

Volume 5: Appendix 9.2 – Visual Assessment

VOLUME 5, APPENDIX 9.2: VISUAL ASSESSMENT

VOLUME 5, APPENDIX 9.2: VISUAL ASSESSMENT	1
LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS	2
1. INTRODUCTION	3
1.1 The Proposals	3
SECTION A	4
SECTION B	36
SECTION C	77
SECTION D	113
SECTION E	149
SECTION F	178

LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

AOD: Above Ordnance Datum

LLA: Local Landscape Area

LOD: Limit of Deviation

OHL: Overhead Line

SLA: Special Landscape Area

VP: View Point

VRA: Visual Receptor Area

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 The Proposals

- 1.1.1 This appendix presents the detailed assessment of effects on views and visual amenity within the LVIA study area as a result of the construction and operation of the Kintore to Tealing 400 kV OHL Overhead Line (OHL) ('the Proposed Development'). For the purposes of the visual assessment, visual receptors (eg residents, road users, recreational users etc) have been grouped into geographical areas across the study area which are referred to as 'visual receptor areas' (VRAs). In this appendix, the VRAs have been presented by Section (A-F) of the Proposed Development.
- 1.1.2 This appendix should be read in conjunction with **Volume 2, Chapter 9: Landscape and Visual Amenity** and **Volume 1, Chapter 3: Project Description** of the Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR) for full details of the Proposed Development.
- 1.1.3 This appendix is supported by the following figures (**Volume 3** of the EIAR):
- **Figure 9.1: Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment Study Area.**
 - **Figure 9.3a: Overhead Line with Viewpoint Locations.**
 - **Figure 9.3b.1 to 9.3b.6: Visual Receptor Area, Viewpoint Locations with Overhead Line Tower Height Zone of Theoretical Visibility (ZTV).**
- 1.1.4 The assessment of effects on visual receptors includes consideration of effects arising during both the construction phase and the operational phase of the Proposed Development. Construction effects would be temporary and short-term (5 year construction period) and are expected to arise from activities such as site clearance, construction of access tracks, construction compounds and tower foundations. Upon completion of construction, and where possible, disturbed landscape features such as ground cover and vegetation would be returned to its original condition. As such, construction effects are considered to be partially reversible. Operational effects would be experienced over the lifetime of the Proposed Development and would primarily relate to the introduction or realignment of towers, conductors and permanent access tracks in the landscape. As such, operational effects are considered to be long-term and partially reversible.
- 1.1.5 The visual assessment focuses on views from across each of the VRAs, which include a range of receptors including residential, recreational and road users. A Residential Visual Amenity Assessment (RVAA), which considers the potential for the Proposed Development to impact on the 'living conditions' at properties is set out within **Volume 5, Appendix 9.3: Residential Visual Amenity Assessment**.

SECTION A

Table 9.2.1: VRA A1: Downfield

VRA A1: Downfield	
Description of Receptor	Representative Viewpoint
Road users and residents of Downfield and recreational receptors of Clatto and Camperdown & Templeton Woods country parks in north Dundee, southwest of the Proposed Development (refer to Volume 3, Figure 9.3b.1: Visual Receptor Area, Viewpoint Locations and other Visual Receptors with Overhead Line Tower Height Zone of Theoretical Visibility (ZTV)). The VRA is located approximately 3.2 km southwest of the Proposed Development at its closest point.	N/A
Nature of Views	
Throughout much of the VRA, views are contained to close distances by surrounding residential buildings, street trees, and woodland. Although, views in the northwestern extents of the VRA are more open – views to the north take in the rolling farmland of arable fields bounded by post and wire fences and bands of broadleaf woodland are seen upon the rolling hills. The Sidlaw Hills can be seen in the far distance in views to the northwest. These views are experienced by residential receptors living around Brackens. Seen from the northwestern extents of the VRA, the high voltage OHL Tealing - Charleston East 132 kV can be seen in the far distance in views to the north, as can the telecommunications masts atop Craigowl Hill.	
Sensitivity	
Residential and recreational receptors are considered to be of High susceptibility to changes in the view and road users are considered to be of Low susceptibility to changes in the view. The western extents of the VRA contains part of two country parks: Clatto and Camperdown & Templeton Woods and the eastern extents contain part of the Trottick conservation area. There is also a high density of receptors within this VRA. Views are considered to be Medium in value. Taking account of the judgements of susceptibility and value, sensitivity is judged to be High for residents and recreational receptors and Medium for other visual receptors in the VRA.	
Magnitude of Change during Construction	Magnitude of Change during Operation
Throughout most of the VRA, construction activity would not be visible as buildings, street trees, and woodland contain views to close distances. However, in the northwestern extents of the VRA, residential receptors would see the erection of steel lattice towers and may also see lighting in the hours of darkness in the far distance to the north. The partially constructed steel lattice towers would be located on land of a higher elevation to receptors and visible upon the horizon. Although, in some places, construction activity would be screened or filtered by intervening hedges. The scale of change would be Small for receptors in the northwestern extents of the VRA, reducing to Barely Perceptible throughout the rest of the VRA. The magnitude of visual change during construction is judged to be no more than Low.	Throughout most of the VRA, the Proposed Development would not be visible as buildings, street trees, and woodland contain views to close distances. However, in the northwestern extents of the VRA, residential receptors would see the Proposed Development in the far distance in views to the north. The Proposed Development would be located approximately 3.2 km southwest of the Proposed Development at the closest point. The Proposed Development would be located on land of a higher elevation to receptors and visible upon the horizon. From this vantage point, the Proposed Development would appear to wrap around the Sidlaw Hills, introducing notable vertical elements to the eastern slopes of the Hills. One's eyes are naturally drawn to the Sidlaw Hills on the horizon and the Proposed Development would become a notable feature upon this skyline. Although, in some places the Proposed Development would be screened or filtered by intervening hedges. The scale of change would be Medium for receptors in the northwestern extents of the VRA, reducing to Barely Perceptible throughout the rest of the VRA.

VRA A1: Downfield	
	The magnitude of visual change during construction is judged to be no more than Medium .
Significance of Effect during Construction	Significance of Effect during Operation
Taking account of the High sensitivity of residents and recreational receptors in the VRA, and the Low magnitude of change, the visual effect arising from construction is judged to be no more than Minor (Not Significant) for any receptor in this VRA, and for many receptors would be less.	Taking account of the High sensitivity of residents and recreational receptors in the VRA, and the Medium magnitude of change, the visual effect arising from construction is judged to be no more than Moderate (Significant) for any receptor in this VRA, and for many receptors would be less.

Table 9.2.2: VRA A2: Templeton, Gallowhill, Myreton of Claverhouse and Inveraldie

VRA A2: Templeton, Gallowhill, Myreton of Claverhouse and Inveraldie	
Description of Receptor	Representative Viewpoint
Residents in scattered groups of properties and road users within the areas around Templeton, Gallowhill, and Myreton of Claverhouse and residents within the settlement of Inveraldie, to the south and southeast of the Proposed Development (refer to Volume 3, Figure 9.3b.1: Visual Receptor Area, Viewpoint Locations and other Visual Receptors with Overhead Line Tower Height Zone of Theoretical Visibility (ZTV)). The VRA is located approximately 0.8 km from the Proposed Development at its closest point.	VP1: Myreton of Claverhouse, southwest of Tealing (refer to Volume 4a, Figure 9.05a-d: VP1: Myreton of Claverhouse, southwest of Tealing)
Nature of Views	
Views from within the majority of this VRA are generally open in most directions and overlook surrounding low-lying agricultural fields. More contained views are experienced within the village of Inveraldie, with buildings screening most views. However, open views are afforded from the western settlement edge, looking out across agricultural land towards the Sidlaws. Throughout the VRA, some views are obscured by occasional deciduous trees or small pockets and shelterbelts of broadleaved woodland, including views experienced by residents and road users around Gallowhill. Views to the north are contained by the Sidlaw Hills which form a distinctive backdrop in these lower lying views. The telecom masts on Craigowl Hill form prominent vertical features along this elevated horizon. To the south, longer distance views are contained by gently ascending landform that forms a low-lying ridge between this area and Dundee to the south. A number of existing high voltage OHLs and wood pole lines are visible from properties and from the local road network in this VRA, as well as a small number of scattered wind turbines. Tealing and Seagreen Substations, sheds at Tealing Poultry Farm and polytunnels near Myreton are also visible in views experienced by people within this VRA, particularly in the eastern part of the VRA, including the settlement of Inveraldie.	
Sensitivity	
Residential receptors are considered to be of High susceptibility to changes in the view and road users including cyclists are considered to be of Low susceptibility to changes in the view. This VRA is not located within a designated landscape, however the VRA takes in views of the Sidlaw Hills which is a recognised and distinctive hill range in this area and forms the Sidlaw LLA. As such views are considered to be Medium in value. Taking account of the judgements of susceptibility and value, sensitivity is judged to be High for residents and Medium for other visual receptors in the VRA.	
Magnitude of Change during Construction	Magnitude of Change during Operation

VRA A2: Templeton, Gallowhill, Myreton of Claverhouse and Inveraldie

Construction activity would be seen in middle distance views to the north, northeast and northwest from residents and road users in this VRA. Views of construction activity from Inveraldie would be seen in the far distance and would be limited to taller elements of the construction activity; ground level activity would be largely screened by intervening development and vegetation.

Use of machinery, vehicle movements, creation of access tracks, erection of steel lattice towers and lighting in hours of darkness would be visible across the lower-lying land where the Proposed Development terminates, against the backdrop of rural fields and the Sidlaw Hills. More distant views of construction activity would be visible as the Proposed Development ascends the southern slopes of the Sidlaw Hills. From many groups of residential properties and stretches of the minor road network, some views would be partially obscured by deciduous trees that are scattered across field boundaries. In the western extents of the VRA, construction activity would be screened by the rolling landform.

The scale of change resulting from construction activity is judged to be **Medium** and would be focused across the area between Myreton of Claverhouse and Myreton.

The magnitude of change during construction is judged to be no more than **Medium**.

The Proposed Development would be seen in middle distance views from residential properties and along the minor road network in views to the north, northeast and northwest, at a distance of approximately 0.8 km at its closest point. Northwesterly views of the Proposed Development from Inveraldie would be distant, at over 2.8 km, where it would be seen largely backclothed by the Sidlaw Hills.

Due to the proposed size and scale of the steel lattice towers, the Proposed Development would form a prominent feature in close ranging views from the centre of the VRA. Most of the visible extent of the Proposed Development would be backclothed against the Sidlaw Hills, reducing the prominence of the infrastructure. Where the Proposed Development crosses the southern slopes of the Sidlaw Hills, towers would be visible as tall vertical features across the horizon, although at distances approximately ≥ 2 km, as illustrated by VP1: Myreton of Claverhouse, southwest of Tealing (**Volume 4 a, Figure 9.05a-d: VP1: Myreton of Claverhouse, southwest of Tealing**).

The Proposed Development would be seen in the context of existing vertical and commercial infrastructure, including existing high voltage OHLs, wood pole lines and wind turbines. In comparison to the existing vertical infrastructure, the Proposed Development would be notably higher and larger scale than the existing elements and would result in a notable increase in the influence of vertical infrastructure in some views from residents and road users in this VRA.

The scale of change resulting from the introduction of the Proposed Development is judged to be **Medium** and would be focused across the area between Myreton of Claverhouse and Myreton.

The magnitude of change during operation is judged to be no more than **Medium**.

Significance of Effect during Construction

Taking account of the **High** sensitivity of residents in the VRA, and the **Medium** magnitude of change, the visual effect arising from construction is judged to be no more than **Moderate (Significant)** for any receptor in this VRA, and for many receptors would be less.

Significance of Effect during Operation

Taking account of the **High** sensitivity of residents in the VRA, and the **Medium** magnitude of change, the visual effect arising from operation is judged to be no more than **Moderate (Significant)** for any receptor in this VRA, and for many receptors would be less.

Table 9.2.3: VRA A3: Balnuith

VRA A3: Balnuith	
Description of Receptor	Representative Viewpoint
Residents in scattered groups of properties around Balnuith, recreational visitors to Balnuith Alpacas, and users of the local road network, east and southeast of the Proposed Development (refer to Volume 3, Figure 9.3b.1: Visual Receptor Area, Viewpoint Locations and other Visual Receptors with Overhead Line Tower Height Zone of Theoretical Visibility (ZTV)). The VRA is located approximately 0.6 km from the Proposed Development at its closest point.	VP2: North of Balnuith (refer to Volume 4 a, Figure 9.06a-h: VP2: North of Balnuith)
Nature of Views	
Properties within the VRA generally comprise one or two storeys, with a variety of outlooks and degrees of screening. Occasional hedgerow trees line the western edge of the track that runs north to south through Balnuith, filtering outward views. The Sidlaw Hills to the northwest provide a dramatic backdrop and focal point in middle-to-longer distance views. Close to middle views are of flat agricultural fields with some hedgerow trees and small shelterbelts providing screening. There are views of existing high voltage OHLs and wood pole lines in all directions and wind turbines to the west. Views of the operational Tealing and Seagreen Substations are predominately filtered by conifer planting to the south.	
Sensitivity	
Residential and recreational receptors are considered to be of High susceptibility to changes in the view, and users of the local road network, including cyclists, are considered to be of Low susceptibility. This VRA is not located within a designated landscape, however the VRA takes in views of the Sidlaw Hills which is a recognised and distinctive hill range in this area and forms the Sidlaw LLA. These views are experienced by a small number of people within the properties and on nearby roads. As such views are considered to be Medium in value. Taking account of the judgements of susceptibility and value, sensitivity is judged to be High for residents and recreational receptors and Medium for other visual receptors in the VRA.	
Magnitude of Change during Construction	Magnitude of Change during Operation
Most of the construction activity would be visible to the west and northwest from properties and the roads. Construction activity including the temporary diversion of existing OHLs would be visible to the west less than 1 km from the receptors. Views of construction work and lighting in hours of darkness would be visible across rising landform in front of the Sidlaw Hills, at a distance of approximately 1.5 km. Some of these views would also be partially obscured by intervening buildings within the settlement, roadside trees, or intervening trees and woodland in the middle distance. The scale of change resulting from construction activity is judged to be Medium and would be experienced across the majority of the VRA. The magnitude of change during construction is judged to be no more than Medium .	The Proposed Development would be seen in middle distance views to the west and northwest from residential properties and along the minor road network at a distance of approximately 0.6 km at its closest point. These views would be experienced by people throughout the settlement, and visitors to Balnuith Alpacas. Due to the proposed size and scale of the steel lattice towers, the Proposed Development would form a notable feature in views from these parts of Balnuith and would be particularly prominent along the horizon where the Proposed Development crosses the Sidlaw Hills. The Proposed Development would be seen in the same view as two existing and closer OHLs to the west of the village. Although the Proposed Development would increase the influence of vertical infrastructure in views, the towers would not be as prominent as the closer existing towers, given the distance between Balnuith and the Proposed Development. The scale of change resulting from the introduction of the Proposed Development is judged to be Medium and would be experienced in views from the north and west of the VRA. The magnitude of change during operation is judged to be no more than Medium .

VRA A3: Balnuth	
Significance of Effect during Construction	Significance of Effect during Operation
Taking account of the High sensitivity of residents in the VRA and the Medium magnitude of change, the visual effect arising from construction is judged to be no more than Moderate (Significant) for any receptor in this VRA, and for many receptors would be less.	Taking account of the High sensitivity of residents in the VRA and the Medium magnitude of change, the visual effect arising from operation is judged to be no more than Moderate (Significant) for any receptor in this VRA, and for many receptors would be less.

Table 9.2.4: VRA A4: Tealing and Kirkton of Tealing

VRA A4: Tealing and Kirkton of Tealing	
Description of Receptor	Representative Viewpoint
Residents and road users within the settlements of Tealing and Kirkton of Tealing, and users of the local road network, east and southeast of the Proposed Development (refer to Volume 3, Figure 9.3b.1: Visual Receptor Area, Viewpoint Locations and other Visual Receptors with Overhead Line Tower Height Zone of Theoretical Visibility (ZTV)). The VRA is located approximately 1.1 km from the Proposed Development at its closest point.	N/A
Nature of Views	
Properties within Tealing are typically single-storey, and those within Kirkton of Tealing either one or two stories, with a variety of outlooks and degrees of screening. Agricultural barns at Kirkton of Tealing provide further screening from within this small settlement. Close to middle distance views out of the VRA are of flat agricultural fields with some hedgerow trees and small shelterbelts providing screening. Dense broadleaved woodland along Tealing Burn provides extensive screening, limiting views from the centre and southern half of the houses in Tealing. Along the central roads of both Tealing and Kirkton of Tealing, garden vegetation and intermittent trees provide filtering of outward views, however the Sidlaw Hills to the northwest are visible forming the backdrop and focal point in middle-to-longer distance views. Similar views of the Sidlaws are visible from some properties in the eastern and northwestern extents of Tealing, and along the western edge of Kirkton of Tealing, where views to the northwest are more open and overlook the surrounding arable fields. From sections of the minor road network that afford open views to the southwest, the operational Tealing and Seagreen Substations and an individual wind turbine are visible in the middle distance. To the west, several high voltage OHLs are visible, extending above the gently undulating landform and passing north along the western edge of the VRA in closer views. Wood pole lines are also visible throughout the VRA.	
Sensitivity	
Residential receptors are considered to be of High susceptibility to changes in the view and road users including cyclists are considered to be of Low susceptibility to changes in the view. This VRA is not located within a designated landscape, however the VRA takes in views of the Sidlaw Hills which is a recognised and distinctive hill range in this area and forms the Sidlaw LLA. These views are also experienced by a concentrated density of people within the settlement of Tealing, and a smaller number of people at Kirkton of Tealing. As such views are considered to be Medium in value. Taking account of the judgements of susceptibility and value, sensitivity is judged to be High for residents and Medium for other visual receptors in the VRA.	

VRA A4: Tealing and Kirkton of Tealing	
Magnitude of Change during Construction	Magnitude of Change during Operation
Most of the construction activity would be visible to the west and northwest from the northwestern part of Tealing and Kirkton of Tealing, where views are more open. Construction traffic travelling through Tealing as well as along a proposed access track on an existing minor road approximately 500 m west of the village (immediately north of Kirkton of Tealing) would be visible up close. However, most of the main construction activity including of machinery, vehicle movements, creation of other access tracks, erection of steel lattice towers and lighting in hours of darkness would be visible across rising landform of the Sidlaw Hills, at a distance of approximately 2 km. In addition, the temporary diversion of existing OHLs would be visible to the west of Kirkton of Tealing, at distances of approximately 1 km. Some of these views would be partially obscured by other intervening buildings within the villages or intervening trees and woodland in the middle distance. From the central and southern parts of Tealing, views of construction activity would be largely screened by broadleaved woodland along the Tealing Burn. The scale of change resulting from construction activity is judged to be Small and would be focused across the area in the northwestern part of Tealing. The magnitude of change during construction is judged to be no more than Low.	The Proposed Development would be seen in middle distance views to the west and northwest from residential properties and along the minor road network at a distance of approximately 1.1 km at its closest point. Most of these views would be experienced by people within the northwestern part of Tealing as well as a smaller number of people within the easternmost part of the village where open views towards the Proposed Development would be visible. Views would also be experienced by receptors along the western edge of Kirkton of Tealing. Due to the proposed size and scale of the steel lattice towers, the Proposed Development would form a notable feature in views from these parts of Tealing and would be particularly prominent along the horizon where the Proposed Development crosses the Sidlaw Hills. The Proposed Development would be seen in the same view as two closer OHLs to the west of the village. Although the Proposed Development would increase the influence of vertical infrastructure in views, the towers would not be as prominent as the closer existing towers, given the distance between Tealing and the Proposed Development. The scale of change resulting from the introduction of the Proposed Development is judged to be Medium and would be focused across the area in the northwestern part of Tealing. The magnitude of change during operation is judged to be no more than Medium.
Significance of Effect during Construction	Significance of Effect during Operation
Taking account of the High sensitivity of residents in the VRA, and the Low magnitude of change, the visual effect arising from construction is judged to be no more than Minor (Not Significant) for any receptor in this VRA, and for many receptors would be less.	Taking account of the High sensitivity of residents in the VRA, and the Medium magnitude of change, the visual effect arising from operation is judged to be no more than Moderate (Significant) for any receptor in this VRA, and for many receptors would be less.

Table 9.2.5: VRA A5: North of Tealing, Huntingfaulds, Todhills and Cotton of Brighty

VRA A5: North of Tealing, Huntingfaulds, Todhills and Cotton of Brighty	
Description of Receptor	Representative Viewpoint
Residents in scattered properties, users or and road users within the area north of Tealing and around Huntingfaulds, Todhills, and Cotton of Brighty – the east of the Proposed Development (refer to Volume 3, Figure 9.3b.1: Visual Receptor Area, Viewpoint Locations and other Visual Receptors with Overhead Line Tower Height Zone of Theoretical Visibility (ZTV)). The VRA is located approximately 1.2 km from the Proposed Development at its closest point.	N/A

VRA A5: North of Tealing, Huntingfaulds, Todhills and Cotton of Brighty

Nature of Views

Views from within this VRA are generally open and look out across gently undulating agricultural land which gradually rises to the north. There are occasional pockets of forestry and woodland which restrict views in some localised areas, but generally the landscape is open. The Sidlaw Hills rise in elevation to the north and northwest, restricting longer ranging views in these directions.

Many of the scattered properties within the VRA have largely open views, particularly to the south, with limited boundary vegetation providing screening or filtering of views. Occasional properties, including those near Mansfield, have mature vegetation around them which help screen views from the property. The A90 road passes through the centre of the VRA and offers open and unrestricted views across the low-lying landscape to the Sidlaw Hills in the northwest to its users.

A number of existing high voltage OHLs and wood pole lines are visible within the VRA, and the telecommunications masts at the summit of Craigowl Hill form prominent vertical features on the elevated horizon to the northwest.

Sensitivity

Residents are considered to be of **High** susceptibility to changes in the view and road users are considered to be of **Low** susceptibility to changes in the view.

This VRA is not located within a designated landscape, however the VRA takes in views of the surrounding open countryside, including views towards the Sidlaw Hills in the northwest which form the Sidlaw LLA. As such, views are considered to be **Medium** in value.

Taking account of the judgements of susceptibility and value, sensitivity is judged to be **High** for residents, and **Medium** for other visual receptors in the VRA.

Magnitude of Change during Construction

Most of the construction activity would be visible to the west and northwest from the VRA. Construction activity including machinery, vehicle movements, creation of access tracks, erection of steel lattice towers and lighting in hours of darkness would be visible across the lower-lying agricultural land and as it rises up the southern slopes of the Sidlaw Hills. At its closest, construction activity would be seen at a distance of approximately 1.1 km. Some of these views would be afforded some screening by small, isolated woodland blocks, but generally views would be open and wide ranging. Views of construction activity would be experienced by residential receptors, those travelling along Core Path 206 (Tealing to A928) and those travelling along the road network. It is noted that views experienced by people on the A90 would be oblique to the direction of travel. In the eastern extents construction activity would be glimpsed in the far distance in views to the northwest; although, partial screening would be afforded by intervening buildings.

The scale of change resulting from construction activity is judged to be **Small** and would be experienced across the majority of the VRA, although would become less perceptible with distance.

The magnitude of change during construction is judged to be no more than **Low**.

Magnitude of Change during Operation

The Proposed Development would be seen in middle-to-long distance views to the west and northwest from residential properties and road users. At its closest, the Proposed Development would be seen at a distance of approximately 1.2 km from isolated properties and people travelling through the area on the local road network. At its closest, the Proposed Development would be 2.5 km from the A90 and would be experienced in oblique views to the direction of travel. In the eastern extents the Proposed Development would be glimpsed in the far distance in views to the northwest; although, partial screening would be afforded by intervening buildings.

Although the Proposed Development would be visible from the VRA, it would largely be seen entirely or partially backclothed by the rising landform of the Sidlaw Hills. The towers would break the skyline as they cross the ridge of hills, and across the lower-lying land, and therefore would appear more prominent in these locations. However, generally the towers would be seen at greater distances in these instances (over 2 km to the west). A permanent access track that would ascend the eastern slopes of Ironside Hill would also be partially visible from northern and eastern extents of the VRA.

The Proposed Development would be seen in the same view as existing OHLs (Kintore to Tealing 275 kV, and Tealing to Lunanhead East 132 kV) in the western part of the VRA which are closer than the Proposed Development. Although the Proposed Development would increase the influence of vertical infrastructure in views, the towers would not be as prominent as the closer existing towers, given the distance to the Proposed Development.

VRA A5: North of Tealing, Huntingfaulds, Todhills and Cotton of Brighty	
	The scale of change resulting from the introduction of the Proposed Development is judged to be Small and would be experienced in views from across the VRA, between Mansfield and the A90. The magnitude of change during operation is judged to be no more than Low.
Significance of Effect during Construction	Significance of Effect during Operation
Taking account of the High sensitivity of residents in the VRA, and the Low magnitude of change, the visual effect arising from construction is judged to be no more than Minor (Not Significant) for any receptor in this VRA, and for many receptors would be less.	Taking account of the High sensitivity of residents in the VRA, and the Low magnitude of change, the visual effect arising from operation is judged to be no more than Minor (Not Significant) for any receptor in this VRA, and for many receptors would be less.

Table 9.2.6: VRA A6: Balkemback

VRA A6: Balkemback	
Description of Receptor	Representative Viewpoint
Residents in individual properties and small clusters of properties within the area between Balkemback and Dunian, and road users to the east, and northeast of the Proposed Development (refer to Volume 3, Figure 9.3b.1: Visual Receptor Area, Viewpoint Locations and other Visual Receptors with Overhead Line Tower Height Zone of Theoretical Visibility (ZTV)). A section of the Proposed Development crosses through the southwestern extents of the VRA.	N/A
Nature of Views	
Views from within this VRA are generally open and overlook surrounding low-lying agricultural fields to the south. Views to the north are focused on the prominent ridgeline of the Sidlaw Hills which rise in elevation and form a distinctive backdrop. The telecom masts on Craigowl Hill form prominent vertical features along this elevated horizon. Localised sections of the road network have views which are obscured by small pockets of broadleaved woodland, and large agricultural buildings, particularly around Balkemback. To the south, longer distance views are afforded, extending to the low-lying ridge which rises between this area and Dundee to the south. Several existing high voltage OHLs and wood pole lines are visible from properties and from the local road network in this VRA. These are visible to the south and north of the VRA, with those in the north seen in the foreground of the Sidlaw Hills. Tealing and Seagreen Substations are visible to the south, alongside polytunnels near Myreton. Occasional wind turbines, and the masts at Craigowl Hill introduce further vertical features into the landscape.	
Sensitivity	
Residential receptors are considered to be of High susceptibility to changes in the view and road users are considered to be of Low susceptibility to changes in the view. This VRA is not located within a designated landscape, however the VRA takes in views of the surrounding open countryside, including the Sidlaw Hills to the north which is a recognised and distinctive hill range in this area and forms the Sidlaw LLA. As such views are considered to be Medium in value. Taking account of the judgements of susceptibility and value, sensitivity is judged to be High for residents, and Medium for other visual receptors in the VRA.	

VRA A6: Balkemback	
Magnitude of Change during Construction	Magnitude of Change during Operation
Construction activity would be seen in close views to the south and west of the VRA, and in middle distance views to the north from residents and road users in the VRA. Use of machinery, vehicle movements, creation of access tracks, erection of steel lattice towers and lighting in hours of darkness would be visible across the lower-lying agricultural land to the south and west. Construction activity would be seen in more distant views to the north as the Proposed Development ascends the lower slopes of the Sidlaw Hills and crosses at Ironside Hill. From most residential properties and along most of the minor road in this VRA, construction activity would be visible in open views to the south. Vegetation along the roadside, and buildings at Balkemback Farm would provide some screening for road users in the east. Views of construction activity to the north would also be experienced by most residential receptors and road users. However, mature vegetation around some of the properties would provide screening from both the properties themselves and the road. The scale of change resulting from construction activity is judged to be Large and would be focused across the area south of the properties and minor road. The magnitude of change during construction is judged to be no more than High.	The Proposed Development would be seen in close views from residential properties and along the minor road network in views to the south and southeast, at a distance of approximately 50 m at its closest point. People travelling along the minor road would pass under the Proposed Development between towers S202 and S203. Due to the proposed size and scale of the steel lattice towers, and the close proximity of the Proposed Development to properties along the minor road, the Proposed Development would form a prominent feature in views from this VRA. In addition, the Proposed Development would be seen at greater distances (approximately ≥ 1.5 km) to the north as it ascends the southern slopes of the Sidlaw Hills. These towers would be partially backclothed by the landform of the Sidlaw Hills, however would appear to break the skyline as they ascend the slopes and cross at Ironside Hill. The towers would be seen in the context of the masts at the top of Craigowl Hill. However, mature vegetation around some of the properties (eg Dunian and some of the Balkemback Cottages) would provide screening from both the properties themselves and the road. The Proposed Development would be seen in the context of existing vertical and commercial infrastructure, including existing high voltage OHLs which converge at Tealing and Seagreen Substations, wood pole lines, wind turbines and masts. Given the close proximity of the Proposed Development, it would appear notably higher and larger in scale than the existing infrastructure and would result in a notable increase in the influence of vertical infrastructure in views from residents and road users in this VRA. The scale of change resulting from the introduction of the Proposed Development is judged to be Large and would be focused across the area south of the properties and minor road. The magnitude of change during operation is judged to be no more than High.
Significance of Effect during Construction	Significance of Effect during Operation
Taking account of the High sensitivity of residents in the VRA, and the High magnitude of change, the visual effect arising from construction is judged to be no more than Major (Significant) for any receptor in this VRA, and for many receptors would be less.	Taking account of the High sensitivity of residents in the VRA, and the High magnitude of change, the visual effect arising from operation is judged to be no more than Major (Significant) for any receptor in this VRA, and for many receptors would be less.

Table 9.2.7: VRA A7: Balluderon and Balkello

VRA A7: Balluderon and Balkello	
Description of Receptor	Representative Viewpoint
Residents in scattered properties between South Balluderon and North Balluderon, and Pitpointie, and road users within the area, to the west of the Proposed Development (refer to Volume 3, Figure 9.3b.1: Visual Receptor Area, Viewpoint Locations and other Visual Receptors with Overhead Line Tower Height Zone of Theoretical Visibility (ZTV)). The VRA is located approximately 0.4 km from the Proposed Development at its closest point.	N/A
Nature of Views	
Views from within the northeast of the VRA, near North Balluderon, are generally open and have views out towards the Sidlaw Hills which rise up in the north and across the undulating agricultural land in the east and southeast. The undulating landform limits views in some locations. To the south, the distant ridge which rises up from Dighty Water towards Dundee forms the distant horizon. Views from the areas in the southeast and west of the VRA are more contained due to the presence of mature roadside vegetation and areas of deciduous trees and woodland located around small clusters of residential properties eg South Balluderon, Old and North Balkello, Pitpointie and Balbeuchley House area, which provides screening of outward views. This vegetation largely limits views to the north and east from most properties, however South Balluderon has open views to the southeast. The prominent Sidlaw Hills form an elevated ridgeline where views are more open, and are seen in glimpsed northerly views between vegetation surrounding properties. Views south from the edges of property clusters are occasionally more open, where there is less boundary vegetation, notably at the Balbeuchley House area. In addition, there are a small number of more isolated properties which are afforded limited screening (eg at Balkello and North Balkello Cottage). These views are longer ranging, extending across the landscape of agricultural fields as it drops in elevation towards Dighty Water, before rising up towards Dundee. In addition, vegetation along the minor road network including near South Balluderon and adjacent to Balkello Woodland largely limits distant views. However, localised stretches are afforded longer ranging views, notably as the landscape opens up to the southeast of Balkello Woodland and to the north and south of South Balluderon. A number of existing high voltage OHLs and wood pole lines are visible from properties and from the local road network to the north and south of the VRA, as well as a small number of scattered wind turbines. The telecommunications masts at the summit of Craigowl Hill form prominent vertical features on the elevated horizon to the north.	
Sensitivity	
Residential receptors are considered to be of High susceptibility to changes in the view and road users are considered to be of Low susceptibility to changes in the view. This VRA is not located within a designated landscape, however the VRA takes in views of the Sidlaw Hills which is a recognised and distinctive hill range in this area which forms the Sidlaw LLA. As such views are considered to be Medium in value. Taking account of the judgements of susceptibility and value, sensitivity is judged to be High for residents, and Medium for other visual receptors in the VRA.	
Magnitude of Change during Construction	Magnitude of Change during Operation
Construction activity would be seen in close views to the northeast, east and southeast from residents and road users in the east of the VRA, and in middle-to-long distance views from receptors in the west. Use of machinery, vehicle movements, creation of access tracks, erection of steel lattice towers and lighting in hours of darkness would be visible across the lower-lying land where the Proposed Development terminates at the proposed Emmock substation. Lower-lying construction activity would be largely seen against the backdrop of undulating rural fields and the lower slopes of the Sidlaw Hills from the east of	The Proposed Development would be seen in middle distance views from residential properties and along the minor road network in views to the east, northeast and southeast, at a distance of approximately 0.4 km at its closest point. Due to the proposed size and scale of the steel lattice towers, the Proposed Development would form a noticeable feature in views from the eastern extents of this VRA. Most of the visible extent of the Proposed Development would be seen to break the skyline, particularly as it ascends the Sidlaw Hills. Some towers would be partially backclothed by distant

VRA A7: Balluderon and Balkello

the VRA, and screened by intervening landform and vegetation from the west. However, taller construction activity would be seen against the skyline, particularly on the higher slopes to the northeast.

From residential properties in the northeast of the VRA (eg, North Balluderon, Newlandhead and Pink Cottages), views of construction activity would be experienced from the properties and their curtilage, although often at oblique angles to the main building orientation. From some residential properties in the southeast of the VRA (eg Smithy House) some views would be partially obscured by deciduous trees that are located within the curtilage of the property and along the minor road. Views of construction activity from South Balluderon would be more open and seen at distances of approximately 600 m. From more distant properties views would be partially obscured by deciduous trees that surround the properties and line the minor roads.

The scale of change resulting from construction activity is judged to be **Medium** and would be focused across the area between North Balluderon and Pink Cottages, and from South Balluderon.

The magnitude of change during construction is judged to be no more than **Medium**.

landform. Where the Proposed Development crosses the southern slopes of the Sidlaw Hills, towers would be visible as tall vertical features across the horizon, although at distances ≥ 1.5 km. The towers would be seen in the context of the masts on Craigowl Hill.

Further west within the VRA, the undulating landform and the presence of mature vegetation around North Balkello and Old Balkello, would partially screen views of the Proposed Development from much of this area. The presence of mature vegetation around South Balluderon in the east would help provide further screening of the Proposed Development in views from the west. However, given the proposed size and scale of the steel lattice towers, the Proposed Development would be seen to break the skyline, particularly as it ascends the southern slopes of the Sidlaw Hills.

Vegetation along the minor roads and near South Balluderon and Balkello Woodland would offer some filtering of views of the Proposed Development.

The Proposed Development would be seen in the context of existing vertical and commercial infrastructure, including existing high voltage OHLs, wood pole lines and masts at the summit of Craigowl Hill. The Proposed Development would extend the influence of OHL infrastructure over the higher land of the Sidlaw Hills in views from residents and road users in this VRA.

The scale of change resulting from the introduction of the Proposed Development is judged to be **Medium** and would be focused across the area between North Balluderon and Pink Cottages, and from South Balluderon.

The magnitude of change during operation is judged to be no more than **Medium**.

Significance of Effect during Construction

Taking account of the **High** sensitivity of residents in the VRA, and the **Medium** magnitude of change, the visual effect arising from construction is judged to be no more than **Moderate (Significant)** for any receptor in this VRA, and for many receptors would be less.

Significance of Effect during Operation

Taking account of the **High** sensitivity of residents in the VRA, and the **Medium** magnitude of change, the visual effect arising from operation is judged to be no more than **Moderate (Significant)** for any receptor in this VRA, and for many receptors would be less.

