1522-the-uk-forestry-standard-the-governments-approach-to-sustainable-forestry-5th-edition/viewdocument/1522>.

¹³ Scottish Government, December 2022. *Biodiversity strategy to 2045: tackling the nature emergency – draft*. [Online] Available at: <https://www.gov.scot/publications/scottish-biodiversity-strategy-2045-tackling-nature-emergency-scotland/pages/5/>.

¹⁴ Scottish Forestry, 2019. *Forestry Strategy*. [Online] Available at: <https://www.forestry.gov.scot/forestry-strategy>.

¹⁵ Scottish Forestry, n.d. *Woodland Creation*. [Online] Available at: <https://www.forestry.gov.scot/support-regulations/woodland-creation>.

¹⁶ Scottish Forestry, n.d. *Woodland Removal*. [Online] Available at: <https://www.forestry.gov.scot/support-regulations/control-of-woodland-removal>.

¹⁷ Scottish Forestry, n.d. *Scottish Forestry Open Data*. [Online] Available at: <https://open-data-scottishforestry.hub.arcgis.com/>.

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			<p>SF state that there is a strong presumption in favour of protecting Scotland's woodland resources.</p> <p>Any compensatory planting required needs to be considered and create a woodland creation proposal. proposed mitigation should not be left to post-consent and should be appropriately described in the EIA Report as part of a Compensatory Planting Plan.</p>			<p>Policy, the <i>UK Forestry Standard</i> and other legislation, policy and guidance as relevant. The proposals identify the extent of any net loss of forest or woodland and requirement for compensatory planting. Please refer to Volume 5, Appendix 8.1: Compensatory Planting Management Strategy.</p>
34	Scottish Water (SW) SW01	Drinking water quality	<p>SW state that they have no objection. The Proposed Development falls partly within two drinking water catchments where a SW abstraction is located. The route is likely to be of low risk to water quality. Request that SW are contacted 3 months in advance of any works commencing on-site at protectdwsources@scottishwater.co.uk.</p> <p>SW note that there are multiple Scottish Water assets in the areas detailed. These should be identified through obtaining plans. where asset conflicts are identified, early contact should be made with the HAUC Diversions Team.</p>	Annex A pages 111-114	Volume 2, Chapter 13: Hydrology, Hydrogeology, Geology and Soils	<p>This has been noted and Scottish Water will be contacted by the Applicant three months in advance of any works commencing.</p> <p>The Applicant has obtained Scottish Water asset plans for the Proposed Development area. Scottish Water assets were considered and avoided, to the extent feasible, during design development. The Applicant and Principal Contractors will maintain consultation with Scottish Water before and during construction to be cognisant of all assets.</p> <p>Scottish Water surface water DWPA are shown in Volume 3, Figures 13.3.1 to 13.3.15: Groundwater abstractions, Water Supplies and GWDTE and discussed in the assessment, along with appropriate mitigation measures and precautions.</p>

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35	Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA) SEPA01	Guidance	Regulatory advice and guidance was provided by SEPA. ^{18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31 32}	Annex A pages 67-75	Volume 2, Chapter 13: Hydrology, Hydrogeology, Geology and Soils	This advice has been noted.
36	SEPA02	Watercourse Crossings	SEPA did not provide a comment on the proposed approach to watercourse crossings however SEPA will undertake internal consultation on each watercourse crossing proposed if SEPA guidance is not followed. Crossings should be designed to accommodate the 0.5% annual exceedance probability flows or provide justification for smaller structures.	Annex A pages 67-75	Volume 2, Chapter 13: Hydrology, Hydrogeology, Geology and Soils	New watercourse crossings will be designed to accommodate the 0.5% annual exceedance probability flows (with an appropriate allowance for climate change) where practicable. Details of watercourse crossings are provided in Volume 5, Appendix 13.1: Watercourse Crossing and Buffers Assessment . At locations where new or upgraded crossings are not able to be designed to accommodate the 0.5% annual exceedance probability flows, justification has been provided

¹⁸ SEPA, n.d. *Water run-off from construction sites*. [Online] Available at: <https://www.sepa.org.uk/regulations/water/pollution-control/water-run-off-from-construction-sites/>.

¹⁹ NetRegs, n.d. *Guidance for Pollution Prevention (GPP) documents*. [Online] Available at: <https://www.netregs.org.uk/environmental-topics/guidance-for-pollution-prevention-gpp-documents/>.

²⁰ Scottish Environmental Protection Agency, April 2014. *Use of Trees Cleared to Facilitate Development on Afforested Land*. [Online] Available at: https://www.sepa.org.uk/media/143799/use_of_trees_cleared_to_facilitate_development_on_afforested_land_sepa_snh_fcs_guidance-april_2014.pdf.

²¹ Scottish Environmental Protection Agency, August 2006. *IS IT A WASTE: Understanding the definition of waste*. [Online] Available at: https://www.sepa.org.uk/media/154077/is_it_waste.pdf.

²² Peatland Action, June 2024. *Peatland ACTION - Technical Compendium*. [Online] Available at: <https://www.nature.scot/doc/peatland-action-technical-compendium>.

²³ NatureScot, November 2023. *Advising on peatland, carbon-rich soils and priority peatland habitats in development management*. [Online] Available at: <https://www.nature.scot/doc/advising-peatland-carbon-rich-soils-and-priority-peatland-habitats-development-management>.

²⁴ Scottish Renewables, 2019. *Good Practice during Wind Farm Construction*. [Online] Available at: <https://www.scottishrenewables.com/publications/498-guidance-good-practice-during-wind-farm-construction>.

²⁵ SEPA, n.d. *Regulations*. [Online] Available at: <https://www.sepa.org.uk/regulations/>.

²⁶ SEPA, July 2024. *Flood Risk Standing Advice for Planning Authorities*. [Online] Available at: <https://www.sepa.org.uk/media/nckhycrj/flood-risk-standing-advice.docx>.

²⁷ SEPA, September 2017. *Guidance on Assessing the Impacts of Development Proposals on Groundwater Abstractions and Groundwater Dependent Terrestrial Ecosystems*.

²⁸ SEPA, November 2010. *Engineering in the water environment: good practice guide: River Crossings*. [Online] Available at: <https://www.sepa.org.uk/media/151036/wat-sg-25.pdf>.

²⁹ SEPA, n.d. *Controlled Activities Regulations (CAR) Flood Risk Standing Advice for Engineering, Discharge and Impoundment Activities*. [Online] Available at: <https://www.sepa.org.uk/media/94134/car-flood-risk-standing-advice-for-engineering-discharge-and-impoundment-activities.pdf>.

³⁰ SEPA, June 2022. *Technical Flood Risk Guidance for Stakeholders*. [Online] Available at: <https://www.sepa.org.uk/media/162602/ss-nfr-p-002-technical-flood-risk-guidance-for-stakeholders.pdf>.