Table 9.2.8: VRA A8: Ark Hill, Balkello, Craigowl and Gallow Hills

VRA A8: Ark Hill, Balkello, Craigowl and Gallow Hills	
Description of Receptor	Representative Viewpoint
Recreational receptors within the Sidlaw Hills, notably at the summits of Ark Hill, Craigowl Hill, Balkello Hill and Gallow Hill, to the northwest of the Proposed Development (refer to Volume 3, Figure 9.3b.1: Visual Receptor Area, Viewpoint Locations and other Visual Receptors with Overhead Line Tower Height Zone of Theoretical Visibility (ZTV)). The VRA is located immediately adjacent to the Proposed Development.	VP3: Balkello Hill (refer to Volume 4 a, Figure 9.07a-c: VP3: Cairns, Balkello Hill)

VRA A8: Ark Hill, Balkello, Craigowl and Gallow Hills

Nature of Views

Views from within this VRA are generally elevated in nature and people are afforded panoramic views across the lower-lying and undulating agricultural farmland to the south and southeast which descend from the Sidlaw Hills. Views west and to the north extend across the Sidlaw Hills. Views to the southeast towards the Proposed Development are generally open; however, they become increasingly obscured by woodland on the lower slopes of Balkello Hill. These elevated views are largely experienced by recreational receptors in the hills and people walking along core paths (eg Core Path 208 (Prieston to Glen Ogilvie) and 210 (Kirkton of Auchterhouse to Balluderon)).

Several telecommunications masts at the summit of Craigowl Hill (455 m AOD) form notable skyline features in views from across the VRA. In the northwestern extents of the VRA is the operational Ark Hill wind farm (6 turbines at 81 m tip height) upon the rounded Ark Hill (339 m AOD). In addition, existing energy and electrical infrastructure is visible across the lower-lying land to the south of the VRA, including several 275 kV and 132 kV OHLs which converge at the Tealing and Seagreen Substations. With the exception of the masts at Craigowl Hill, all other infrastructure appears to be backclothed by landform due to the elevated nature of views from this VRA.

Sensitivity

Recreational receptors, whose interest is likely to be focused on the surrounding landscape, are considered to be of **High** susceptibility to changes in the view.

The western extents of the VRA are located within the Sidlaw Local Landscape Area, and Balkello Hill is a well-used and promoted viewpoint location. The hills within this VRA offer wide panoramic visibility across the lower-lying agricultural land to the south and southeast. As such views are considered to be **High** in value.

Taking account of the judgements of susceptibility and value, sensitivity is judged to be **High**.

Magnitude of Change during Construction

Construction activity would be seen in close views from some of the lower slopes and in more distant views from the summits of Balkello, Craigowl and Gallow hills. Construction activity would be experienced by recreational receptors within the VRA in elevated views to the southeast. Use of machinery, vehicle movements, creation of access tracks, erection of steel lattice towers and lighting in hours of darkness would be visible across the lower-lying agricultural land where the Proposed Development terminates. Given the elevated nature of the VRA, construction activity would largely be seen against the backdrop of lower-lying undulating rural fields. From the lower slopes of Balkello Hill, some views would be partially obscured by deciduous trees and scrub on the eastern and southern slopes and from around Balkello Woodland.

In the western extents of the VRA is Core Path 210 (Kirkton of Auchterhouse to Balluderon). Upon higher elevations, views to the northeast and east experienced by recreational receptors upon the core path would take in construction activity in the far distance. Although, from lower elevations construction activity would be screened by intervening hills.

On the lower, eastern slopes of the hills, notably along access tracks and core paths near Craigowl Hill including Core Path 208 and 210, construction activity would be experienced much closer (<100 m) and may result in the temporary diversion of Core Path 208.

The scale of change resulting from construction activity is judged to be **Large** and would be focused across the lower slopes of the Balkello, Craigowl and Gallow Hill ridgeline, notably around the access track to Craigowl Hill and Core Path 208.

The magnitude of change during construction is judged to be up to **High**.

Magnitude of Change during Operation

The Proposed Development would be seen in close views from the lower, eastern slopes of the Balkello, Craigowl and Gallow hills in views to the southeast and at distances of 2 km, 1 km, and 0.6 km from the summits of these hills, respectively. From the more elevated summits (eg Balkello Hill), the Proposed Development would be seen in more distant views. Similarly, in the western extents of the VRA it would be possible to see the Proposed Development in the far distance in views to the northeast and east from where Core Path 210 crosses higher elevations. Although further west and upon lower lying land the Proposed Development would be screened by intervening hills.

Due to the proposed size and scale of the steel lattice towers, the Proposed Development would form a prominent feature in closer views from this VRA. It would become less prominent with distance and when seen from the more elevated locations due to being backclothed by landform, reducing the prominence of the infrastructure, as illustrated by VP3: Balkello Hill (see **Volume 4 a, Figure 9.07a-c: VP3: Cairns, Balkello Hill**). Where the Proposed Development crosses the southern slopes of the Sidlaw Hills, near Gallow Hill, some of the tops of the towers would be visible against the skyline, although this would be experienced from a relatively localised area.

The Proposed Development would be seen in the context of existing vertical and commercial infrastructure, including existing high voltage OHLs and wind turbines. The Proposed Development would appear to be of a similar scale to existing OHL infrastructure visible in views, however would increase in the influence of vertical infrastructure up the lower slopes of the Sidlaw Hills.

VRA A8: Ark Hill, Balkello, Craigowl and Gallow Hills	
	The scale of change resulting from the introduction of the Proposed Development is judged to be Large and would be focused across the area of lower lying slopes and along Core Path 208. The magnitude of change during operation is judged to be up to High.
Significance of Effect during Construction	Significance of Effect during Operation
Taking account of the High sensitivity of residents in the VRA, and the High magnitude of change, the visual effect arising from construction is judged to be up to Major (Significant) for any receptor in this VRA, and for many receptors would be less.	Taking account of the High sensitivity of residents in the VRA, and the High magnitude of change, the visual effect arising from operation is judged to be up to Major (Significant) for nearby receptors eg at Gallow Hill, but for most receptors would be less. From VP3: Balkello Hill (see Volume 4 a, Figure 9.07a-c: VP3: Cairns, Balkello Hill), the visual effect arising from operation is judged to be Minor (Not Significant) .

Table 9.2.9: VRA A9: Prieston and Coldstream

VRA A9: Prieston and Coldstream	
Description of Receptor	Representative Viewpoint
Residents in scattered properties within the area between Prieston, Coldstream and Balcalk, and recreational receptors travelling along Core Path 208, to the southeast of the Proposed Development (refer to Volume 3, Figure 9.3b.1: Visual Receptor Area, Viewpoint Locations and other Visual Receptors with Overhead Line Tower Height Zone of Theoretical Visibility (ZTV)). The VRA is located immediately adjacent to the Proposed Development.	N/A
Nature of Views	
Views from within this VRA are open and have views out across undulating agricultural land which rises to Craigowl and Ironside Hills to the north. The Sidlaw Hills in the north restrict longer views, whilst distant views are afforded across the lower-lying agricultural land to the south. There is limited vegetation within the VRA, with small pockets of trees and shelterbelts found around some farmsteads. The local roads are largely bordered by low hedgerows and post-and-wire fences, enabling open views out across the landscape. Many of the scattered properties within the VRA have largely open views in various directions, with limited boundary vegetation to provide screening. Some properties associated with working farms, such as at Balcalk and Prieston, have large agricultural buildings closer which provide some screening of views to the north. Occasional properties, including those near Hillside of Prieston have mature vegetation around them which help screen views from the property. Existing high voltage OHLs and wood pole lines are visible within the VRA. From more elevated locations looking south, the Tealing and Seagreen Substations are visible in the distance.	
Sensitivity	
Residential and recreational receptors are considered to be of High susceptibility to changes in the view and road users including cyclists are considered to be of Low susceptibility to changes in the view. This VRA is not located within a designated landscape, however receptors within the VRA take in views of the surrounding open countryside and the Sidlaw Hills to the immediate north which form the Sidlaw LLA. Views would be experienced by a low density of people. As such, views are considered to be Medium in value.	

VRA A9: Prieston and Coldstream

Taking account of the judgements of susceptibility and value, sensitivity is judged to be **High** for residents and recreational receptors and **Medium** for other visual receptors in the VRA.

Magnitude of Change during Construction	Magnitude of Change during Operation
Most of the construction activity would be visible to the northwest from the VRA, including from scattered properties and the minor roads which serve them. Construction activity including machinery, vehicle movements, creation of access tracks, erection of steel lattice towers and lighting in hours of darkness would be visible across the southern slopes of the Sidlaw Hills and as the Proposed Development cuts across the lower-lying agricultural land to the west and south. At its closest, construction activity associated with the Proposed Development would be experienced at distances of less than 0.1 km from Core Path 208, and at distances of 0.3 km from the nearest property at Coldstream. In addition, upgrades to the local roads which serve Prieston, Coldstream, and Balcalk would introduce construction activity immediately adjacent to some properties. Generally, views of construction activity would be open and wide ranging. Views of construction activity would be experienced by residential receptors, those travelling along core paths, and those travelling along the road network. The scale of change resulting from construction activity is judged to be Large and would be experienced across the north of the VRA near Coldstream and Hillside of Prieston. Construction activity would become less perceptible with distance. The magnitude of change during construction is judged to be up to High.	The Proposed Development would be seen in close views to the northwest of the VRA by residential properties and road users. At its closest, the Proposed Development would be seen at a distance of approximately 0.3 km from isolated properties and people travelling through the area on the local road network. Recreational receptors travelling along Core Path 208 would pass directly under the Proposed Development. The Proposed Development would be visible ascending the lower slopes of the Sidlaw Hills and passing over this ridge in views from the VRA. The Proposed Development would be seen at higher elevations and set against the skyline, which would increase its prominence. It would be seen partially backclothed by landform as it drops in elevation across the lower-lying agricultural land, although some of the towers would break the skyline. The Proposed Development would be seen in the same view as the existing Alyth to Tealing 275 kV OHL, and telecommunications masts at the summit of Craigowl Hill. From the south of the VRA, the existing OHL would appear of a greater scale than the Proposed Development because it is closer, however these existing towers would be removed as part of the Alyth to Tealing 275 kV OHL diversion (more detail provided in the cumulative assessment, see Volume 5, Appendix 9.4: Cumulative Landscape and Visual Assessment). Although the Proposed Development would increase the influence of vertical infrastructure in views, the towers would not be as prominent as the existing closer towers in the south of the VRA. However, the Proposed Development would be more prominent in views to the north as it climbs the slopes of the Sidlaw Hills. The scale of change resulting from the introduction of the Proposed Development is judged to be Large. It would be experienced in views from across the VRA, particularly across the more elevated land in the north of the VRA. The magnitude of change during operation is judged to be up to High.
Significance of Effect during Construction	Significance of Effect during Operation
Taking account of the High sensitivity of residents in the VRA, and the High magnitude of change, the visual effect arising from construction is judged to be up to Major (Significant) for any receptor in this VRA, and for many receptors would be less.	Taking account of the High sensitivity of residents in the VRA, and the High magnitude of change, the visual effect arising from operation is judged to be up to Major (Significant) for any receptor in this VRA, and for many receptors would be less.

Table 9.2.10: VRA A10: Lumley Den to Happas

VRA A10: Lumley Den to Happas	
Description of Receptor	Representative Viewpoint
Road users travelling along the A928, and scattered residential properties at Lumley Den and Over Finlarg, Nether Finlarg, Tarbrax, and Happas, to the southeast and east of the Proposed Development (refer to Volume 3, Figure 9.3b.1: Visual Receptor Area, Viewpoint Locations and other Visual Receptors with Overhead Line Tower Height Zone of Theoretical Visibility (ZTV)). The VRA is located immediately adjacent to the Proposed Development.	VP4: A928 near Lumley Den (refer to Volume 4 a, Figure 9.08a-e: VP4: A928 near Lumley Den)
Nature of Views	
Views to the west from the eastern half of the VRA (Finlarg, Tarbrax, and Happas) are largely contained by the hummocky landform of Ironside Hill and Finlarg Hill, and undulating landform covered in gorse and forestry to the south. The focal point in views from the east is the landform of these hills, with several telecoms' masts and OHL towers visible on and crossing the eastern slopes of Ironside Hill. Views eastwards extend across large-scale flat fields. The A928 cuts between these two hills, with the steep, lower slopes shortening and framing views as people travel along the road as it meanders through this hill range. Views open up to the west as road users exit Lumley Den. Long-ranging views are afforded over the lower-lying Strathmore in the northwest, with the distant horizon formed by the hills of the Braes of Angus.	
Sensitivity	
Residential receptors are considered to be of High susceptibility to changes in the view and road users are considered to be of Low susceptibility to changes in the view. This VRA is not located within a designated landscape, however the VRA takes in views of the Ironside Hill and Finlarg Hill, and is afforded scenic, long-distance views across Strathmore towards the Braes of Angus in the northwest. As such, views are considered to be Medium in value. Taking account of the judgements of susceptibility and value, sensitivity is judged to be High for residential receptors in the VRA, and Medium for other visual receptors in the VRA.	
Magnitude of Change during Construction	Magnitude of Change during Operation
Most of the construction activity associated with the Proposed Development would be screened by the landform of Finlarg Hill and Ironside Hill. Some taller construction activity such as machinery, part built towers and lighting in hours of darkness (associated with the towers at the highest elevation, towers S191 to S194) would be visible on the upper slopes of Ironside Hill, however lower level activity such as ground works and access track creation would be less perceptible in views due to landform. Although, in the eastern extents of the VRA, residential receptors around Happas would see the erection of steel lattice towers and lighting in the hours of darkness in the far distance in views to the west. The towers would break the skyline south of Ironside Hill. Residential receptors would also see the erection of steel lattice towers and lighting in the hours of darkness in the far distance in views to the north; although, intervening vegetation and buildings would provide partial screening. At its closest, construction activity would be seen by road users immediately adjacent to the A928 to the west of Lumley Den; however, construction activity would be seen at distances	The Proposed Development would be seen in closer (< 0.1 km) views as people travel along the A928 just west of Lumley Den, passing directly under the Proposed Development, as illustrated by VP4: A928 near Lumley Den (see Volume 4 a, Figure 9.08a-e: VP4: A928 near Lumley Den). People travelling along this route would see the Proposed Development in the direction of travel, and from more distant locations, at an oblique angle to the direction of travel. Permanent access tracks would also be visible along the slopes beneath the towers, particularly from the A928 in the views to the north. The Proposed Development would be seen in middle-to-long distance views (> 1.5 km) from properties at Over Finlarg, Nether Finlarg and Tarbrax as it climbs over Ironside Hill. However, vegetation around these properties would provide some screening. Landform and vegetation around and near the property at Lumley Den would provide screening of the Proposed Development. In the eastern extents of the VRA, residential receptors around Happas would see the Proposed Development in the far distance in views to the west. The towers would break the

VRA A10: Lumley Den to Happas

of approximately 0.6 km from the closest property at Lumley Den. The steep slopes associated with the road cutting through the hills and the presence of mature vegetation along this small valley would restrict views of the construction activity.

Construction activity would be more visible in the southwestern extents of the VRA and seen by road users along the A928 and from residential properties around Over Finlarg. This is due to the more open views afforded in this area, and views available towards Ironside Hill, and more distant views along Lumley Den. However, these views would be seen at distances of approximately 1.5 km. Similar but more distant views are expected from Nether Finlarg and properties near Tarbrax. It is noted that views experienced by people on the A928 would be oblique to the direction of travel. Shelterbelts along the western edge of the approach road to Over Finlarg would also provide some screening of views to the west.

Views of construction related activity would be greatest to the west of Lumley Den as the road heads towards Glen Ogilvie. The scale of change resulting from construction activity is judged to be **Large** for road users to the west of Lumley Den, immediately adjacent to the Proposed Development. Construction activity would be experienced across the area of the VRA around Over Finlarg but would become less perceptible closer to the Lumley Den pass due to screening provided by landform.

The magnitude of change during construction is judged to be up to **High** when experienced from the A928 in the west of the VRA but would be lower from the east of the VRA.

Significance of Effect during Construction

Although the sensitivity of the VRA associated with residential receptors is **High**, the magnitude of change to be experienced by most receptors is expected to be relatively **Low**. Road users, who have a **Medium** sensitivity, would experience a **High** magnitude of change. Taking account of judgements on sensitivity and magnitude of change, the visual effect arising from construction is judged to be no more than **Moderate (Significant)** for any receptor in this VRA, and for many receptors would be less.

skyline south of Ironside Hill. Residential receptors would also see the Proposed Development in the far distance in views to the north; although, intervening vegetation and buildings would provide partial screening.

Although the Proposed Development would be visible in views from the VRA, it would be largely screened from view by intervening landform of Finlarg Hill and Ironside Hill. Towers S191 to S194 would be visible as it crosses over Ironside Hill, and the wires would be visible crossing west of Lumley Den between tower S189 and S190, when viewed from the east. The Proposed Development would be seen beyond an existing OHL which cuts across the lower eastern slopes of the Ironside and Finlarg Hills.

From the west of the VRA, the towers would form prominent vertical features extending the western slopes of the low ridge of hills running from Ironside to Hayston Hill. Lower towers would appear partially backclothed by Finlarg Hill, however most would be visible cutting across the horizon and largely seen against the skyline. The Proposed Development would appear more prominent than existing towers due to being seen against the skyline, and at higher elevations. A permanent access track that would descend the northern slopes of Ironside Hill and across the western slopes of Finlarg Hill would form a notable feature across the adjacent landform in this part of the VRA.

The scale of change resulting from the introduction of the Proposed Development is judged to be **Large** and would be focused along the section of the A928 in the west of the VRA.

The magnitude of change during operation is judged to be up to **High** when experienced from the A928 in the west of the VRA but would be lesser from the east of the VRA.

Significance of Effect during Operation

Although the sensitivity of the VRA associated with residential receptors is **High**, the magnitude of change to be experienced by most receptors is expected to be relatively **Low**. Road users, who have a **Medium** sensitivity, would experience a **High** magnitude of change. Taking account of judgements on sensitivity and magnitude of change, the visual effect arising from operation is judged to be up to **Major (Significant)** for any receptor in this VRA, and for many receptors would be less.

Table 9.2.11: VRA A11: Kinnettles, Kinaldrum, Gateside and Inverighty

VRA A11: Kinnettles, Kinaldrum, Gateside and Inverighty	
Description of Receptor	Representative Viewpoint
Residents in scattered properties within the areas around Kinnettles, Kinaldrum, Gateside, and Inverighty, and people travelling along the road network, to the east of the Proposed Development (refer to Volume 3, Figure 9.3b.1: Visual Receptor Area, Viewpoint Locations and other Visual Receptors with Overhead Line Tower Height Zone of Theoretical Visibility (ZTV)). The VRA is located approximately 1.1 km from the Proposed Development at its closest point.	N/A
Nature of Views	
Views from within the VRA extend across areas of medium scale agricultural land. The presence of roadside and field boundary vegetation throughout the VRA filters longer distance views in many locations. Likewise, linear shelterbelts of woodland to the east of Kincaldrum Hill, and larger pockets of woodland and forestry near Inverighty and Kinnettles provides further screening of views. Where visibility between vegetation occurs, longer ranging views include Kincaldrum Hill in the east and the low hill to the north of Kinnettles House. These hills limit more distant views. The most westerly extents of the VRA, including the road near Kinnettles House and West Mains are afforded more open views to the west which overlook the lower-lying agricultural land as it drops towards the Mains of Glamis and Douglstown. These views are framed by the distant landform of Hunters Hill.	
Sensitivity	
Residential receptors are considered to be of High susceptibility to changes in the view and road users including cyclists are considered to be of Low susceptibility to changes in the view. This VRA is not located within a designated landscape, but the VRA takes in views of open countryside. Views are also experienced by a large number of people within dense clusters of properties across the VRA. As such, views are considered to be Medium in value. Taking account of the judgements of susceptibility and value, sensitivity is judged to be High for residential receptors in the VRA, and Medium for other visual receptors in the VRA.	
Magnitude of Change during Construction	Magnitude of Change during Operation
At its closest, the southwestern and northwestern extents of the VRA would be located approximately 1.1 km, and 1.4 km, respectively, to the east of construction activity associated with the Proposed Development. Given the intervening distance between the Proposed Development and the VRA, and the presence of Kincaldrum Hill to the southwest, it is unlikely that construction activity would be very notable in views experienced from the VRA. The rising landform to the west, and the strong presence of woodland and forestry blocks and mature roadside and field boundary vegetation would help screen longer ranging views to the west from much of the VRA. Increased construction related traffic may be perceived along the main roads in the VRA (eg B9127), however construction of the towers and ground works are unlikely to be noticeable from much of the VRA. From the centre of the VRA, along the B9127 near Kinnettles House and the minor road near West Mains, more open views across a lower-	Where visible, the Proposed Development would be seen in long distance views to the west from residential properties and road users within the VRA. From most of the VRA, including from the south and east, intervening vegetation and landform would largely screen the Proposed Development. However, some distant filtered views would be afforded of the tops of some towers. More open views are afforded in the centre of the VRA, including along the B9127 public road near Kinnettles House and the minor road to the north of Kincaldrum Hill. Locations within the centre of the VRA, particularly more elevated road locations would experience greater visibility of the Proposed Development. From the B9127, the Proposed Development would be seen against the skyline as it passes over the topographic low between Hunters Hill and Kincaldrum Hill, before descending down the slopes to the north where it would become increasingly backclothed in views. The Proposed Development would be seen at an oblique angle to the direction of travel, and at a distance of over 2 km to the southwest.

VRA A11: Kinnettles, Kinaldrum, Gateside and Inverighty

lying landscape would be experienced. Construction activity in these views would be seen at a distance of approximately 2 km.

In the southeastern extents, residential receptors west of Inverarity may see the erection of steel lattice towers in the far distance in views to the southwest and northwest; although, it is likely intervening vegetation and buildings would provide screening.

The scale of change resulting from construction activity is judged to be **Small** and would be experienced across the majority of the VRA. The magnitude of change during construction is judged to be no more than **Low**.

From the minor road to the north of Kinaldrum Hill, the Proposed Development would be largely screened by the lower northern slopes of Kinaldrum Hill. In northwesterly views, the Proposed Development would be seen in the distance, entirely backclothed by distant landform. Roadside vegetation along this section of the road would help to further filter views.

In the southeastern extents, residential receptors west of Inverarity may see the Proposed Development in the far distance in views to the southwest and northwest; although, it is likely intervening vegetation and buildings would provide screening.

The Proposed Development would be seen in the same view as an existing OHL which routes to the west of the VRA, and cuts across the eastern slopes of Kinaldrum Hill. Although the Proposed Development would increase the influence of vertical infrastructure in views, the towers would not be as prominent as the closer existing towers, given the distance to the Proposed Development.

The scale of change resulting from the introduction of the Proposed Development is judged to be **Small** and would be experienced in filtered views from across the VRA, and more open views from the B9127 near Kinnettles House.

The magnitude of change during operation is judged to be no more than **Low**.

Significance of Effect during Construction

Taking account of the **High** sensitivity of residents in the VRA, and the **Low** magnitude of change, the visual effect arising from construction is judged to be no more than **Minor (Not Significant)** for any receptor in this VRA, and for many receptors would be less.

Significance of Effect during Operation

Taking account of the **High** sensitivity of residents in the VRA, and the **Low** magnitude of change, the visual effect arising from operation is judged to be no more than **Minor (Not Significant)** for any receptor in this VRA, and for many receptors would be less.

Table 9.2.12: VRA A12: Upper Hayston Farm to Nether Hayston

VRA A12: Upper Hayston Farm to Nether Hayston	
Description of Receptor	Representative Viewpoint
Residents in scattered farmsteads and road users within the area between Upper Hayston Farm, Nether Hayston Farm, and Wester Foffarty, east of the Proposed Development (refer to Volume 3, Figure 9.3b.1: Visual Receptor Area, Viewpoint Locations and other Visual Receptors with Overhead Line Tower Height Zone of Theoretical Visibility (ZTV)). The VRA is located immediately adjacent to the Proposed Development.	N/A
Nature of Views	
Views across the VRA are generally open and overlook undulating farmland. Throughout the VRA, some views are obscured by occasional deciduous trees and small pockets and shelterbelts of deciduous trees, including views experienced by residents and road users along the stretch between Upper Hayston Farm Cottage and Wester Foffarty House. To the northwest, longer distance views are contained by Brigton Hill. To the south, views are contained by Kayston Hill and Kinaldrum Hill.	

VRA A12: Upper Hayston Farm to Nether Hayston

A number of existing high voltage OHLs and wood pole lines are visible from properties and from the local road network in this VRA.

Sensitivity

Residential receptors are considered to be of **High** susceptibility to changes in the view and road users including cyclists are considered to be of **Low** susceptibility to changes in the view.

The VRA is not located within a designated landscape and does not take in views of other designated landscapes. However, the VRA is generally open with views of local hills and open countryside. As such views are considered to be **Medium** in value.

Taking account of the judgements of susceptibility and value, sensitivity is judged to be **High** for residents and **Medium** for other visual receptors in the VRA.

Magnitude of Change during Construction

Construction activity, including machinery, vehicle movements, creation of access tracks, erection of steel lattice towers and lighting in hours of darkness, would be seen in very close distance views (< 0.1 km) in the north and west from residents and road users in this VRA. Views of construction from the east of the VRA would be seen in medium distance and would be limited to taller construction activity as ground level activity would be largely screened by vegetation and topography.

From residential properties and stretches of the minor road network, some views more generally however would be partially obscured by deciduous trees that are scattered across field boundaries.

The scale of change resulting from construction activity is judged to be **Large** and would be focused on the northwestern part of the VRA between Upper Hayston Farm Cottage and Nether Hayston.

The magnitude of change during construction is judged to be up to **High**.

Magnitude of Change during Operation

The Proposed Development would be seen in close distance views from residential properties in the north and western sections of the VRA, at a distance of 0.2 km at its closest point. Westerly views of the Proposed Development would be at medium distance with views of steel lattice towers on the horizon, though some would be backclothed by Hunters Hill.

Due to the proposed size and scale of the steel lattice towers, the Proposed Development would form a prominent feature in close ranging views from the western and northern extents of the VRA. Most of the visible extent of the Proposed Development would be backclothed by the surrounding landform. Where the Proposed Development climbs the lower northwestern up slopes of Hayston Hill, towers would be visible as tall vertical features across the horizon, although at distances approximately > 1.5 km.

The Proposed Development would be seen in the context of existing vertical and commercial infrastructure, including existing high voltage OHLs and wood pole lines. In comparison to the existing vertical infrastructure, the Proposed Development would be notably higher and larger scale than the existing elements and would result in a notable increase in the influence of vertical infrastructure in views from residents and road users in this VRA.

The scale of change resulting from the introduction of the Proposed Development is judged to be **Large** and would be focused across the area between Upper Hayston Farm Cottage and Nether Hayston.

The magnitude of change during operation is judged to be up to **High**.

Significance of Effect during Construction

Taking account of the **High** sensitivity of residents in the VRA, and the **High** magnitude of change, the visual effect arising from construction is judged to be up to **Major (Significant)** for any receptor in this VRA, and for many receptors would be less.

Significance of Effect during Operation

Taking account of the **High** sensitivity of residents in the VRA, and the **High** magnitude of change, the visual effect arising from operation is judged to be up to **Major (Significant)** for any receptor in this VRA, and for many receptors would be less.

Table 9.2.13: VRA A13: Meikle Kilmundie to Arniefoul Mill

VRA A13: Meikle Kilmundie to Arniefoul Mill	
Description of Receptor	Representative Viewpoint
Residents and road users of scattered farmstead and settlements between Arniefoul Mill, and Meikle Kilmundie, west of the Proposed Development (refer to Volume 3, Figure 9.3b.1: Visual Receptor Area, Viewpoint Locations and other Visual Receptors with Overhead Line Tower Height Zone of Theoretical Visibility (ZTV)). The VRA is located immediately adjacent to the Proposed Development.	N/A
Nature of Views	
Views across the VRA overlook undulating farmland and are generally enclosed due to the topography, with the landform to the south of the VRA at a higher elevation to north of the VRA. The VRA is enclosed by Hunters Hill to the north, Hayston Hill to the east, Laidloon Hill to the south, and Berry Hillock to the west. Throughout the VRA, some views are obscured by broadleaved and commercial woodland blocks and shelterbelts, alongside field boundaries and farm buildings.	
Sensitivity	
Residential receptors are considered to be of High susceptibility to changes in the view and road users including cyclists are considered to be of Low susceptibility to changes in the view.	
The VRA is not located within a designated landscape however the VRA takes in views of local hills including Hunters Hill and Hayston Hill as well as part of the Sidlaw Hills to the south which form the Sidlaw LLA. As such views are considered to be Medium in value.	
Taking account of the judgements of susceptibility and value, sensitivity is judged to be High for residents and Medium for other visual receptors in the VRA.	
Magnitude of Change during Construction	Magnitude of Change during Operation
Construction activity including machinery, vehicle movements, creation of access tracks, erection of steel lattice towers and lighting in hours of darkness would be seen in in very close distance views (< 0.1 km) to the north and east from residents and road users in this VRA. Views of construction from the western and southern parts of the VRA would be seen in medium distance and would be limited in areas to taller construction activity as ground level activity would be largely screened by vegetation and topography. From some residential properties and stretches of the minor road network, some views would be partially obscured by deciduous trees that are scattered across field boundaries. The scale of change resulting from construction activity is judged to be Large and would be focused on the eastern part of the VRA around Nether Arniefoul to Arniefoul. The magnitude of change during construction is judged to be up to High.	The Proposed Development would be seen in close distance views (< 0.1 km) from the north and eastern parts of the VRA. Easterly views of the Proposed Development from the residents in the west of the VRA would be at medium distance with views of steel lattice towers on the horizon, though most would be backclothed by Hayston Hill. Due to the proposed size and scale of the steel lattice towers, the Proposed Development would form a prominent feature in the VRA. Where the Proposed Development climbs the western slopes of Hayston Hill, towers would be visible as tall vertical features across the horizon, although at distances approximately > 1 km. Permanent access tracks that would descend the northern slopes of Ironside Hill, and across the western slopes of Finlarg Hill and Hayston Hill would also be partially visible from the VRA. The Proposed Development would increase the influence of vertical infrastructure in an area which is generally limited to wood pole OHLs. The towers would be notably higher in comparison to such infrastructure. The scale of change resulting from the introduction of the Proposed Development is judged to be Large and would be focused across the area between Arniefoul and Nether Arniefoul. The magnitude of change during operation is judged to be up to High.

VRA A13: Meikle Kilmundie to Arniefoul Mill	
Significance of Effect during Construction	Significance of Effect during Operation
Taking account of the High sensitivity of residents in the VRA, and the High magnitude of change, the visual effect arising from construction is judged to be up to Major (Significant) for any receptor in this VRA, and for many receptors would be less.	Taking account of the High sensitivity of residents in the VRA, and the High magnitude of change, the visual effect arising from operation is judged to be up to Major (Significant) for any receptor in this VRA, and for many receptors would be less.

Table 9.2.14: VRA A14: Milton of Ogilvie and Rochelhill

VRA A14: Milton of Ogilvie and Rochelhill	
Description of Receptor	Representative Viewpoint
Residents and recreational receptors of scattered farmstead around the settlement of Milton of Ogilvie and the area surrounding Rochelhill, and road users including cyclists of the A928 (refer to Volume 3, Figure 9.3b.1: Visual Receptor Area, Viewpoint Locations and other Visual Receptors with Overhead Line Tower Height Zone of Theoretical Visibility (ZTV)). The VRA is located approximately 1.5 km from the Proposed Development at its closest point.	VP5: Milton of Ogilvie (refer to Volume 4 a, Figure 9.09a-f: VP5: Milton of Ogilvie)
Nature of Views	
Views across the VRA are generally open and overlook undulating farmland with scattered woodland blocks and shelterbelts, though woodland cover is generally low. Throughout the VRA, views are obscured by field boundaries, farm buildings and garden vegetation, alongside woodland blocks and shelterbelts. Tree cover along the A928 is generally low and does not restrict views to road users. Views are variable across the VRA due to the topography, with the VRA enclosed by Berry Hillock and Carlunie Hill to the west. Berry Hillock is located within the VRA at an elevation of 282 m AOD with open views east towards the Proposed Development. Existing wood pole OHLs are visible throughout the VRA, with wind turbines visible from the southeast of the VRA at Ark Hill Wind Farm. A telecommunication mast on the southeast face of Gallow Hill can be seen to the south from the VRA.	
Sensitivity	
Residential receptors are considered to be of High susceptibility to changes in the view and road users including cyclists are considered to be of Low susceptibility to changes in the view. The VRA is not located within a designated landscape however the VRA takes in part of the Sidlaw Hills to the south which form the Sidlaw LLA. As such views are considered to be Medium in value. Taking account of the judgements of susceptibility and value, sensitivity is judged to be High for residents and Medium for other visual receptors in the VRA.	
Magnitude of Change during Construction	Magnitude of Change during Operation
Construction activity would be seen in middle-to-long distance views from residents and road users in this VRA. These views would be limited to taller construction activity, primarily the construction of steel lattice towers, as ground level activity would be largely screened by intervening vegetation and topography and farm buildings. From the elevated area around Berry Hillock, ground level activity such as use of machinery, vehicle movements,	The Proposed Development would be seen in middle-to-long distance views from the VRA at a distance of 1.5 km at its closest point. From residential properties and along the major road network in views to the northeast, east and southeast of the Proposed Development would be partially visible along the eastern horizons formed by Finlarg Hill and Hayston Hill. Intervening rising landform east of the VRA along with pockets of broadleaf woodland and

VRA A14: Milton of Ogilvie and Rochelhill	
creation of access tracks and lighting in hours of darkness would be more visible due to the open nature of such elevated views. However, this would be visible in longer distance views due to the increased distance from the Proposed Development. Views from the northwestern extents of the VRA would be screened from construction activity by intervening hills and conifer plantations. The scale of change resulting from construction activity is judged to be Small across the entire VRA. The magnitude of change during construction is judged to be no more than Low.	commercial forest across the landform partially screens steel lattice towers, reducing overall visibility as illustrated by VP5: Milton of Ogilvie (see Volume 4 a, Figure 9.09a-f: VP5: Milton of Ogilvie). Although some towers would be visible along the horizon, the intervening distance (1.5 km and over) reduces the prominence of towers in easterly and southeasterly views. Views from the northwestern extents of the VRA would be screened from the Proposed Development by intervening hills and conifer plantations. The Proposed Development would be seen in the context of existing vertical and commercial infrastructure, including an existing telecommunication mast, wood pole lines and wind turbines. The scale of change resulting from the introduction of the Proposed Development is judged to be Small across the entire VRA. The magnitude of change during operation is judged to be no more than Low.
Significance of Effect during Construction	Significance of Effect during Operation
Taking account of the High sensitivity of residents in the VRA, and the Low magnitude of change, the visual effect arising from construction is judged to be no more than Minor (Not Significant) .	Taking account of the High sensitivity of residents in the VRA, and the Low magnitude of change, the visual effect arising from operation is judged to be no more than Minor (Not Significant) .

Table 9.2.15: VRA A15: Charleston

VRA A15: Charleston	
Description of Receptor	Representative Viewpoint
Residents in the village of Charleston, recreational receptors travelling along core paths, and people travelling along the minor road network west of the Proposed Development (refer to Volume 3, Figure 9.3b.1: Visual Receptor Area, Viewpoint Locations and other Visual Receptors with Overhead Line Tower Height Zone of Theoretical Visibility (ZTV)). The VRA is located approximately 1.6 km from the Proposed Development at its closest point.	N/A
Nature of Views	
Views from within the VRA are focused on the surrounding hills and landform which contain the small topographic bowl in which the village of Charleston is located. Views from the north of the VRA are more open due to its slightly higher elevation, with longer distance views afforded towards Hunter Hill and Kincaldrum Hill in the east and southeast. Views to the west and southwest are framed by the slopes of Crams Hill and Berry Hillock, respectively. From further south within the VRA, views out from the village are more contained to the east due to the presence of Lera Wood, however longer ranging views are afforded to the south and west. Views out towards the surrounding landscape are experienced primarily from the edge of the village, with interior views focused on residential properties with occasional glimpses to the enclosing landform and vegetation.	

VRA A15: Charleston

Sensitivity

Residential and recreational receptors are considered to be of **High** susceptibility to changes in the view and road users are considered to be of **Low** susceptibility to changes in the view. This VRA is not located within a designated landscape, but the VRA takes in views of Hunters Hill to the east and more distant hills to the south and west. As such, views are considered to be **Medium** in value.

Taking account of the judgements of susceptibility and value, sensitivity is judged to be **High** for residential and recreational receptors in the VRA, and **Medium** for other visual receptors in the VRA.

Magnitude of Change during Construction

At its closest, the eastern extents of the VRA would be located approximately 1.6 km to the west of construction activity associated with the Proposed Development.

Given the intervening distance between the Proposed Development and the VRA, and the presence of the intervening landform of Hunters Hill, visibility of construction activity would be limited to the taller elements (eg construction of towers) seen on the horizon to the east. The presence of mature woodland and forestry on Hunters Hill and at Lera Wood would help to further screen any visibility of construction activity to the east. Views of the taller elements of construction would be visible from the northern end of the village, from both properties and the road, as the landform rises in elevation. Views would also be afforded from the elevated sections of Charleston to Rochelhill core path as it runs adjacent to Woodbank. Where visible, construction activity would be seen on the distant horizon. From further south in the settlement, and from the Charleston Circuit core path, intervening landform and vegetation would largely screen outward views.

The scale of change resulting from construction activity is judged to be **Small** and would be experienced across the northern, more elevated extents of the VRA.

The magnitude of change during construction is judged to be no more than **Low**.

Significance of Effect during Construction

Taking account of the **High** sensitivity of residents in the VRA, and the **Low** magnitude of change, the visual effect arising from construction is judged to be no more than **Minor (Not Significant)**.

Magnitude of Change during Operation

The Proposed Development would be most visible from the north of the VRA, which is more elevated and open, offering longer ranging views to the southeast. Where visible, the Proposed Development would be seen in long distance views to the east from residential properties, users of the Charleston to Rochelhill core path, and road users within the north of the VRA. The Proposed Development would be seen extending across the horizon, to the southeast of Hunters Hill. Hunters Hill would screen visibility as the Proposed Development routes north.

Views of the Proposed Development would be more limited to the south due to the drop in elevation to the south combined with the presence of woodland at Lera Wood and the intervening landform of Hunters Hill and the small hill near the disused quarry slightly south of Lera Wood. There would be limited visibility of the Proposed Development from the Charleston Circuit core path due to the surrounding trees which screen outward views.

The scale of change resulting from the introduction of the Proposed Development is judged to be **Small** and would be experienced from across the northern, more elevated extents of the VRA.

The magnitude of change during operation is judged to be no more than **Low**.

Significance of Effect during Operation

Taking account of the **High** sensitivity of residents in the VRA, and the **Low** magnitude of change, the visual effect arising from operation is judged to be no more than **Minor (Not Significant)**.

Table 9.2.16: VRA A16: Glamis

VRA A16: Glamis	
Description of Receptor	Representative Viewpoint
Residents in the village of Glamis, recreational receptors travelling along core paths, and people travelling along the road network, northwest of the Proposed Development (refer to Volume 3, Figure 9.3b.1: Visual Receptor Area, Viewpoint Locations and other Visual Receptors with Overhead Line Tower Height Zone of Theoretical Visibility (ZTV)). The VRA is located approximately 1.6 km from the Proposed Development at its closest point.	N/A
Nature of Views	
Views from within the VRA are largely contained by the presence of mature mixed woodland within and surrounding the VRA. Woodland in the northern extents of the VRA, which broadly falls within the Glamis Castle Garden and Designed Landscape prevent longer ranging views to the north, whilst the wooded Hunters Hill and northeastern wooded slopes of Crams Hill prevent longer ranging views to the southeast and southwest respectively. From the interior of the village, views tend to be focused on buildings within the village with occasional more distant glimpses to the higher landform to the south which largely contain the village. From the A94 in the south of the VRA, views are more open looking across Glamis in the north. However, mixed woodland along the south of the road extending up towards Hunters Hill provides screening of views in these directions.	
Sensitivity	
Residential and recreational receptors are considered to be of High susceptibility to changes in the view and road users are considered to be of Low susceptibility to changes in the view. This VRA is not located within a designated landscape, however part of the VRA includes the Glamis Conservation Area and the Glamis Castle Garden and Designed Landscape. The VRA takes in views of open countryside. As such, views are considered to be Medium in value. Taking account of the judgements of susceptibility and value, sensitivity is judged to be High for residents and recreational receptors in the VRA, and Medium for other visual receptors in the VRA.	
Magnitude of Change during Construction	Magnitude of Change during Operation
At its closest, the VRA would be located approximately 1.6 km to the southeast of construction activity associated with the Proposed Development. Given the intervening distance between the Proposed Development and the VRA, and the presence of Hunters Hill to the southeast, it is unlikely that construction activity would be notable in views experienced from the VRA. The rising landform to the southeast, and the strong presence of mixed woodland within and surrounding the VRA would screen longer ranging views to the east from much of the VRA. Increased construction related traffic may be perceived along the main roads in the VRA (eg A94), however construction of the towers and ground works are unlikely to be noticeable from much of the VRA. The scale of change resulting from construction activity is judged to be Barely Perceptible and where visible, would be seen in glimpsed views from localised areas of the VRA. The magnitude of change during construction is judged to be no more than Barely Perceptible.	Given the intervening distance between the VRA and the Proposed Development, and the strong presence of mature vegetation within and surrounding the VRA, it is expected that the Proposed Development would be almost completely screened from view from across the VRA. If the Proposed Development was visible, this would be limited to the very upper extents of the towers which would be seen at distances of nearly 2.3 km, and in reality, is unlikely to be notable in views. The scale of change resulting from the introduction of the Proposed Development is judged to be Barely Perceptible and where visible, would be seen in glimpsed views from localised areas of the VRA. The magnitude of change during operation is judged to be no more than Barely Perceptible.

VRA A16: Glamis	
Significance of Effect during Construction	Significance of Effect during Operation
Taking account of the High sensitivity of residents and recreational receptors in the VRA, and the Barely Perceptible magnitude of change, the visual effect arising from construction is judged to be no more than Negligible (Not Significant) .	Taking account of the High sensitivity of residents and recreational receptors in the VRA, and the Barely Perceptible magnitude of change, the visual effect arising from operation is judged to be no more than Negligible (Not Significant) .

Table 9.2.17: VRA A17: Plans of Thornton

VRA A17: Plans of Thornton	
Description of Receptor	Representative Viewpoint
Residents in scattered properties between Thornton and Jericho, those travelling along Core Path 243 (Jericho) and road users within the area, to the west of the Proposed Development (refer to Volume 3, Figure 9.3b.1: Visual Receptor Area, Viewpoint Locations and other Visual Receptors with Overhead Line Tower Height Zone of Theoretical Visibility (ZTV)). The VRA is located immediately adjacent to the Proposed Development.	N/A
Nature of Views	
The majority of the VRA experiences open middle-distance views across arable fields lined with hedgerows and shrubs. To the east, the small, rounded Brighton Hill (164 m AOD) can be seen beyond the small settlements of Douglstown and Kirkton. To the west, the wooded Hunters Hill (204 m AOD) contains views, positioned on the edge and just outside the VRA. Along the A94, both sides of the road are lined with vegetation including mature and young broadleaved trees, and lower lying shrubs. Access roads and tracks to individual properties follow the same alignment as field boundaries, broadly travelling in a north-south orientation. Whilst the access tracks do not have vegetation lining them, trees along field boundaries obscure views east and west when approaching properties. Long distance visibility is afforded to the north from much of the VRA, including along the property access tracks and from the A94, and through gaps in the roadside vegetation. These long distance views take in hill summits within the Braes of Angus to the north.	
Sensitivity	
Residential and recreational receptors are considered to be of High susceptibility to changes in the view and road users are considered to be of Low susceptibility to change in the view. This VRA is not located within a designated landscape, however the VRA takes in views of the surrounding open countryside and small hills, and further distance visibility north of hills within the Braes of Angus region. Views would be experienced by people at dense concentrations of properties within the VRA. As such, views are considered to be Medium in value. Taking account of the judgements of susceptibility and value, sensitivity is judged to be High for residential and recreational receptors, and Medium for other visual receptors in the VRA.	
Magnitude of Change during Construction	Magnitude of Change during Operation
Construction activity would be seen in very close distance views, particularly from the east and southeast of the VRA. At its closest, construction activity including use of machinery, vehicle movements, creation of access tracks, erection of steel lattice towers and lighting in hours of darkness would be visible at distances of less than 0.1 km, from the A94 in the north of the VRA, which traverses under the Proposed Development (just beyond the VRA	The Proposed Development would be seen in very close distance views from this VRA (< 0.1 km). From residential properties in the east and southeast of the VRA, and from the A94 in the north of the VRA, which passes under the Proposed Development, steel lattice towers would appear as very prominent and large scale vertical features in views to the east. The Proposed Development would also occupy a wide angle of the view from the

VRA A17: Plans of Thornton

boundary), and from properties at Jericho. From remaining parts of the VRA, construction activity would be visible to the east and south at greater distances across the low-lying arable fields, with views of lower level activity partially obscured up by intervening trees along field boundaries and property curtilages.

The scale of change resulting from construction activity is judged to be **Large** and would be focused within the eastern and southern parts of the VRA around Jericho and Templebank.

The magnitude of change during construction is judged to be up to **High**.

majority of properties within the VRA, particularly those orientated east to west at Jericho with open views towards the Proposed Development, as well from Core Path 243. From some properties in other parts of the VRA however views would be partially obscured by mature broadleaved trees along intervening field boundaries.

From sections of the A94 further west within the VRA, the angle of the view that the Proposed Development occupies would be reduced due to the intervening roadside vegetation that would filter views.

The scale of change resulting from the introduction of the Proposed Development is judged to be **Large** and would be focused within the eastern and southern parts of the VRA around Jericho and Templebank.

The magnitude of change during operation is judged to be up to **High**.

Significance of Effect during Construction

Taking account of the **High** sensitivity of residents and recreational receptors in the VRA, and the **High** magnitude of change, the visual effect arising from construction is judged to be up to **Major (Significant)** for any receptor in this VRA, and for many receptors would be less.

Significance of Effect during Operation

Taking account of the **High** sensitivity of residents and recreational receptors in the VRA, and the **High** magnitude of change, the visual effect arising from operation is judged to be up to **Major (Significant)** for any receptor in this VRA, and for many receptors would be less.

Table 9.2.18: VRA A18: Douglastown and Kirkton

VRA A18: Douglastown and Kirkton

Description of Receptor	Representative Viewpoint
Residents in the settlements of Douglastown and Kirkton and road users travelling along the A94 and B9127, to the east of the Proposed Development (refer to Volume 3, Figure 9.3b.1: Visual Receptor Area, Viewpoint Locations and other Visual Receptors with Overhead Line Tower Height Zone of Theoretical Visibility (ZTV)). The VRA is located immediately adjacent to the Proposed Development.	VP6: Douglastown (refer to Volume 4 a, Figure 9.10a-i: VP6: Douglastown)
Nature of Views From parts of the VRA within the interior portion of the settlements, such as from Kerbet Place in Douglastown and much of the B9127 in Kirkton, outward views are largely limited to close-distance due to the presence of buildings and vegetation within property curtilages. Further, vegetation lining Kerbet Water, which extends across the length of the VRA in a broadly northwest to southwest orientation, partially screens outward views from much of the VRA. The B9127 is also densely lined with trees, limiting outward views from the majority of the route. Views facing north from the northern part of the VRA, such as from the A94, are open in nature. They overlook the arable fields towards the distant hill summits within the Braes of Angus which occupy the horizon, extending across a wide angle of the view. The majority of the road is lined only with low-lying vegetation on the northern side, however near Scroggerfield Farm to the north of the road, several larger roadside and garden trees limit outward views north towards the hills.	

VRA A18: Douglastown and Kirkton

Some medium distance outward visibility is afforded from the south of the settlement of Kirkton, between tree lines consisting primarily of vegetation lining Kerbet Water. Further vegetation in the southwest screens views from several properties and minor roads within Kirkton, though outward views in the direction of the Proposed Development would be glimpsed.

The existing Kintore - Tealing 275 kV OHL is visible from the VRA to the east.

Sensitivity

Residential receptors are considered to be of **High** susceptibility to changes in the view and road users are considered to be of **Low** susceptibility to change in the view.

This VRA is not located within a designated landscape, however parts of the VRA takes in views of the surrounding open countryside, including far distance visibility north of hills within the Braes of Angus region. Views would be experienced by dense concentrations of people at Douglastown and Kirkton. As such, views are considered to be **Medium** in value.

Taking account of the judgements of susceptibility and value, sensitivity is judged to be **High** for residents, and **Medium** for other visual receptors in the VRA.

Magnitude of Change during Construction

Construction activity would be seen in close distance views, particularly from the northern part of the VRA and along the A94 and north of the road, where views are generally more open. From this area, construction activity, including use of machinery, vehicle movements, creation of access tracks, erection of steel lattice towers and lighting in hours of darkness would be seen in the close distance to the west, and in close to far distance looking northwest and north. Roadside and garden vegetation along property boundaries however would partially obscure views of construction works. From the interior of the VRA around Douglastown and further south around Kirkton, views of construction activity would be reduced due to intervening features such as buildings, vegetation and belts and pockets of broadleaved woodland around the Kerbet Water. As such construction activity from these parts of the VRA would largely be limited to the erection of steel lattice towers in middle distance views to the west.

The scale of change resulting from construction activity is judged to be **Medium** and would be focused within the northern extent of the VRA, around the northern parts of Douglastown.

The magnitude of change during construction is judged to be no more than **Medium**.

Magnitude of Change during Operation

The Proposed Development would be seen in close distance views (< 0.1 km) from the northern extent of the VRA where more open views are afforded. At its closest, the Proposed Development would be seen at a distance of approximately 0.1 km from the A94, which passes under the Proposed Development. In these views, steel lattice towers would be visible to the north and south on either side of the road in the close-to-middle distance. From the northern extents of Douglastown, the Proposed Development would also be visible in close-to-middle distance views, with towers appearing as large scale and prominent features, and occupying a wide horizontal extent as the Proposed Development extends across the low-lying arable fields to the west and northwest, as illustrated by VP6: Douglastown (see **Volume 4 a, Figure 9.10a-i: VP6: Douglastown**). Some of these views however would be partially obscured by some intervening vegetation and broadleaved trees.

From the interior of the VRA around Douglastown and further south around Kirkton, views of the Proposed Development would be reduced due to intervening features such as buildings, vegetation and belts and pockets of broadleaved woodland around the Kerbet Water.

The Proposed Development would be seen in successive and sequential views with the existing Kintore to Tealing 275 kV OHL to the east. The Proposed Development would therefore increase the influence of OHL infrastructure in views from this VRA, introducing such infrastructure into a new view direction.

The scale of change resulting from the introduction of the Proposed Development is judged to be **Medium** and would be focused within the northern extent of the VRA, around the northern parts of Douglastown.

The magnitude of change during operation is judged to be no more than **Medium**.

VRA A18: Douglastown and Kirkton	
Significance of Effect during Construction	Significance of Effect during Operation
Taking account of the High sensitivity of residents in the VRA, and the Medium magnitude of change, the visual effect arising from construction is judged to be no more than Moderate (Significant) for any receptor in this VRA, and for many receptors would be less.	Taking account of the High sensitivity of residents in the VRA, and the Medium magnitude of change, the visual effect arising from operation is judged to be no more than Moderate (Significant) for any receptor in this VRA, and for many receptors would be less.

Table 9.2.19: VRA A19: Ingliston and Mains of Brighton

VRA A19: Ingliston and Mains of Brighton	
Description of Receptor	Representative Viewpoint
Residents at the small settlements of Ingliston and Mains of Brighton, and road users travelling along the A94, east of the Proposed Development (refer to Volume 3, Figure 9.3b.1: Visual Receptor Area, Viewpoint Locations and other Visual Receptors with Overhead Line Tower Height Zone of Theoretical Visibility (ZTV)). The VRA is located approximately 0.7 km from the Proposed Development at its closest point.	N/A
Nature of Views	
Views from this VRA are varied. The A94 is lined by a low-level stone wall and occasional trees which screen outward views, however the views remain open for the most part. The view east to southeast from the road is contained by the gently rising landform of Brighton Hill (164 m AOD), while the view north and northwest range to long-distance visibility of the Braes of Angus on the horizon. From the unclassified road in the north where several properties and farmstead surround it, outward views are limited, due to the presence of buildings and localised undulating landform, though views north are afforded from the eastern edge of the property cluster. Views towards the distant hills north from the unclassified road leading to the properties are slightly enclosed by roadside trees and undulating landform, with glimpsed long distance visibility still afforded. Views west and southwest are also largely open from the majority of the VRA, overlooking the low wooded hills in the middle to far distance, consisting of landform north of the settlement of Glamis. The existing Kintore to Tealing 275 kV OHL passes through the eastern part of the VRA in a north-south orientation.	
Sensitivity	
Residential receptors are considered to be of High susceptibility to changes in the view and road users are considered to be of Low susceptibility to change in the view. This VRA is not located within a designated landscape, however parts of the VRA takes in views of the surrounding open countryside, including far distance visibility north of the Braes of Angus to the north. Views would be experienced by people across several dense but small groups of properties within the VRA. As such, views are considered to be Medium in value. Taking account of the judgements of susceptibility and value, sensitivity is judged to be High for residents, and Medium for other visual receptors in the VRA.	
Magnitude of Change during Construction	Magnitude of Change during Operation
Construction activity would be seen in very close views where an access track for the Proposed Development passes through the western part of the VRA. The upgrade of this track, the use of machinery and construction traffic would be seen in immediate views from properties located along this track, as well as from the A94 which this track connects to.	The Proposed Development would be seen in close-to-middle distance views, particularly where open views are afforded from the west and northwestern parts of the VRA, at a distance of approximately 0.7 km at its closest point. In these views, the Proposed Development would be seen across a wide horizontal extent of the view, extending from

VRA A19: Ingliston and Mains of Brighton

Erection of steel lattice towers would also be visible to the west from this part of the VRA, however at greater distances. Generally, from the west and northwestern parts of the VRA, views of construction activity would occupy a wide horizontal extent of the view where open views are afforded.

From parts of the VRA further east around Easter Ingliston and southeast around Mains of Brighton, construction activity, especially ground level activity, would be partially filtered by intervening broadleaved trees along curtilage boundaries and along the A94. Erection of steel lattice towers however would remain visible between and above these intervening features.

The scale of change resulting from construction activity is judged to be **Large** and would be focused within the eastern and northeastern parts of the VRA around West Ingliston.

The magnitude of change during construction is judged to be up to **High**.

the southwest to the northeast. Steel lattice towers would be seen against the skyline in views west and northwest, appearing as prominent large scale features. The Proposed Development would be seen to sit below the Braes of Angus hills which occupy the horizon in north facing, far distance views. Similar views would be available from remaining parts of the VRA around Easter Ingliston and Mains of Brighton however at greater distances. From some properties in these areas scattered broadleaved and garden vegetation would partially obscure the Proposed Development in views, and similarly from along the A94 due to roadside vegetation and broadleaved trees.

The Proposed Development would be seen in both combined and successive views with the existing Kintore to Tealing 275 kV OHL that passes through the VRA. The Proposed Development would therefore increase the influence of OHL infrastructure in views from this VRA.

The scale of change resulting from the introduction of the Proposed Development is judged to be **Large** and would be focused within the eastern and northeastern parts of the VRA around West Ingliston.

The magnitude of change during operation is judged to be up to **High**.

Significance of Effect during Construction

Taking account of the **High** sensitivity of residents in the VRA, and the **High** magnitude of change, the visual effect arising from construction is judged to be up to **Major (Significant)** for any receptor in this VRA, and for many receptors would be less.

Significance of Effect during Operation

Taking account of the **High** sensitivity of residents in the VRA, and the **High** magnitude of change, the visual effect arising from operation is judged to be up to **Major (Significant)** for any receptor in this VRA, and for many receptors would be less.

Table 9.2.20: VRA A20: Haughs of Cossans

VRA A20: Haughs of Cossans	
Description of Receptor	Representative Viewpoint
Residents, recreational receptors and road users within Haughs of Cossans, to the west of the Proposed Development (refer to Volume 3, Figure 9.3b.1: Visual Receptor Area, Viewpoint Locations and other Visual Receptors with Overhead Line Tower Height Zone of Theoretical Visibility (ZTV)). The VRA is located approximately 0.3 km from the Proposed Development at its closest point.	N/A
Nature of Views	
Views from the VRA are generally open and overlook surrounding arable fields. From the northern residential property views to the south however are generally contained by a pocket of broadleaved trees. Along the farm track that passes through this VRA, which is also Core Path 272 (Drumgley to Glamis Station) views from some sections are obscured by broadleaved trees that intermittently line the track. To the south, there are distant views towards the Sidlaw Hills which form the backdrop in this direction, and to the northwest the Braes of Angus can be seen forming a distinctive backdrop in this direction.	

VRA A20: Haughs of Cossans

Sensitivity

Residential and recreational receptors are considered to be of **High** susceptibility to changes in the view and road users including cyclists are considered to be of **Low** susceptibility to changes in the view.

This VRA is not located within a designated landscape, however, takes in views of the prominent hills ranges of the Sidlaw Hills to the south and the Braes of Angus to the northwest, both of which form distinctive backdrops. As such the views are considered to be **Medium** in value.

Taking account of the judgements of susceptibility and value, sensitivity is judged to be **High** for residents and recreational receptors and **Medium** for other visual receptors in the VRA.

Magnitude of Change during Construction

Construction activity would be viewed in close-to-middle distances from this VRA looking east, and specifically from the track/Core Path 272 travelling on a broad east-west alignment through this VRA. Construction activity including use of machinery, vehicle movements, creation of access tracks, erection of steel lattice towers and lighting in hours of darkness would be seen across the low-lying agricultural fields. In these views, construction activity would be notable and prominent and would occupy a wide horizontal extent. Similar views would be obtained from the properties located in the centre of the VRA. In some views, including from the track and residential properties, construction works would be partially obscured by a small pocket of broadleaved trees within the eastern extent of the VRA, as well as by the scattered broadleaved trees along the track/Core Path 272.

The scale of change resulting from construction activity is judged to be **Medium** and focused within the eastern and central parts of the VRA.

The magnitude of visual change during construction is judged to be no more than **Medium**.

Significance of Effect during Construction

Taking account of the **High** sensitivity of residents and recreational receptors in the VRA, and the **Medium** magnitude of change, the visual effect arising from construction is judged to be no more than **Moderate (Significant)**.

Magnitude of Change during Operation

The Proposed Development would be seen in closer views east, at a distance of approximately 0.3 km at its closest point. From the track/Core Path 272, and properties within the VRA, the Proposed Development would occupy a wide horizontal field of view, with steel lattice towers seen as large scale prominent features across the low-lying arable landscape. Due to the large scale and proximity, the steel lattice towers would also be seen breaking the skyline formed by distant hills beyond to the east. In longer distance views to the south, the Proposed Development would be seen ascending the northern slopes of the Sidlaw Hills and across this distinctive skyline, however as less prominent features due to the intervening distance. In some views, including from the track and residential properties, visibility of the Proposed Development would be reduced due the small pocket of broadleaved trees within the eastern extent of the VRA, as well as by the scattered broadleaved trees along the track/Core Path 272 that would partially obscure views.

The scale of change resulting from the introduction of the Proposed Development is judged to be **Large** across the entire VRA.

The magnitude of change during operation is judged to be up to **High**.

Significance of Effect during Operation

Taking account of the **High** sensitivity of residents and recreational receptors in the VRA, and the **High** magnitude of change, the visual effect arising from operation is judged to be up to **Major (Significant)**.

Table 9.2.21: VRA A21: Glamis, Leys of Cossans and Kinalty Haughs

VRA A21: Glamis, Leys of Cossans and Kinalty Haughs	
Description of Receptor	Representative Viewpoint
Residents in scattered, isolated properties and local road users around the areas of Glamis, Leys of Cossans, and Kinalty Haughs, and recreational receptors visiting Glamis Castle, west of the Proposed Development (refer to Volume 3, Figure 9.3b.1: Visual Receptor Area, Viewpoint Locations and other Visual Receptors with Overhead Line Tower Height Zone of Theoretical Visibility (ZTV)). The VRA is located approximately 1.2 km from the Proposed Development at its closest point.	VP7: Mains of Glamis (refer to Volume 4 a, Figure 9.11a-f: VP7: Mains of Glamis).
Nature of Views	
Views from within this VRA are generally obscured by areas of policy, broadleaved and mixed woodland around Glamis Castle and Angles Park as well as some commercial forestry south of Cossans. Distant open views are afforded from sections of local roads in southern and eastern edge of the VRA, including from around Mains of Glamis. These views span east to south, overlooking the lower-lying areas of Kerbet Water with the upland area of Sidlaw Hills forming a long-distance horizon to the south, as illustrated in VP7: Mains of Glamis (refer to Volume 4 a, Figure 9.11a-f: VP7: Mains of Glamis). The policy woodlands within the grounds of Glamis Castle, including Bents Woods, Warren Woods and East Plantation, contain views to the short distances and limit longer ranging views to the north, east and south. From Cossans in the northern part of the VRA, views are also obscured by smaller scattered pockets of broadleaved woodland, and particularly to the south by North Warren Plantation.	
Sensitivity	
Residential and recreational receptors are considered to be of High susceptibility to changes in the view and road users including cyclists are considered to be of Low susceptibility to changes in the view. This VRA is not located within a designated landscape, however, does include the popular visitor destination of Glamis Castle, therefore representing a large number of people. Views however are generally contained by woodland. As such views are considered to be Medium in value. Taking account of the judgements of susceptibility and value, sensitivity is judged to be High for residents and recreational receptors and Medium for other visual receptors in the VRA.	
Magnitude of Change during Construction	Magnitude of Change during Operation
Construction activity would be seen in medium and long-distance views to the east and south, at a distance of over 1.2 km from this VRA. From the southern and eastern edges of the VRA, the use of machinery, vehicle movements, the creation of access tracks, erection of steel lattice towers and lighting in hours of darkness would be partially visible across the lower-lying land to the east and southeast. These views however would be partially obscured by intervening pockets of broadleaved woodland, scattered broadleaved trees and field boundary vegetation. Views from within Angus Park and the immediate grounds of Glamis Castle would be largely screened by the surrounding policy woodlands. From northern areas of the VRA, around Cossans, views towards construction activity would also be partially obscured by small, scattered pockets of broadleaved woodland and from the northwestern extents of the VRA, residential receptors would be screened from construction activity by intervening hills and woodland blocks. The scale of change during construction is judged to be Medium for this VRA and would be focused within the eastern and southern parts of the VRA around Mains of Glamis.	The Proposed Development would be seen in medium and long-distance views from the VRA in views to the east, southeast and south, at a distance of approximately 1.2 km at its closest point. Due to the proposed size and scale of the steel lattice towers, the Proposed Development would form a prominent feature in views from this VRA, particularly in southern and eastern areas closer to the Proposed Development. Steel lattice towers would be seen as skyline features across the lower-lying agricultural fields; although, these would be partially obscured by intervening pockets of broadleaved woodland, scattered broadleaved trees and field boundary vegetation. Views from within Angus Park and the immediate grounds of Glamis Castle would be largely screened by the surrounding policy woodlands. From northern areas of the VRA, around Cossans, views of the Proposed Development would also be partially obscured by small, scattered pockets of broadleaved woodland and from the northwestern extents of the VRA views of the Proposed Development would be screened by intervening hills and woodland blocks.

VRA A21: Glamis, Leys of Cossans and Kinalty Haughs

The magnitude of visual change during construction is judged to be no more than Medium .	The scale of change during operation is judged to be Medium for this VRA and would be focused within the eastern and southern parts of the VRA around Mains of Glamis. The magnitude of change during operation is judged to be no more than Medium .
Significance of Effect during Construction	Significance of Effect during Operation
Taking account of the High sensitivity of residents and recreational receptors in the VRA, and the Medium magnitude of change, the visual effect arising from construction is judged to be no more than Moderate (Significant) for any receptor in this VRA, and for many receptors would be less.	Taking account of the High sensitivity of residents and recreational receptors in the VRA, and the Medium magnitude of change, the visual effect arising from operation is judged to be no more than Moderate (Significant) for any receptor in this VRA, and for many receptors would be less.

SECTION B

Table 9.2.22: VRA B1: Westmuir, Drumshade and Logie

VRA B1: Westmuir, Drumshade and Logie	
Description of Receptor	Representative Viewpoint
Residents in scattered properties and road users around the areas of Drumshade and Logie, as well as residents of south Westmuir – north of the Proposed Development (refer to Volume 3, Figure 9.3b.2: Visual Receptor Area, Viewpoint Locations and other Visual Receptors with Overhead Line Tower Height Zone of Theoretical Visibility (ZTV)). The VRA is located approximately 1.2 km from the Proposed Development at its closest point.	N/A
Nature of Views	
Views from within this VRA are generally open, overlooking surrounding low-lying agricultural fields. Distant, panoramic views are afforded from properties and when travelling along local roads in southern and eastern areas, these views spanning east, to south, to west, overlooking the lower-lying areas of Dean Water with the upland area of Sidlaw Hills forming a long-distance horizon to the south. The dense mixed woodland block of Logie Woods, alongside shelterbelts at Ladywell, Logie and Rosewell, contain views to the short distances in central and northern areas with a strong wooded aspect. Views north and northwest feature the settlements of Maryton and Kirriemuir, with dwellings forming skyline features. Views tend to feature wooded backdrops with built form influence, limited primarily to isolated farmsteads and dwellings.	
Sensitivity	
Residential receptors are considered to be of High susceptibility to changes in the view and local road users including cyclists are considered to be of Low susceptibility to changes in the view. This VRA is not located within a designated landscape. However, the VRA takes in panoramic, scenic views spanning east, to south, and to the west, with Sidlaw Hills captured as a distinctive, horizon feature. As such the views are considered to be Medium in value. Taking account of the judgements of susceptibility and value, sensitivity is judged to be High for residents and Medium for other visual receptors in the VRA.	
Magnitude of Change during Construction	Magnitude of Change during Operation
Construction activity would be seen in medium and long-distance views to the east and south, at a distance of over 1.2 km from this VRA. The use of machinery, vehicle movements, the creation of access tracks, erection of steel lattice towers would be visible across the lower-lying land to the east and southeast where the Proposed Development crosses Dean Water and Kerbet Water. Southern areas of the Proposed Development are more open in nature, and construction activity would be seen closer. From northern areas of the VRA, views towards construction activity associated with the Proposed Development would be filtered by woodland vegetation including dense mixed woodland blocks and tree belts. There would likely be sky lining of cranes in the erection of the steel lattice towers in eastern parts of the view, and where it snakes up Hayston/Kincaldrum Hill (291 m AOD), part of the Sidlaw Hills to the south. However, construction activity would be backclothed by the Sidlaw Hills in these southward views.	The Proposed Development would be seen in medium and long-distance views from the VRA in views to the east, southeast and south, at a distance of approximately 1.2 km at its closest point. Due to the proposed size and scale of the steel lattice towers, the Proposed Development would form a prominent feature in views from this VRA, particularly in southern and eastern areas closer to the Proposed Development. Steel lattice towers and OHLs would be seen as skyline features in views to the west over lower-lying areas, but backclothed by the Sidlaw Hills to the south. There is limited existing vertical infrastructure visible from this VRA, with a strong wooded aspect as a result of woodland blocks and tree belts within the landscape. These natural features would aid in the screening and filtering of the steel lattice towers and OHLs, but where views of these elements are seen within the landscape, they

VRA B1: Westmuir, Drumshade and Logie

From the northwestern extents of the VRA, partially constructed steel lattice towers would be seen in the far distance in views to the southeast. The towers would be seen descending the western slopes of Hayston Hill.

The scale of change during construction is judged to be **Small** for this VRA, given the distance to which the construction activity would be viewed. The Proposed Development would visually impact those residential properties within the VRA, and especially those who take in the 180° panoramic views to the south, as well users of the local road network.

The magnitude of visual change during construction is judged to be no more than **Medium**.

would be large-scale, prominent built-form features for residents and road users in this VRA.

From the northwestern extents of the VRA, the Proposed Development would be seen in the far distance in views to the southeast – the Proposed Development would be seen descending the western slopes of Hayston Hill.

The scale of change is judged to increase to **Medium** for the operational phase. This is because a larger portion of the Proposed Development would be seen as it travels south towards the Sidlaw Hills, with several towers visible and seen as skyline features alongside the Proposed Development. The Proposed Development would visually impact those residential properties within the VRA, and especially those who take in the 180° panoramic views to the south, as well users of the local road network.

The magnitude of change during operation is judged to be no more than **Medium**.

Significance of Effect during Construction

Taking account of the **High** sensitivity of residents in the VRA, and the **Medium** magnitude of change, the visual effect arising from construction is judged to be no more than **Moderate (Significant)** for any receptor in this VRA, and for many receptors would be less.

Significance of Effect during Operation

Taking account of the **High** sensitivity of residents in the VRA, and the **Medium** magnitude of change, the visual effect arising from operation is judged to be no more than **Moderate (Significant)** for any receptor in this VRA, and for many receptors would be less.

Table 9.2.23: VRA B2: Ballindarg

VRA B2: Ballindarg	
Description of Receptor	Representative Viewpoint
A farming settlement, the Mains of Ballindarg, with a cluster of residential dwellings, and users of the local road which travels in an east-west alignment, linking the A928 to the A926 (refer to Volume 3, Figure 9.3b.2: Visual Receptor Area, Viewpoint Locations and other Visual Receptors with Overhead Line Tower Height Zone of Theoretical Visibility (ZTV)). The VRA is located approximately 0.3 km from the Proposed Development at its closest point.	N/A
Nature of Views	
Views from the residential properties are typically contained to the short distances in all directions by mature woodland vegetation, including woodland blocks which surrounds the properties and associated with the riparian zone of the Gairie Burn, as well as mature, tree-lined hedgerows and steep verges aligning the rural road.	
Properties in the central areas of the farming settlement are typically more visually contained, with views frequently screened or blocked by other buildings, and their associated vegetation. There are some distant views west granted from western elevations of the dwellings, looking across large arable fields, with medium-distance horizons formed by local undulations in the landform.	
From eastern parts of the road, and where there are gaps in the vegetation aligning the rural road, motorists, passengers (and cyclists) would experience glimpsed, open views spanning south, east and north. Long-distance views overlook large-scale farming fields, with the Sidlaw Hills forming a long-distance horizon to the south. There are views granted north, where the landscape opens up past the dismantled railway and associated woodland, long-distance views overlook the gently undulating arable and pastoral fields.	

VRA B2: Ballindarg

Open views to the south are natural in character, although telephone wires on wooden poles can be seen stretching across the lower-lying land to the south, forming a skyline feature. The contained views experienced from the respective properties within the VRA frequently feature other buildings, including large-scale ancillary agricultural structures.

Sensitivity

Residential receptors are considered to be of **High** susceptibility to changes in the view and local road users including cyclists are considered to be of **Low** susceptibility to changes in the view.

This VRA is not located within a designated landscape. Views tend to be short distance in nature from residences. There are glimpsed views towards the Sidlaw Halls, a distinctive, long distant horizon feature, where gaps in the vegetation aligning the rural road allow. As such the views are considered to be **Medium** in value.

Taking account of the judgements of susceptibility and value, sensitivity is judged to be **High** for residents and **Medium** for other visual receptors in the VRA.

Magnitude of Change during Construction

Construction activity would be viewed at short distances from this VRA looking southeast, and specifically from the rural road travelling on a broad east-west alignment through this VRA. Construction activity associated with the Proposed Development would occur at distance exceeding < 100 m where a proposed access track would be constructed and used to the southeast. Where gaps in the vegetation aligning the rural road allow, the use of machinery and erection of steel lattice towers would be visible across the adjacent, open and large-scale arable fields, and where the Proposed Alignment would stretch to the south and to the northeast.

Views from the dwellings are typically contained to the short distance, and views southeast, in the direction of the Proposed Development, would be partially screened by other residential and agricultural structures within the VRA. Dense, mature broadleaved woodland cover within proximity to these dwellings and linear vegetation, aligning the dismantled railway, the rural road, and the Gairie Burn watercourse, would combine to limit views towards construction activity.

The scale of change resulting from construction activity is judged to be **Medium**, across the entire VRA.

The magnitude of visual change during construction is judged to be no more than **Medium**.

Magnitude of Change during Operation

The Proposed Development would be seen in short distance views south and southeast, at a distance of approximately 0.3 km at its closest point from the VRA. The Proposed Development would also be seen in middle and long distance views where the Proposed Development travels southward across the open, lowland landscape comprised of large arable fields, and where it ascends up the Sidlaw Hills.

Road users and cyclists travelling along the West Mains of Ballin road would experience the largest change to views because of the open vantage granted by gaps in the roadside hedgerow, these views from the road spanning north to east to south. In short distance views southeast and south, the steel lattice towers would form prominent features in the adjacent agricultural fields, and across the skyline. There would be instances of wirescapes where the Proposed Development is seen in conjunction with existing telephone wires that are present to the south and southeast. In long distance views south, the Proposed Development would be seen extending up the elevated land of the Sidlaw Hills forming long-distance horizon features. However, these views would be glimpsed where road users and cyclists experience more transient views.