³¹ Scottish Government, 2017. *Guidance on Developments on Peatland*. [Online] Available at: <https://www.gov.scot/binaries/content/documents/govscot/publications/advice-and-guidance/2018/12/peatland-survey-guidance/documents/peatland-survey-guidance-2017/peatland-survey-guidance-2017/govscot%3Adocument/Guidance%2Bon%2Bdevelopments%2Bon%2Bpeatland%2B-%2Bpeatland%2Bsurvey%2B-%2B2017.pdf>.

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						in Volume 5, Appendix 13.1: Watercourse Crossing and Buffers Assessment . Temporary crossings will be designed to pass the 1 in 30 year flow as a minimum.
37	SEPA03	Peat Surveys and Assessment	<p>SEPA confirm detailed peat probing will only be required within the micro-siting limits of excavations for the towers and any associated infrastructure if Phase 1 peat surveys indicate the possibility of peat in that location.</p> <p>SEPA set out a list of requirements to be included in the PMP.</p>	Annex A pages 67-75	Volume 2, Chapter 13: Hydrology, Hydrogeology, Geology and Soils	<p>This has been noted.</p> <p>The location of peat has been considered as part of the design development. Peat probing has been undertaken where required for the Proposed Development and the results have been submitted as Volume 5, Appendix 13.3: Peat Depth Survey Report of the EIAR. An outline Peat Management Plan (PMP) has also been produced as well as a Peat Landslide Hazard Risk Assessment (PLHRA) which can be found in Volume 5, Appendix 13.4: Outline Peat Management Plan (PMP) and Appendix 13.5: Peat Landslide Hazard and Risk Assessment (PLHRA) respectively.</p>
38	SEPA04	Contaminated Land Investigations	<p>SEPA require more information as the project design develops. They state that there are a number of former airfields within the Proposed Development corridor which may lead to the requirement for additional contaminated land investigations if any excavations are proposed within 1 km radius of these sites.</p> <p>Detailed general scoping requirements were provided within appendix 1 of the SEPA scoping response.</p>	Annex A pages 67-75	Volume 1, Chapter 3: Project Description Volume 5, Appendix 13.7: Contaminated Land Reports	A Phase 1 Geo-environmental Preliminary Risk Assessment has been undertaken to identify potential risks from soil and groundwater contamination that may affect the Proposed Development. Six separate reports have been provided; one for each Section of the Proposed Development (Sections A to F). Each report has concluded that based on the information contained within that report, there is a low risk with respect to contaminated land. The reports are appended in Volume 5, Appendix 13.7: Contaminated Land Reports of the EIAR.
39	SEPA05	Ecology	SEPA highlight the database, The Scottish Wetland Inventory ³³ GIS layer, that should inform the EIAR and possible future surveys.	Annex A pages 67-75	Volume 2, Chapter 11: Ecology	It has been noted that the Scottish Wetland Inventory GIS layer should inform the EIAR and surveys. Standing advice regarding peatland and

³³ Scottish Government, June 2024. *Scottish Wetland Inventory*. [Online] Available at: https://www.data.gov.uk/dataset/f7ab5d9c-034f-43e0-8f34-b027b6ca0e6a/scottish_wetland_inventory.

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						Groundwater Dependent Terrestrial Ecosystems (GWDTEs) has been followed in the assessments presented in the EIAR.
40	SEPA06	Flood Risk	SEPA state that an Flood Risk Assessment (FRA) must be submitted if the proposed development will result in an increased risk of flooding to a nearby receptor.	Annex A pages 67-75	Volume 2, Chapter 13: Hydrology, Hydrogeology, Geology and Soils	Site-specific technical Flood Risk Assessment (FRA) reports have not been required for the Proposed Development, as flood risk areas have been avoided in design development. However flood risk impacts have been assessed more generally and the findings are presented in Volume 2, Chapter 13: Hydrology, Hydrogeology, Geology and Soils of the EIAR.
41	SEPA07	GWDTE	SEPA state that where minimum buffers from GWDTEs cannot be achieved, a risk assessment will be required.	Annex A pages 67-75	Volume 2, Chapter 13: Hydrology, Hydrogeology, Geology and Soils Volume 5, Appendix 13.1: Watercourse Crossing and Buffers Assessment	Locations where the recommended buffers could not be achieved are detailed in Volume 5, Appendix 13.1: Watercourse Crossing and Buffers Assessment of the EIAR. New watercourse crossings will be designed following SEPA best practice and guidance, along with advice from NS to minimise the effects on sensitive receptors.
42	SEPA08	Hydrology	SEPA state that the submission must contain a series of scale drawings of sensitivities, for example peat depth, peat condition, GWDTE, proximity to watercourses, proximity to PWS overlain with the Proposed Development.	Annex A pages 67-75	Volume 2, Chapter 13: Hydrology, Hydrogeology, Geology and Soils	Volume 3, Figure 13.1: Hydrology Overview, Figures 13.2.1 to 13.2.26: Hydrology, Flood Risk and Buffers and Figures 13.8.1 to 13.8.26: Probe Depths that accompany Volume 2, Chapter 13: Hydrology, Hydrogeology, Geology and Soils provide information on the sensitive receptors relating to hydrology, PWS, GWDTE and peat overlain with the Site layout of the Proposed Development at a suitable scale and the recommended buffers. Peat condition was assessed during the site surveys and is discussed in the Chapter and Volume 5, Appendix 13.3: Peat Depth Survey Report and Appendix 13.4: Outline Peat Management Plan (PMP) .

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43	SEPA09	Forestry	The site layout should be designed to avoid large scale felling	Annex A page 75	Volume 2, Chapter 8: Forestry Volume 1, Chapter 4: Alternatives and the Routeing Process	The alignment of the Operational Corridor (OC) has been designed to reduce impacts upon a range of environmental designations and constraints. Full details are provided in Volume 1, Chapter 4: Alternatives and the Routeing Process .
44	Transport Scotland (TS) TS01	Traffic and Transport	TS state that the study area and thresholds of the proposed Traffic and Transport Chapter are acceptable. TS ask that "estimated" data from the DfT site is not used. If abnormal loads are envisaged then a full Abnormal Loads Assessment report should be provided. TS state that if there are any proposed changes to the trunk road network, these must be discussed and approved by the appropriate Area Manager prior to any works being carried out.	Annex A pages 126-128	Volume 2, Chapter 14: Traffic and Transport	This has been noted. Plant such as cranes may be abnormal due to their width or weight. This would be confirmed post consent with appropriate reviews and BE16 applications made at the time.
45	Aberlemno and District Community Council (AADCC) AADCC01	Landscape and Visual	AADCC state that views from outwith the narrowly defined corridor should be considered e.g. hill forts on Finavon and Caterthuns. The impact on designed landscapes and locally important sites should also be included. Noted that the Proposed Development would impact extensive farmland and foothills of the Angus Glens and that visual impact may be significant.	Annex A pages 77-78	Volume 2, Chapter 9: Landscape and Visual Amenity Volume 2, Chapter 10: Cultural Heritage Volume 4a to 4e: Visualisations	A clear explanation as to the reasons for selecting specific viewpoints and a summary of the consultation undertaken on proposed viewpoints is included in the LVIA and Cultural Heritage Chapters of the EIAR (Volume 2, Chapter 9: Landscape and Visual Amenity , and Volume 2, Chapter 10: Cultural Heritage respectively). A viewpoint from Finavon Fort (SM 139) and the Caterthun Hillforts (SM 90069) is included in Volume 4a to 4e Visualisations of the EIAR. The potential for effects on the settings of Gardens and Designed Landscapes (GDLs) and other important cultural heritage sites has been undertaken and is reported in Volume 2, Chapter 10: Cultural Heritage of the EIAR. The landscape assessment set out in Volume 5, Appendix 9.1: Landscape Assessment considers