Generally, views south and southeast from the properties within the VRA, and the inner network of local roads, are screened by mature vegetation close to the properties, as well as the steep verges and mature hedgerows which align the West Mains of Ballin Road. Therefore, views from properties towards the Proposed Development would be glimpsed. This includes in Winter (where there is a lack of foliage) because of the high density of vegetation and where there is stacking or layering, strongly filtering views.

The scale of change resulting from the introduction of the Proposed Development is judged to be **Large**, focused along the West Mains of Ballin road.

The magnitude of change during operation is judged to be up to **High**.

Significance of Effect during Construction

Taking account of the **High** sensitivity of residents in the VRA, and the **Medium** magnitude of change, the visual effect arising from construction is judged to be no more than **Moderate (Significant)** for any receptor in this VRA, and for many receptors would be less.

Significance of Effect during Operation

Taking account of the **High** sensitivity of residents in the VRA, and the **High** magnitude of change, the visual effect arising from operation is judged to be up to **Major (Significant)** for any receptor in this VRA, and for many receptors would be less.

Table 9.2.24: VRA B3: Upper Drumgley to Loch of Forfar

VRA B3: Upper Drumgley to Loch of Forfar	
Description of Receptor	Representative Viewpoint
Residents in scattered groups of properties between Upper Drumgley and the western edge of Forfar, users of the local road network including the A90, as well as recreational users of the Forfar Loch Country Park, to the east of Proposed Development (refer to Volume 3, Figure 9.3b.1: Visual Receptor Area, Viewpoint Locations and other Visual Receptors with Overhead Line Tower Height Zone of Theoretical Visibility (ZTV)). The VRA is located approximately 0.5 km from the Proposed Development at its closest point.	N/A
Nature of Views	
Views from residential properties and the local road network within this VRA are generally open, taking in the low-lying agricultural fields that surround the properties. Elevated land in all directions forms long-distance horizon features, giving the impression of the landscape, and VRA, being within a basin. The valley landform is clearly discernible, where the land falls towards Dean Water in the valley floor, before rising and graduating into the Sidlaw Hills which forms a medium distance horizon feature. There is a relatively high-density of woodland features contributing to a strong wooded aspect in many views across the VRA. This includes the two broadleaved woodland blocks to the south, backclothed by the Sidlaw Hills, and mature, tree lined hedgerows defining field boundaries. The broadleaf trees interspersed along the rural road travelling north-to-south through the VRA, form prominent vertical features in views across the low-lying arable land. Views at the Forfar Park Country Park are contained to within the limits of the country park because of woodland belts to the north and south, the (Forfar) settlement to the east, and mitigating woodland aligning the A90 to the west. Similarly, from the isolated residential properties to the west of Forfar, including those along the A94 and to the north at Garth, views are generally contained by peripheral vegetation. Existing electricity infrastructure within the VRA, including telephone wires and poles and the existing Kintore to Tealing 275 kV OHL, are visible from properties and the local road network within the VRA, seen as skyline features over the large-scale arable fields. The A90 marks significant transport infrastructure within the VRA, however, views to and from this road infrastructure are limited due to its cut form and areas of dense scrub aligning it, but with some glimpsed views enabled to the west from the road.	
Sensitivity	
Residential and recreational receptors are considered to be of High susceptibility to changes in the view and local road users including cyclists are considered to be of Low susceptibility to changes in the view. This VRA is not located within a designated landscape yet the VRA takes in views south towards the Sidlaw Hills, a distinctive hill range in this area. Views from Forfar Loch Country Park are considered to be of higher value due to the recreational popularity of the area. However, views from the country park typically look inwards across the Loch of Forfar, with a high density of woodland features and mature vegetation to the park's peripheries. On balance, views are considered to be Medium in value. Taking account of the judgements of susceptibility and value, sensitivity is judged to be High for residents and recreational receptors and Medium for other visual receptors in the VRA.	
Magnitude of Change during Construction	Magnitude of Change during Operation
Construction activity would be seen in middle distance views to the northwest, west and south from this VRA. Use of machinery, vehicle movements, creation of access tracks, erection of steel lattice towers and night lighting would be visible across the lower-lying agricultural land. More distant views of construction activity would be visible as the Proposed Development ascends the southern slopes of the Sidlaw Hill range. From several of the isolated, scattered properties and the settlement of Nether Drumgley, some views towards construction activity would be obscured by areas of woodland in proximity to the	The Proposed Development would be seen in middle distance views from residential properties and along the minor road network around Upper Drumgley, Easter Drumgley and Nether Drumgley in views to the north and west. The Proposed Development would be viewed as horizon features where travelling across the low-lying agricultural land within and surrounding the VRA, at a distance of approximately 0.5 km at its closest point (to Upper Drumgley). It would also be seen in longer distance views from parts of the VRA around Lochside, North Leckaway, the western edge of Forfar and the A90, with some sky lining of

VRA B3: Upper Drumgley to Loch of Forfar

respective properties, as would the views from the local road network that are lined by mature, tree-lined hedgerows. In glimpsed views west from the A90, there is likely to be some change to views where construction activity would be visible over the adjacent verges and areas of scrub, although construction activities are unlikely to form a key focus in views from this road. Views of construction work from Forfar Loch Country Park are likely to be limited by woodland and vegetation surrounding the loch.

The scale of change resulting from construction activity is judged to be **Medium**, impacting the local road network between Upper Drumgley and Lochside, the isolated properties as well as the small settlement of Nether Drumgley.

The magnitude of visual change during construction is judged to be no more than **Medium**.

Significance of Effect during Construction

Taking account of the **High** sensitivity of residents and recreational receptors in the VRA, and the **Medium** magnitude of change, the visual effect arising from construction is judged to be no more than **Moderate (Significant)** for any receptor in this VRA, and for many receptors would be less.

Proposed Development where it ascends up Sidlaw Hills, and likely to break the horizon formed by this distinctive ridgeline. From these areas, towers are likely to be viewed as prominent features where the Proposed Development travels north, west and south of this VRA, but seen within the context of existing electrical infrastructure, including the existing 275 kV OHL.

From Forfar Loch Country Park, the Proposed Development would be largely screened by mature vegetation and woodland around the loch and aligning the A90. Similarly, any views north from the country park are limited by steep verges which act to contain views to the short distances.

The scale of change resulting from the introduction of the Proposed Development is judged to be **Medium** and would be focused within the northwestern part of the VRA around Upper Drumgley, Easter Drumgley and Nether Drumgley.

The magnitude of visual change during operation is judged to be no more than **Medium**.

Significance of Effect during Operation

Taking account of the **High** sensitivity of residents and recreational receptors in the VRA, and the **Medium** magnitude of change, the visual effect arising from operation is judged to be no more than **Moderate (Significant)** for any receptor in this VRA, and for many receptors would be less.

Table 9.2.25: VRA B4: Forfar

VRA B4: Forfar	
Description of Receptor	Representative Viewpoint
Residents of and recreational receptors visiting Forfar and Forfar Loch Country Park as well as road users (refer to Volume 3, Figure 9.3b.2: Visual Receptor Area, Viewpoint Locations and other Visual Receptors with Overhead Line Tower Height Zone of Theoretical Visibility (ZTV)). The VRA is located approximately 2.2 km southeast of the Proposed Development.	N/A
Nature of Views	
Views from within much of the VRA are contained to close distances by buildings. Although, views from the outskirts of Forfar in the northern, western, and eastern extents of the VRA look out onto the very gently undulating farmland of Strathmore. These views take in large skies, arable fields bounded by post and wire fencing, and woodland blocks and shelter belts. Views away from Forfar from the southern extents are contained to close-to-middle distances by the landform that rises southwards.	
The VRA contains parts of the high voltage OHL, Tealing to Lunanhead East 132 kV, which partially wraps around Forfar in the east and south and is visible to residential receptors and road users on the outskirts of Forfar in the eastern and southern extents of the VRA. The high voltage OHL Kintore to Tealing 275 kV can also be seen in middle-to-long distance views to the north, northwest, west, and southwest from the outskirts of Forfar in the northern and western extents.	

VRA B4: Forfar

Sensitivity

Residential and recreational receptors are considered to be of **High** susceptibility to changes in the view and road users are considered to be of **Low** susceptibility to changes in the view. The centre of Forfar is a conservation area and much of the western extents of the VRA contains part of Forfar Loch Country Park. Forfar is also a popular tourist destination for its heritage assets. Furthermore, there is a high density of receptors within this VRA. As such views are considered to be **Medium** in value.

Taking account of the judgements of susceptibility and value, sensitivity is judged to be **High** for residential and recreational receptors and **Medium** for others.

Magnitude of Change during Construction

Construction activity would be visible in the far distance in views to the northwest and west. At the closest point, the Proposed Development would be seen at a minimum distance of approximately 2.2 km northwest of the VRA. Throughout much of the VRA, construction activity would not be visible as buildings contain views to close distances and longer views on the outskirts of VRA within the southeastern and southern extents face away from construction activity. However, on the outskirts of Forfar in the northwestern extents of the VRA, construction activity would be glimpsed in the far distance in views to the northwest. Visible construction activity would include the erection of steel lattice towers and lighting in the hours of darkness. Partially erected steel lattice towers would be seen upon land of a similar elevation to receptors and would be visible against the sky in places; although, they would be mostly backclothed by the ridge of the Mounth. Intervening vegetation and the gently undulating landform would provide much screening. On the outskirts of Forfar in the southwestern extents of the VRA, partially erected steel lattice towers would be seen in the far distance in views to the west. They would be seen upon land of a lower elevation to receptors and would be backclothed by far distant hills. Furthermore, intervening vegetation would provide much screening. It is likely that construction activity would not be visible from Forfar Loch Country Park as surrounding woodland contains views to close distances.

The scale of change resulting from the introduction of the Proposed Development is judged to be **Small** and would be focused on the outskirts of Forfar in the northwestern and western extents.

The magnitude of change during construction is judged to be up to **Medium**.

Magnitude of Change during Operation

The Proposed Development would be visible in the far distance in views to the northwest and west. At the closest point, the Proposed Development would be located approximately 2.2 km northwest of the VRA. Throughout much of the VRA, the Proposed Development would not be visible as buildings contain views to close distances and longer views on the outskirts of VRA within the southeastern and southern extents face away from the Proposed Development. However, on the outskirts of Forfar in the northwestern extents of the VRA, the Proposed Development would be glimpsed in the far distance in views to the northwest. The Proposed Development would be seen upon land of a similar elevation to receptors and would be visible against the sky in places; although, it would be mostly backclothed by the ridge of the Mounth. Intervening vegetation and the gently undulating landform would provide much screening. On the outskirts of Forfar in the southwestern extents of the VRA, the Proposed Development would be seen in the far distance in views to the west. It would be seen upon land of a lower elevation to receptors and would be backclothed by far distant hills. Furthermore, intervening vegetation would provide much screening. It is likely that the Proposed Development would not be visible from Forfar Loch Country Park as surrounding woodland contains views to close distances.

The Proposed Development would be seen in the context of existing infrastructure, namely the high voltage OHL, Tealing to Lunanhead East 132 kV, compared to which the Proposed Development would appear smaller in scale.

The scale of change resulting from the introduction of the Proposed Development is judged to be **Small** and would be focused on the outskirts of Forfar in the northwestern and western extents.

The magnitude of change during construction is judged to be up to **Medium**.

Significance of Effect during Construction

Taking account of the **High** sensitivity of residential and recreational receptors in the VRA, and the **Low** magnitude of change, the visual effect arising from construction is judged to be up to **Minor (Not Significant)** for any receptor in this VRA, and for many receptors would be less.

Significance of Effect during Operation

Taking account of the **High** sensitivity of residential and recreational receptors in the VRA, and the **Low** magnitude of change, the visual effect arising from operation is judged to be up to **Minor (Not Significant)** for any receptor in this VRA, and for many receptors would be less.

Table 9.2.26: VRA B5: Balmashanner Hill

VRA B5: Balmashanner Hill	
Description of Receptor	Representative Viewpoint
Recreational receptors at the promoted viewpoint at Balmashanner Hill and along core paths, as well as Residents and road users within the area, to the east of the Proposed Development (refer to Volume 3, Figure 9.3b.1: Visual Receptor Area, Viewpoint Locations and other Visual Receptors with Overhead Line Tower Height Zone of Theoretical Visibility (ZTV)). The VRA is located approximately 4.4 km from the Proposed Development at its closest point.	VP8: Balmashanner Hill (refer to Volume 4 a, Figure 9.12a-d: VP8: Balmashanner Hill)
Nature of Views	
Views from this VRA are generally elevated in nature. Views from the northern extents of the VRA, including from the promoted viewpoint at Balmashanner Hill, as illustrated by VP8: Balmashanner Hill (refer to Volume 4 a, Figure 9.12a-d: VP8: Balmashanner Hill) and the footpaths near the Balmashanner Monument, offer wide expansive views across Forfar and Strathmore to the north, backed by the distant Braes of Angus beyond. Some of these views however are filtered by belts of mixed woodland along footpaths and field boundaries. Views south from the VRA overlook descending agricultural land. The presence of roadside and field boundary vegetation throughout the VRA filters longer distance views in many locations. Likewise, linear shelterbelts of woodland and forestry to the north of properties at Balmashanner Farm provides further screening of views.	
Sensitivity	
Residential and recreational receptors are considered to be of High susceptibility to changes in the view and road users are considered to be of Low susceptibility to changes in the view. This VRA is not located within a designated landscape, but the VRA includes a promoted viewpoint that offers scenic elevated and expansive views across Strathmore to the north, taking in distant views of the Braes of Angus beyond. As such, views are considered to be Medium in value. Taking account of the judgements of susceptibility and value, sensitivity is judged to be High for residents and recreational receptors, and Medium for other visual receptors in the VRA.	
Magnitude of Change during Construction	Magnitude of Change during Operation
Construction activity would be visible at distances of approximately 3 km and over to the west, northwest and southwest in views from this VRA. Given the intervening distance between the Proposed Development and the VRA, construction work would form distant features that would not be visibly prominent amongst existing features across the floor of Strathmore. Visibility would be reduced further by intervening mixed woodland around Balmashanner Hill. The scale of change resulting from construction activity is judged to be Small across the entire VRA. The magnitude of change during construction is judged to be no more than Low.	Where visible, the Proposed Development would be seen in long distance in views to the west, northwest and southwest at distance of approximately 3.1 km and over. From the promoted viewpoint at Balmashanner Hill where open expansive views across Strathmore to the north are afforded, the Proposed Development would be visible in long distance views across the floor of the Strath and would sit below the distant skyline formed by the Braes of Angus, as illustrated by VP8: Balmashanner Hill (refer to Volume 4 a, Figure 9.12a-d: VP8: Balmashanner Hill). Although visible, the steel lattice towers would not form prominent features in these views, or from other parts of the VRA due to the intervening distance and the backclothing provided by the Braes of Angus. Visibility would be reduced further by intervening mixed woodland around Balmashanner Hill. The Proposed Development would be seen in the same view as the existing Kintore to Tealing 275 kV OHL which routes to the west of the VRA. Although the Proposed Development would increase the influence of vertical infrastructure in views, the towers would not be as prominent as the closer existing towers, given the distance to the Proposed Development.

VRA B5: Balmashanner Hill	
	The scale of change resulting from the introduction of the Proposed Development is judged to be Small across the entire VRA. The magnitude of change during operation is judged to be no more than Low.
Significance of Effect during Construction	Significance of Effect during Operation
Taking account of the High sensitivity of residents and recreational receptors in the VRA, and the Low magnitude of change, the visual effect arising from construction is judged to be no more than Minor (Not Significant) .	Taking account of the High sensitivity of residents' recreational receptors in the VRA, and the Low magnitude of change, the visual effect arising from operation is judged to be no more than Minor (Not Significant) .

Table 9.2.27: VRA B6: Padanaram

VRA B6: Padanaram	
Description of Receptor	Representative Viewpoint
Residential receptors at the settlement of Padanaram, as well as road users of the A926 which travels on an east-west alignment through the VRA, east of the Proposed Development (refer to Volume 3, Figure 9.3b.2: Visual Receptor Area, Viewpoint Locations and other Visual Receptors with Overhead Line Tower Height Zone of Theoretical Visibility (ZTV)). The VRA is located approximately 0.4 km from the Proposed Development at its closest point.	VP9: Padanaram (refer to Volume 4 a, Figure 9.13a-f: VP9: Padanaram)
Nature of Views	
Outward views are enabled from the settlement, and are open in nature, overlooking the adjacent, large-scale arable farmland. These views are typically more open from the settlement's edges, with views from properties located centrally within Padanaram interrupted or strongly filtered by adjacent, nearby properties. Distant, 180° panoramic views are granted north and south from the settlement, overlooking the large-scale arable fields typical of the landscape, with uplands in the distance forming long-distance horizons. Views east from the settlement are generally curtailed to the medium distances due to the mitigating woodland which aligns the A90 road corridor, with views west limited by the gently rising landform, which, along with some distinctive tree belts to the agricultural fields, acts to form a medium distance horizon. Similar views are experienced from the A926, although views are typically glimpsed in nature, where cyclists, motorists and passengers are travelling along this major road. A roadside ditch, post and rail fence, and with limited roadside vegetation (narrow areas of ornamental shrub) enables open views north. To the south, views are limited by the presence of the Padanaram settlement and feature single storey dwellings where they abut directly up to the road. Existing electrical infrastructure forms a clearly discernible and prominent feature in views as experienced from residents of the Padanaram settlement. This includes the existing, operational 275 kV OHL to the east of the settlement, captured in views east and south, where it extends across the low-lying arable land. A tower close to the settlement (less than 100 m away) is a prominent vertical feature, alongside the other towers which stretch away to the east. There is also a solar farm, part of a wider farmstead, in the adjacent fields to the north where the land falls away towards the (Rhandy Burn) watercourse, with the panels forming a distinctive feature amongst the arable fields.	
Sensitivity	
Residential receptors are considered to be of High susceptibility to changes in the view and local road users including cyclists are considered to be of Low susceptibility to changes in the view.	

VRA B6: Padanaram

Open views are experienced from the settlement, with the clustered properties oriented as to take advantage of distant views and with a close visual relationship to the adjacent landscape. These views look across the arable farmland and to upland ranges forming a long-distance horizon, particularly in northern and southern directions. However, existing infrastructure does feature strongly in these views, and with the VRA not being situated within any designated landscapes, the value of views is judged to be **Medium**.

Taking account of the judgements of susceptibility and value, sensitivity is judged to be **High** for residents and **Medium** for other visual receptors in the VRA.

Magnitude of Change during Construction	Magnitude of Change during Operation
Construction activity would be seen in the open views north, as experienced from residents of the settlement, and particularly those dwellings that abut directly up to the A926 to the north, as well as in glimpsed views from cyclists, motorists and passengers travelling along this A road. The use of machinery, vehicle movements, the creation of access tracks, and the erection of steel lattice towers, would be visible at a distance of approximately 0.4 km in direct views northwest. The erection of the steel lattice towers would form a prominent feature, interrupting the open views across the low-lying, large-scale arable fields, with skylining of cranes as well as vehicles and other ancillary features associated with construction. Construction activity would also be clearly visible for users of the A926. A lack of roadside vegetation means an open vantage in this north and northwestern direction. However, these views would typically be glimpsed in nature where vehicle users and cyclists experience transient views. Construction activity to the west of Padanaram, and where the Proposed Development travels southward towards the Sidlaw Hills, would likely not impact western and southern views from the settlement and road, because of the gently rising topography, and distinctive tree belt, which acts as a horizon line and would screen views of construction activity related to the Proposed Development in these directions. The scale of change is judged to be Large, focused along the A926. The magnitude of visual change during construction is judged to be up to High.	The Proposed Development would be seen in short and medium distance views north from residences within the settlement of Padanaram and road users of the A926 and glimpsed in long distance views southwest from the settlement. The Proposed Development would form prominent features, seen at a distance of approximately 0.4 km, over the low-lying agricultural fields adjacent to the settlement to the north. Steel lattice towers, where the Proposed Development stretches north, would form clearly discernible, vertical features in the landscape, seen to be breaking the horizon line. This would particularly be evident from dwellings which abut directly up to the A926, where properties are oriented to the north, where the Proposed Development would be seen. Towers would also be glimpsed in views southwest from Padanaram, and particularly those southern and western-most properties to the settlement. The Proposed Development would be filtered by hedgerows and tree belts, but with some skylining occurring. Generally, where the Proposed Development travels further southward, it would be back clothed by the upland landform of the Sidlaw Hills. The Proposed Development would be seen within the context of existing electrical infrastructure within the landscape, including the existing Kintore to Tealing 275 kV OHL and the solar farm to the north. The scale of change is judged to be Large and would impact a large number of residents of dwellings within the settlement of Padanaram, and road users of the A926. The magnitude of visual change during operation is judged to be up to High.
Significance of Effect during Construction	Significance of Effect during Operation
Taking account of the High sensitivity of residents in the VRA and the High magnitude of change, the visual effect arising from construction is judged to be up to Major (Significant) for any receptor in this VRA, and for many receptors would be less.	Taking account of the High sensitivity of residents in the VRA, and the High magnitude of change, the visual effect arising from operation is judged to be up to Major (Significant) for any receptor in this VRA, and for many receptors would be less.

Table 9.2.28: VRA B7: Baggerton, Bogside and Lunanhead

VRA B7: Baggerton, Bogside and Lunanhead	
Description of Receptor	Representative Viewpoint
Residents of scattered dwellings and farmsteads around the areas of Baggerton, Bogside, and Lunanhead and road users of the A90 and the B9128, southeast of the Proposed Development (refer to Volume 3, Figure 9.3b.2: Visual Receptor Area, Viewpoint Locations and other Visual Receptors with Overhead Line Tower Height Zone of Theoretical Visibility (ZTV)). The VRA is located approximately 1 km from the Proposed Development at its closest point.	VP11: A90 near base of Carse Hill (refer to Volume 4 b, Figure 9.15a-f: VP11: A90 near base of Carse Hill)
Nature of Views	
Views are generally open and overlook large-scale arable fields within the landscape with some distant views afforded southwards, with a visual relationship to Forfar in views south and southwest from the VRA. The horizon is formed by distant upland and hill features further southward, including Dunnichen Hill (233 m AOD), Fotheringham Hill (250 m AOD) and Kincaldrum/Hayston Hill (278 m AOD), and the Sidlaw Hill Range. There is a higher density of woodland features to the north of the VRA, including mixed woodland covering Carse Hill, as well as mature and distinctive tree belts which align the A90, the B9128 and minor roads, and instances where they define arable fields. This enforces a degree of visual enclosure for dwellings in proximity to these woodland features where they form prominent vertical features in the landscape amongst the low-lying arable farmland. Views north from properties are limited by the steep topography associated with Carse Hill. Views from the properties and local roads in the southern and eastern extents of the VRA are generally afforded more open views, including 180° panoramic views spanning east to south to west. From the A90, views south are generally limited by the steep topography and woodland associated with Carse Hill, with a near-distance horizon formed by the hill formation and the collection of trees. There are more open, distant views granted north, northwest and west, with glimpsed views across adjacent arable farmland with upland areas (Braes of Angus) seen in the long-distance. Existing electrical infrastructure has an influence in existing views, with the operational Kintore to Tealing 275 kV powerline cutting across the VRA in a broad east-west alignment.	
Sensitivity	
Residential receptors are considered to be of High susceptibility to changes in the view and local road users including cyclists are considered to be of Low susceptibility to changes in the view. This VRA is not located within a designated landscape however some locations offer elevated expansive views across Strathmore, with some views of the Braes of Angus to the west and distant views to the south towards the Sidlaw Hills, both hill ranges forming distinctive horizons in their respective directions. As such, the value of views is judged to be Medium. Taking account of the judgements of susceptibility and value, sensitivity is judged to be High for residents and Medium for other visual receptors in the VRA.	
Magnitude of Change during Construction	Magnitude of Change during Operation
Construction activity would be seen in middle-to-long distance views to the west and northwest from this VRA, at distances of approximately 0.7 km and over. Construction works including the use of machinery, vehicle movements, the creation of access tracks, and the erection of steel lattice towers would be partially visible across the floor of Strathmore. Some intervening elements including belts of broadleaved woodland and belts of commercial forestry would partially screen some of this activity. From sections of the A90 around Quilkoe mature belts of broadleaved trees and embankments would screen views of construction activity.	The Proposed Development would be seen in middle-to-long distance views to the west and northwest from this VRA, at distances of approximately 1 km and over. From the western and northern parts of the VRA that offer open views towards the Proposed Development, steel lattice towers to the east would be visible along the middle distant skyline, appearing as prominent vertical features across Strathmore, as illustrated by VP11: A90 near base of Carse Hill (refer to Volume 4 b, Figure 9.15a-f: VP11: A90 near base of Carse Hill). Further northwest however, steel lattice towers would be backclothed against the distant Braes of Angus, therefore reducing their prominence in the view. From some

VRA B7: Baggerton, Bogside and Lunanhead

In the western extents of the VRA, the erection of steel lattice towers would be visible in the far distance in views to the southwest, but it is likely that intervening vegetation would provide screening.

From some properties within the VRA, as well as road users of the B9128 and local roads connecting farmsteads, views north and northwest towards the Proposed Development are limited by the presence of Carse Hill, and the vegetation which covers it.

The scale of change is judged to be **Medium** and would be focused within the western and northern edges of the VRA that offer more open views towards the Proposed Development.

The magnitude of visual change during construction is judged to be no more than **Medium**.

sections of the A90, including around Quilkoe, mature belts of broadleaved trees and embankments would screen the Proposed Development.

From the B9128 and the properties which align it, there would be some instances where steel lattice towers would be seen in full within the low-lying landscape of Strathmore, as well as glimpsed views through or over woodland features.

In remaining parts of the VRA, views north and northwest towards the Proposed Development would be reduced by the steep slopes associated with Carse Hill, the densely wooded escarpments of this hill and the distinctive tree belts within the landscape.

In the western extents of the VRA, the Proposed Development would be visible in the far distance in views to the southwest, but it is likely that intervening vegetation would provide screening.

The scale of change is judged to be **Medium** and would be focused within the western and northern edges of the VRA that offer more open views towards the Proposed Development.

The magnitude of visual change during operation is judged to be no more than **Medium**.

Significance of Effect during Construction

Taking account of the **High** sensitivity of residents in the VRA, and the **Medium** magnitude of change, the visual effect arising from construction is judged to be no more than **Moderate (Significant)** for any receptor in this VRA, and for many receptors would be less.

Significance of Effect during Operation

Taking account of the **High** sensitivity of residents in the VRA, and the **Medium** magnitude of change, the visual effect arising from operation is judged to be no more than **Moderate (Significant)** for any receptor in this VRA, and for many receptors would be less.

Table 9.2.29: VRA B8: Mossie of Ballinshoe to Over Bow

VRA B8: Mossie of Ballinshoe to Over Bow	
Description of Receptor	Representative Viewpoint
Residents and road users in the area between Mossie of Ballinshoe to Over Bow to the east of the Proposed Development (refer to Volume 3, Figure 9.3b.2: Visual Receptor Area, Viewpoint Locations and other Visual Receptors with Overhead Line Tower Height Zone of Theoretical Visibility (ZTV)). The VRA is located immediately adjacent to the Proposed Development.	N/A
Nature of Views	
Views from within this VRA are generally open and overlook gently undulating agricultural fields within Strathmore. Some views are punctuated or obscured by deciduous trees along field boundaries, and small pockets of broadleaved woodland including at Mossie of Ballinshoe and near Barnsdale. To the north, the Braes of Angus are visible in the distance, forming a prominent backdrop in this direction. To the south, hills that form the southern edge of Strathmore are visible in the distance. Such views are experienced by road users travelling along the minor road network as well as residents at scattered dwellings.	

VRA B8: Mosside of Ballinshoe to Over Bow	
Sensitivity	
Residential receptors are considered to be of High susceptibility to changes in the view and road users including cyclists are considered to be of Low susceptibility to changes in the view. This VRA is not located within a designated landscape, however the VRA offers some scenic views across Strathmore, and takes in the distinctive Braes of Angus to the north. Such views are also experienced by a few concentrated groups of properties within the VRA. As such views are considered to be Medium in value. Taking account of the judgements of susceptibility and value, sensitivity is judged to be High for residents and Medium for other visual receptors in the VRA.	
Magnitude of Change during Construction	Magnitude of Change during Operation
Construction activity would be visible in very close views, including within the VRA itself where construction traffic would be seen along access tracks to the southwest of Over Bow as well as the construction of new access tracks and the use of night lighting. Closer views of the erection of steel lattice towers would also be seen from the western extents of the VRA, including properties at Mosside of Ballinshoe, Cranshade and Over Bow and sections of the minor road network in these areas, as well as slightly more distant views from other parts of the VRA. Given the general open nature of views within this VRA, construction activity would be seen to occupy a wide extent of available views. The scale of change resulting from construction activity is judged to be Large and would be focused within the western parts of the VRA, particularly around Mosside of Ballinshoe, Cranshade and Over Bow. The magnitude of change during construction is judged to be up to High.	The Proposed Development would be visible in immediate views to the west as the Proposed Development runs along the western boundary of the VRA. From the closer parts of the VRA, around Mosside of Ballinshoe, Cranshade and Over Bow, and the minor road network in these areas, the steel lattice towers would appear as very prominent and large scale features, occupying a wide horizontal extent of the views to the west. The Proposed Development would also be seen in front of and extending high above the distant skyline formed by the Braes of Angus to the northwest. Due to the open nature of the VRA, similar views would be experienced in remaining parts of the VRA however in the middle distance. The scale of change resulting from the introduction of the Proposed Development is judged to be Large and would be focused within the areas around Mosside of Ballinshoe, Cranshade and Over Bow. The magnitude of change during operation is judged to be up to High.
Significance of Effect during Construction	Significance of Effect during Operation
Taking account of the High sensitivity of residents in the VRA, and the High magnitude of change, the visual effect arising from construction is judged to be up to Major (Significant) for any receptor in this VRA, and for some receptors would be less.	Taking account of the High sensitivity of residents in the VRA, and the High magnitude of change, the visual effect arising from operation is judged to be up to Major (Significant) for any receptor in this VRA, and for some receptors would be less.

Table 9.2.30: VRA B9: Redford to Woodside

VRA B9: Redford to Woodside	
Description of Receptor	Representative Viewpoint
Residents and road users between Redford to Woodside to the west of the Proposed Development (refer to Volume 3, Figure 9.3b.2: Visual Receptor Area, Viewpoint Locations and other Visual Receptors with Overhead Line Tower Height Zone of Theoretical Visibility (ZTV)). The VRA is located immediately adjacent to the Proposed Development.	N/A
Nature of Views	

VRA B9: Redford to Woodside

Views from within this VRA are generally open and overlook gently undulating agricultural fields within Strathmore. Some views are punctuated or obscured by deciduous trees along field boundaries, as well as a belt of coniferous trees to the west of Haughs of Ballinshoe, as well as a larger pocket of broadleaved woodland northwest of Mossie of Ballinshoe. To the north, views are generally foreshortened by gently rising landform with glimpsed views of the Braes of Angus are visible in the distance. To the south, hills that form the southern edge of Strathmore are visible in the distance. Such views are experienced by road users travelling along the minor road network as well as residents at scattered dwellings.

Sensitivity

Residential receptors are considered to be of **High** susceptibility to changes in the view and road users including cyclists are considered to be of **Low** susceptibility to changes in the view.

This VRA is not located within a designated landscape, however the VRA offers some scenic views across Strathmore. Such views are also experienced by a few concentrated groups of properties within the VRA. As such views are considered to be **Medium** in value.

Taking account of the judgements of susceptibility and value, sensitivity is judged to be **High** for residents and **Medium** for other visual receptors in the VRA.

Magnitude of Change during Construction

Construction activity would be visible in very close views, including within the VRA itself where construction traffic would be seen along access tracks to the south of Redford, in the southern extent of the VRA, as well as near Forestmuir Wood in the northern extent of the VRA. The construction of new access tracks, night lighting and erection of steel lattice towers would also be visible in close views from the eastern extents of the VRA around Redford, Woodhead of Ballinshoe, Haughs of Ballinshoe, Barnsdale and Woodside. Slightly more distant views of such activity would be available from around Ballinshoe Smithy. From remaining parts of the VRA further north, around Ballinshoe, construction activity would be visible in longer distant views, and intervening woodland and forestry northwest of Mossie of Ballinshoe would screen ground level activity from some properties and a section of the minor road to the west of Ballinshoe.

The scale of change resulting from construction activity is judged to be **Large** and would be focused within the eastern parts of the VRA, particularly around Redford, Woodhead of Ballinshoe, Haughs of Ballinshoe, Barnsdale and Woodside.

The magnitude of change during construction is judged to be up to **High**.

Significance of Effect during Construction

Taking account of the **High** sensitivity of residents in the VRA, and the **High** magnitude of change, the visual effect arising from construction is judged to be up to **Major (Significant)** for any receptor in this VRA, and for some receptors would be less.

Magnitude of Change during Operation

The Proposed Development would be visible in immediate views to the east as the Proposed Development runs along the eastern boundary of the VRA. From the closer parts of the VRA, around Redford, Woodhead of Ballinshoe, Haughs of Ballinshoe, Barnsdale and Woodside, and the minor road network in these areas, the steel lattice towers would appear as very prominent and large scale features, occupying a wide horizontal extent of the views to the east and standing tall as towers are seen breaking the horizon. Similar views would be experienced around Ballinshoe Smithy however in the middle distance. From more distant parts of the VRA around Ballinshoe, the Proposed Development would be seen as more distant features however still prominent as the towers would be seen breaking the skyline formed by distant hills to the south.

The scale of change resulting from the introduction of the Proposed Development is judged to be **Large** and would be focused within the areas around Redford, Woodhead of Ballinshoe, Haughs of Ballinshoe, Barnsdale and Woodside.

The magnitude of change during operation is judged to be up to **High**.

Significance of Effect during Operation

Taking account of the **High** sensitivity of residents in the VRA, and the **High** magnitude of change, the visual effect arising from operation is judged to be up to **Major (Significant)** for any receptor in this VRA, and for some receptors would be less.

Table 9.2.31: VRA B10: Kirriemuir

VRA B10: Kirriemuir

Description of Receptor

Representative Viewpoint

VRA B10: Kirriemuir

Residents, recreational receptors and road users in the settlement of Kirriemuir (refer to **Volume 3, Figure 9.3b.2: Visual Receptor Area, Viewpoint Locations and other Visual Receptors with Overhead Line Tower Height Zone of Theoretical Visibility (ZTV)**). The VRA is located approximately 2.5 km from the Proposed Development at its closest point.

VP10: B957, near Kirriemuir (see **Volume 4 a, Figure 9.14a-d: VP10: B957, near Kirriemuir**)

Nature of Views

Views from within this VRA are varied with availability of both long ranging open views and shorter ranging contained views. From the eastern extents of the VRA around Whitelums, including from the core path that passes through this area, views are generally open and expansive, taking in surrounding agricultural fields with views of distant hills to the east, southeast and south forming the backdrop beyond. Similar views are obtained from the B957 on the eastern edge of Kirriemuir where open elevated views across Strathmore are available as illustrated by **Volume 4 a, Figure 9.14a-d: VP10: B957, near Kirriemuir**. Lower lying open views across Strathmore are also available from the A926 and around Maryton in the southern part of the VRA. Throughout the rest of the VRA where settlement is more concentrated, views are generally contained by surrounding buildings which limit longer-ranging views towards the surrounding countryside.

Sensitivity

Residential and recreational receptors are considered to be of **High** susceptibility to changes in the view and road users including cyclists are considered to be of **Low** susceptibility to changes in the view.

This VRA is not located within a designated landscape, however the VRA offers some scenic expansive views across Strathmore which are experienced by a large number of people who live and travel around the eastern and southern edges of Kirriemuir. As such views are considered to be **Medium** in value.

Taking account of the judgements of susceptibility and value, sensitivity is judged to be **High** for residents and recreational receptors and **Medium** for other visual receptors in the VRA.

Magnitude of Change during Construction

Construction activity would be visible at distances of approximately 2 km and over to the southeast and east in views experienced by residents, recreational receptors and road users in this VRA. From open parts of the VRA around Whitelums, along the B957 on the eastern edge of Kirriemuir and along the A926 around Maryton construction activity would be largely limited to distant views of the erection of the steel lattice towers. Ground level activity such as vehicle movements and creation of access tracks would be screened by multiple layers of intervening woodland and scattered trees, as well as localised undulations in intervening landform. Throughout the rest of the VRA, including within the more densely settled parts of Kirriemuir, views of construction works would largely be screened by intervening buildings within the settlement.

Given that construction activity would be visible at distances of approximately 2 km and over and as such would be seen as distant features, the scale of change is judged to be **Small** and would be focused within the areas around Whitelums, sections of the B957 on the eastern edge of Kirriemuir and along the A926 near Maryton.

The magnitude of change during construction is judged to be no more than **Low**.

Magnitude of Change during Operation

The Proposed Development would be visible at distances of approximately 2.5 km and over to the southeast and east in views experienced by residents, recreational receptors and road users in this VRA. From open parts of the VRA around Whitelums, along the B957 on the eastern edge of Kirriemuir and along the A926 around Maryton, the Proposed Development would be seen in long distance views, against a backdrop formed by the distance hills to the east and southeast beyond, as illustrated by **Volume 4 a, Figure 9.14a-d: VP10: B957, near Kirriemuir**. Given the distance, and the backclothing provided by landform beyond, the Proposed Development would not form a prominent feature in views from this VRA. In longer ranging views to the south towards the Sidlaw Hills a small number of towers would be visible along the distant skyline. However, given the distance of approximately 11 km between the VRA and towers crossing the Sidlaws, these would not form distinct features in views.

From remaining parts of the VRA, including within the more densely settled southern and eastern edges of Kirriemuir, views of the Proposed Development would largely be screened by intervening buildings within the settlement.

The scale of change resulting from the introduction of the Proposed Development is judged to be **Small** and would be focused within the areas around Whitelums, sections of the B957 on the eastern edge of Kirriemuir and along the A926 near Maryton.

The magnitude of change during operation is judged to be no more than **Low**.

VRA B10: Kirriemuir	
Significance of Effect during Construction	Significance of Effect during Operation
Taking account of the High sensitivity of residents in the VRA, and the Low magnitude of change, the visual effect arising from construction is judged to be no more than Minor (Not Significant) .	Taking account of the High sensitivity of residents in the VRA, and the Low magnitude of change, the visual effect arising from operation is judged to be no more than Minor (Not Significant) .

Table 9.2.32: VRA B11: Drumclune, Garlowbank, Forest Muir and Bog

VRA B11: Drumclune, Garlowbank, Forest Muir and Bog	
Description of Receptor	Representative Viewpoint
Residents and road users in the areas around Drumclune, Garlowbank, Forest Muir, and Bog, to the northwest of the Proposed Development (refer to Volume 3, Figure 9.3b.2: Visual Receptor Area, Viewpoint Locations and other Visual Receptors with Overhead Line Tower Height Zone of Theoretical Visibility (ZTV)). The VRA is located approximately 0.6 km from the Proposed Development at its closest point.	N/A
Nature of Views	
From most of this VRA, views are generally open and wide, overlooking a gently undulating expanse of agricultural fields punctuated with belts of broadleaved woodland. To the south and east, distant hills form a distinctive ridgeline in the backdrop, including Carse Hill and Hill of Finavon to the east. To the north, the slightly closer Braes of Angus form a distinctive backdrop in this direction. In the eastern part of VRA woodland and forest cover around Forest Muir and King's Plantation limit and contain views, particularly to the south and southeast.	
Sensitivity	
Residential receptors are considered to be of High susceptibility to changes in the view and road users including cyclists are considered to be of Low susceptibility to changes in the view. The northeastern extent of the VRA is located within the River South Esk LLA. The VRA also takes in views of the hills to the north within the Angus Glens LLA, approximately 1.7 km to the north. These views are also experienced by people across several dense groups of properties across the VRA. As such views are considered to be Medium in value. Taking account of the judgements of susceptibility and value, sensitivity is judged to be High for residents and Medium for other visual receptors in the VRA.	
Magnitude of Change during Construction	Magnitude of Change during Operation
Construction activity would be visible at distances of approximately 0.3 km and over to the east, south and southeast in views from this VRA. From the closer parts of the VRA around Newbarns in the east of the VRA, road users and residents would experience middle distance views of vehicle movements, creation of access tracks, night lighting and erection of steel lattice towers across the expansive views across Strathmore to the east. From the centre of the VRA, including around Sandyford, Kilnhill, Garlowbank, Glasswell and Checkiefield, views of construction work is likely to be limited to the erection of steel lattice towers, with intervening woodland in the middle distance obscuring views of ground level activity. Views of construction activity experienced by residents and road users around Forest Muir would be largely filtered or screened by the woodland and forest cover in this	The Proposed Development would be visible at distances of approximately 0.6 km and over to the east, south and southeast in views experienced by residents, and road users in this VRA. From the closer parts of the VRA around Newbarns in the east of the VRA, the Proposed Development would occupy a wide horizontal extent of the view to the east and southeast. In these views the steel lattice towers would be visible in middle distance views appearing as large scale features breaking the skyline beyond. From the centre of the VRA, including around Sandyford, Kilnhill, Garlowbank, Glasswell and Checkiefield, the Proposed Development would be seen in wider south and southeastern views across Strathmore however at a greater distance and with intervening belts of woodland filtering views of some of the towers. Views of the Proposed Development from around Forest Muir

VRA B11: Drumclune, Garlowbank, Forest Muir and Bog	
part of the VRA. In the northwestern extents of the VRA, construction activity would be screened by intervening woodland. In the southwestern extents the higher ground would allow receptors to see the erection of steel lattice towers in the far distance in views to the southeast, east, and northeast. Although, the partially constructed towers would be seen at relatively long distances of 5-8 km and so would not be particularly noticeable, and intervening vegetation would provide screening. The scale of change resulting from construction activity is judged to be Medium and would be focused within the area around Newbarns. The magnitude of change during construction is judged to be no more than Medium.	would be largely filtered or screened by the woodland and forest cover in this part of the VRA. In the northwestern extents of the VRA, the Proposed Development would be screened by intervening woodland. In the southwestern extents the higher ground would allow receptors to see the Proposed Development in the far distance in views to the southeast, east, and northeast. Although, the Proposed Development would be seen at relatively long distances of 5-8 km and so would not be particularly noticeable, and intervening vegetation would provide screening. The scale of change resulting from the introduction of the Proposed Development is judged to be Medium and would be focused within the area around Newbarns. The magnitude of change during operation is judged to be no more than Medium.
Significance of Effect during Construction	Significance of Effect during Operation
Taking account of the High sensitivity of residents in the VRA, and the Medium magnitude of change, the visual effect arising from construction is judged to be no more than Moderate (Significant) for any receptor in this VRA, and for many receptors would be less.	Taking account of the High sensitivity of residents in the VRA, and the Medium magnitude of change, the visual effect arising from operation is judged to be no more than Moderate (Significant) for any receptor in this VRA, and for many receptors would be less.

Table 9.2.33: VRA B12: Blairfeddon to Craigeassie

VRA B12: Blairfeddon to Craigeassie	
Description of Receptor	Representative Viewpoint
Residents and road users in the area between Blairfeddon to Craigeassie to the east of the Proposed Development (refer to Volume 3, Figure 9.3b.2: Visual Receptor Area, Viewpoint Locations and other Visual Receptors with Overhead Line Tower Height Zone of Theoretical Visibility (ZTV)). The VRA is located immediately adjacent to the Proposed Development.	N/A
Nature of Views	
From most of this VRA, views are generally contained by localised areas of undulating landform including around King's Seat and Wolflaw and pockets and belts of broadleaf and coniferous woodland, including along the B957 and River South Esk. As such open, expansive and long ranging views are generally limited. From the southern extents of the VRA however, around Blairfeddon, the more gradual landform allows for some more open views across the surrounding farmland.	
Sensitivity	
Residential receptors are considered to be of High susceptibility to changes in the view and road users including cyclists are considered to be of Low susceptibility to changes in the view. The northern extent of the VRA is located within the River South Esk LLA. Within this part of the VRA, views also take in the more intimate area of the River South Esk floodplain around Craigeassie that, although doesn't offer long ranging and expansive views, has a small scale scenic quality afforded by the wooded nature and smaller scale pastoral fields. As such views are considered to be Medium in value.	

VRA B12: Blairfeddon to Craigeassie

Taking account of the judgements of susceptibility and value, sensitivity is judged to be **High** for residents and **Medium** for other visual receptors in the VRA.

Magnitude of Change during Construction	Magnitude of Change during Operation
Construction activity would be visible in very close views, including within the VRA itself where construction traffic would be seen along access tracks at Meadows and near King's Seat, as well as the construction of new access tracks, woodland felling and the use of night lighting. Close views of the erection of steel lattice towers would also be seen from most of the properties within the VRA, including at Blairfeddon, Meadows, Wolflaw and Quarryhill as well as open sections of the B957. From properties at Craigeassie and the section of the B957 in this area, ground level activity would largely be screened by the surrounding broadleaf and coniferous woodland across the River South Esk floodplain, however there would be some filtered views of the erection of steel lattice towers. The scale of change resulting from construction activity is judged to be Large and would be focused within the areas of the VRA between Blairfeddon and Quarryhill where views towards the construction activity would be most open. The magnitude of change during construction is judged to be up to High.	The Proposed Development would be visible in immediate views to the west as the Proposed Development runs along the western boundary of the VRA. From the closer parts of the VRA, including but not limited to, around King's Seat, Wolflaw, Quarryhill and the section of the B957 that passes under and adjacent to the Proposed Development, the steel lattice towers would appear as very prominent and large scale features, occupying a wide horizontal extent of the views to the west. From around Craigeassie, visibility of the Proposed Development would be reduced due to broadleaf and coniferous woodland across the River South Esk floodplain which would filter the Proposed Development. The upper sections of towers however are likely to remain visible above the intervening woodland in some views. From remaining parts of the VRA, the Proposed Development would be seen in middle distant views, and in some places partially screened by intervening undulating landform. The scale of change resulting from the introduction of the Proposed Development is judged to be Large and would be focused within the areas of the VRA around King's Seat, Wolflaw, Quarryhill and the B957 south of Craigeassie. The magnitude of change during operation is judged to be up to High.
Significance of Effect during Construction	Significance of Effect during Operation
Taking account of the High sensitivity of residents in the VRA, and the High magnitude of change, the visual effect arising from construction is judged to be up to Major (Significant) for any receptor in this VRA, and for some receptors would be less.	Taking account of the High sensitivity of residents in the VRA, and the High magnitude of change, the visual effect arising from operation is judged to be up to Major (Significant) for any receptor in this VRA, and for some receptors would be less.

Table 9.2.34: VRA B13: North Quilkoe to Battledykes

VRA B13: North Quilkoe to Battledykes	
Description of Receptor	Representative Viewpoint
Residents and road users (including users of the A90) in the area between North Quilkoe to Battledykes to the east of the Proposed Development (refer to Volume 3, Figure 9.3b.2: Visual Receptor Area, Viewpoint Locations and other Visual Receptors with Overhead Line Tower Height Zone of Theoretical Visibility (ZTV)). The VRA is located approximately 0.7 km from the Proposed Development at its closest point.	N/A
Nature of Views	
Views within this VRA are varied. From the southern extent of the VRA around North Quilkoe, and including the A90, views are open, expansive and slightly elevated, focused northwards across Strathmore, overlooking a foreground of gently undulating arable fields, with the Braes of Angus forming a distinctive backdrop in the distance. As the landform descends towards the central and northern parts of the VRA, views become more contained due to belts of broadleaved and coniferous trees and undulating landform such as the locally distinctive undulations at Battledykes in the northern extent of the VRA. From around Birkenbush however, there are some glimpsed views of more distant hills between such intervening features. Views to the south are generally contained by the rising landform of Carse Hill.	
Sensitivity	
Residential receptors are considered to be of High susceptibility to changes in the view and road users including cyclists are considered to be of Low susceptibility to changes in the view. The very northern extent of the VRA is located within the River South Esk LLA. The southern part of the VRA also takes in wide expansive views of Strathmore which are experienced by residents at a cluster of properties around North Quilkoe as well as a large number of road users travelling along the A90. As such views are considered to be Medium in value. Taking account of the judgements of susceptibility and value, sensitivity is judged to be High for residents and Medium for other visual receptors in the VRA.	
Magnitude of Change during Construction	Magnitude of Change during Operation
Visibility of construction activity would generally be limited from this VRA. Within the northern extents of the VRA around Battledykes there is potential for glimpsed views of construction traffic travelling along local tracks to the west however much of this, and other construction works, would be screened by the undulating landform in this part of the VRA. From remaining parts of the VRA, views of construction activity would be limited to the erection of steel lattice towers in middle-to-longer distance views however much of this would be screened or filtered by intervening undulating landform and features such as woodland and farm buildings across the VRA. The scale of change resulting from construction activity is judged to be Small across the entire VRA. The magnitude of change during construction is judged to be no more than Low .	The Proposed Development would be visible in middle-to-long distance views experienced by residents and road users to the west, north and northwest from the VRA, at a distance of approximately 0.7 km at its closest point. From the southern elevated part of the VRA around North Quilkoe, the Proposed Development would be seen in middle-to-longer distance views, occupying a wide horizontal extent of northwestern views across Strathmore. In these views, the steel lattice towers would be seen in above the skyline formed by the distant Braes of Angus beyond. Similar views would be experienced from the slightly less elevated area around Birkenbush where towers would be visible across the middle distant horizon, however visibility would be reduced due to intervening undulating landform and features such as woodland and farm buildings which would fully or partially screen some towers. From the northern extent of the VRA around Battledykes views of the Proposed Development would be limited due to the locally distinctive area of undulating landform to the northwest of Battledykes.

VRA B13: North Quilkoe to Battledykes	
	The scale of change resulting from the introduction of the Proposed Development is judged to be Medium and would be focused within the areas of the VRA around North Quilkoe and Birkenbush. The magnitude of change during operation is judged to be no more than Medium.
Significance of Effect during Construction	Significance of Effect during Operation
Taking account of the High sensitivity of residents in the VRA, and the Low magnitude of change, the visual effect arising from construction is judged to be no more than Minor (Not Significant) .	Taking account of the High sensitivity of residents in the VRA, and the Medium magnitude of change, the visual effect arising from operation is judged to be no more than Moderate (Significant) for any receptor in this VRA, and for many receptors would be less.

Table 9.2.35: VRA B14: Bogindollo and Oathlaw

VRA B14: Bogindollo and Oathlaw	
Description of Receptor	Representative Viewpoint
Residents in the small settlements of Bogindollo and Oathlaw and scattered properties, users of the local road network and people travelling on the A90, east of the Proposed Development (refer to Volume 3, Figure 9.3b.2: Visual Receptor Area, Viewpoint Locations and other Visual Receptors with Overhead Line Tower Height Zone of Theoretical Visibility (ZTV)). The VRA is located approximately 1.1 km from the Proposed Development at its closest point.	N/A
Nature of Views	
Views within Oathlaw are generally focused inward along the minor roads. Oathlaw Wood and Bogindollo Strip are dense, predominantly conifer woodlands which restrict views north and west. From the minor road network there are views across the open flat arable fields to the close horizon formed by Bogindollo Strip to the west and Oathlaw Wood to the north. There are some mature hedgerow trees which would filter views in summer. Views south are of rising slopes of Hill of Finavon and Carse Hill, with woodland on the steep slopes. A single wind turbine is visible in views south, nestled among the woodland. For the few properties in the north of the VRA, north of Oathlaw Wood, views are more open across arable fields with the Angus Glens forming distinctive landmarks on the horizon. Field trees and vegetation provide some filtering, particularly in views east.	
Sensitivity	
Residential receptors are considered to be of High susceptibility to changes in the view. Users of the local road network, including cyclists, and people travelling on the fast A9 are considered to be of Low susceptibility. Land north of Oathlaw Wood is designated as part of the River South Esk LLA. Although there are few residents within the VRA which lie within the LLA, Oathlaw Wood forms a prominent feature in views from the rest of the VRA. As such views are considered to be Medium in value. Taking account of the judgements of susceptibility and value, sensitivity is judged to be High for residents and Medium for other visual receptors in the VRA.	

VRA B14: Bogindollo and Oathlaw	
Magnitude of Change during Construction	Magnitude of Change during Operation
Construction activity would include machinery, vehicle movements, the erection of steel lattice towers and night lighting. This would be seen in at a distance of at least 1.3 km to the north and west. Much of the construction activity would likely be screened from view by the intervening Oathlaw Wood and Bogindollo Strip, although tall cranes would be visible above the treeline. From north of the VRA, construction activity would be seen in the distance, partially filtered by intervening field vegetation and backclothed by the rising landform. The scale of change resulting from construction activity is judged to be Small and would be experienced in views from north of Oathlaw Wood, as the woods would restrict views for the rest of the VRA. The magnitude of change during construction is judged to be no more than Low.	The Proposed Development would be in views to the northwest and west, at a distance of 1.3 km at its closest point (towers S137 and S138). The Proposed Development would be seen on the skyline, backclothed by more distant rising topography. Due to the distance, the towers would not appear prominent in views. The scale of change resulting from the Proposed Development would be Small and would be experienced by residential receptors and people using the local road network in the north of the VRA. The magnitude of change during operation is judged to be no more than Low.
Significance of Effect during Construction	Significance of Effect during Operation
Taking account of the High sensitivity of residents in the VRA, and the Low magnitude of change, the visual effect arising from construction is judged to be no more than Minor (Not Significant).	Taking account of the High sensitivity of residents in the VRA, and the Low magnitude of change, the visual effect arising from operation is judged to be no more than Minor (Not Significant).

Table 9.2.36: VRA B15: Murthill to Tobeas

VRA B15: Murthill to Tobeas	
Description of Receptor	Representative Viewpoint
Residents in scattered properties and users of the local road network around Murthill and Tobeas, east and south of the Proposed Development (refer to Volume 3, Figure 9.3b.2: Visual Receptor Area, Viewpoint Locations and other Visual Receptors with Overhead Line Tower Height Zone of Theoretical Visibility (ZTV)). The VRA is located immediately adjacent to the Proposed Development.	N/A
Nature of Views	
Views within the VRA are of flat arable and pasture fields, with some small woodland strips and boundary trees visible. Riparian vegetation along the River South Esk and its tributaries provides some screening in mid-distance views from the south of the VRA. The predominantly conifer woodland at Oathlaw Wood and Westwood restricts views from the far south of the VRA (from the local road network and Foresters Croft). Conversely, these woodlands restrict views further south, foregrounded by the flat arable and pasture fields. Angus Glens form distinctive landmarks on the horizon to the north, visible in views north of the River South Esk. Wood pole lines are visible across the VRA, but no other vertical elements break the treeline.	
Sensitivity	
Residential receptors are considered to be of High susceptibility to changes in the view. Users of the local road network, including cyclists are considered to be of Low susceptibility. The majority of the VRA is designated as part of the River South Esk LLA. As such views are considered to be Medium in value.	

VRA B15: Murthill to Tobeas

Taking account of the judgements of susceptibility and value, sensitivity is judged to be **High** for residents and **Medium** for other visual receptors in the VRA.

Magnitude of Change during Construction	Magnitude of Change during Operation
Construction activity would include machinery, vehicle movements, the erection of steel lattice towers and lighting in hours of darkness. This would be seen in closest to medium distance views, particularly in the north of the VRA, north of the screening vegetation of the River South Esk. A new bellmouth junction on Whig Street would be constructed to upgrade an existing farm track east of Glencoul House. Views of construction activity in the south would be partially screened by riparian vegetation, with cranes/taller machinery seen above the treeline. From Whig Street and the B957 views of the construction activities would be more open, although there would be some limited filtering of views by field boundary trees and a small wood at East Murthill in the north. The scale of change resulting from construction activity is judged to be Medium and would be experienced in views from the north of the VRA, as Oathlaw Wood and Westwood would restrict views for the south of the VRA. The magnitude of change during construction is judged to be no more than Medium.	The Proposed Development would be in views to the north and east, at a distance of 310 m at its closest point (tower S139). The Proposed Development would be seen in open views from the north of the VRA, rising above the treeline. The towers would be clear and obvious features in the view, and the towers would be seen stretching from the northeast to the northwest. From the centre of the VRA there would be occasional views of the Proposed Development, seen filtered through vegetation along the River South Esk. Due to the intervening vegetation there would be no views of the Proposed Development continuing to the northeast or southwest. Woodland at Westwood and Oathlaw Wood is likely to screen all views from the far south of the VRA. The scale of change resulting from the Proposed Development would be Small and would be experienced by residential receptors and people using the local road network in the north and centre of the VRA. The magnitude of change during operation is judged to be no more than Low.
Significance of Effect during Construction	Significance of Effect during Operation
Taking account of the High sensitivity of residents in the VRA, and the Medium magnitude of change, the visual effect arising from construction is judged to be no more than Moderate (Significant) for any receptor in this VRA, and for many receptors would be less.	Taking account of the High sensitivity of residents in the VRA, and the Low magnitude of change, the visual effect arising from operation is judged to be no more than Minor (Not Significant).

Table 9.2.37: VRA B16: Cairnhill

VRA B16: Cairnhill	
Description of Receptor	Representative Viewpoint
Residents in scattered properties between Cairnhill and Inshewan to the north of the River South Esk, and people travelling along the road network, immediately adjacent to the northwest of the Proposed Development (refer to Volume 3, Figure 9.3b.2: Visual Receptor Area, Viewpoint Locations and other Visual Receptors with Overhead Line Tower Height Zone of Theoretical Visibility (ZTV)). The VRA is located immediately adjacent to the Proposed Development.	VP12: B957, near Cairnhill (refer to Volume 4 a, Figure 9.16a-f: VP 12: B957, near Cairnhill)
Nature of Views	
Views from within the north of the VRA are largely contained by the presence of mature mixed woodland along the River South Esk and from the Castle Hill and Inshewan areas to the north of the river. This vegetation prevents longer ranging views out of the area surrounding the River South Esk, however longer views would be glimpsed along the corridor of the river. The meandering nature of the river, and the presence of riparian planting limit the amount of visibility achieved when looking down the river.	

VRA B16: Cairnhill

From further south within the VRA, south of Cairn Farm, the landscape becomes less enclosed due to less vegetation. From these areas, more open views are afforded across a patchwork of medium sized fields. In the distance, the Braes of Angus hills and the ridgeline of Carse Hill and Hill of Finavon are seen rising in elevation to the north and southeast, respectively. The small hill near Battledykes forms a distinctive landmark feature in views to the southeast of the VRA. From the B957 in the south of the VRA, open views are available looking across an agricultural landscape to the Braes of Angus in the far north. However, localised areas of roadside vegetation, particularly near Cairnhill and Foreside of Cairn provides screening of views, with the former providing screening towards the south.

Sensitivity

Residential receptors are considered to be of **High** susceptibility to changes in the view and road users are considered to be of **Low** susceptibility to changes in the view.

Much of the VRA is located within the River South Esk LLA. The VRA takes in a variety of views including wooded views along the River South Esk, and more open views across countryside to the south. As such, views are considered to be **High** in value.

Taking account of the judgements of susceptibility and value, sensitivity is judged to be **High** for residential receptors in the VRA, and **Medium** for other visual receptors in the VRA.

Magnitude of Change during Construction

The VRA would be located immediately adjacent to construction activity associated with the Proposed Development, and some temporary access tracks would need to be constructed within the VRA to enable access to the proposed towers.

Construction activity would be seen in close views to the southeast of the VRA, from residents and road users who are located within or travelling through the VRA. Use of machinery, vehicle movements, creation of access tracks, erection of steel lattice towers and lighting in hours of darkness would be visible across the relatively flat and open agricultural land to the south of the River South Esk.

From the north of the VRA, views of construction activity would be largely filtered by the woodland and forestry. More open views would be afforded from near Inshewan House which has less vegetation to the south and southeast. Where visible from the north of the VRA, views of construction activity is likely to be limited to taller elements which would be visible above trees (eg part built towers).

The scale of change resulting from construction activity is judged to be **High** and would be focused across the area to the south of the Cairn Farm.

The magnitude of change during construction is judged to be up to **High**.

Magnitude of Change during Operation

The Proposed Development would be seen in close views from residential properties and along the B957 in views to the southeast, at a distance of less than 0.1 km at its closest point. People travelling along the B957 road would pass under the Proposed Development between towers S144 and S143 as they travel out of the VRA.

In views from the south of the VRA, the Proposed Development would be seen in close-to-middle distance views to the southeast, including from residential properties at Foreside of Cairn and from the B957. However, mature vegetation around some of the properties (eg some at Foreside of Cairn) would provide screening of the Proposed Development from the properties themselves. As illustrated in VP12: B957, near Cairnhill (refer to **Volume 4 a, Figure 9.16a-f: VP 12: B957, near Cairnhill**), the Proposed Development would be seen to introduce large scale vertical features into views which would be visible set against the skyline. The vegetation around Foreside of Cairn would provide some screening of tower S144, however the top of the tower would still be visible above this cluster of properties and trees, emphasising the scale of the structure.

Due to the proposed size and scale of the steel lattice towers, and the closeness of the Proposed Development to residents and road users along the B957 road, the Proposed Development would form a prominent feature in views from the south of VRA. The strong presence of woodland and trees in the north of the VRA is expected to partially screen visibility of the Proposed Development. Where visible from the north, the Proposed Development would be seen crossing the River South Esk to the southeast.

The scale of change resulting from the introduction of the Proposed Development is judged to be **High** and would be focused across the area south of Cairn Farm, and from along the B957 road in the south of the VRA.

The magnitude of change during operation is judged to be up to **High**.

Significance of Effect during Construction

Significance of Effect during Operation

VRA B16: Cairnhill

Taking account of the **High** sensitivity of residents in the VRA, and the **High** magnitude of change, the visual effect arising from construction is judged to be up to **Major (Significant)** for any receptor in this VRA, and for many receptors would be less.

Taking account of the **High** sensitivity of residents in the VRA, and the **High** magnitude of change, the visual effect arising from operation is judged to be up to **Major (Significant)**, for any receptor in this VRA, and for many receptors would be less.

Table 9.2.38: VRA B17: Derachie, Downiepark and Shielhill

VRA B17: Derachie, Downiepark and Shielhill

Description of Receptor	Representative Viewpoint
Residents in scattered properties around the areas of Derachie, Downiepark, and Shielhill to the south of the River Esk and to the southwest of Noran Water, and people travelling along the road network, northwest of the Proposed Development (refer to Volume 3, Figure 9.3b.2: Visual Receptor Area, Viewpoint Locations and other Visual Receptors with Overhead Line Tower Height Zone of Theoretical Visibility (ZTV)). The VRA is located approximately 0.8 km from the Proposed Development at its closest point.	N/A
Nature of Views Views from the south of the VRA, around the River South Esk and Auchleuchrie are largely contained by the presence of extensive areas of mature woodland to the north and south of the River Esk, and forestry plantations to the south of Shielhill House and southeast of Memus. Much of this wooded area is designated as the River South Esk LLA. This woodland and forestry prevents longer ranging views from the southern extents of the VRA. From the northeastern extents of the VRA, the presence of mature woodland and/or forestry is more limited, and open views are available across the lower-lying Strathmore to the south. These open views are focused on medium-to-large scale agricultural fields which extend in all directions. In the distance to the north, the Braes of Angus hills are seen rising in elevation. To the south, views towards the lower-lying Strathmore are available, however longer ranging views are often shortened by the presence of undulating fields in the close and middle distance views. From more open locations, the distant southern ridge comprising Carse Hill, Hill of Finavon and Turin Hill are visible on the distant horizon.	
Sensitivity Residential receptors are considered to be of High susceptibility to changes in the view and road users are considered to be of Low susceptibility to changes in the view. Much of the southern extents of the VRA are located within the River South Esk LLA and the most northern extents within the Angus Glens LLA. The southwestern extents of the VRA also contain part of the Garden and Designed Landscape (GDL) associated with Cortachy Castle. The VRA takes in a variety of views and is afforded wide-ranging and open views across Strathmore to the south. As such, views are considered to be Medium in value. Taking account of the judgements of susceptibility and value, sensitivity is judged to be High for residential receptors in the VRA, and Medium for other visual receptors in the VRA.	
Magnitude of Change during Construction	Magnitude of Change during Operation
At its closest, the VRA would be located approximately 450 m to the northwest of construction activity associated with the Proposed Development. However, much of the VRA is beyond this distance from the Proposed Development, with intervening distance increasing to approximately 4.7 km in some locations. Close views of construction activity would be experienced from the Miltonbank area of the VRA. In this area, the use of machinery, vehicle movements, creation of access tracks,	The Proposed Development would be seen in views to the southeast of the VRA, and at its closest would be approximately 450 m from the VRA. Given the strong presence of mature woodland and forestry in the south of the VRA in the area surrounding the River South Esk, the Proposed Development would be largely screened from views. Where visible, the Proposed Development would be seen in glimpsed views between areas of vegetation, and the upper extents of the towers of the Proposed

VRA B17: Derachie, Downiepark and Shielhill

erection of steel lattice towers and lighting in hours of darkness would be visible to the south and would be partially backclothed by distant landform. However, from most of the VRA construction activity would be seen in middle-to-long distance views to the south and southeast, and due to the intervening distance and undulating landform, would be largely limited to the taller construction activity. Most ground level activity is expected to be screened from view.

From many residential properties and stretches of the minor road network in the southwest of the VRA, around the River South Esk, most views would be largely obscured by woodland and forestry that is found extensively in this area.

Increased construction related traffic may be perceived along the minor road network and within the landscape. In particular, increased traffic is expected along the minor road which runs between Shielhill Bridge and Miltonbank cottages as an existing track along which cuts through the woodland to the south would be upgraded as part of construction. However, the perception of increased construction traffic is likely to be experienced in localised areas.

The scale of change resulting from construction activity is judged to be **Medium** and would be focused across the area near Miltonbank.

The magnitude of change during construction is judged to be no more than **Medium**.

Significance of Effect during Construction

Taking account of the **High** sensitivity of residents in the VRA, and the **Medium** magnitude of change, the visual effect arising from construction is judged to be no more than **Moderate (Significant)** for any receptor in this VRA, and for many receptors would be less.

Development would be visible in the distance, extending above vegetation in the foreground of views.

From the more open areas in the northeastern extents of the VRA, the Proposed Development would be more visible in views. The Proposed Development would be seen to the south and southeast of the VRA and would be partially backclothed by distant landform. The upper extents of some of the Proposed Development towers would be visible breaking the skyline, particularly in closer views. From some of the more northern areas of the VRA, including from along the road between Memus and Denside crossroads, the undulating fields in the foreground of views would help screen visibility of the Proposed Development.

The scale of change resulting from the introduction of the Proposed Development is judged to be **Medium** and would be experienced across the southeastern extents of the VRA between Miltonbank, Mains of Coul and Moor Cottage.

The magnitude of change during operation is judged to be no more than **Medium**.

Significance of Effect during Operation

Taking account of the **High** sensitivity of residents in the VRA, and the **Medium** magnitude of change, the visual effect arising from operation is judged to be no more than **Moderate (Significant)** for any receptor in this VRA, and for many receptors would be less.

Table 9.2.39: VRA B18: Meikle Coull to Knowehead

VRA B18: Meikle Coull to Knowehead	
Description of Receptor	Representative Viewpoint
Residents and road users in the area between Meikle Coull to Knowehead to the north and northwest of the Proposed Development (refer to Volume 3, Figure 9.3b.2: Visual Receptor Area, Viewpoint Locations and other Visual Receptors with Overhead Line Tower Height Zone of Theoretical Visibility (ZTV)). The VRA is located immediately adjacent to the Proposed Development.	N/A
Nature of Views	
Landform is gently undulating across the VRA, consisting of medium scale pastoral agricultural fields and scattered properties with a variety of outlooks. Views south from the minor road running east towards Knowehead are partially screened by deciduous vegetation lining the road in the northeastern extent of the VRA. Views south across the rest of the VRA are expansive, with rising landform of the Hill of Finavon (229 m AOD) forming a backdrop to views. Views north are open, across pastoral fields, intermittent screening from shelterbelts,	

VRA B18: Meikle Coull to Knowehead

rising landform of gentle hills (Hill of Ogil (260 m AOD)) Deuchar Hill (298 m AOD)) from a backdrop to views, part of the Angus Glens LLA. A block of broadleaved woodland is located east of Knowehead, screening middle and longer distance views. Wooden pole lines cross fields.

Sensitivity

Residential receptors are considered to be of **High** susceptibility to changes in the view, and road users including cyclists are considered to be of **Low** susceptibility to changes in the view.

This VRA is not in a designated landscape, however the VRA takes in views of the hills within the Angus Glens LLA, approximately 1.1 km to the north. The VRA also takes in views of the River South Esk LLA, approximately 500 m to the south. As such, views are considered to be **Medium** in value.

Taking into account the judgements of susceptibility and value, sensitivity is judged to be **High** for residents and **Medium** for other receptors in the VRA.

Magnitude of Change during Construction

Construction activity would be visible very close in open views as construction would take place along the southern edge of the VRA. Residents at Baldoukie and Knowehead would experience close, open views of the erection of steel lattice towers and other associated construction, including the use of machinery, vehicle movements, creation of access tracks and night lighting in the hours of darkness at a distances of approximately 180-190 m at the closest. Road users travelling on the minor road network would also experience these views at a distance of approximately 130 m at its closest point, to the northeast of the VRA. From other parts of the VRA, construction works would be seen in the middle distance, occupying views to the south.

The scale of change resulting from construction activity is judged to be **Large** and would be focused within the eastern extents of the VRA around Baldoukie and Knowehead.

The magnitude of change during construction is judged to be up to **High**.

Significance of Effect during Construction

Taking account of the **High** sensitivity of residents in the VRA, and the **High** magnitude of change, the visual effect arising from construction is judged to be up to **Major (Significant)** for any receptor in this VRA, and for many receptors would be less.

Magnitude of Change during Operation

The Proposed Development would be seen both up close and middle distance views within this VRA. Residents in Baldoukie and Knowehead would experience close, open views of the steel lattice towers and OHL where it borders the southern edge of the VRA, where it would appear of large scale at approximately 190 m at its closest point. Road users of the minor road network would also experience these views at a distance of 130 m at its closest point, to the northeast of the VRA. From the northwest and north of the VRA, views of the Proposed Development and steel lattice towers would be seen in the middle distance, backclothed by rising landform.

The scale of change resulting from the introduction of the Proposed Development is judged to be **Large** and would be focused within the eastern extents of the VRA around Baldoukie and Knowehead.

The magnitude of change during construction is judged to be up to **High**.

Significance of Effect during Operation

Taking account of the **High** sensitivity of residents in the VRA, and the **High** magnitude of change, the visual effect arising from operation is judged to be up to **Major (Significant)** for any receptor in this VRA, and for many receptors would be less.

Table 9.2.40: VRA B19: Tannadice

VRA B19: Tannadice	
Description of Receptor	Representative Viewpoint
Residents of Tannadice and Nether Balgillo, recreational users of Core Path 40 (Broom Farm, Tannadice) and Core Path 41 (Tannadice to Balgillo), and road users in the area to the south of the Proposed Development (refer to Volume 3, Figure 9.3b.2: Visual Receptor Area, Viewpoint Locations and other Visual Receptors with Overhead Line Tower Height Zone of Theoretical Visibility (ZTV)). The VRA is located immediately adjacent to the Proposed Development.	VP13: Tannadice (refer to Volume 4 a, Figure 9.17a-i: VP13: Tannadice)
Nature of Views	
Views from this VRA are varied due the changes in elevation and local undulations in the local landform. From the settlement of Tannadice, views are contained by landform that ascends from the River South Esk, as well as pockets and belts of broadleaved woodland that surround the settlement and line the River South Esk to the west of the Tannadice, and buildings within the settlement itself. From the northern and eastern extents of the VRA, where the landform becomes more elevated, open views across the surrounding agricultural fields are afforded. From Core Path 40 views are particularly open and expansive, offering long distance views north towards the Braes of Angus and south towards the hills that form the southern side of Strathmore. In these views, a single wind turbine is visible in close-to-middle distance.	
Sensitivity	
Residential and recreational receptors are considered to be of High susceptibility to changes in the view, and road users including cyclists are considered to be of Low susceptibility to changes in the view. The southwestern corner of the VRA is located within the River South Esk LLA. Some views from this VRA also take in the Braes of Angus which form part of the Angus Glens LLA approximately 2 km to the northwest. As such, views are considered to be Medium in value. Taking into account the judgements of susceptibility and value, sensitivity is judged to be High for residents and recreational receptors and Medium for other receptors in the VRA.	
Magnitude of Change during Construction	Magnitude of Change during Operation
Construction activity would be seen in close-to-middle distance views from the northern extents of the VRA, including along Core Path 40. In these views, construction activity including use of machinery, vehicle movements, creation of access tracks, erection of steel lattice towers and lighting in hours of darkness would be visible to the north across the arable fields and would be partially backclothed by the Braes of Angus beyond. From remaining parts of the VRA, including the settlement of Tannadice, constructions works would be largely screened by rising landform and intervening broadleaved woodland. There would however be some glimpsed views of the erection of steel lattice towers above intervening landform from the western extent of the VRA around where views become more open along the minor road network. The scale of change resulting from construction activity is judged to be Large and focused within the northern extents of the VRA. The magnitude of change during construction is judged to be up to High .	The Proposed Development would be seen in both close, middle and long distance views from this VRA. Close distance views would be experienced by visual receptors in the northern extents of the VRA at approximately 100 m at its closest point. In these views and from Core Path 40, the steel lattice towers would appear as prominent large scale vertical features across agricultural fields. The Proposed Development would also been seen to break the skyline formed by the Braes of Angus beyond. Similar views would be experienced from the northern edge of Tannadice, as illustrated by VP13: Tannadice (refer to Volume 4 a, Figure 9.17a-i: VP13: Tannadice). From the eastern extents of the VRA, around Easter Balgillo and Nether Balgillo, steel lattice towers would be partially screened by intervening rising landform, with the upper extents of some towers remaining visible across the middle distant horizon. From the interior of Tannadice, the Proposed Development would be largely screened by rising landform and intervening broadleaved woodland. There would however be some glimpsed views of some steel lattice towers above intervening landform from the western extent of the VRA around where views become more open along the minor road network.