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						effects on the special qualities of the Angus Glens Local Landscape Area (LLA).
46	AADCC02	Cultural Heritage	AADCC advise that the area has a wealth of culturally significant sites, all of which should be identified, including those which are not designated.	Annex A pages 77-78	Volume 2, Chapter 10: Cultural Heritage	The methodology for the cultural heritage assessment is set out in Volume 2, Chapter 10: Cultural Heritage of the EIAR.
47	AADCC03	Ecology and Ornithology	AADCC state there is a need to identify species in the area and address potential disruption to breeding/feeding/routes. Include locally designated sites as defined by Angus Council. Request the identification of opportunities to retain, enhance and create green network and biodiversity corridors.	Annex A pages 77-78	Volume 2, Chapter 11: Ecology Volume 2, Chapter 12: Ornithology	Baseline ecology and ornithology surveys have been undertaken across the Proposed Development. The effects on ecological receptors agreed with NS are included within Volume 2, Chapter 11: Ecology and Chapter 12: Ornithology of the EIAR. The EIAR also identifies opportunities for biodiversity enhancement.
48	AADCC04	Hydrology	AADCC expect the EIAR to include how flooding would be addressed, potential scouring and impacts on watercourses (including those only evident in times of extreme weather).	Annex A pages 77-78	Volume 2, Chapter 13: Hydrology, Hydrogeology, Geology and Soils	Site-specific technical Flood Risk Assessment (FRA) reports have not been required for the Proposed Development, as flood risk areas have been avoided in design development. However flood risk impacts have been assessed more generally and the findings are presented in Volume 2, Chapter 13: Hydrology, Hydrogeology, Geology and Soils of the EIAR.
49	AADCC05	Socio-economics	The potential impact on tourism, property prices and effects on local outdoor groups needs to be addressed. The EIA needs to identify and quantify opportunities for local contracts, training and employment from the Proposed Development.	Annex A pages 77-78	N/A	A Socio-economic Assessment has been submitted as part of the Section 37 application as a separate document to the EIAR.
50	AADCC06	Land Use	AADCC state that the potential impact on agriculture and bio-security (including food scarcity and field drainage) needs to be addressed, as well as identifying and assessing the impact on outdoor activities.	Annex A pages 77-78	Volume 2, Chapter 7: Land Use and Prime Agricultural Land	Effect on Prime Agricultural Land (PAL) is considered in Volume 2, Chapter 7: Land Use and Prime Agricultural Land of the EIAR. Effects on recreation (other than recreational airfields and recreational fisheries) and tourism from the Proposed Development have been scoped out of this EIAR for the reasons set out in

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					<p>Volume 2, Chapter 17: Schedule of Mitigation</p> <p>Volume 5, Appendix 7.1: Outline Outdoor Access Management Plan</p>	<p>Volume 2, Chapter 7: Land Use and Prime Agricultural Land above, the location of such receptors are described in this Chapter.</p> <p>A CEMP will be in place during construction along with General Environmental Management Plans (GEMP). These will set out measures to be followed by all site staff and contractors to ensure impacts from the Proposed Development are avoided and minimised prior to, during and following construction. They will include measures to ensure sound biosecurity protocols are in place and field drains are protected from compaction where possible. The key measures are set out in this Chapter, see Volume 2, Chapter 17: Schedule of Mitigation of the EIAR for further detail. An outline Outdoor Access Management Plan has also been included in Volume 5, Appendix 7.1: Outline Outdoor Access Management Plan.</p>
51	AADCC07	Human Health	AADCC state that there is a need to include a range of independent health studies demonstrating recent findings.	Annex A pages 77-78	N/A	<p>An assessment of the potential for significant human health effects was carried out and presented in the Scoping Report. No significant adverse effects on health outcomes were predicted and therefore this issue was scoped out of the EIAR.</p> <p>Please refer to entry No. 11 of this table above in relation to EMF. A separate EMF Compliance Report was submitted with the Section 37 application.</p>
52	AADCC08	Traffic and Transport	AADCC expect that transport routes and the transport and traffic impacts over the life of the Proposed Development are to be included in the EIAR.	Annex A pages 77-78	Volume 2, Chapter 14: Traffic and Transport	Construction effects on Traffic and Transport is included within Volume 2, Chapter 14: Traffic and Transport of the EIAR. No significant effects are predicted during the operational phase due to low traffic generation; therefore, these effects are scoped out of the assessment.

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53	AADCC09	Air Quality and Climate Change	AADCC state that the EIA should Identify and assess all impacts over the life of the project, including raw materials extraction; processing and manufacture; shipping and transport and carbon savings. Energy loss during transportation, associated costs (including battery storage), land loss and substations required by this project should be included.	Annex A pages 77-78	Volume 2, Chapter 17: Schedule of Mitigation	It is not within the scope of the EIAR to include greenhouse gas calculations, as it is not predicted that there would be significant environmental effects on the climate during any stage of construction or maintenance of the Proposed Development. However additional information on climate change mitigation is included within Volume 2, Chapter 17: Schedule of Mitigation of the EIAR. These measures are proposed by the Applicant to minimise emissions of greenhouse gases during the material selection and construction stages of the project.
54	Crathes Drumoak Durris Community Council (CDDCC) CDDCC01	Landscape Designations	CDDCC state that Dee Valley is a Special Landscape Area and as a result, should be included in the EIAR.	Annex A pages 87-92	Volume 2, Chapter 9: Landscape and Visual Amenity	This has been noted, the Dee Valley Special Landscape Area is included within Volume 2, Chapter 9: Landscape and Visual Amenity of the EIAR.
55	CDDCC02	Atlantic Salmon	CDDCC state that there are ecological concerns as Atlantic Salmon (<i>salmo salar</i>) are sensitive to EMF.	Annex A pages 87-92	Volume 2, Chapter 11: Ecology	The Applicant has commissioned a study into EMF effects on fish, including Atlantic Salmon. The outcome of this report is detailed within the EIAR as an Annex to Volume 5, Appendix 12.3: Shadow Habitats Regulations Appraisal (HRA) .
56	CDDCC03	Landscape and Visual	CDDCC provided additional viewpoint suggestions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 57.071424, -2.380588 • 57.114286, -2.38919 • 57.071251. -2.381294 • Newhall, 57.094239, -2.378729 • Mickle Eddieston, 57.113283, -2.338989 • Drum hill, 57.090674, -2.348301 • Mains of Drum, 57.079107, -2.324358 	Annex A pages 87-92	Volume 2, Chapter 9: Landscape and Visual Amenity Volume 4c, Visualisations	The LVIA includes a viewpoint from near Dunecht Primary School (VP37), and Drum Castle (VP32). The number and spread of representative viewpoints selected for inclusion in the LVIA are proportionate to the scale and nature of the development proposed. As such, it is considered the representative viewpoints located within the Crathes, Drumoak, Durris Community Council area are suitable as a proxy to represent views experienced across this area. The rest of the viewpoints requested are representative of views from private properties. The visual impact on properties is considered in