VRA B19: Tannadice	
	The scale of change resulting from the introduction of the Proposed Development is judged to be Large and focused within the northern extents of the VRA. The magnitude of change during construction is judged to be up to High.
Significance of Effect during Construction	Significance of Effect during Operation
Taking account of the High sensitivity of residents and recreational receptors in the VRA, and the High magnitude of change, the visual effect arising from construction is judged to be up to Major (Significant) for any receptor in this VRA, and for many receptors would be less.	Taking account of the High sensitivity of residents and recreational receptors in the VRA, and the High magnitude of change, the visual effect arising from operation is judged to be up to Major (Significant) for any receptor in this VRA, and for many receptors would be less.

Table 9.2.41: VRA B20: Tannadice to Hill of Finavon

VRA B20: Tannadice to Hill of Finavon	
Description of Receptor	Representative Viewpoint
Residents and road users of the clustered and scattered properties and farmsteads along the B957 and around Tannadice to Hill of Finavon, to the east of the Proposed Development; also, road users of the A90 between Finavon and Milton of Finavon (refer to Volume 3, Figure 9.3b.2: Visual Receptor Area, Viewpoint Locations and other Visual Receptors with Overhead Line Tower Height Zone of Theoretical Visibility (ZTV)). The VRA is located approximately 1.1 km from the Proposed Development at its closest point.	N/A
Nature of Views	
Views from this VRA are varied. Views west and northwest of the B957 are of an open landscape of flat arable fields with coniferous and broadleaved shelterbelts providing some screening of some views experienced by visual receptors. South of the B957, looking west and northwest towards the Proposed Development, shelterbelts, woodland blocks, riparian trees along the River South Esk, and lines of trees along boundaries partially screen some views experienced by visual receptors. The A90 and associated tree line screens longer distance views from Milton of Finavon. A number of wood pole lines are visible from properties and from the local road network in this VRA, as well as a small number of scattered wind turbines. Large sheds at Barnyards Farming Partnership are also visible in views experienced by people within this VRA.	
Sensitivity	
Residential receptors are considered to be of High susceptibility to changes in the view and road users are considered to be of Low susceptibility to changes in the view. This VRA is partially situated within the River South Esk LLA. The River South Esk passes through this VRA and is mostly screened by riparian trees lining the banks. Views are experienced by a people at dense concentrations of properties at Finavon and Milton of Finavon. As such views are considered to be Medium in value. Taking account of the judgements of susceptibility and value, sensitivity is judged to be High for residents and Medium for other visual receptors in the VRA.	
Magnitude of Change during Construction	Magnitude of Change during Operation

VRA B20: Tannadice to Hill of Finavon

Construction activity would be seen in middle distance views to the north and northwest from residents and road users in the western edge of this VRA. Views of construction from Finavon would be seen in the far distance and would be limited to taller construction activity, such as the erection of steel lattice towers. Ground level activity would be largely screened by intervening residential and farm buildings and vegetation.

Machinery, vehicle movements, access track construction, steel lattice tower erection, and lighting in hours of darkness would be visible in middle distance views to the north and northwest for properties in the centre part of the VRA and road users on the minor roads. Across the VRA taller construction activity, including half built towers would be seen to break the skyline.

In the southeastern extents of the VRA, the erection of steel lattice towers may be glimpsed in the far distance in views to the north and northeast; although, it is likely intervening vegetation would provide much screening.

Construction traffic on the minor road would be visible close to residential receptors along the B957. Shelterbelts and woodland blocks in the middle distance would partially screen views of construction traffic for other residential receptors.

The scale of change resulting from construction activity is judged to be **Medium** and would be largely experienced by west and northwest facing properties on the B957.

The magnitude of change during construction is judged to be no more than **Medium**.

Significance of Effect during Construction

Taking account of the **High** sensitivity of residents in the VRA, and the **Medium** magnitude of change, the visual effect arising from construction is judged to be no more than **Moderate (Significant)** for any receptor in this VRA, and for many receptors would be less.

The Proposed Development would be seen in middle distance views from residential properties and along the minor road network in the west of the VRA, at a distance of approximately 1.1 km at its closest point. Northwestern views of the Proposed Development from Finavon would be distant, at approximately 2.8 km, where it would be partially screened by shelterbelts and woodland blocks.

Due to the proposed size and scale of the steel lattice towers, the Proposed Development would form a prominent feature in medium ranging views from the western extents of the VRA. Shelterbelts and blocks of broadleaved and mixed woodland within the VRA would help to partially screen western and northwestern views for the rest of the VRA, however the upper sections of the towers would be visible in places.

In the southeastern extents of the VRA, the Proposed Development may be glimpsed in the far distance in views to the north and northeast; although, it is likely intervening vegetation would provide much screening.

The Proposed Development would be seen in the context of some vertical infrastructure, including wood pole lines and individual wind turbines. In comparison to the existing vertical infrastructure, the Proposed Development would be notably higher and larger scale than the existing elements and would result in a notable increase in the influence of vertical infrastructure in views from residents and road users in this VRA.

The scale of change resulting from the introduction of the Proposed Development is judged to be **High** and would be largely experienced across the residential areas in the west of the VRA and users of the B957.

The magnitude of change during operation is judged to be up to **High**.

Significance of Effect during Operation

Taking account of the **High** sensitivity of residents in the VRA, and the **High** magnitude of change, the visual effect arising from operation is judged to be up to **Major (Significant)** for any receptor in this VRA, and for many receptors would be less.

Table 9.2.42: VRA B21: Balgarrock, Netherton and Broomknowe

VRA B21: Balgarrock, Netherton and Broomknowe	
Description of Receptor	Representative Viewpoint
Residents in scattered groups of properties around the areas of Balgarrock, Netherton, and Broomknowe and users of the local road network including the B9134, south and east of the Proposed Development (refer to Volume 3, Figure 9.3b.2: Visual Receptor Area, Viewpoint Locations and other Visual Receptors with Overhead Line Tower Height Zone of Theoretical Visibility (ZTV)). The VRA is located approximately 4 km from the Proposed Development.	VP14: Angus Hill Layby, B9134 (refer to Volume 4 a, Figure 9.18a-f: VP14: Angus Hill Layby, B9134)
Nature of Views	
Views from within this VRA are generally focused to the northwest, overlooking Strathmore. Around Netherton, Balglassie, Balgarrock Damside and Broomknowe, views to the north, east and west overlook the River South Esk and its floodplain, across agricultural fields, separated by pockets and belts of broadleaved woodland. In the distance to the north and west, the Braes of Angus and Grampian foothills form a prominent backdrop. Some views from these settlements however are screened or filtered by small pockets of broadleaved woodland that surround them. Similar views are experienced from along the B9134 around Hillbarns, Balbinny and Woodrae; however, from this part of the VRA road users and residents experience elevated and expansive views across Strathmore, with limited intervening features that screen these views, as illustrated by VP14: Angus Hill Layby, B9134 (refer to Volume 4 a, Figure 9.18a-f: VP14: Angus Hill Layby, B9134). Views to the south from these parts of the VRA are generally contained by rising landform. An existing high voltage OHL is visible across the skyline on this elevated land to the south of the VRA, in both close ranging views including from around Hillbarns and Netherton, and in longer ranging views including from Balgarrock, Damside and Woodrae.	
Sensitivity	
Residential receptors are considered to be of High susceptibility to changes in the view and road users including cyclists are considered to be of Low susceptibility to changes in the view. The majority of this VRA is located within the River South Esk LLA. From the elevated southern parts of the VRA, views are also valued due their wide expansive nature across Strathmore, with the Braes of Angus and Grampian foothills visible forming prominent backdrops in views to the north, east and west. These elevated views are also experienced by a small number of people at properties in the elevated parts of the VRA. As such views are considered to be High in value. Taking account of the judgements of susceptibility and value, sensitivity is judged to be High for residents and Medium for other visual receptors in the VRA.	
Magnitude of Change during Construction	Magnitude of Change during Operation
Construction activity would be visible at distances of approximately 4 km and over to the north, northeast and northwest in views experienced by residents and road users in this VRA. From the lower lying parts of the VRA around Netherton, Balglassie, Balgarrock, and Broomknowe visible construction activity would be largely limited to distant views of the erection of the steel lattice towers, against a backdrop of the Braes of Angus. Ground level activity such as vehicle movements and creation of access tracks would be screened by multiple layers of intervening woodland and forestry located between the VRA and the Proposed Development. From the more elevated parts of the VRA including the stretch of the B9134 public road between Netherton and Hillbarns and around Balbinny and Woodrae, there would be	The Proposed Development would be visible at distances of approximately 4 km and over to the north, northeast and northwest from the closest point of the VRA. From the lower lying parts of the VRA around Netherton, Balglassie, Balgarrock and Broomknowe, the Proposed Development would be visible in glimpsed views between intervening woodland and forestry. Where visible, the Proposed Development would be perceived as a distant vertical feature across Strathmore, against a backdrop of the Braes of Angus. Similar views would be obtained from the more elevated parts of the VRA, along the stretch of B9134 between Netherton and Hillbarns and around Balbinny and Woodrae, as illustrated by Volume 4 a, Figure 9.18a-f: VP14: Angus Hill Layby, B9134. From these parts, the Proposed Development would be seen in more expansive views across Strathmore, occupying a wide horizontal extent from the northwest to the northeast. The Proposed

VRA B21: Balgarrock, Netherton and Broomknowe

distant views of the erection of the steel lattice towers as well as some distant glimpsed views of ground level activity and lighting in hours of darkness.

Given that construction activity would be visible at distances of approximately 4 km and over and as such would be seen as distant features, the scale of change is judged to be **Small** across the entire VRA.

The magnitude of change during construction is judged to be no more than **Low**.

Development however would be backclothed by the Braes of Angus and Grampian Foothills, and together with the distance from the VRA, would not be perceived as prominent features in these views.

From this VRA the Proposed Development would be seen at much greater distances than the existing high voltage OHL that passes through the southeastern part of the VRA, and would therefore form a less prominent feature in views by comparison.

The scale of change resulting from the introduction of the Proposed Development is judged to be **Small** across the entire VRA.

The magnitude of change during operation is judged to be no more than **Low**.

Significance of Effect during Construction

Taking account of the **High** sensitivity of residents in the VRA, and the **Low** magnitude of change, the visual effect arising from construction is judged to be no more than **Minor (Not Significant)**.

Significance of Effect during Operation

Taking account of the **High** sensitivity of residents in the VRA, and the **Low** magnitude of change, the visual effect arising from operation is judged to be no more than **Minor (Not Significant)**.

Table 9.2.43: VRA B22: Noranbank to Careston

VRA B22: Noranbank to Careston	
Description of Receptor	Representative Viewpoint
Residents in scattered groups of properties of and around Noranbank and Careston as well as users of the local road network, to the south and southeast of the Proposed Development (refer to Volume 3, Figure 9.3b.2: Visual Receptor Area, Viewpoint Locations and other Visual Receptors with Overhead Line Tower Height Zone of Theoretical Visibility (ZTV)). The VRA is located approximately 0.9 km from the Proposed Development.	N/A
Nature of Views	
Views from this VRA are generally broad and expansive, overlooking the surrounding undulating floor of Strathmore. In the northern part of the VRA around Careston, most views are open and long ranging, taking in the surrounding large scale agricultural fields backed by the Braes of Angus and Grampian foothills in the distance beyond. Blocks and belts of broadleaf woodland obscure some of these views. These views are experienced by residents at properties in and around Careston and users of the local road network. Further south within the VRA, around Mains of Careston and Careston Castle, similar views are experienced; however, roadside vegetation and linear pockets of broadleaf woodland are more frequent and play a more notable role in obscuring longer distance views. Woodland at Birch Wood, Mosspar Wood and Roughpark Wood also obscure views to the south towards the A90 and River South Esk. From the southwestern part of the VRA, around Waterston and Noranbank some views are also screened or filtered by intervening woodland along the Noran Water and views north are generally contained by rising landform that forms an elevated ridgeline near Hilton of Fern.	
Sensitivity	
Residential receptors are considered to be of High susceptibility to changes in the view and road users including cyclists are considered to be of Low susceptibility to changes in the view.	

VRA B22: Noranbank to Careston

The southern part of this VRA is located within the River South Esk LLA. Many parts of this VRA, particularly in the north, also offer wide expansive views across Strathmore with the Braes of Angus and Grampian foothills forming prominent backdrops in views to the north, east and west. These views are also experienced by a concentrated density of people around Careston, as well as in scattered properties across other parts of the VRA. As such views are considered to be **Medium** in value.

Taking account of the judgements of susceptibility and value, sensitivity is judged to be **High** for residents and **Medium** for other visual receptors in the VRA.

Magnitude of Change during Construction	Magnitude of Change during Operation
Construction activity would be visible at distances of approximately 0.9 km and over to the north, northeast and northwest in views experienced by residents and road users in this VRA. From the northern parts of the VRA around Careston and the minor road west of Careston, construction activity including erection of steel lattice towers, creation and upgrading of access tracks, vehicle movements and lighting in hours of darkness would be visible in middle distance views to the north. This activity however, particularly ground level activity, would often be filtered by intervening trees and woodland in the middle distance. Further south within the VRA, including around Mains of Careston and Careston Castle, views of construction activity would be more distant and obscured by more frequent pockets and belts of broadleaf woodland. Further southwest, around Waterston and Noranbank, views to the north are largely contained by the intervening ridgeline near Hilton of Fern, therefore views of construction activity would be limited. The scale of change resulting from construction activity is judged to be Medium and would be focused within the northern part of the VRA around Careston and the minor road to the west of Careston where views to the north are most open. The magnitude of change during construction is judged to be no more than Medium.	The Proposed Development would be visible at distances of approximately 0.9 km and over to the north, northeast and northwest from the closest point of the VRA. From the northern parts of the VRA around Careston and the minor road west of Careston, the Proposed Development would be seen in middle distance views to the north, as well as in more distant views to the northeast and northwest. In these views, the steel lattice towers would appear as large scale vertical features below a skyline formed by Braes of Angus and Grampian foothills beyond. In the northeast some towers would be seen breaking the skyline. Intervening woodland to the north of the VRA would reduce visibility as it would to filter the lower lying elements of the Proposed Development. Further south within the VRA, including around Mains of Careston and Careston Castle, views of the Proposed Development would be more heavily filtered by broadleaf woodland. In the southwest of the VRA, around Waterston and Noranbank, views of the Proposed Development would largely be screened by the intervening ridgeline near Hilton of Fern to the north. The scale of change resulting from the introduction of the Proposed Development is judged to be Large and would be focused within the northern part of the VRA around Careston and the minor road to the west of Careston. The magnitude of change during operation is judged to be up to High.
Significance of Effect during Construction	Significance of Effect during Operation
Taking account of the High sensitivity of residents in the VRA, and the Medium magnitude of change, the visual effect arising from construction is judged to be no more than Moderate (Significant) for any receptor in this VRA, and for many receptors would be less.	Taking account of the High sensitivity of residents in the VRA, and the High magnitude of change, the visual effect arising from operation is judged to be up to Major (Significant) for any receptor in this VRA, and for many receptors would be less.

Table 9.2.44: VRA B23: Hilton of Fern and Roughmount Wood

VRA B23: Hilton of Fern and Roughmount Wood	
Description of Receptor	Representative Viewpoint
Residents in scattered groups of properties and road users within the area around Hilton of Fern and to the south of Roughmount Wood, south of the Proposed Development (refer to Volume 3, Figure 9.3b.2: Visual Receptor Area, Viewpoint Locations and other Visual Receptors with Overhead Line Tower Height Zone of Theoretical Visibility (ZTV)). The VRA is located approximately 0.9 km from the Proposed Development.	N/A
Nature of Views	
Views from within this VRA are varied with views to the south generally open, overlooking Strathmore and the gently undulating agricultural fields that gradually descend to the Noran Water to the south. Views to the north towards the Proposed Development are generally obscured by woodland, including Roughmount Wood, Windsor Woods and Vayne Moor Wood. These northern views are largely experienced by road users travelling along the minor road that runs through the VRA and residents at properties located along this road including at Windsor, Windsor Terrace and Roughmount Cottage. From the eastern part of the VRA, there are some open long ranging views northeast and east that overlook agricultural fields in the foreground and middle distance, with glimpsed views of the White Caterthun to the northeast and longer ranging views towards the foothills of the Grampian Mountains in the distance to the east. Towards the western end of the VRA, around the properties at Vayne, some open views are afforded to the northwest and west, overlooking flat agricultural fields in the middle distance with the Braes of Angus forming a prominent backdrop beyond.	
Sensitivity	
Residential receptors are considered to be of High susceptibility to changes in the view and road users including cyclists are considered to be of Low susceptibility to changes in the view. This VRA is not located within a designated landscape, however the VRA takes in views of landscapes that are located within local landscape designations, including the River South Esk LLA within 0.5 km to the south and the Angus Glens LLA approximately 2 km to the north. Many parts of this VRA also offer wide panoramic views across Strathmore with the Braes of Angus and Grampian foothills forming prominent backdrops in views to the north, east and west. These views are experienced by a low density of people at scattered properties across the VRA. As such views are considered to be Medium in value. Taking account of the judgements of susceptibility and value, sensitivity is judged to be High for residents and Medium for other visual receptors in the VRA.	
Magnitude of Change during Construction	Magnitude of Change during Operation
Visibility of construction activity would be varied across the VRA. From the eastern extents of the VRA, including from Hilton Cottages, the elevated ridgeline around Hilton of Fern and along open stretches of the minor road, the erection of the steel lattice towers and lighting in hours of darkness would be visible in the middle distance to the north, northeast and northwest. This activity would be visible above the intervening woodland and forestry at Roughmount Wood, Windsor Woods and Weiris Wood. In these views, ground level construction activity would be largely screened by this forestry and woodland. From the western extents of the VRA around Vayne and the southern extents down towards the Noran Water, views of construction work would be available in the middle distance to the west and northwest. These views however would be glimpsed between intervening scattered trees within fields to the west and northwest of the VRA.	The Proposed Development would be seen in middle distance views from some residential properties and along the minor road in views to the north, northeast, northwest and west, at a distance of approximately 0.9 km at its closest point. From Hilton Cottages, the elevated ridgeline around Hilton of Fern and along open stretches of the minor road, the Proposed Development would be visible to the north and northeast across the floor of Strathmore. In these views, some towers would be backclothed by the Braes of Angus, however some towers would be seen extending above the skyline. The Proposed Development would be partially obscured by intervening woodland and scattered trees along the minor road and in the middle distance. Similar views would be experienced from around Vayne and around the Noran Water. Due to the proposed size and scale of the steel lattice towers, the Proposed Development would form a prominent feature where visible. Given the broad scale of the landscape in which this

VRA B23: Hilton of Fern and Roughmount Wood	
From properties along the minor road that are backed by Roughmount Wood, views of construction activity would be entirely screened by this woodland and forestry. The scale of change resulting from construction activity is judged to be Medium and would be focused within the eastern extents of the VRA around Hilton Cottages and the elevated ridgeline around Hilton of Fern, as well as within the western and southern extents of the VRA around Vayne and the Noran Water. The magnitude of change during construction is judged to be no more than Medium.	VRA sits however, the perceived scale of the Proposed Development would be slightly reduced. From properties along the minor road that are backed by Roughmount Wood, views of the Proposed Development would be entirely screened by this woodland and forestry. The scale of change resulting from the introduction of the Proposed Development is judged to be Medium and would be focused within the eastern extents of the VRA around Hilton Cottages and the elevated ridgeline around Hilton of Fern, as well as within the western and southern extents of the VRA around Vayne and the Noran Water. The magnitude of change during operation is judged to be no more than Medium.
Significance of Effect during Construction	Significance of Effect during Operation
Taking account of the High sensitivity of residents in the VRA, and the Medium magnitude of change, the visual effect arising from construction is judged to be no more than Moderate (Significant) for any receptor in this VRA, and for many receptors would be less.	Taking account of the High sensitivity of residents in the VRA, and the Medium magnitude of change, the visual effect arising from operation is judged to be no more than Moderate (Significant) for any receptor in this VRA, and for many receptors would be less.

Table 9.2.45: VRA B24: Wellford to Boggie Wood

VRA B24: Wellford to Boggie Wood	
Description of Receptor	Representative Viewpoint
Residents in scattered groups of properties and road users within the area between Wellford to Boggie Wood, south and southeast of the Proposed Development (refer to Volume 3, Figure 9.3b: Visual Receptor Area, Viewpoint Locations and other Visual Receptors with Overhead Line Tower Height Zone of Theoretical Visibility (ZTV)). The VRA is located immediately adjacent to the Proposed Development.	N/A
Nature of Views	
Views from within this VRA are generally open and overlook surrounding low-lying agricultural fields within Strathmore. Some views are punctuated or obscured by deciduous trees along field boundaries, and small pockets of broadleaved woodland and commercial forestry around Wellford in the southwestern part of the VRA, Redford Wood and Roughmount Wood in the centre and Boggie Wood in the northeastern end of the VRA. Such views are experienced by road users travelling along the minor road network as well as residents at scattered dwellings. Open longer ranging views to the north and northeast from the minor road network and properties at Wellford, Fern Lodge and Boggie offer views towards the Braes of Angus which form a prominent backdrop in these directions. Views in other directions are generally shorter ranging due to layers of vegetation and trees that typically foreshorten longer distance views.	
Sensitivity	
Residential receptors are considered to be of High susceptibility to changes in the view and road users including cyclists are considered to be of Low susceptibility to changes in the view.	

VRA B24: Wellford to Boggie Wood

This VRA is not located within a designated landscape, however the VRA takes in views of landscapes that are located within the Angus Glens LLA approximately 1 km to the north. These views include the Braes of Angus which form prominent backdrops in views to the north and northeast. These views are experienced by a low density of people at a small number of properties across the VRA. As such views are considered to be **Medium** in value.

Taking account of the judgements of susceptibility and value, sensitivity is judged to be **High** for residents and **Medium** for other visual receptors in the VRA.

Magnitude of Change during Construction	Magnitude of Change during Operation
Most of the construction activity would be visible to the west and north from sections of the road network and properties at Wellford, Fern Lodge and Boggie. From properties at Boggie and parts of the minor road network within the northern and northwestern edges of the VRA there would be very close views of construction activity (<500 m) including the creation and upgrading of access tracks and construction traffic around Boggie Farm. From these locations there would also be close views of the erection of steel lattice towers and lighting in hours of darkness. From other parts of the VRA views of construction activity would be visible in middle distance views across intervening fields with some of these views being obscured by intervening woodland and vegetation, particularly ground level construction activity. The scale of change resulting from construction activity is judged to be Large and would be focused within the area around Boggie and from sections of the road within the northern and northwestern edges of the VRA. The magnitude of change during construction is judged to be up to High.	The Proposed Development would be seen in close views (<500 m) from the residential property at Boggie Farm and sections of the minor road network within the northern and northwestern edges of the VRA. In these views, the steel lattice towers would form large scale prominent features in views to the north and northwest due to their proximity and height. The towers would also break the skyline formed by the Braes of Angus beyond. From other parts of the VRA, around Fern Lodge and Wellford, and the remaining sections of the road network, the Proposed Development would be seen in middle distance views to the north and west. Although intervening vegetation, woodland and forestry would filter the lower elements of the Proposed Development, the towers would be seen extending well above these intervening features within the landscape and appear as large scale prominent feature across a wide extent of the horizontal field of view. The towers would also be viewed against the Braes of Angus beyond, breaking the skyline formed by these prominent hills. The scale of change resulting from the introduction of the Proposed Development is judged to be Large, and would be experienced across most of the VRA, particularly within the northern parts of the VRA from local roads and around Boggie. The magnitude of change during operation is judged to be up to High.
Significance of Effect during Construction	Significance of Effect during Operation
Taking account of the High sensitivity of residents in the VRA, and the High magnitude of change, the visual effect arising from construction is judged to be up to Major (Significant) for any receptor in this VRA, and for many receptors would be less.	Taking account of the High sensitivity of residents in the VRA, and the High magnitude of change, the visual effect arising from operation is judged to be up to Major (Significant) for any receptor in this VRA, and for many receptors would be less.

Table 9.2.46: VRA B25: South Noranside

VRA B25: South Noranside	
Description of Receptor	Representative Viewpoint
Residents and road users within the southern part of Noranside, to the west and north of the Proposed Development (refer to Volume 3, Figure 9.3b.2: Visual Receptor Area, Viewpoint Locations and other Visual Receptors with Overhead Line Tower Height Zone of Theoretical Visibility (ZTV)). The VRA is located approximately 0.3 km from the Proposed Development.	N/A

VRA B25: South Noranside

Nature of Views

Views from within this VRA are generally contained by mixed woodland that surrounds the southern part of Noranside to the north, south, east and west. From the main group of properties within this area along Woodlands Avenue, views are enclosed by mixed woodland that tightly surround this group of properties, limiting outward views. Similar views are obtained from the section of minor road that connects to Woodlands Avenue. From the eastern edge of the settlement however, including from properties along Oliver Avenue and the section of minor road east of Noranside, more open views across the undulating farmland to the east and southeast are available. These views however are obscured by belts of intervening commercial forest and woodland in the middle distance to the east and northeast.

Sensitivity

Residential receptors are considered to be of **High** susceptibility to changes in the view and road users including cyclists are considered to be of **Low** susceptibility to changes in the view.

This VRA is not located within a designated landscape and views are generally contained by woodland. As such views are considered to be **Low** in value.

Taking account of the judgements of susceptibility and value, sensitivity is judged to be **High** for residents and **Low** for other visual receptors in the VRA.

Magnitude of Change during Construction

Construction activity would be visible at distances of approximately 0.1 km and over to the east, northeast and south in views from the eastern edge of this VRA. From the properties along Oliver Avenue and the section of minor road south of these properties, the construction of access and tracks would be visible in close views to the east where a new access track would connect to the minor road. Construction traffic, vehicle movement and lighting in hours of darkness would also be visible in these close views. In the middle distance across surrounding fields to the south and east, the erection of steel lattice towers would be visible. Some of these views however would be partially obscured by garden vegetation at the properties on Oliver Avenue, occasional vegetation and trees that line the minor road and a belt of commercial forest in the middle distance to the east, reducing the extent of visibility.

From the remaining parts of this VRA, including along Woodlands Avenue and the section of minor road to the north of this area, views of construction activity would be limited due to the degree of screening provided by surrounding mixed woodland.

The scale of change resulting from construction activity is judged to be **Medium** and would be focused within the eastern edge of the VRA around Oliver Avenue and the section of minor road south of these properties.

The magnitude of change during construction is judged to be no more than **Medium**.

Significance of Effect during Construction

Taking account of the **High** sensitivity of residents in the VRA, and the **Medium** magnitude of change, the visual effect arising from construction is judged to be no more than **Moderate (Significant)** for any receptor in this VRA, and for many receptors would be less.

Magnitude of Change during Operation

The Proposed Development would be visible at distances of approximately 0.3 km and over to the east, northeast and south from the closest point of the VRA. From the section of minor road within the eastern extent of the VRA, the Proposed Development would be seen in close views to the east as it crosses undulating fields to the south, east and northeast. In these views, the steel lattice towers would appear as large scale prominent features, particularly an angle tower which is the closest tower approximately 0.3 km to the east (tower S130), standing tall across the immediate horizon. From the properties along Oliver Avenue, towers would be seen in the middle distance, although still appearing as large scale features along the horizon. In these views, visibility of towers would be reduced by intervening garden vegetation and a belt of commercial forest in the middle distance to the east.

From the remaining parts of this VRA, including along Woodlands Avenue and the section of minor road to the north of this area, views of the Proposed Development would be limited due to the degree of screening provided by surrounding mixed woodland.

The scale of change resulting from the introduction of the Proposed Development is judged to be **Large** and would be focused within the eastern edge of the VRA around Oliver Avenue and the section of minor road south of these properties.

The magnitude of change during operation is judged to be up to **High**.

Significance of Effect during Operation

Taking account of the **High** sensitivity of residents in the VRA, and the **High** magnitude of change, the visual effect arising from operation is judged to be up to **Major (Significant)** for any receptor in this VRA, and for many receptors would be less.

Table 9.2.47: VRA B26: Auchnacree, Glenogil, Ogil and Fern

VRA B26: Auchnacree, Glenogil, Ogil and Fern	
Description of Receptor	Representative Viewpoint
Residents, road users and recreational users within the areas in and around Auchnacree, Glenogil, Ogil, and Fern, to the northwest of the Proposed Development (refer to Volume 3, Figure 9.3b.2: Visual Receptor Area, Viewpoint Locations and other Visual Receptors with Overhead Line Tower Height Zone of Theoretical Visibility (ZTV)). The VRA is located approximately 0.2 km from the Proposed Development.	N/A
Nature of Views	
Views from within the southeastern extents of this VRA are generally elevated and focused to the south overlooking Strathmore. From within the southwestern extents of the VRA views are generally more contained by Hill of Ogil and Deuchar Hill, which make up much of the central parts of the VRA, and the ridge of the Mounth that makes up the northwestern extents. Throughout much of the VRA most views are contained by surrounding mixed woodland. To the south and north of Drumcuthlaw, views become more elevated and open, offering expansive views to the south across Strathmore, and views to the north up into the Braes of Angus, experienced by residents, road users and recreational users at the Gardeners Cottage Campsite northeast of Noranside. Views from Fern are generally contained by pockets and belts of broadleaf woodland that surround the small settlement, as well as some intervening undulating landform on the edges of the settlement. In the central parts of the VRA, around Milton of Ogil and Easter Ogil views experienced by residents, road users and visitors to Redwings Mountains animal sanctuary are generally obscured by broadleaf woodland along the Noran Water and pockets surrounding properties. Some glimpsed views to the south however are available between gaps in the surrounding tree cover. Further west, around Soutra, views become more open with longer distance views south across Strathmore and views of Deuchar Hill and Conlawer Hill to the north. An existing high voltage OHL passes through this VRA to the north of Milton of Ogil and is visible in both close ranging views from Milton of Ogil and Soutra, as well as longer ranging views from around Easter Ogil and from the more elevated landform north of Drumcuthlaw.	
Sensitivity	
Residential receptors and recreational receptors are considered to be of High susceptibility to changes in the view and road users including cyclists are considered to be of Low susceptibility to changes in the view. The majority of this VRA is located within the Angus Glens LLA. From the more elevated open parts of the VRA views are also valued due their wide expansive nature across Strathmore. However, many views from other parts of the VRA including around Noranside, Fern, Milton of Ogil and Easter Ogil are generally obscured by surrounding woodland and forestry. As such views are considered to be Medium in value. Taking account of the judgements of susceptibility and value, sensitivity is judged to be High for residents and Medium for other visual receptors in the VRA.	
Magnitude of Change during Construction	Magnitude of Change during Operation
Construction activity would be visible at distances of approximately 0.2 km and over to the south, southeast and east from this VRA. From the properties between Brandy Den and Fern, in the southeastern part of the VRA, the construction of access tracks, construction traffic, vehicle movement, lighting in hours of darkness and erection of steel lattice towers would be visible in open views to the south and southeast beyond a foreground of descending agricultural fields. In these views, the construction activity would be notable and prominent and would occupy a wide horizontal extent. In other parts of the VRA, including north of Fern and north and south of Drumcuthlaw, similar views of construction activity would be obtained however more elevated and distant with some views partially obscured by intervening woodland and forestry on lower slopes. From the more settled	The Proposed Development would be visible at distances of approximately 0.2 km and over to the south, southeast and east from the closest point of the VRA. From the area between Brandy Den and Fern, in the southeastern part of the VRA, the Proposed Development would occupy a wide horizontal extent of the view to the south and southeast. In these views the steel lattice towers would be visible in close to middle distance views appearing as large scale features breaking the skyline beyond. From more elevated landform north of Fern and north and south of Drumcuthlaw, the Proposed Development would be seen in wider southern views across Strathmore however at a greater distance. In these views, many of the towers would also be backclothed by the distant hills that form the backdrop to the south, therefore reducing the prominence of the Proposed Development. In the western

VRA B26: Auchnacree, Glenogil, Ogil and Fern	
areas at Noranside, Fern, Milton of Ogil and Easter Ogil views of construction activity would be limited to glimpsed views through intervening woodland around these areas. From the northwestern extents of the VRA, construction activity would be screened by intervening woodland. The scale of change resulting from construction activity is judged to be Large and would be focused within southeastern extent of the VRA between Brandy Den and Fern. The magnitude of change during construction is judged to be no more than Medium.	extent of the VRA around Soutra, the Proposed Development would be partially visible as the tops of towers would extend above intervening undulating landform in foreground. In these views, the Proposed Development would be seen at a greater distance behind the existing high voltage OHL that is visible in foreground views from this area. From other parts of the VRA including Noranside, Fern, Milton of Ogil and Easter Ogil views of the Proposed Development would be glimpsed through intervening woodland around these areas. From the northwestern extents of the VRA, the Proposed Development would be screened by intervening woodland. The scale of change resulting from the introduction of the Proposed Development is judged to be Large and would be focused within the southeastern extent of the VRA between Brandy Den and Fern. The magnitude of change during operation is judged to be up to High.
Significance of Effect during Construction	Significance of Effect during Operation
Taking account of the High sensitivity of residents in the VRA, and the Medium magnitude of change, the visual effect arising from construction is judged to be no more than Moderate (Significant) for any receptor in this VRA, and for many receptors would be less.	Taking account of the High sensitivity of residents in the VRA, and the High magnitude of change, the visual effect arising from operation is judged to be up to Major (Significant) for any receptor in this VRA, and for many receptors would be less.

Table 9.2.48: VRA B27: Trusta, Afflonchie, Shandford and Menmuir

VRA B27: Trusta, Afflonchie, Shandford and Menmuir	
Description of Receptor	Representative Viewpoint
Residents and road users on the lower slopes of Hill of Menmuir and Shandford Hill, around Mains of Balhall, Kirkton of Menmuir and Shandford, to the north of the Proposed Development (refer to Volume 3, Figure 9.3b.2: Visual Receptor Area, Viewpoint Locations and other Visual Receptors with Overhead Line Tower Height Zone of Theoretical Visibility (ZTV)). The VRA is located approximately 0.4 km from the Proposed Development.	VP16: Balhall Crescent (see Volume 4 a, Figure 9.20a-h: VP16: Balhall Crescent)
Nature of Views	
Views from within this VRA are generally elevated and focused to the south overlooking Strathmore. Although, in the northwestern extents views are more contained by Shandford Hill, Tullo Hill, and Hill of Menmuir. From the minor road that runs east to west through this VRA, as well as some of the small settlements along this road including Tigerton, Mains of Balhall and Shandford, road users and residents experience open wide and expansive views to the south across Strathmore, overlooking a foreground of agricultural fields that descend towards the broad floor of the strath in the middle and longer distance. In these views, scattered trees, belts and pockets of broadleaf woodland, and small blocks of commercial forest can be seen scattered across the strath, with hills on the southern side of the strath forming the distant backdrop. To the east and west, long distance views up and down the strath are also available. From Kirkton of Menmuir, views to the south, east and west are generally obscured by broadleaf woodland that surround properties in this area. Views to the north from the southeastern extents of the VRA are contained by Shandford Hill, Tullo Hill, and Hill of Menmuir. Likewise, in the northwestern extents views to the southeast are contained to close-to-middle distance these hills.	

VRA B27: Trusta, Afflonchie, Shandford and Menmuir	
An existing high voltage OHL runs through the northern extents of the VRA. Given the distance of this OHL however, it does not form a notable feature in southerly views from this VRA.	
Sensitivity	
Residential receptors are considered to be of High susceptibility to changes in the view and road users including cyclists are considered to be of Low susceptibility to changes in the view.	
The northern part of this VRA is located within the Angus Glens LLA. Given the elevated nature of this VRA, open views are also valued due their wide expansive nature across Strathmore. These views are experienced by a small number of people within the properties scattered across the VRA. As such views are considered to be Medium in value.	
Taking account of the judgements of susceptibility and value, sensitivity is judged to be High for residents and Medium for other visual receptors in the VRA.	
Magnitude of Change during Construction	Magnitude of Change during Operation
Construction activity would be visible at distances of approximately 0.4 km and over to the south, southeast and southwest from this VRA. From the minor road and small settlements along this road including Tigerton, Mains of Balhall and Shandford, road users and residents would experience middle distance views of the erection of steel lattice towers across the expansive views across the floor of Strathmore to the south. Similar views would be experienced in both direct and oblique views up and down the strath to the southeast and southwest, however at greater distances. In some views, ground level activity including construction of access tracks, vehicle movement and lighting in hours of darkness would also be visible where this takes place across open unobscured fields. However, along some sections of the Proposed Development, ground level activity would be screened by intervening woodland in the middle distance. Although construction activity would be visible, it would not form a prominent feature within these wide expansive views given the distance and partial screening.	The Proposed Development would be visible at distances of approximately 0.4 km and over to the south, southeast and southwest from the closest point of the VRA. From the minor road and small settlements along this road including Tigerton, Mains of Balhall and Shandford, road users and residents would experience middle distance views of steel lattice towers across the expansive views across the floor of Strathmore to the south. Most of the towers visible directly south would sit below the skyline formed by distant hills to the south, therefore reducing their prominence, as illustrated by VP16 (Volume 4 a, Figure 9.20a-h: VP16: Balhall Crescent). Some of these towers would also be partially obscured by intervening woodland, which would screen lower parts of the towers. In both direct and oblique views to the southeast and southwest, towers would be seen breaking the skyline, particularly in views to the southeast. However, these towers would be seen at much greater distances, becoming less perceptible as the Proposed Development extends into the distance, also illustrated by VP16 (Volume 4 a, Figure 9.20a-h: VP16: Balhall Crescent).
From Kirkton of Menmuir, Afflonchie, and Trusta, construction activity would either be fully or partially screened by intervening hills and broadleaf woodland.	From Kirkton of Menmuir, Afflonchie, and Trusta, the Proposed Development would either be fully or partially screened by intervening hills and broadleaf woodland.
The scale of change resulting from construction activity is judged to be Small across the entire VRA.	The scale of change resulting from the introduction of the Proposed Development is judged to be Small across the entire VRA.
The magnitude of change during construction is judged to be no more than Low .	The magnitude of change during operation is judged to be no more than Low .
Significance of Effect during Construction	Significance of Effect during Operation
Taking account of the High sensitivity of residents in the VRA, and the Low magnitude of change, the visual effect arising from construction is judged to be no more than Minor (Not Significant) .	Taking account of the High sensitivity of residents in the VRA, and the Low magnitude of change, the visual effect arising from operation is judged to be no more than Minor (Not Significant) .

Table 9.2.49: VRA B28: Balmadity to Blackhall

VRA B28: Balmadity to Blackhall	
Description of Receptor	Representative Viewpoint

VRA B28: Balmadity to Blackhall	
Residents and road users in the area between Balmadity to Blackhall, north of Weiris Wood, Duns Wood and Lochty Wood to the north of the Proposed Development (refer to Volume 3, Figure 9.3b.2: Visual Receptor Area, Viewpoint Locations and other Visual Receptors with Overhead Line Tower Height Zone of Theoretical Visibility (ZTV)). The VRA is located immediately adjacent to the Proposed Development.	N/A
Nature of Views	
Views from within this VRA are generally open and overlook surrounding low-lying agricultural fields within Strathmore. Some views however are obscured by deciduous trees along field boundaries and the minor road network, as well as small pockets of broadleaved woodland at Coe Wood in the centre of the VRA and at Duns Wood and Lochty Wood on the southern edge of the VRA. From most properties within the VRA and the local road network, views to the north are contained by the Hills of Menmuir and surrounding hills within the Braes of Angus, forming a prominent backdrop in middle-to-longer distance views. Views to the south are generally contained by a subtle ridge of undulating landform and together with woodland at Duns Wood and Lochty Wood, limit long distance views to the south.	
Sensitivity	
Residential receptors are considered to be of High susceptibility to changes in the view and road users including cyclists are considered to be of Low susceptibility to changes in the view. This VRA is not located within a designated landscape, however the VRA takes in views of landscapes that are located within the Angus Glens LLA approximately 0.8 km to the north. These views are also experienced by people across several dense groups of properties across the VRA. As such views are considered to be Medium in value. Taking account of the judgements of susceptibility and value, sensitivity is judged to be High for residents and Medium for other visual receptors in the VRA.	
Magnitude of Change during Construction	Magnitude of Change during Operation
From the section of minor road that runs north of Duns Wood and Lochty Wood, and properties along this road, construction activity would be visible in very close views due to the construction traffic that would pass along this road and the construction of new access tracks that join this minor road. Close views of the erection of steel lattice towers would also be seen where the Proposed Development crosses the minor road northwest of Duns Wood as well as a second minor road east of Lochty Wood. From other parts of the VRA, construction works would be seen in middle distance views to the south, however with some of these views likely to be fully or partially screened by intervening broadleaved woodland and scattered trees. Similar views would be experienced in both direct and oblique views up and down the strath to the east and south, however at greater distances. The scale of change resulting from construction activity is judged to be Large and would be focused within the southern parts of the VRA north and northwest of Duns Wood and east of Lochty Wood. The magnitude of change during construction is judged to be up to High .	The Proposed Development would be seen in both very close and middle distance views within this VRA. Where the Proposed Development crosses a minor road northwest of Duns Wood and a second minor road east of Lochty Wood, it would be seen as a very close, prominent and large scale feature as road users pass under the Proposed Development. From properties at Balmadity, Dunswood and Kirkside of Lochty, the Proposed Development would also be seen in very close views to the south, at distances of < 200 m, appearing as tall prominent features in these views. From other parts of the VRA further north, the Proposed Development would also form a notable feature in views to the south however at slightly greater distances and in some cases would be partially or fully screened by intervening broadleaved woodland and scattered trees. Similar views would be experienced in both direct and oblique views up and down the strath to the east and south where steel lattice towers would be seen breaking the distant skyline. The scale of change resulting from the introduction of the Proposed Development is judged to be Large and would be focused within the southern parts of the VRA north and northwest of Duns Wood and east of Lochty Wood. The magnitude of change during construction is judged to be up to High .
Significance of Effect during Construction	Significance of Effect during Operation

VRA B28: Balmadity to Blackhall

Taking account of the **High** sensitivity of residents in the VRA, and the **High** magnitude of change, the visual effect arising from construction is judged to be up to **Major (Significant)** for any receptor in this VRA, and for many receptors would be less.

Taking account of the **High** sensitivity of residents in the VRA, and the **High** magnitude of change, the visual effect arising from operation is judged to be up to **Major (Significant)** for any receptor in this VRA, and for many receptors would be less.

Table 9.2.50: VRA B29: Montboy to Mill of Cruick

VRA B29: Montboy to Mill of Cruick

Description of Receptor	Representative Viewpoint
Residents and road users in the area between Montboy to Mill of Cruick to the south of the Proposed Development (refer to Volume 3, Figure 9.3b.2: Visual Receptor Area, Viewpoint Locations and other Visual Receptors with Overhead Line Tower Height Zone of Theoretical Visibility (ZTV)). The VRA is located immediately adjacent to the Proposed Development.	N/A
Nature of Views	
Views from within this VRA are generally open, broad and expansive and across the floor of Strathmore. Most views are unobstructed and take in the surrounding agricultural fields, with a general lack of woodland or trees across this VRA to screen or filter views. In a few short sections of minor road, broadleaved trees that line sections of road filter or screen views. Views to the north are backclothed by the Braes of Angus, which form a prominent skyline in this direction. To the south, hills that form the southern side of Strathmore are visible in the distance.	
Sensitivity	
Residential receptors are considered to be of High susceptibility to changes in the view and road users including cyclists are considered to be of Low susceptibility to changes in the view. This VRA is not located within a designated landscape, however the VRA takes in views of the hills to the north within the Angus Glens LLA, approximately 2 km to the north. These views are also experienced by people across several dense groups of properties across the VRA. As such views are considered to be Medium in value. Taking account of the judgements of susceptibility and value, sensitivity is judged to be High for residents and Medium for other visual receptors in the VRA.	
Magnitude of Change during Construction	Magnitude of Change during Operation
Construction activity would be visible in very close and open views as construction would take place along the northern edge of the VRA. Minor roads south of Lochty, north of Findowrie and at Mill of Cruick pass through the working corridor of the Proposed Development and as such road users would experience close, open views of the erection of steel lattice towers and other associated construction works. Residents at Lochty Council Houses (east of Lochty Wood) would experience open close views of construction works at distances of approximately 140 m in views to the north. From Mill of Cruick at the eastern end of the VRA, residents would also experience open close views of construction works at distances of approximately 185 m. From other parts of the VRA, construction works would be seen at greater distances occupying wide open views to the north.	The Proposed Development would be seen in both very close and middle distance views within this VRA. Where the Proposed Development crosses minor roads south of Lochty, north of Findowrie and at Mill of Cruick it would be seen as a very close, prominent and large scale feature as road users pass under the Proposed Development. From properties at Lochty Council Houses, the Proposed Development would also be seen in very close views to the north, at distances of approximately 190 m, appearing as prominent features that extend high above the skyline formed by the Braes of Angus beyond. Similar views would be experienced from the northeastern extents of the VRA around Mill of Cruick at distances of approximately 280 m. From other parts of the VRA further south, the Proposed Development would also form a prominent feature and would break the skyline in views to

VRA B29: Montboy to Mill of Cruick	
The scale of change resulting from construction activity is judged to be Large and would be focused within the northern parts of the VRA, particularly around Lochty and Mill of Cruick. The magnitude of change during construction is judged to be up to High.	the north, albeit at greater distances. Similar views would be experienced in both direct and oblique views up and down the strath to the northeast and southwest where steel lattice towers would be seen breaking the distant skyline in these directions. The scale of change resulting from the introduction of the Proposed Development is judged to be Large and would be focused within the northern parts of the VRA, particularly around Lochty and Mill of Cruick. The magnitude of change during construction is judged to be up to High.
Significance of Effect during Construction	Significance of Effect during Operation
Taking account of the High sensitivity of residents in the VRA, and the High magnitude of change, the visual effect arising from construction is judged to be up to Major (Significant) for any receptor in this VRA, and for many receptors would be less.	Taking account of the High sensitivity of residents in the VRA, and the High magnitude of change, the visual effect arising from operation is judged to be up to Major (Significant) for any receptor in this VRA, and for many receptors would be less.

SECTION C

Table 9.2.51: VRA C1: Cotton of Balnamoon & Balzeordie

VRA C1: Cotton of Balnamoon & Balzeordie	
Description of Receptor	Representative Viewpoint
Residents and road users in the area between Cotton of Balnamoon & Balzeordie to the northwest of the Proposed Development (refer to Volume 3, Figure 9.3b.3: Visual Receptor Area, Viewpoint Locations and other Visual Receptors with Overhead Line Tower Height Zone of Theoretical Visibility (ZTV)). The VRA is located approximately 0.9 km from the Proposed Development at its closest point.	N/A
Nature of Views	
Views from within this VRA are generally contained and enclosed by woodland, including large coniferous and mixed woodland such as Birch Wood, as well as shelter belts along roads and field margins that surrounds the southeastern edge of the VRA. In places, tree belts obscure all views experienced by residents and road users. Views open up in selected locations, where the absence of woodland offers distant views across the rolling, wooded landscape to the west and northwest of the VRA around Balzeordie and near Cotton of Balnamoon towards the southwest of the VRA. Large-scale agricultural buildings and industrial estates in the east of the VRA are mostly screened by vegetation, except from some elevated views in the north of the VRA between woodland blocks.	
Sensitivity	
Residential receptors are considered to be of High susceptibility to changes in the view and road users including cyclists are considered to be of Low susceptibility to changes in the view. This VRA is not located within a designated landscape, nor takes in any particularly distinctive viewpoints. Views however take in the adjacent Braes of Angus to the north, which form part of the Angus Glens LLA and a prominent backdrop to the VRA. As such views are considered to be Medium in value. Taking account of the judgements of susceptibility and value, sensitivity is judged to be High for residents and Medium for other visual receptors	
Magnitude of Change during Construction	Magnitude of Change during Operation
Construction activity would likely be screened from views throughout most of the VRA due to intervening blocks of coniferous and mixed woodland in the south and east between residents and road users at Balnamoon and the Proposed Development. In more open views from the northeast of the VRA, the intervening topography and a distance of over 1.1 km would obscure views associated with the Proposed Development. The scale of change resulting from construction activity is judged to be Small across the entire VRA. The magnitude of change during construction is judged to be no more than Low .	The Proposed Development would be viewed above the forest treelines in far distance views from residential properties and along the minor road network in the elevated north of the VRA in views to the south and southeast, at a distance of around 1.1 km. In other parts of the VRA, the intervening dense mixed and coniferous woodland blocks and topography would obscure views of the Proposed Development. Due to the distance between residents and road users along the minor road network in the VRA, the Proposed Development would not form a prominent feature in views from this VRA. In many views the Proposed Development would be completely obscured or seen in distant views along the skyline. The scale of change resulting from the Proposed Development is judged to be Small across the entire VRA. The magnitude of change during operation is judged to be no more than Low .

VRA C1: Cotton of Balamoon & Balzeordie	
Significance of Effect during Construction	Significance of Effect during Operation
Taking account of the High sensitivity of residents in the VRA, and the Low magnitude of change, the visual effect arising from construction is judged to be no more than Minor (Not Significant) .	Taking account of the High sensitivity of residents in the VRA, and the Low magnitude of change, the visual effect arising from operation is judged to be no more than Minor (Not Significant) .

Table 9.2.52: VRA C2: Belliehill to Balrownie

VRA C2: Belliehill to Balrownie	
Description of Receptor	Representative Viewpoint
Residents in scattered groups of properties between Belliehill and Balrownie and users of the local road network, north and west of the Proposed Development (refer to Volume 3, Figure 9.3b.3: Visual Receptor Area, Viewpoint Locations and other Visual Receptors with Overhead Line Tower Height Zone of Theoretical Visibility (ZTV)). The VRA is located immediately adjacent to the Proposed Development.	N/A
Nature of Views	
Views from within this VRA are varied. Views to the east and southeast are generally open, overlooking Balrownie and gently undulating agricultural fields. Views to the south and west are generally restricted by woodland and woodland belts, including Belliehill Wood, Keepers Woods and Little Brechin Wood. Views north, largely experienced by road users, are of open arable fields with the rising hills of Braes of Angus on the horizon. A few field trees and shelterbelts provide some filtering of views. Wood poles are visible within the views, but no other tall infrastructure is visible.	
Sensitivity	
Residential receptors are considered to be of High susceptibility to changes in the view and road users including cyclists are considered to be of Low susceptibility to changes in the view. This VRA is not located within a designated landscape and views are generally contained by woodland. Views however take in the adjacent Braes of Angus to the north, which form part of the Angus Glens LLA and are a prominent backdrop to the VRA. As such views are considered to be Medium in value. Taking account of the judgements of susceptibility and value, sensitivity is judged to be High for residential receptors and Medium for others.	
Magnitude of Change during Construction	Magnitude of Change during Operation
Construction activity would be visible in close distance views to the south, southwest and southeast from the south of this VRA. From the properties at Gungeon Cottage, main group of properties at Balrownie and the section of minor road within the VRA, the construction of access and tracks would be visible in closer views to the south where a new access track would connect to the minor road. Construction traffic, vehicle movement and lighting in hours of darkness would also be visible. In the near distance across surrounding fields to the south, the erection of steel lattice towers would be visible. Some of these views however would be partially obscured by garden vegetation and woodland belts.	The Proposed Development would be visible at distances of approximately 0.15 km and over to the south, southwest and southeast in views experienced by residents and road users in the southern edge of this VRA. From the section of minor road within the southern extent of the VRA, the Proposed Development would be seen in closer views to the south as it crosses gently sloping fields to the south. In these views, the steel lattice towers would appear as large-scale prominent features, particularly an angle tower which is the closest tower approximately 0.3 km to the south, standing tall across the immediate horizon. From the properties at Gungeon Cottage and Nether Bellahill, towers would be seen in the near

VRA C2: Belliehill to Balrownie	
In the north of the VRA, views of construction activity would be reduced due to the partial screening provided by surrounding mixed woodlands at Keepers, Burnside and Belliehill Woods. The scale of change resulting from construction activity is judged to be Medium and would be focused in the south and east of the VRA. The magnitude of change during construction is judged to be up to High.	distance, although still appearing as large scale features along the horizon. In these views, visibility of towers would be reduced by intervening garden vegetation. From the remaining parts, including north of the VRA and the section of minor road running east of this area, views of the Proposed Development would be limited due to the degree of screening provided by surrounding mixed woodland at Keepers, Burnside and Belliehill Woods. The scale of change resulting from the introduction of the Proposed Development is judged to be Large and would be focused within the southern edge of the VRA around Gungeon Cottage, Nether Bellahill and the section of minor road of these properties. The magnitude of change during operation is judged to be up to High.
Significance of Effect during Construction	Significance of Effect during Operation
Taking account of the High sensitivity of residents in the VRA, and the High magnitude of change, the visual effect arising from construction is judged to be up to Major (Significant) for any receptor in this VRA, and for many receptors would be less.	Taking account of the High sensitivity of residents in the VRA, and the High magnitude of change, the visual effect arising from operation is judged to be no more than Major (Significant) for any receptor in this VRA, and for many receptors would be less.

Table 9.2.53: VRA C3: Maisondieu, Barewell, and Kintrockat

VRA C3: Maisondieu, Barewell, and Kintrockat	
Description of Receptor	Representative Viewpoint
Residents in scattered properties and users of the local roads, south of the Proposed Development (refer to Volume 3, Figure 9.3b.3: Visual Receptor Area, Viewpoint Locations and other Visual Receptors with Overhead Line Tower Height Zone of Theoretical Visibility (ZTV)). The VRA is located approximately 1.6 km from the Proposed Development.	VP15: Minor Road, east of Careston (refer to Volume 4 a, Figure 9.19a-i: VP15 Minor Road, east of Careston)
Nature of Views	
Views from within the northern extents of the VRA take in flat arable and pasture fields, with linear vegetation belts in the midground providing some vertical features. The landform of the northern extents is more elevated than the rest of the VRA and gently descends southwards. This elevated ridge contains northwest-facing views to middle distances to all receptors southeast of the ridge. From atop the ridge, the dramatic landform of the Braes of Angus provides a strong horizon to the north. In the southern half of the VRA, views are often contained to close distances by the strong woodland structure associated with the River South Esk. The A90 and the A935 pass east-west through the centre of the VRA. The minor road running east-west through the northern extents of the VRA is lined by mature trees to the south, filtering some views for users. Some long-distance views to the south and southwest are towards the rising valley sides of the River South Esk. An existing OHL crosses the centre of the VRA, with the towers clearly visible above the treeline.	
Sensitivity	
Residential receptors are considered to be of High susceptibility to changes in the view and local road users including cyclists are considered to be of Low susceptibility to changes in the view.	

VRA C3: Maisondieu, Barewell, and Kintrockat

Much of the southern half of the VRA is located within the River South Esk LLA. In the northern extents of the VRA there are views to the north towards the Angus Glens LLA. Views are considered to be **Medium** in value.

Taking account of the judgements of susceptibility and value, sensitivity is judged to be **High** for residents and **Medium** for other visual receptors in the VRA.

Magnitude of Change during Construction	Magnitude of Change during Operation
In the northern extents of the VRA, construction activity would be partially seen in middle distance views to the northeast, north and northwest by residents and recreational users. Ground level activity such as vehicle movements and creation of access tracks would be screened by multiple layers of intervening small woodland blocks and belts located between the VRA and the Proposed Development. Use of machinery, erection of steel lattice towers and lighting in hours of darkness would be intermittently visible from the northern edge of the VRA. From the residential properties in the northern extents of the VRA, visible construction activity would be largely limited to distant views of the erection of the steel lattice towers. From the rest of the VRA, the elevated ridge within the northern extents of the VRA would screen construction activity from receptors. The scale of change resulting from construction activity is judged to be Small and would be focused across the northern edge part of the VRA. The magnitude of change during construction is judged to be no more than Medium.	In the northern extents of the VRA, the Proposed Development would be partially seen in close to middle distance views at a 1.6 km distance to the north, northeast and northwest from residents and recreational users. For residents in the northern extents, the Proposed Development would be visible in glimpsed views between and above intervening small woodland blocks and belts; where visible, the Proposed Development would be backclothed by the Angus Glens. Similar views would be obtained from the parts of the minor road running east to west in the northern extents of the VRA, as illustrated by VP15 (Volume 4 a, Figure 9.19a-i: VP15 Minor Road, east of Careston). From the rest of the VRA, the elevated ridge within the northern extents of the VRA would the Proposed Development from receptors. From the northern extents of the VRA, the Proposed Development would be seen at much greater distances than the existing high voltage OHL that passes through the centre of the VRA and would therefore form a less prominent feature in views by comparison. The scale of change resulting from the introduction of the Proposed Development is judged to be Small across the entire VRA. The magnitude of change during operation is judged to be no more than Medium.
Significance of Effect during Construction	Significance of Effect during Operation
Taking account of the High sensitivity of residents in the VRA, and the Medium magnitude of change, the visual effect arising from construction is judged to be no more than Moderate (Significant) for any receptor in this VRA, and for many receptors would be less.	Taking account of the High sensitivity of residents in the VRA, and the Medium magnitude of change, the visual effect arising from operation is judged to be no more than Moderate (Significant) for any receptor in this VRA, and for many receptors would be less.

Table 9.2.54: VRA C4: West Brechin

VRA C4: West Brechin	
Description of Receptor	Representative Viewpoint
Residential receptors in the northwest of Brechin, users of the local road network, visitors and employees at the Brechin Business Park, and people travelling on the A90, south of the Proposed Development (refer to Volume 3, Figure 9.3b.3: Visual Receptor Area, Viewpoint Locations and other Visual Receptors with Overhead Line Tower Height Zone of Theoretical Visibility (ZTV)). The VRA is located approximately 2.5 km from the Proposed Development at its closest point.	N/A

VRA C4: West Brechin

Nature of Views

Properties in northwest Brechin are one or two storeys, with a variety of outlooks and degrees of screening due to garden and street vegetation. Open arable fields form close distance views, with small woodland blocks visible in middle distance views. Views west and northwest towards the Proposed Development are generally restricted by the rising landform. Woodland belts and blocks at Brechin Castle form distinctive features and restrict any longer-distance views west and southwest. Wood pole lines are visible in close distance views, with some longer-distance views to OHLs to the further west. These are not prominent in views.

The A90 is a significant transport route within the VRA. Views to and from this road are limited due to it being in cutting in the west of the VRA, and strong roadside trees and vegetation lining much of the route. Views southwest and northeast are channelled along the road, with the hills of Aberlemno forming a distant horizon to the southwest. Gaps in vegetation in the east of the VRA allow views north and northwest, with the Braes of Angus on the horizon.

Sensitivity

Residential receptors are considered to be of **High** susceptibility to changes in the view. Visitors and employees at Brechin Business Park and users of the local road network, including cyclists, are considered to be of **Low** susceptibility.

There are no designated landscapes or promoted viewpoints within the VRA. Brechin is a large dense settlement with many views focused within the interior of the settlement. Longer ranging views are afforded from the edge of the settlement across the surrounding countryside. There are no documented or protected views within the settlement, however views to the south are towards the River South Esk LLA, and occasional views north are towards the Angus Glens LLA. As such views are considered to be **Medium** in value.

Taking account of the judgements of susceptibility and value, sensitivity is judged to be **High** for residents and **Medium** for other visual receptors in the VRA.

Magnitude of Change during Construction

Construction activity would be visible in middle-to-long distance views (approximately 2 km) in the west and north of the VRA. Construction activity would include machinery, erection of steel lattice towers and lighting in hours of darkness. Views would generally be screened by intervening landform, woodland belts and garden vegetation. Taller machinery would be visible above the treeline.

The scale of change resulting from construction activity is judged to be **Small** and would be experienced in views to the north from the west and north of the VRA.

The magnitude of change during construction is judged to be no more than **Low**.

Significance of Effect during Construction

Taking account of the **High** sensitivity of residents in the VRA, and the **Low** magnitude of change, the visual effect arising from construction is judged to be no more than **Minor (Not Significant)** for any receptor in this VRA, and for many receptors would be less.

Magnitude of Change during Operation

The Proposed Development would be at a distance of 2.5 km at its closest point to the north and northwest of the VRA. Most views for residents, people at the Brechin Business Park and users of local roads would be screened by intervening properties, landform and vegetation. The towers would be seen in glimpsed views from Rolland Road, seen to the west on the side of Droop Hill.

The scale of change resulting from the introduction of the Proposed Development is judged to be **Small** and would be experienced in views from the north and west of the VRA.

The magnitude of change during operation is judged to be no more than **Low**.

Significance of Effect during Operation

Taking account of the **High** sensitivity of residents in the VRA, and the **Low** magnitude of change, the visual effect arising from operation is judged to be no more than **Minor (Not Significant)** for any receptor in this VRA, and for many receptors would be less.

Table 9.2.55: VRA C5: Little Brechin

VRA C5: Little Brechin	
Description of Receptor	Representative Viewpoint
Residents in scattered groups of properties and road users within the area around Melbourne Park and Little Brechin, south of the Proposed Development (refer to Volume 3, Figure 9.3b.3: Visual Receptor Area, Viewpoint Locations and other Visual Receptors with Overhead Line Tower Height Zone of Theoretical Visibility (ZTV)). The VRA is located approximately 0.4 km from the Proposed Development at its closest point.	VP17: Western edge of Little Brechin (refer to Volume 4 a, Figure 9.21a-f: VP17: Western edge of Little Brechin)
Nature of Views	
Views from within this VRA are partially open and overlooking surrounding agricultural land and farms. Views to the northwest are of dense coniferous woodland at Little Brechin Wood, which provides extensive screening, limiting views. Along the central road, garden vegetation and intermittent trees provide filtering of outward views, however the Hills of Menmuir to the northwest are visible forming the backdrop and focal point in middle-to-longer distance views. Similar views of the Hills of Menmuir are visible from some properties in the northern and western extents of the village. Views to the south are more open and overlook the surrounding arable fields. To the south, longer distance views are contained by gently ascending landform that forms a low-lying ridge between this area and Brechin to the south. A number of existing wood pole lines are visible from properties and from the local road network in this VRA, although these are minor features in the views. An existing OHL crosses the southeast of the VRA, and is visible above the treeline in views south.	
Sensitivity	
Residential receptors are considered to be of High susceptibility to changes in the view and road users including cyclists are considered to be of Low susceptibility to changes in the view. This VRA is not located within a designated landscape, however views take in the adjacent Braes of Angus to the north, which form part of the Angus Glens LLA and a prominent backdrop to the VRA. As such views are considered to be Medium in value. Taking account of the judgements of susceptibility and value, sensitivity is judged to be High for residents and Medium for other visual receptors.	
Magnitude of Change during Construction	Magnitude of Change during Operation
Most of the construction activity would be visible to the west and northwest from properties and sections of road in the southwest of the VRA, where views are more open. Construction traffic on a proposed access track approximately 500 m northwest of the village would be visible. However, most of the main construction activity including of machinery, vehicle movements, creation of other access tracks, erection of steel lattice towers and lighting in hours of darkness would be backclothed by the rising landform of the Menmuir Hills. Some of these views would also be partially obscured by intervening buildings within the village, field trees and Little Brechin Wood in the middle distance. From the central and southern parts of Little Brechin, views of construction activity would be partially screened by field boundary vegetation. From the east of the VRA along the minor road there would be middle-to-long distance open views of the erection of steel lattice towers to the north and northwest.	The Proposed Development would be seen in near to middle distance views from residential properties and along the minor road network in views to the north and northeast from the east of the VRA, and to the northwest from the west of the VRA, at a distance of approximately 0.5 km at its closest point. Due to the proposed size and scale of the steel lattice towers, the Proposed Development would form a notable feature in views from this VRA. Most of the visible extent of the Proposed Development would be backclothed against the Menmuir Hills and partially screened by the Little Brechin Woods in the northwest of the VRA, reducing the prominence of the infrastructure. Where the Proposed Development approaches the west of Little Brechin, towers would be visible as tall vertical features stretching across the horizon to the northwest, although at distances of approximately 1 km, as illustrated by VP17: Western edge of Little Brechin (Volume 4 a, Figure 9.21a-f: VP17: Western edge of Little Brechin).

VRA C5: Little Brechin	
The scale of change resulting from construction activity is judged to be Medium and would be experienced across the VRA. The magnitude of change during construction is judged to be no more than Medium.	The Proposed Development would be seen in the context of existing wood pole lines. In comparison to the existing OHL to the southeast, the Proposed Development would be notably higher and larger scale than the existing elements and would result in a notable increase in the influence of vertical infrastructure in views from residents and road users in this VRA. The scale of change resulting from the introduction of the Proposed Development is judged to be Medium and would be experienced across the VRA. The magnitude of change during operation is judged to be no more than Medium.
Significance of Effect during Construction	Significance of Effect during Operation
Taking account of the High sensitivity of residents in the VRA, and the Medium magnitude of change, the visual effect arising from construction is judged to be no more than Moderate (Significant) for any receptor in this VRA, and for many receptors would be less.	Taking account of the High sensitivity of residents in the VRA, and the Medium magnitude of change, the visual effect arising from operation is judged to be no more than Moderate (Significant) for any receptor in this VRA, and for many receptors would be less.

Table 9.2.56: VRA C6: Dubton, Keithock, Trinity and Muirton of Ballochry

VRA C6: Dubton, Keithock, Trinity and Muirton of Ballochry	
Description of Receptor	Representative Viewpoint
Residents in the areas in and around Dubton, Keithock, Trinity, and Muirton of Ballochry; recreational users of Brechin Golf Course Limefield, and road users of the A90 and local roads, south and southeast of the Proposed Development (refer to Volume 3, Figure 9.3b.3: Visual Receptor Area, Viewpoint Locations and other Visual Receptors with Overhead Line Tower Height Zone of Theoretical Visibility (ZTV)). The VRA is located approximately 1.6 km from the Proposed Development at its closest point.	N/A
Nature of Views	
The A90 runs across the northern extents of this VRA and views along it are varied. The road is in a cutting and lined by vegetation in the west, resulting in an enclosed character. Further east along the A90 there are open expansive views to the north, northwest and west towards the Proposed Development. Open views are over agricultural fields which fall gently north and west towards the floor of the Cruick Water. In the northern extents of the VRA, the dramatic landform of the Braes of Angus forms a backdrop to the north and northwest. From the minor road south of the A90 views are often screened by roadside vegetation as well as pockets of coniferous woodland including Hill of Stracathro. Views from the golf course are filtered through tree planting. Views from Trinity in the southwestern extents are focused east over open arable fields with scattered small woodlands. The roadside vegetation along the A90 obscures most views to the northwest and north. North facing views seen by receptors in the southern extents are contained to middle distances by the Hill of Stracathro which is in the centre of the VRA. Two prominent existing OHLs run through the VRA, crossing the A90 close to Trinity. On Temple Hill there is a telecommunications masts and another one upon one upon Hill of Stracathro where there is also a single wind turbine. There is another turbine at Whitefield of Dun.	
Sensitivity	

VRA C6: Dubton, Keithock, Trinity and Muirton of Ballochry

Residential and recreational receptors are considered to be of **High** susceptibility to changes in the view. Road users including cyclists are considered to be of **Low** susceptibility to changes in the view.

This VRA is not located within a designated landscape. Although there are some open expansive views available towards the Braes of Angus, designated as the Angus Glens LLA, these are generally experienced from stretches of the A90. As such views are considered to be **Medium** in value.

Taking account of the judgements of susceptibility and value, sensitivity is judged to be **High** for residents and recreational receptors and **Medium** for other visual receptors in the VRA.

Magnitude of Change during Construction	Magnitude of Change during Operation
Construction activity would be partially seen in oblique long distance views to the northwest and north by users of the A90. Erection of steel lattice towers and lighting in hours of darkness would be partially visible from the middle of the A90 and from some scattered properties along the A90. Views from the minor road that crosses the Hill of Stracathro as experienced by receptors along its length, such as those at Brechin Golf Course, Limefield and Trinity would be screened and filtered by the small blocks of forestry and vegetation belts. Although construction activity would be visible within the northern extents of the VRA, it would not form a prominent feature within these wide expansive views given the distance and partial screening. In the southern and southeastern extents of the VRA, construction activity would be glimpsed in the far distance in views to the west and northwest. Activity visible from this distance would be the erection of steel lattice towers, which would be backclothed by the ridge of the Mounth and much screening would be provided by intervening woodland blocks, hedgerows, and the gently undulating landform. So, only relatively short lengths of the partially constructed Proposed Development would be seen at a time. The scale of change resulting from construction activity is judged to be Small and would be experienced by road users of the A90 in the centre of this VRA. The magnitude of change during construction is judged to be no more than Low.	The Proposed Development would be partially visible in long distance views at approximately 1.8 km to the north and northwest by users of the A90 and some residents along the route of the A90. Views from the minor road that crosses Hill of Stracathro and small settlements along it, including Trinity, would be screened and filtered by the small blocks of forestry and vegetation belts. Seen from the northern extents, many of the visible towers would be backclothed by the distant Braes of Angus, reducing their prominence and the base of towers would also be partially obscured by intervening woodland. In the southern and southeastern extents of the VRA, the Proposed Development would be glimpsed in the far distance in views to the west and northwest. It would be backclothed by the ridge of the Mounth and much screening would be provided by intervening woodland blocks, hedgerows, and the gently undulating landform so that only relatively short lengths of it would be seen at a time. The scale of change resulting from the introduction of the Proposed Development is judged to be Small and would be experienced by road users of the A90 in the centre of this VRA. The magnitude of change during operation is judged to be no more than Low.
Significance of Effect during Construction	Significance of Effect during Operation
Taking account of the High sensitivity of residents and recreational receptors in the VRA, and the Low magnitude of change, the visual effect arising from construction is judged to be no more than Minor (Not Significant) for any receptor in this VRA.	Taking account of the High sensitivity of residents and recreational receptors in the VRA, and the Low magnitude of change, the visual effect arising from operation is judged to be no more than Minor (Not Significant) for any receptor in this VRA.