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			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Deeside Line crossing, 57.081820, - 2.331406 • 57.08995° N, 2.35471° W (Kirsty Bailey) • Rosehall Cottage 57.0846943, - 2.3326236 • 3 West Park Steading AB31 5AD. GPS 76430 97074 • Broomfield Cottage, East: 377066 North: 800467 • Upper Corskie, Dunecht, AB32 7ES Google grid: 57.179360, -2.424834 • 18 James Gregory Road 57.08557, - 2.34563. • Viewpoint on south of Dee Valley 57°02'33.2"N 2°17'20.0"W • Upper Park West OS map grid ref 769 978 • Myriewell House, Echt AB32 6UN. 57°08'42.4"N 2°25'12.5"W • Lochside Drumoak. 57.0767654, - 2.3800940 • Upper Park. 57.0701039, -2.3864079 • Stirlings NO 77529 98693. East 377529 North 798692 • Barrowsgate Cottage and House 57° 5'13.91"N 2°21'42.69"W • Corskie Park. 57.174429, -2.420716 			<p>the RVAA set out within Volume 5, Appendix 9.2: Visual Assessment.</p> <p>Representative wirelines from properties assessed in the RVAA are provided in Volume 4c: Visualisations, Figures A9.3.2 to Figures A9.3.7.</p> <p>The LVIA study area has been increased to 5 km and therefore considers visual impacts within this distance.</p> <p>The LVIA study area is illustrated on Volume 3, Figure 9.1: Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment Study Area.</p> <p>The purpose of RVAA is not to identify significant impacts on views, but to establish where such impacts may be so great as to affect the 'living conditions' experienced by residents.</p> <p>Volume 5, Appendix 9.3: Residential Visual Amenity Assessment considers the effects on residential visual amenity from properties within 225 m from the Alignment at suspension towers and 270 m at angle towers, for towers as part of the Proposed Development, the Kintore - Fetteresso 275 kV/400 kV Overhead Line Realignment and the Kintore - Tealing 275 kV Overhead Line Realignment. These distances have been informed by relevant guidance, the average height of proposed towers and the Horizontal LOD. Further information on the RVAA study area is provided in Volume 5, Appendix 9.3: Residential Visual Amenity Assessment.</p>

No.	Consultee and Comment Reference	Subject	Summary of Scoping and Consultation Comments	Scoping Opinion Page Reference	EIAR Reference	Application Response to Comments
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dunecht Primary School 57.173894, - 2.418624 School Playing Field 57.174562, - 2.418366 <p>CDDCC state that the visual impact should be assessed up to 5 km given pylons can be up to 70 m high. Properties greater than 170 m being scoped out should change to be 500 m due to height of pylons.</p>			
57	CDDCC04	Light Pollution	CDDCC mention that the area is important for viewing the aurora borealis.	Annex A pages 87-92	N/A	Nighttime effects of the Proposed Development are not assessed unless there is lighting. It is not currently anticipated that the OHL will require any lighting. However, discussions are ongoing between The Applicant and aviation consultees. If a need for lighting is identified as a result of these discussions, further assessment will be undertaken as required.
58	CDDCC05	Water Tables and Drainage	<p>CDDCC state that water tables and drainage will be affected by construction. They note this could impact historically significant sites like wells, of which there are many in the area.</p> <p>Noise from the lines disturbing the peace at archaeological sites will be significant and so this should remain in scope of the EIA</p>	Annex A pages 87-92	<p>Volume 2, Chapter 13: Hydrology, Hydrogeology, Geology and Soils</p> <p>Volume 2, Chapter 10: Cultural Heritage</p>	<p>Construction effects on hydrology and groundwaters are included within Volume 2, Chapter 13: Hydrology, Hydrogeology, Geology and Soils of the EIAR.</p> <p>An Outline Construction Environmental Management Plan is provided as an appendix to Volume 1, Chapter 3: Project Description of the EIAR.</p> <p>The scope of the cultural heritage assessment is set out in Volume 2, Chapter 10: Cultural Heritage.</p>
59	CDDCC06	Noise	CDDCC state that noise will disturb peace at archaeological sites, Heavy machinery will cause noise, ground disturbance and CO2 pollution. Construction hours are excessive and should be limited to 5 days/week, 10 hrs/day.	Annex A pages 87-92	Volume 2, Chapter 15: Noise and Vibration	<p>No construction related noise effects on cultural heritage assets has been identified, as outlined in Volume 2, Chapter 10: Cultural Heritage.</p> <p>An Outline Construction Environmental Management Plan is provided as an appendix in Volume 5, Appendix 3.4 Outline Construction</p>

No.	Consultee and Comment Reference	Subject	Summary of Scoping and Consultation Comments	Scoping Opinion Page Reference	EIAR Reference	Application Response to Comments
					<p>Volume 2, Chapter 10: Cultural Heritage</p> <p>Volume 1, Chapter 3: Project Description</p>	<p>Environmental Management Plan (CEMP) which includes the requirement for a Construction Noise Management Plan and a Construction Traffic Management Plan.</p> <p>Working hours are currently anticipated to be between 07.00 to 19.00 during British Summer Time (BST) and 07.00 to 18.00 during Greenwich Mean Time (GMT), seven days a week. Special measures and arrangements would be made for works in proximity to sensitive receptors. Working hour assumptions are set out within the EIAR and confirmed with the respective local planning authorities Environmental Health Officers. Adherence to working hours within these periods would help to avoid disturbance to receptors during more sensitive periods (eg early morning and evening). A Construction Traffic Management Plan also includes measures which will avoid and reduce adverse effects to amenity during construction (eg from construction vehicles movements, idling vehicles etc.)</p>
60	CDDCC07	Telecommunications	CDDCC voice concerns that the area already has issues with signal coverage and BT require further information.	Annex A pages 87-92	N/A	The Applicant will continue consultation with the relevant telecommunications consultees as part of the assessment work in relation to the Proposed Development.
61	CDDCC08	Socio-economics	CDDCC state that socio-economics is a major concern for local communities.	Annex A pages 87-92	N/A	A Socio-economic Assessment was submitted as part of the Section 37 application submission as a separate document to the EIAR.
62	CDDCC09	Land Use	Crathes, Drumoak and Durris Community Council expressed concerns relating to the impact on agriculture and the operability of some farms, as well biosecurity issues. In addition, concerns were expressed regarding the impact to recreation and tourism.	Annex A pages 87-92	N/A	Please refer to entry No. 50 of this table above in relation to land use.

No.	Consultee and Comment Reference	Subject	Summary of Scoping and Consultation Comments	Scoping Opinion Page Reference	EIAR Reference	Application Response to Comments
63	CDDCC10	Cumulative Effects	CDDCC would expect contributory impacts of the same project should be included in cumulative impact assessment regardless of the stage of construction, otherwise the overall visual and other impacts cannot be properly assessed. Simply because a phase of a project is in a different stage of development does not negate its impact.	Annex A pages 87-92	Volume 2, Chapter 16: Cumulative Effects	<p>Effects in relation to existing developments or developments which are currently undergoing construction are not considered cumulatively as they form part of the current baseline.</p> <p>The Intra (Associated) Developments which will be included within the cumulative assessment of the EIAR as part of each technical Chapter are specified below:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Emmock substation; and • Hurlie substation. <p>In addition to the above associated Developments, a full schedule of Inter (other SSEN Transmission and Third Party) Developments is provided in Volume 2, Chapter 16: Cumulative Effects of the EIAR.</p>
64	CDDCC11	Human Health	CDDCC would expect mental health to be covered in the EIAR as National Planning Framework (NPF4) requires developments to improve health. They state that statements on health (including EMF exposure) contradict published scientific evidence.	Annex A pages 87-92	N/A	<p>The Applicant is mindful of the uncertainty created by the consultation and consenting phases of their projects. For this reason, the Applicant strives to balance the need for certainty and a swift process whilst still providing sufficient opportunity for stakeholders to feed into the consultation processes during the design phases of the Proposed Development. The effects of the Proposed Development on health have been scoped out from the EIAR however please also refer to entry No. 11 of this table above in relation to EMF which states that a separate EMF Study Report will be submitted with the Section 37 application.</p>
65	CDDCC12	Carbon Footprint	CDDCC would expect CO2 generated for the entire project needs to be compared with that of continuing to use fossil fuels from already existing infrastructure impact assessment, regardless of the stage of	Annex A pages 87-92	Volume 2, Chapter 17: Schedule of Mitigation	<p>It is not within the scope of the EIAR to include greenhouse gas calculations, however additional information on climate change mitigation is included within Volume 2, Chapter 17: Schedule of Mitigation of the EIAR. Please also refer to entry No. 53 in this table above.</p>

No.	Consultee and Comment Reference	Subject	Summary of Scoping and Consultation Comments	Scoping Opinion Page Reference	EIAR Reference	Application Response to Comments
			construction and alternative low-carbon solutions.			
66	CDDCC13	Traffic and Transport	CDDCC would like to see assessment of traffic and transport during the operation and maintenance phases scoped into the EIA.	Annex A page 88	Volume 2, Chapter 14: Traffic and Transport	The operational phase is restricted to occasional maintenance operation which generates significantly lower volumes of traffic that are not considered to be in excess of daily traffic variation levels on the road network. These vehicles would mainly comprise light traffic such as 4x4 vehicles. As such, the operational phase has been scoped out of Volume 2, Chapter 14: Traffic and Transport .
67	Inveresk Community Council (ICC) ICC01	Landscape and Visual	ICC suggest that the additional viewpoints should be included: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Caterthun Iron Age Hillforts • Lochty & Lochty Cottage • Montboy Cottages • Careston & Waterstone • Inchbare • Fern to Tigerton (C30) & Tigerton to Edzel 	Annex A pages 101-101	Volume 2, Chapter 9: Landscape and Visual Amenity Volume 2, Chapter 10: Cultural Heritage Volume 4a, Visualisations	<p>Comments on additional viewpoints are noted, however, Lochty and Montboy are residential properties.</p> <p>Further consultation with the statutory consultees on viewpoints has led to the consideration of an additional viewpoint (VP) in the Careston/Lochty area.</p> <p>Views from Inchbare are considered to be represented by VP19 and from the Fern-Tigerton to Edzell road by VP16.</p> <p>A viewpoint is provided from the Caterthun Hillforts (Volume 4a, Figure 9.22a-d VP18 White Caterthun) as part of Volume 4, Visualisations of the EIA.</p>
68	ICC02	Badger Sett, Pine Marten and Scottish Wild Cat	ICC note that in Section B, alignment 4c and 4e contain badger (<i>meles meles</i>) sett in rewilded woods near Lochty Farm/Coe. ICC expect for there to be a comprehensive assessment of wildlife in the EIA. They note that Angus is a stronghold for several highly protected species, including Pine Martens (<i>martes martes</i>) and Scottish Wild Cats (<i>felis silvestris</i>).	Annex A pages 101-101	Volume 2, Chapter 11: Ecology	<p>NS has been consulted with respect to the scope of survey and assessment for ecology (and ornithology).</p> <p>Habitat survey and specific site surveys for protected species (where required) have been completed following the methodology agreed with NS through separate consultation.</p> <p>An assessment of ecology is presented in Volume 2, Chapter 11: Ecology of the EIA and the supporting appendices, however due to the</p>

No.	Consultee and Comment Reference	Subject	Summary of Scoping and Consultation Comments	Scoping Opinion Page Reference	EIAR Reference	Application Response to Comments
						<p>nature of some of the information presented and to comply with legislation, only NS received certain confidential data in Confidential Appendices which are not available in the public domain.</p> <p>Please also refer to entry No. 31 of this table above regarding discussions with NS on EIAR scope.</p>
69	ICC03	Human Health	<p>ICC state that an assessment should be made regarding physical and mental health (in particular EMF impacts on children).</p> <p>It is felt that the number of dwellings (over 25) within about 100 m of the OHL in Option 4a in Section B has been underestimated.</p>	Annex A pages 101-101	N/A	<p>The effects of the Proposed Development on health have been scoped out from the EIAR however a separate EMF compliance assessment will be undertaken by the Applicant and the Compliance Report will be submitted with the Section 37 Application. Please refer to entry No. 64 of this table above in relation to mental health.</p> <p>A consistent approach to estimation of the number of residential properties proximate to each alternative alignment was followed by the Applicant as part of the options appraisal process. This work used the most up to date versions of Ordnance Survey (OS) AddressBase data, which was overlaid on a GIS system to allow for interrogation of constraints. The Applicant also collects Light Detection and Ranging (LIDAR) data to provide up to date aerial imagery to ensure all sensitive properties are captured in the alignment development process so that they can be avoided as far as possible taking account of all constraints.</p>
70	ICC04	Biosecurity	<p>ICC voice that there is significant concern among the farming community that EMF generated by the cables may render GPS-based technologies inoperable, or severely limited (especially drones). Sprayers cannot be used under high voltage OHLs which are needed to grow potatoes.</p>	Annex A pages 101-101	Volume 1, Chapter 3: Project Description	<p>The Applicant appreciates the concerns raised and are aware of the presence of PCN across the Site of the Proposed Development. Biosecurity protocols have been implemented during the baseline data collection. Soil sampling for both PCN and clubroot would be carried out before and after both ground investigation works and construction works.</p>

No.	Consultee and Comment Reference	Subject	Summary of Scoping and Consultation Comments	Scoping Opinion Page Reference	EIAR Reference	Application Response to Comments
			ICC state there is very little mention of Biosecurity. There are concern over Potato Cyst Nematode (PCN) and Clubroot. ICC state that protocols are insufficient and not being adhered to by vehicles.			<p>The Applicant has a biosecurity GEMP (TG-NET-ENV-521) which forms part of the applied mitigation as part of the EIAR. The GEMP is presented as an appendix to the Volume 1, Chapter 3: Project Description of the EIAR (Volume 5, Appendix 3.2: General Environmental Management Plans (GEMPs) and Species Protection Plans (SPPs)).</p> <p>For health effects in relation to EMF please refer to entry No. 11 of this table above.</p> <p>The Applicant continues to engage with landowners and tenant farmers to understand their businesses and how they use their land.</p> <p>There is no evidence that EMF from the OHL will interfere with the operation of GPS-based technologies.</p>
71	ICC05	Carbon-footprint	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ICC ask that greenhouse gases created by the manufacture and installation of the Proposed Development should be calculated and included within the EIAR. 	Annex A pages 101-101	Volume 2, Chapter 17: Schedule of Mitigation	<p>It is not within the scope of the EIAR to include greenhouse gas calculations, however additional information on climate change mitigation is included within Volume 2, Chapter 17: Schedule of Mitigation of the EIAR. Please also refer to entry No. 53 in this table above.</p>
72	Mearns Community Council (MCC) MCC01	Landscape and Visual	<p>MCC state that the following viewpoints should be included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 56°52'48"N 2°25'29"W 56°53'29"N 2°27'02"W 56°53'29"N 2°27'02"W 56°50'07"N 2°30'49"W 56°53'17"N 2°24'55"W 56°51'36"N 2°28'56"W 56°56'25"N 2°21'30"W 56°53'31"N 2°27'03"W 56°49'07"N 2°34'39"W 	Annex A pages 106-107	Volume 2, Chapter 9: Landscape and Visual Amenity Volume 4, Visualisations	<p>All viewpoints requested are from private properties or located in close proximity to existing and agreed proposed viewpoints. As such, The Applicant does not propose to include these additional viewpoints suggested within Volume 2, Chapter 9: Landscape and Visual Amenity or Volume 4, Visualisations of the EIAR.</p> <p>of the EIAR. The viewpoints selected for inclusion in the Landscape and Visual and Cultural Heritage assessments have been agreed in consultation with the relevant statutory consultees including Angus Council, Aberdeen City Council, Aberdeenshire Council, HES and ACAS. Please also refer to entry No. 56 in this table above.</p>

No.	Consultee and Comment Reference	Subject	Summary of Scoping and Consultation Comments	Scoping Opinion Page Reference	EIAR Reference	Application Response to Comments
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 56°48'57"N 2°33'26"W 56°51'14"N 2°29'26"W 56°52'07"N 2°28'38"W 			
73	MCC02	Agriculture	MCC state that there is a real and present threat of PCN that is being ignored and will destroy the existing agricultural environment and economy.		Volume 1, Chapter 3: Project Description	<p>The Applicant appreciates the concerns raised and are aware of the presence of PCN across the Site of the Proposed Development. Biosecurity protocols have been implemented during the baseline data collection. Soil sampling for both PCN and clubroot would be carried out before and after both ground investigation works and construction works.</p> <p>The Applicant has a biosecurity GEMP (TG-NET-ENV-521) which forms part of the applied mitigation as part of the EIAR. The GEMP is presented as an appendix to Volume 1, Chapter 3: Project Description of the EIAR (Volume 5, Appendix 3.2: General Environmental Management Plans (GEMPs) and Species Protection Plans (SPPs)).</p>
74	Tealing Community Council (TCC) TCC01	Landscape and Visual	<p>TCC provided a list of additional requested viewpoints they expect to be included in the EIAR:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A90 layby Parkford The outlook from near little Brechin, Piperton and Brathinch Lochty Lochty Cottages Montboy Cottages Gardener's Cottage Campsite, near Noranside Careston Castle Tourism business near Careston Castle 	Annex A pages 115-118	Volume 2, Chapter 9: Landscape and Visual Amenity Volume 4d, Visualisations	<p>Several of the viewpoints suggested are from individual properties/businesses. The LVIA VPs selected are in publicly accessible locations and represent a range of receptors.</p> <p>Other suggestions include VPs which are more relevant to cultural heritage (Volume 2, Chapter 10: Cultural Heritage of the EIAR). In all these cases, a CH VP has already been identified at the location, which is presented in as part of Volume 4, Visualisations of the EIAR, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Careston Castle (LB 4656), which will be Viewpoint 14 in the EIAR (Volume 4d Visualisations, Figure 10.16a-f CH14 Careston Castle (LB 4656)); and

No.	Consultee and Comment Reference	Subject	Summary of Scoping and Consultation Comments	Scoping Opinion Page Reference	EIAR Reference	Application Response to Comments
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Waterstone, near Careston Castle Taigh Gleusta, near Tannadice B957 Balnuith Alpacas Tealing Hilton of Fern Agri Teach Centre Aberlemno layby Law of Windsor Inchbare Ferm to Tigerton Road A90 From Glami Junction heading North to Mearns North Quilkoe Edzell Road (behind Tigerton) Craigowl Hill Coldstream, Hillside of Prieston, Tealing 			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Law of Windsor, Cairn (SM 3375), which will be Viewpoint 13 in the EIAR (Volume 4d Visualisations, Figure 10.15a-i CH13 Law of Windsor, Cairn (SM 3375)). <p>A few suggestions relate to additional viewpoints very close to existing viewpoints already selected and it is not considered that another VP is necessary in such close proximity. The viewpoints selected for inclusion in the Landscape and Visual and Cultural Heritage assessments have been agreed in consultation with the relevant statutory consultees including Angus Council, Aberdeen City Council, Aberdeenshire Council, HES and ACAS. Please also refer to entry No. 56 and No.71 in this table above.</p>
75	Aberdeen International Airport (AIA) AIA01	Aviation	<p>AIA note that the proposed site is located partially within the obstacle limitation surfaces and instrument flight procedure surfaces safeguarding zones for Aberdeen International Airport and as such aviation impacts should be considered as part of the EIAR.</p>	Annex A page 76	Volume 5, Appendix 7.2: Aviation Risk Assessment	<p>This has been noted. Volume 5, Appendix 7.2: Aviation Impact Assessment contains the findings that the Proposed Development is clear of the Obstacle Limitation Surfaces (OLS) and greater than five nautical miles laterally clear of the closest Instrument Flight Procedure (IFP). No significant impact is therefore predicted upon the operations of Aberdeen International Airport. The Applicant continues to consult with AIA, as aviation effects have been scoped out of the EIAR.</p>
76	The British Horse Society (TBHS) TBHSS01	Traffic and Transport	<p>TBHS advise that the EIAR and Access Management Plan should state that core paths may be used by a variety of non-motorised users, including horse-riders and detail how this will be managed during and after construction.</p>	Annex A pages 79-80	Volume 2, Chapter 7: Land Use and Prime Agricultural Land	<p>Measures to prevent and reduce effects from the Proposed Development on land use including recorded RoW are set out in Volume 2, Chapter 7: Land Use and Prime Agricultural Land and are included in Volume 2, Chapter 17: Schedule of Mitigation.</p>

No.	Consultee and Comment Reference	Subject	Summary of Scoping and Consultation Comments	Scoping Opinion Page Reference	EIAR Reference	Application Response to Comments
						An outline OAMP has been included in Volume 5, Appendix 7.1: Outline Outdoor Access Management Plan.
77	British Telecoms (BT) BT01	Telecommunications	BT request confirmation of the height and co-ordinates of any new structures. BT stated that the Proposed Development should not cause interference to BT's current and presently planned radio network. However, BT noted that some of the tower positions are very close to BT links, therefore if they do change, BT have requested to be informed so they can re-assess.	Annex A pages 82-85	N/A	Infrastructure locations and design details have been provided to BT and any changes will be communicated.
78	Cairngorms National Park Authority (CNPA) CNPA01	National Parks	CNPA stated they have no comment on the Proposed Development.	Annex A page 86	N/A	This has been noted.
79	The Coal Authority (TCA) TCA01	Coal	TCA makes no comment on this Proposed Development as it not located within the defined coalfield.	Annex A page 119	N/A	This has been noted.
80	Crown Estate Scotland (CES) CES01	Land Use	CES makes no comment on this Proposed Development.		N/A	This has been noted.
81	Joint Radio Company (JRC) JRC01	Telecommunications	Joint Radio Company (JRC) has identified that numerous towers have the potential to cause interference with fixed links and point to multipoint links operated by the local Distribution Network Operator (DNO). They advise that final tower positions are agreed upon and confirmed to no longer pose an obstruction. JRC requires precise grid references for the final tower locations and	Annex A pages 102-105	N/A	The Applicant has engaged with JRC to identify the potential towers of concern. Where required, towers have been microsited outside of the areas of concern. JRC have confirmed no impact on their comms network from the proposed tower locations and the Applicant will continue to work with JRC to manage/minimise any construction activities that may impact their network.

No.	Consultee and Comment Reference	Subject	Summary of Scoping and Consultation Comments	Scoping Opinion Page Reference	EIAR Reference	Application Response to Comments
			advise to seek re-coordination before submitting a final planning application.			
82	The MET Office (TMO) TMO01	Meteorology	TMO makes no comment on this Proposed Development as it is not inside any of the consultation zones	Annex A page 120	N/A	This has been noted.
83	Ministry of Defence (MOD) MOD1	Aviation	<p>The Ministry of Defence (MOD) mention that the Proposed Development falls within Low Flying Area 14 (LFA 14), an area within which military aircraft may conduct low level flying. They state there is a potential to introduce a physical obstruction.</p> <p>MOD will require that a condition is added to any consent issued requiring sufficient data is submitted to ensure that structures can be accurately charted to allow deconfliction. MOD has concerns, and should be consulted at all future stages for this Proposed Development to complete a full detailed safeguarding assessment.</p>	Annex A pages 98-99	N/A	<p>This has been noted.</p> <p>Whilst aviation has been scoped out of the EIAR, SSEN Transmission will continue to consult with MOD on the proposals and will provide additional information as required.</p>
84	Woodland Trust (WT) WT01	Forestry	<p>WT recommend an Arboriculture Impact Assessment is undertaken ahead of the full planning application. WT state that the Applicant should review the Ancient Tree Inventory (ATI) ³⁴in addition to identifying other ancient or veteran trees that may not be recorded on the ATI (live database).</p> <p>Request that a full assessment of potential direct and indirect impacts on ancient woodland along with proposals for mitigation is set out.</p>	Annex A pages 121-122	Volume 2, Chapter 11: Ecology	<p>After reviewing the ATI, two notable trees have been identified (ID 98042 & 113081) close to the Proposed Development. Both notable trees are located outwith the LOD and have not been assessed further.</p> <p>Volume 2, Chapter 11: Ecology of the EIAR considers ancient woodland as listed on the AWI.</p>

³⁴ Woodland Trust, n.d. *Ancient Tree Inventory*. [Online] Available at: <https://ati.woodlandtrust.org.uk/>.

No.	Consultee and Comment Reference	Subject	Summary of Scoping and Consultation Comments	Scoping Opinion Page Reference	EIAR Reference	Application Response to Comments
85	National Air Traffic Society (NATS) NATS01	Aviation	NATS considers that Aviation does not need to be scoped in. They are confident that none of planned works come in close proximity to NATS installations but would like to be sent shapefiles for further comment.	Annex A page 108	N/A	This has been noted, aviation has been scoped out of the EIAR, however, SSEN Transmission will continue to consult with NATS and provide additional information as required.

Table 6.3.4: Other relevant consultee responses

No.	Consultee & Comment Ref.	Subject	Summary of Consultation Comments	Date	EIAR Reference	Applicant Response to Comments
1	ADC02	Landscape and Visual – Route Options	<p>ADC state that Option 1b between Tealing and Fiddes is likely to be less constrained than Options 1a and 1c. However, the Braes of Mearns Special Landscape Area is a principal constraint due to policy woodlands around Fettercairn, the setting of this settlement and nearby designed landscapes key concerns, and views from well-known viewpoints within and outside the Special Landscape Area.</p> <p>ADC advise that options for crossing the Dee Valley on the route section are constrained by the proximity of settlements and environmental designations associated with the River Dee and Loch Skene.</p> <p>ADC highlight that Route Option 2a is most constrained environmentally, including in terms of potential landscape and visual sensitivities. The preferred Route 2b includes the eastern part of the Dee Valley Special Landscape Area - careful routeing is needed to minimise effects on this designated landscape. Route 2c includes the major settlements of Peterculter and Westhill.</p>	July 2023 consultation	Volume 2, Chapter 9: Landscape and Visual Amenity Volume 4, Visualisations	<p>It is noted that this response covers both the routeing as part of scoping and also addresses the subsequent alignment options which were presented at consultation during the review period for scoping.</p> <p>The alignment options discussed are within the Preferred Route and so within the same landscape study area. Routeing took into consideration effects on the Dee Valley and Braes of Mearns Special Landscape Areas and the alignment options were then developed further, still taking the Special Landscape Areas into account.</p> <p>Volume 2, Chapter 9: Landscape and Visual Amenity of the EIAR considers effects on the Dee Valley and Braes of Mearns Special Landscape Areas and the Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment (LVIA) includes several viewpoints (VPs) within or looking towards the Special Landscape Areas.</p>
2	ADC03	Ecology Mitigation – Route Options	ADC recommended mitigation in the form of planting trees, woodlands and hedgerows within Route Options 1b and 2b to help screen the proposal from roads and residential properties. These measures would additionally enhance biodiversity and landscape character.	July 2023 consultation	Volume 2, Chapter 8: Forestry Volume 2, Chapter 9: Landscape and Visual Amenity Volume 2, Chapter 11: Ecology	Please refer to entry No.3 of this table above regarding provision of information on compensatory planting.
3	NS04	Bat Survey Methods	NS are content with the method proposed and are considered to be proportionate. NS expect all surveys to be in accordance with	May 2024 consultation	Volume 2, Chapter 11: Ecology	Surveys have been completed following the methodology which was agreed with NS through separate consultation In May 2024.

No.	Consultee & Comment Ref.	Subject	Summary of Consultation Comments	Date	EIAR Reference	Applicant Response to Comments
			<p>updated BCT Guidelines (4th Edition)³⁵. Where bespoke approaches are required, explanation, justification and limitations should be provided.</p> <p>NS request that there is consideration of radio tracking where large numbers of trees would be affected.</p> <p>Fieldwork undertaken in 2023 and 2024 will remain valid to inform the EIAR and approval decisions and likely be relevant to support licence applications in 2025.</p> <p>Post-consent, additional bat survey work and pre-construction surveys will be required to inform licensing requirements.</p> <p>The EIAR needs to include bat species that are likely to be affected, the magnitude of impact and impacts to local populations and distributions, and if rare/exceptional roosts are likely to be affected.</p> <p>If potential roosting habitat will be lost, the EIAR need to include what the bat activity levels suggest the value of that resource to be. Rare species will require more detail.</p> <p>Mitigation and enhancement should be incorporated, including opportunities to retain, create and sensitively manage hedge habitats through wayleave maintenance with a phased approach.</p> <p>Creation of woodland edges and low shrub planting / shrub retention within the wayleave will provide habitats.</p>			<p>The predicted effects of the Proposed Development on bats were considered in line with the approach agreed with NS and the assessment findings are reported in Volume 2, Chapter 11: Ecology of the EIAR.</p>

³⁵ Bat Conservation Trust, March 2024. *Bat Surveys for Professional Ecologists: Good Practice Guidelines 4th edition*. [Online] Available at: <https://www.bats.org.uk/resources/guidance-for-professionals/bat-surveys-for-professional-ecologists-good-practice-guidelines-4th-edition>.

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			NS advised that licensing takes a minimum of 6 weeks to process individual licences and more complex applications take longer.			
4	Aberdeenshire Council Archaeology Service (ACAS) ACAS01	Cultural Heritage	ACAS suggest that the additional visualisation viewpoints are considered: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Glack Cairn (SM 12120) • Lang Stane, Auquhollie (SM 983) • Droop Hill Cairns (SM 4778) 	N/A – Opinion provided as part of landscape and visual consultation	Volume 2, Chapter 10: Cultural Heritage Volume 4, Visualisations	<p>During separate consultations with HES and ACAS further cultural heritage viewpoints have been identified for inclusion in the assessment, detailed within Volume 2, Chapter 10: Cultural Heritage of the EIAR, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Droop Hill (SM 4778); • Glack Cairns (SM 12120); • Glamis Castle (LB 11701 / GDL 189); • Glenbervie House (GDL 194); • Careston Castle (LB 4656); and • Barmekin Hillfort (SM 57). <p>Visualisations for the second asset suggested (Nether Auquhollie, Inscribed Stone (the Lang Stane) (SM 983)) are not included. Following refinement of the design of the project, the asset is now approximately 3 km away from the Proposed Development and is considered unlikely to have a significant adverse impact on its setting.</p>
5	Aberdeen City Council (ACC) ACC01	Landscape and Visual	ACC note that the proposed line does not enter the Council area. LVIA viewpoints should be produced from within the City looking westwards towards the line - near to the River Dee and Little Eddieston.	N/A – provided as part of separate landscape and visual consultation	Volume 2, Chapter 9: Landscape and Visual Amenity Volume 4, Visualisations	The LVIA includes an additional viewpoint at Little Eddieston (VP33) to represent open views from the western extent of the Aberdeen City Council area and views experienced by residents and road users in this area. This viewpoint is included within Volume 2, Chapter 9: Landscape and Visual Amenity of the EIAR.
6	NS05	Ecology and Ornithology	NS ask that additional items to be scoped into the EIAR including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Impacts on protected and notable species as a result of disturbance during construction; 	N/A additional email correspondence from NS 23/12/24.	Volume 2, Chapter 11: Ecology Volume 2, Chapter 12: Ornithology	Discussions between the Applicant and NS have taken place subsequent to the receipt of the Scoping Opinion to identify whether it is proportionate to include the items requested for inclusion. Where it was concluded that the additional items were to be scoped into the EIAR

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			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Aquatic ecological features (with the exception of freshwater pearl mussel) and brown hare (<i>lepus europaeus</i>), amphibians, reptiles and invertebrates during construction; Operational impacts on designated sites, habitats of conservation concern, and protected and notable species; Electrocutation on designated features/Schedule 1 birds and BoCC.			they are included in Volume 2, Chapter 11: Ecology and Volume 2, Chapter 12: Ornithology of the EIAR as relevant. The Applicant will continue to engage with NS.
7	SEPA02	Hydrology Buffers	SEPA advise that 50 m buffer guidance has always been given for windfarm developments. The SEPA recommended riparian corridors ³⁶ can be followed for these transmission works.	Consultation	Volume 2, Chapter 13: Hydrology, Hydrogeology, Geology and Soils	SSEN Transmission have endeavoured to achieve a 50 m buffer wherever possible and considered the recommended riparian corridors during the design of the Proposed Development. For any instances where the minimum recommended riparian corridor distances cannot be achieved, details are provided in Volume 5, Appendix 13.1: Watercourse Crossing and Buffer Assessment of the EIAR.
8	SEPA03	Drainage Ditches	SEPA stated they would permit temporary access tracks running alongside drainage ditches depending on-site specific circumstances and whether the access tracks were floated. Ten metres is the recommendation in most circumstances – relaxation for drains rather than natural watercourses may be acceptable.	Consultation	Volume 2, Chapter 13: Hydrology, Hydrogeology, Geology and Soils	This has been noted. For any instances where the minimum recommended riparian corridor distances cannot be achieved, details are provided in Volume 5, Appendix 13.1: Watercourse Crossing and Buffers Assessment of the EIAR.

³⁶ SEPA Description: "The Riparian Corridor GIS layer is a buffer zone that extends from the banks of all natural watercourses in Scotland. The Riparian Corridor buffer has 3 size categories: 10 m 15 m, and 30 m. The size of buffer is determined by the width each watercourse; channels less than 2 m wide having a corridor of 10m, 2 m to 15 m wide, 15 m and greater than 15 m wide, 30 m applied to each bank. In total, the riparian corridor buffer zone adds 20 m, 30 m or 60 m to the width of each river channel." Available at: https://map.sepa.org.uk/server/rest/services/Open/River_Morphology/MapServer/4