Table 9.2.57: VRA C7: Grosefield to Stracathro

VRA C7: Grosefield to Stracathro	
Description of Receptor	Representative Viewpoint
Residents in scattered groups, users of the local road network including the B966, visitors and employees at Stracathro Hospital, south and east of the Proposed Development (refer to Volume 3, Figure 9.3b.3: Visual Receptor Area, Viewpoint Locations and other Visual Receptors with Overhead Line Tower Height Zone of Theoretical Visibility (ZTV)). The VRA is located approximately 0.4 km from the Proposed Development at its closest point.	N/A
Nature of Views	
Views from within this VRA are varied. The Cruick Water runs through the centre of the VRA and is lined by riparian vegetation which filters views from the south. The dramatic landform of the Braes of Angus is visible on the horizon to the north and northwest. Close and middle distance views are of open, gently undulating agricultural fields that gradually descend to the Cruick Water, available for road users travelling along the minor road network and residents. A number of small linear mixed woodland blocks are found within the VRA which provide some screening. Views from Stracathro Hospital are enclosed to the north and west by woodland and vegetation associated with the Cruick Water, and to the south by woodland screening the service station, resulting in an enclosed character. An existing OHL crosses the southwest of the VRA, with the towers prominent in local views.	
Sensitivity	
Residential receptors are considered to be of High susceptibility to changes in the view. Road users including cyclists are considered to be of Low susceptibility to changes in the view. This VRA is not located within a designated landscape. The Braes of Angus, part of the Angus Glens LLA, can be seen on the horizon to the north and northwest. Views towards the designated landscape are screened by vegetation for much of the VRA. As such the views are considered to be Medium in value. Taking account of the judgements of susceptibility and value, sensitivity is judged to be High for residents and Medium for other visual receptors in the VRA.	
Magnitude of Change during Construction	Magnitude of Change during Operation
Construction activity would be visible to the west and north from sections of the B966, minor road network and properties along the roads. Views of the erection of steel lattice towers and lighting in hours of darkness would be seen above the treeline. Intervening layers of woodland and vegetation would obscure the majority of ground level construction activity. There would be no views of construction activities from Stracathro Hospital due to the surrounding woodland and vegetation. The scale of change resulting from construction activity is judged to be Medium. Views of construction activity would be available from the northwest, north and centre of the VRA. The magnitude of change during construction is judged to be no more than Medium.	The Proposed Development would be seen in medium distance views (600 m) from the residential properties and sections of the minor road network in the north and northwest of the VRA. In these views, the steel lattice towers would form large scale prominent features in views to the north and northwest due to their proximity and height. The towers would be partially filtered by woodland and riparian vegetation along the Cruick Water, although the towers would be clearly visible above the treeline. From other parts of the VRA the Proposed Development would be seen in middle-to-long distance views to the northwest and west. Although intervening vegetation, woodland and forestry would filter the bases of the towers, they would be seen above the treeline. There would be no views of the Proposed Development from Stracathro Hospital due to the intervening vegetation and distance from the route. The scale of change resulting from the introduction of the Proposed Development is judged to be Medium, and would be experienced across most of the VRA, particularly from the north and west of the VRA from local roads and properties.

VRA C7: Grosefield to Stracathro	
	The magnitude of change during operation is judged to be no more than Medium .
Significance of Effect during Construction	Significance of Effect during Operation
Taking account of the High sensitivity of residents in the VRA, and the Medium magnitude of change, the visual effect arising from construction is judged to be no more than Moderate (Significant) for any receptor in this VRA, and for many receptors would be less.	Taking account of the High sensitivity of residents in the VRA, and the Medium magnitude of change, the visual effect arising from operation is judged to be no more than Moderate (Significant) for any receptor in this VRA, and for many receptors would be less.

Table 9.2.58: VRA C8: Brathinch and Bankhead Wood

VRA C8: Brathinch and Bankhead Wood	
Description of Receptor	Representative Viewpoint
Residents in scattered groups of properties and road users within the area around Brathinch and Bankhead, east and south of the Proposed Development (refer to Volume 3, Figure 9.3b.3: Visual Receptor Area, Viewpoint Locations and other Visual Receptors with Overhead Line Tower Height Zone of Theoretical Visibility (ZTV)). The VRA is located immediately adjacent to the Proposed Development.	N/A
Nature of Views	
Views from within this VRA are generally open and overlook surrounding low-lying agricultural fields. Dense commercial forestry at Bankhead Wood provides extensive screening, limiting views from the centre and western half of the VRA. Along the minor road running east to west through the VRA, field boundary vegetation and intermittent trees provide filtering of outward views, however the Braes of Angus to the northwest are visible, forming the horizon and focal point in middle-to-longer distance views. To the east, longer distance views are contained by mixed mature woodland between Brathinch and Newton. A number of existing wood pole lines are also visible throughout the village and running along the minor roads through the VRA.	
Sensitivity	
Residential receptors are considered to be of High susceptibility to changes in the view and road users including cyclists are considered to be of Low susceptibility to changes in the view. This VRA is not located within a designated landscape. The Braes of Angus, designated as the Angus Glens LLA, form a backdrop in views to the northwest. These views are experienced by a low density of people within the VRA due to the scattered groups of houses. As such views are considered to be Medium in value. Taking account of the judgements of susceptibility and value, sensitivity is judged to be High for residential receptors and Medium for other visual receptors.	
Magnitude of Change during Construction	Magnitude of Change during Operation
Most of the construction activity would be visible from the west of the VRA. Views in the east of the VRA would be largely screened by mixed woodland, while the west of the VRA would be screened by coniferous woodland at Bankhead Wood. An access track would run along the northern edge of Bankhead Wood, with a junction joining the north-south minor road, which would be visible from the road and centre of the VRA. Most of the construction activity including use of machinery, vehicle movements, erection of steel lattice towers and lighting in hours of darkness would be visible backclothed by the rising landform of the	The Proposed Development would be seen in near distance views to the northwest and north from residential properties and along the minor road network at a distance of approximately 250 m at its closest point. Due to the proposed size and scale of the steel lattice towers, the Proposed Development would form a prominent feature in views from this VRA. Most of the visible extent of the

VRA C8: Brathinch and Bankhead Wood	
Lundie and Menmuir Hills, albeit that the construction work would be at a much closer distance. Views from the east of the VRA would be partially obscured by intervening buildings, trees and woodland. From Brathinch views of construction activity would largely be open overlooking the farmlands. The scale of change resulting from construction activity is judged to be Medium, and would be experienced by users of the north-south minor road, and the west of the east-west minor road near Brathinch. The magnitude of change during construction is judged to be no more than Medium.	Proposed Development would be backclothed against the Lundie and Menmuir Hills (albeit much closer than the dramatic landform), reducing the prominence of the infrastructure. Most of these views would be experienced by users of the local road network in the west and centre of the VRA, and for residents at Brathinch, where some open views towards the Proposed Development would be available. The scale of change resulting from the introduction of the Proposed Development is judged to be Large, and would be experienced from the west and centre of the VRA. The magnitude of change during operation is judged to be no more than High.
Significance of Effect during Construction	Significance of Effect during Operation
Taking account of the High sensitivity of residents in the VRA, and the Medium magnitude of change, the visual effect arising from construction is judged to be no more than Moderate (Significant) for any receptor in this VRA, and for many receptors would be less.	Taking account of the High sensitivity of residents in the VRA, and the High magnitude of change, the visual effect arising from operation is judged to be no more than Major (Significant) for any receptor in this VRA, and for many receptors would be less.

Table 9.2.59: VRA C9: Inchbare

VRA C9: Inchbare	
Description of Receptor	Representative Viewpoint
Residents and road users within the settlements of Inchbare and Auchenreoch, and recreational users of the West Water, south and east of the Proposed Development (refer to Volume 3, Figure 9.3b.3: Visual Receptor Area, Viewpoint Locations and other Visual Receptors with Overhead Line Tower Height Zone of Theoretical Visibility (ZTV)). The VRA is approximately 0.2 km from the Proposed Development at its closest point.	VP19: Inchbare (refer to Volume 4 a, Figure 9.23a-f: VP19: Inchbare)
Nature of Views	
Properties within Inchbare and Auchenreoch are typically single storey with a variety of outlooks and degrees of screening. Views experienced by residents and road users around Inchbare are sometimes obscured by buildings and occasional coniferous trees or small pockets of coniferous woodland and shelterbelts. Coniferous woodland west of Auchenreoch and riparian vegetation along the West Water provide screening, limiting views from the centre and north of the VRA. Garden vegetation and intermittent trees provide filtering of outward views along the B966. The hills of Lundie and Edzell to the northwest form the backdrop and focal point in middle-to-longer distance views. Similar views of the Manach Hills are visible from some properties in the western and northwestern extents of the village where views to the northwest are more open and overlook the surrounding arable fields. To the south, a wood pole OHL crosses the almost flat landform south of the village, connecting to a small substation west of the B966.	
Sensitivity	
Residential receptors are considered to be of High susceptibility to changes in the view and road users including cyclists are considered to be of Low susceptibility to changes in the view.	

VRA C9: Inchbare

This VRA is not located within a designated landscape, but views take in the adjacent Braes of Angus to the northwest, which form part of the Angus Glens LLA and a prominent backdrop to the VRA. These views are experienced by residents in Inchbare and Auchenreoch as well as road users. As such, views are considered to be **Medium** in value.

Taking account of the judgements of susceptibility and value, sensitivity is judged to be **High** for residential receptors and **Medium** for other visual receptors.

Magnitude of Change during Construction	Magnitude of Change during Operation
Construction activity would be visible to the northwest and north for properties and sections of road in the northeast of Inchbare, although views would be partially screened by coniferous woodland along the West Water. An access track would be constructed adjacent to The Gatehouse in the centre of the VRA, and construction traffic would be visible travelling through the southwest and west of the VRA. Most of the main construction activity including erection of steel lattice towers and lighting in hours of darkness would be visible in close to middle distance views. Some views would be partially obscured by intervening buildings within the village, trees or woodland in the north and west of the VRA. Views from Inchbare would be partially screened by riparian vegetation and woodland along the West Water. The scale of change resulting from construction activity is judged to be Medium, and would be experienced across the majority of the VRA. The magnitude of change during construction is judged to be no more than Medium.	The Proposed Development would be seen in near to middle distance views to the northwest and north by residents and users of the minor road network at a distance of approximately 200 m at its closest point. Due to the proposed size and scale of the steel lattice towers, the Proposed Development would form a notable feature in views from this VRA. Views would be available for people across the majority of the VRA, although would be partially obscured in places by intervening vegetation and woodland. The towers would also be backclothed by the Braes of Angus to the north and northwest, reducing their visual prominence. The scale of change resulting from the introduction of the Proposed Development is judged to be Medium, and would be experienced across most of the VRA. The magnitude of change during operation is judged to be no more than Medium.
Significance of Effect during Construction	Significance of Effect during Operation
Taking account of the High sensitivity of residents in the VRA, and the Medium magnitude of change, the visual effect arising from construction is judged to be no more than Moderate (Significant), for any receptor in this VRA, and for many receptors would be less.	Taking account of the High sensitivity of residents in the VRA, and the Medium magnitude of change, the visual effect arising from operation is judged to be no more than Moderate (Significant) for any receptor in this VRA, and for many receptors would be less.

Table 9.2.60: VRA C10: Lummington

VRA C10: Lummington	
Description of Receptor	Representative Viewpoint
Residents and road users at Lummington, north and west of the Proposed Development (refer to Volume 3, Figure 9.3b.3: Visual Receptor Area, Viewpoint Locations and other Visual Receptors with Overhead Line Tower Height Zone of Theoretical Visibility (ZTV)). The VRA is located approximately 0.2 km from the Proposed Development at its closest point.	N/A
Nature of Views	
Views from within this VRA are open, over gently sloping arable fields bounded by post and wire fences. Occasional field trees provide vertical features within views. The dramatic landform of the Braes of Angus forms the horizon to the north and northwest and deciduous trees towards the west of the Lummington Steading House including views experienced by	

VRA C10: Lummington	
residents and road users around Lummington. To the west the views are screened by mature roadside trees. To the south, longer distance views are contained by mixed woodland at Bankhead Woods forming the horizon. Human vertical features within the views are limited to existing wood pole lines.	
Sensitivity	
Residential receptors are considered to be of High susceptibility to changes in the view and road users including cyclists are considered to be of Low susceptibility to changes in the view. This VRA is not located within a designated landscape. The Braes of Angus, which form part of the Angus Glens LLA, form a prominent backdrop to the north and northwest. These views are experienced by a small number of people. As such views are considered to be Medium in value. Taking account of the judgements of susceptibility and value, sensitivity is judged to be High for residential receptors and Medium for other visual receptors.	
Magnitude of Change during Construction	Magnitude of Change during Operation
Construction activity would be clearly visible to the east, northeast and southeast within this VRA. The construction of an access track 250 m south of the VRA, and construction traffic travelling on it would be visible up close. Most of the main construction activity including erection of steel lattice towers and lighting in hours of darkness would be largely screened by the mature deciduous trees along the road, although the tops of machinery and towers would be visible. The The scale of change resulting from construction activity is judged to be Large and would be experienced across the whole VRA. The magnitude of change during construction is judged to be up to High.	The Proposed Development would be seen in near distance views to the east, northeast and southeast by residents and users of the minor road network at a distance of approximately 250 m at its closest point. Although the existing roadside vegetation would provide screening to the towers, the upper sections of the steel lattice towers would form prominent features in views. The Proposed Development would be seen extending to the northeast and southwest in southern views from the VRA. The scale of change resulting from the introduction of the Proposed Development is judged to be Large, and would be experienced across the whole VRA. The magnitude of change during operation is judged to be up to High.
Significance of Effect during Construction	Significance of Effect during Operation
Taking account of the High sensitivity of residents in the VRA, and the High magnitude of change, the visual effect arising from construction is judged to be no more than Major (Significant) for any receptor in this VRA, and for many receptors would be less.	Taking account of the High sensitivity of residents in the VRA, and the High magnitude of change, the visual effect arising from operation is judged to be no more than Major (Significant) for any receptor in this VRA, and for many receptors would be less.

Table 9.2.61: VRA C11: Chapelton & Reidhall

VRA C11: Chapelton & Reidhall	
Description of Receptor	Representative Viewpoint
Residents in small clusters of properties at Chapelton, Cairndrum and Reidhall and users of the local roads within the area, northwest of the Proposed Development (refer to Volume 3, Figure 9.3b.3: Visual Receptor Area, Viewpoint Locations and other Visual Receptors with Overhead Line Tower Height Zone of Theoretical Visibility (ZTV)). The VRA is located approximately 0.3 km from the Proposed Development at its closest point.	N/A
Nature of Views	

VRA C11: Chapelton & Reidhall

Views from within this VRA are generally elevated in nature. Panoramic views are possible across the undulating agricultural farmland to the south and southeast as they gently slope towards Buttery Burn. Views west and to the north are backdropped by the Hill of Lundie, with woodland belts around Lundie Castle a distinctive feature.

Properties at Chapelton and Cairndrum have largely obscured views, due to the presence of woodland belt and mature vegetation around them which help screen and filter views from them. Properties on the eastern edge of the VRA, including those near Reidhall Cottages and Blair Muir have largely open views, with limited boundary vegetation providing screening or filtering of views. From the minor road that runs east to west through this VRA, road users experience open wide and expansive views to the west, and northwest across Cairndrum, overlooking a foreground of agricultural fields. There are no existing views to electricity infrastructure within the VRA.

Sensitivity

Residential and recreational receptors are considered to be of **High** susceptibility to changes in the view and road users are considered to be of **Low** susceptibility to changes in the view. This VRA is not located within a designated landscape. Views however take in the adjacent Braes of Angus to the northwest, which form part of the Angus Glens LLA and a prominent backdrop to the VRA. These are seen by a small number of people. As such, views are considered to be **Medium** in value.

Taking account of the judgements of susceptibility and value, sensitivity is judged to be **High** for residents, and **Medium** for other visual receptors in the VRA.

Magnitude of Change during Construction	Magnitude of Change during Operation
Most of the construction activity would be visible in close views to the south and southeast from the VRA, including from properties and the road network. Construction activity including machinery, vehicle movements, erection of steel lattice towers and lighting in hours of darkness would be visible across the agricultural land. Some of these views would be screened by small, isolated woodlands, but generally views would be open and wide ranging, with the construction activities clearly visible. Access tracks would be created from the minor road within this VRA, and views of the construction of the junctions would be clearly visible. The scale of change resulting from construction activity is judged to be Medium and would be experienced across the majority of the VRA, although would become less perceptible with distance. The magnitude of change during construction is judged to be no more than Medium.	The Proposed Development would be seen in close views to the south and southeast, within 0.2 km. Views would be open towards the Proposed Development, which would be seen running from southeast to southwest in clear views. The steel lattice towers would rise above the treeline and break the horizon. They would be seen as prominent and large scale features. The prominence of the towers would decrease with distance in the north of the VRA, and views to the east, west and north would be unaffected by the Proposed Development. The scale of change resulting from the introduction of the Proposed Development is judged to be Medium and would be experienced in views across the VRA. The magnitude of change during construction is judged to be no more than Medium.
Significance of Effect during Construction	Significance of Effect during Operation
Taking account of the High sensitivity of residents in the VRA, and the Medium magnitude of change, the visual effect arising from construction is judged to be no more than Moderate (Significant) for any receptor in the VRA, and for many receptors would be less.	Taking account of the High sensitivity of residents in the VRA, and the Medium magnitude of change, the visual effect arising from operation is judged to be no more than Moderate (Significant) for any receptor in the VRA, and for many receptors would be less.

Table 9.2.62: VRA C12: Castletoun of Balzeordie to Bonhard

VRA C12: Castletoun of Balzeordie to Bonhard	
Description of Receptor	Representative Viewpoint
Residents and road users on the southeastern slopes of Fort Hill, Hill of Lundie, and Hill of Edzell, northwest of the Proposed Development ((refer to Volume 3, Figure 9.3b.3: Visual Receptor Area, Viewpoint Locations and other Visual Receptors with Overhead Line Tower Height Zone of Theoretical Visibility (ZTV)). The VRA is located approximately 0.5 km from the Proposed Development at its closest point.	N/A
Nature of Views	
Views from within this VRA are generally elevated and focused to the south and southeast overlooking Strathmore. From the minor road network that runs through this VRA, as well as some of the small settlements along this road views to the south and southeast are of a foreground of agricultural fields that descend towards the broad floor of the strath in the middle and long distance views. In these views, scattered trees, belts and pockets of broadleaf woodland, and small blocks of coniferous forest can be seen scattered across the strath, with hills on the northwestern side of the strath forming the distant backdrop. To the east and south, long distance views up and down the strath are also available. From Wells Den, views to the south, east and north are generally obscured by woodland blocks that surround properties in this area. Views to the north and west from the VRA are contained by the rising slopes of Hill of Lundie.	
Sensitivity	
Residential receptors are considered to be of High susceptibility to changes in the view and road users including cyclists are considered to be of Low susceptibility to changes in the view.	
Much of this VRA is located within the Angus Glens LLA. The northern extents of the VRA contain the GDL of Edzell Castle. Given the elevated nature of this VRA, open views are also valued due their wide expansive nature across Strathmore. These views are experienced by a small number of people within the properties scattered across the VRA. As such views are considered to be Medium in value.	
Taking account of the judgements of susceptibility and value, sensitivity is judged to be High for residents and Medium for other visual receptors in the VRA.	
Magnitude of Change during Construction	Magnitude of Change during Operation
Construction activity would be visible to the south and southeast from this VRA. From the minor road and small settlements along this road, road users and residents would experience middle distance views of the erection of steel lattice towers across the expansive views across the floor of Strathmore. In some views, ground level activity including construction of access tracks, vehicle movement and lighting in hours of darkness would also be visible where this takes place across open unobscured fields. Much of the ground level activity would be screened by intervening woodland in the middle distance. Although construction activity would be visible, it would not form a prominent feature within these wide expansive views given the distance and partial screening.	The Proposed Development would be visible at distances of approximately 0.5 km to the south and southeast from this VRA. From the minor road and small settlements along this road, road users and residents would experience middle distance views of steel lattice towers across the expansive views across the floor of Strathmore to the south. Most of the towers visible directly southwest and west would sit below the skyline formed by distant hills to the south, therefore reducing their prominence. Some of these towers would also be partially obscured by intervening woodland, which would screen lower parts of the towers. Towers would also be seen at much greater distances, becoming less perceptible as the Proposed Development extends into the distance.
Views from the southwest of the VRA would either be fully or partially screened by the mixed woodland of Blair Muir and Balrownie Wood.	From the southwest of the VRA views of the Proposed Development would either be fully or partially screened by the mixed woodland at Blair Muir and Balrownie Wood.

VRA C12: Castletoun of Balzeordie to Bonhard	
The scale of change resulting from construction activity is judged to be Small across the VRA. The magnitude of change during construction is judged to be no more than Low .	The scale of change resulting from the introduction of the Proposed Development is judged to be Small across the VRA. The magnitude of change during operation is judged to be no more than Low .
Significance of Effect during Construction	Significance of Effect during Operation
Taking account of the High sensitivity of residents in the VRA, and the Low magnitude of change, the visual effect arising from construction is judged to be no more than Minor (Not Significant) for any receptors within the VRA, and for many receptors would be less.	Taking account of the High sensitivity of residents in the VRA, and the Low magnitude of change, the visual effect arising from operation is judged to be no more than Minor (Not Significant) for any receptors within the VRA, and for many receptors would be less.

Table 9.2.63: VRA C13: White and Brown Caterthun

VRA C13: White and Brown Caterthun	
Description of Receptor	Representative Viewpoint
Recreational receptors at White and Brown Caterthun and users of the local road network (refer to Volume 3, Figure 9.3b.3: Visual Receptor Area, Viewpoint Locations and other Visual Receptors with Overhead Line Tower Height Zone of Theoretical Visibility (ZTV)). The VRA is located approximately 3.3 km from the Proposed Development at its closest point.	VP18: White Caterthun (refer to Volume 4 a, Figure 9.22a-d: VP18: White Caterthun)
Nature of Views	
Views from within this VRA are elevated and panoramic, offering expansive views to the south and southeast across the agricultural land of Strathmore to the coast as illustrated by VP18 (Volume 4 a, Figure 9.22a-d: VP18: White Caterthun). Views north continue into the Braes of Angus. There are some parts of the local road where views north are restricted by the rising topography. Views are experienced by road users and recreational visitors to the Brown and White Caterthun hillforts. There are long distance views to wood pole lines, overhead lines and wind turbines, however none of these break the horizon.	
Sensitivity	
Recreational receptors are considered to be of High susceptibility to changes in the view and road users including cyclists are considered to be of Low susceptibility to changes in the view. The VRA is located within the Angus Glens LLA. The Brown and White Caterthun hillforts are Scheduled Monuments, designated for their historic value and are popular with tourists. The elevated VRA is valued for the wide expansive views across Strathmore. As such views are considered to be High in value. Taking account of the judgements of susceptibility and value, sensitivity is judged to be High for recreational receptors and Medium for other visual receptors in the VRA.	
Magnitude of Change during Construction	Magnitude of Change during Operation
Construction activity would be seen in long distance views to the southeast for recreational and road users in this VRA. Use of machinery, erection of steel lattice towers and lighting in hours of darkness would be just visible at a distance of approximately 3.3 km, against the backdrop of rural fields and woodland blocks to the south. Views would be partially	The Proposed Development would be seen in long distance views from the hilltops of Brown and White Caterthuns at a distance of 3.3 km at its closest point. The Proposed Development would be backclothed by woodland and farmland from the elevated views in this VRA and would not form a noticeable feature in views to the south.

VRA C13: White and Brown Caterthun	
obscured by the rising landform. Occasional trees and field boundaries would also provide some filtering of views. The scale of change resulting from construction activity is judged to be Small across the entire VRA. The magnitude of change during construction is judged to be no more than Low .	Although the Proposed Development would slightly increase the influence of vertical infrastructure in views, the distance to the towers means that they would not be prominent. The scale of change resulting from the introduction of the Proposed Development is judged to be Small across the entire VRA. The magnitude of change during operation is judged to be no more than Low .
Significance of Effect during Construction	Significance of Effect during Operation
Taking account of the High sensitivity of recreational receptors in the VRA and the Low magnitude of change, the visual effect arising from construction is judged to be no more than Minor (Not Significant) for any receptor in the VRA.	Taking account of the High sensitivity of recreational receptors in the VRA, and the Low magnitude of change, the visual effect arising from operation is judged to be no more than Minor (Not Significant) for any receptor in the VRA.

Table 9.2.64: VRA C14: Edzell

VRA C14: Edzell	
Description of Receptor	Representative Viewpoint
Residential receptors in Edzell, as well as users of the B966 and local road network through the VRA (refer to Volume 3, Figure 9.3b.3: Visual Receptor Area, Viewpoint Locations and other Visual Receptors with Overhead Line Tower Height Zone of Theoretical Visibility (ZTV)). The VRA is located approximately 2 km from the Proposed Development at its closest point.	VP20: Inveriscandye Road, southeastern edge of Edzell (refer to Volume 4 a, Figure 9.24a-d: VP20: Inveriscandye Road, southeastern edge of Edzell)
Nature of Views	
Properties within Edzell are one or two storeys, with a variety of outlooks and degrees of screening due to the garden and street vegetation. Open arable fields form close distance views to the western edge of the VRA, with small woodland blocks visible in the middle distance. Views south and southeast are generally screened and restricted by the coniferous woodland at Edzell Wood. Views to the east are restricted due to the riparian woodland belts along the North Esk River forming a distinctive feature in the view. From the north of the village the Braes of Mearns and Hill of Edzell form a dramatic backdrop in views north and northwest. In the south of the VRA the B966 runs through Edzell Woods, which restricts most views. Wood pole lines are visible in close distance views, with some longer-distance views to OHLs from the northern edge of the VRA.	
Sensitivity	
Residential receptors are considered to be of High susceptibility to changes in the view and users of the local road network, including cyclists, are considered to be of Low susceptibility. The northern edge of the VRA north of Edzell, lies within the Angus Glens LLA. While the Braes of Angus and Edzell Hill provide a backdrop in views north, they are not visible across most of the VRA. The views within this VRA are therefore considered to be Medium in value. Taking account of the judgements of susceptibility and value, sensitivity is judged to be High for residents and Medium for other visual receptors in the VRA.	
Magnitude of Change during Construction	Magnitude of Change during Operation
Construction activity would be visible in medium distance views to the south. Construction activity would include machinery, vehicle movements, erection of steel lattice towers and lighting in hours of darkness. Views would largely be screened by coniferous woodland in	The Proposed Development would be 2 km to the south of the VRA at its closest point. Most views of the Proposed Development from the VRA would be screened by intervening

VRA C14: Edzell	
Edzell Woods, intervening buildings and garden vegetation. Taller machinery would be visible above the treeline. The scale of change resulting from construction activity is judged to be Small and would be experienced in glimpsed views from the edges of the VRA. The magnitude of change during construction is judged to no more than Low .	properties and vegetation. There would be some glimpsed views of the towers on the edges of Edzell, where the towers would appear above the treeline. The scale of change resulting from the introduction of the Proposed Development is judged to be Small and would be experienced in glimpsed views from the south, east and west of the VRA. The magnitude of change during operation is judged to be no more than Low .
Significance of Effect during Construction	Significance of Effect during Operation
Taking account of the High sensitivity of residents in the VRA, and the Low magnitude of change, the visual effect arising from construction is judged to be no more than Minor (Not Significant) for any receptor in the VRA.	Taking account of the High sensitivity of residents in the VRA, and the Low magnitude of change, the visual effect arising from operation is judged to be no more than Minor (Not Significant) for any receptor in the VRA.

Table 9.2.65: VRA C15: Westside to Inveriscandye

VRA C15: Westside Edzell	
Description of Receptor	Representative Viewpoint
A small number of residents and users of local roads and the B966 and employees at Struan Quarry to the north and northwest of the Proposed Development (refer to Volume 3, Figure 9.3b.3: Visual Receptor Area, Viewpoint Locations and other Visual Receptors with Overhead Line Tower Height Zone of Theoretical Visibility (ZTV)). The VRA is located immediately adjacent to the Proposed Development.	N/A
Nature of Views	
Views from within this VRA are generally open across low-lying agricultural fields. Edzell Wood restricts longer distance views to the northwest, and riparian woodland along the River North Esk restricts further views to the east and southeast. The Braes of Angus / Braes of Mearn form a distinctive backdrop to the north and northwest. Roadside vegetation along the B966 restricts views from the road to the east, while views east are constrained by riparian woodland along the West Water. Struan Quarry is not prominent in the landscape. Views from Inveriscandye Road in the east are restricted to the east and south by vegetation along the River North Esk restrict views in some localised areas, but generally the landscape is largely unenclosed. Many of the scattered properties within the VRA have largely open views, with limited Wood pole lines are visible within the VRA, but there are no other vertical structures present.	
Sensitivity	
Residential receptors are considered to be of High susceptibility to changes in the view and road users including cyclists and employees at the quarry are considered to be of Low susceptibility to changes in the view. This VRA is not located within a designated landscape. Views however take in the adjacent Braes of Angus to the northwest, which form part of the Angus Glens LLA and a prominent backdrop to the VRA. As these views are seen at a very long distance by only a few receptors, views are considered to be Medium in value. Taking account of the judgements of susceptibility and value, sensitivity is judged to be High for residents, and Medium for other visual receptors in the VRA.	
Magnitude of Change during Construction	Magnitude of Change during Operation

VRA C15: Westside Edzell	
Construction activity would be visible in very close views to the south by residential receptors and road users across the VRA. New access tracks connecting to the B966 in the west and Inveriscandye Road in the east would be visible. Other construction activity including machinery, vehicle movements, erection of steel lattice towers and lighting in hours of darkness would be clearly visible across the VRA. Small areas of woodland would provide some limited screening in views south, but largely the construction activities would be clearly visible for residential receptors, those travelling along core paths, and those travelling along the minor road network The scale of change resulting from construction activity is judged to be Large and would be experienced across the VRA. The magnitude of change during construction is judged to be up to High.	The Proposed Development would be seen in close views from residential properties and along the minor road network in views to the south and southeast, at a distance of approximately less than 0.1 km at its closest point. People travelling along the minor road would pass under the Proposed Development and would see the towers continuing to the east and west. The Proposed Development would also be seen in very close views to the south from the residential properties in the VRA and from Inversicandye Road in the east, at distances of <250 m. The steel lattice towers would appear as large and very prominent features in these views. Although they would be partially backclothed by woodland to the south, reducing their prominence, the towers would break the horizon. Views to the southeast from the B966 would be screened by woodland around Westside, however the Proposed Development would be visible extending to the southwest. The scale of change resulting from the introduction of the Proposed Development is judged to be Large and would be seen from across the VRA. The magnitude of change during operation is judged to be up to High.
Significance of Effect during Construction	Significance of Effect during Operation
Taking account of the High sensitivity of residents in the VRA, and the High magnitude of change, the visual effect arising from construction is judged to be up to Major (Significant) for any receptor in the VRA, and for many receptors would be less.	Taking account of the High sensitivity of residents in the VRA, and the High magnitude of change, the visual effect arising from operation is judged to be no more than Major (Significant) for any receptor in the VRA, and for many receptors would be less.

Table 9.2.66: VRA C16: Capo Plantation

VRA C16: Capo Plantation	
Description of Receptor	Representative Viewpoint
Residents in scattered properties, recreational visitors to Capo Plantation and people travelling along the road network, to the south of the Proposed Development (refer to Volume 3, Figure 9.3b.3: Visual Receptor Area, Viewpoint Locations and other Visual Receptors with Overhead Line Tower Height Zone of Theoretical Visibility (ZTV)). The VRA is located immediately adjacent to the Proposed Development.	N/A
Nature of Views	
Views from within this VRA are predominantly contained to the short and medium distance by Scots pine woodland at Capo Plantation which provides significant screening in views to the north and northwest. In glimpsed open views the Braes of Angus / Braes of Mearns form a dramatic backdrop to the north and northwest. The minor road network is often lined by roadside trees, further obscuring views. Where views are possible, these are over flat agricultural fields, with views terminated by woodlands. In the south at Mill of Pert there are middle-distance views to an existing OHL. The towers are clear on the skyline, but at a distance and do not form prominent features in the views. From other areas of the VRA there are no other vertical infrastructure visible.	

VRA C16: Capo Plantation	
Sensitivity	
Residential receptors are considered to be of High susceptibility to changes in the view, and road users including cyclists are considered to be of Low susceptibility to changes in the view	
This VRA is not located within a designated landscape and views are generally contained to the immediate vicinity, enclosed by dense forestry. As such views are considered to be Low in value.	
Taking account of the judgements of susceptibility and value, sensitivity is judged to be High for residents and Low for other visual receptors in the VRA.	
Magnitude of Change during Construction	Magnitude of Change during Operation
Construction activity would be partially seen in close distance views by residents and recreational users in the northeast and northwest of the VRA. Use of machinery, forestry clearance, vehicle movements, creation of access tracks, erection of steel lattice towers and lighting in hours of darkness would be intermittently and partially visible from a limited number of locations, concentrated along the minor tracks near Northgate and forestry tracks east of the Capo Plantation. These views would be heavily constricted by forestry on either side of the clearings or forestry tracks, with narrow views towards construction activity in the east and north. For the majority of residential properties and road users there would be no views of construction activity as the intervening commercial forestry would obscure views.	The Proposed Development would be seen in close distance views from a small number of residential properties, users of forestry tracks and the minor road network in views from the north of the VRA. The Proposed Development would be within 0.2 km at its closest point. The towers would be seen running from east to west in close distance views. Although the lower sections of the towers would be partially backclothed by Clearly Wood, due to the proposed size and scale of the steel lattice towers, the Proposed Development would form a large, prominent feature in views from these locations.
The scale of change resulting from construction activity is judged to be Medium and would be experienced by receptors in the northwest and northeast of the VRA.	There would be views from the groups of properties along the unnamed track in the east of the VRA, with some screening provide by mixed woodland on the edge of Inverury Wood. The Proposed Development would be seen backclothed against the Braes of Angus / Braes of Mearns in views north but would still form a noticeable new feature.
The magnitude of change during construction is judged to be no more than Medium .	From the south of the VRA views towards the Proposed Development would be obscured by Capo Plantation.
	The scale of change resulting from the introduction of the Proposed Development is judged to be Large and would be experienced by residential receptors and road users in the north and east of the VRA.
	The magnitude of change during operation is judged to be no more than High .
Significance of Effect during Construction	Significance of Effect during Operation
Taking account of the High sensitivity of residents in the VRA, and the Medium magnitude of change, the visual effect arising from construction is judged to be no more than Moderate (Significant) for any receptor in the VRA, and for many receptors would be less.	Taking account of the High sensitivity of residents in the VRA, and the High magnitude of change, the visual effect arising from operation is judged to be no more than Major (Significant) for any receptor in the VRA, and for many receptors would be less.

Table 9.2.67: VRA C17: Logie Pert to Blackiemuir

VRA C17: Logie Pert to Blackiemuir	
Description of Receptor	Representative Viewpoint
Residents of the farmstead and settlements around the A90 and Logie Pert, North Water Bridge, Marykirk, Dykelands, and Blackiemuir, as well as users of the local road network to	N/A

VRA C17: Logie Pert to Blackiemuir

the south and east of the Proposed Development (refer to **Volume 3, Figure 9.3b.3: Visual Receptor Area, Viewpoint Locations and other Visual Receptors with Overhead Line Tower Height Zone of Theoretical Visibility (ZTV)**). The VRA is located approximately 0.8 km from the Proposed Development at its closest point.

Nature of Views

Views from within this VRA are generally open and overlook surrounding low-lying agricultural fields. The Braes of Mearns and Braes of Angus provide a dramatic horizon to the north and northwest, and the Hill of Garvock to the east. Although the Luther Water runs through the VRA it is not prominent in views as there is limited riparian woodland. The River North Esk in the south of the VRA has more vegetation and restricts some views to the north from the south of the VRA, such as from North Water Bridge. Some views from roads and properties are punctuated or obscured by deciduous trees along field boundaries and some limited roadside vegetation. Commercial forestry around Muirton Plantation and woods south of the A90 restrict views to the west and south for road users travelling along the A90 and the minor road network. It also restricts views north and east for residents in the southwestern extents of the VRA. A single wind turbine west of Thornton Home Farm is clear in views from the north centre of the VRA. Two existing OHLs run through the southern half of the VRA and are visible in views from the south.

Sensitivity

Residential receptors are considered to be of **High** susceptibility to changes in the view, and road users including cyclists are considered to be of **Low** susceptibility to changes in the view.

This VRA is not located within a designated landscape, although the Braes of Mearns / Braes of Angus form the backdrop to the north and northwest. People at a number of concentrated groups of properties across the VRA experience such views. As such views are considered to be **Medium** in value.

Taking account of the judgements of susceptibility and value, sensitivity is judged to be **High** for residents, and **Medium** for other visual receptors in the VRA.

Magnitude of Change during Construction

Construction activity would be seen in middle-to-long distance views from the road network within the northwestern half of the VRA and from scattered properties near West Muirton, Mill of Luther, group of properties at Wakefield, Mill of Thornton and Blackiemuir. Intervening forestry closer to the Proposed Alignment would provide screening of ground-level activity, but taller construction activity such as machinery, part built towers and lighting in hours of darkness would be visible above the intervening treelines. Views from the centre of the VRA would largely be screened by existing vegetation, such as woodland blocks, although, the taller elements of the construction activity would be visible above the treeline.

From a small number of properties at West Muirton there would be views to construction activity, framed in a gap between Inverury Wood and Caldham Plantation. These views would be experienced at distances of more than 1.7 km.

Views of construction related activity would be greatest from the scattered properties and minor road network, although experienced at a distance and partially screened. The scale of change resulting from construction activity is judged to be **Small** for road users and residents. Construction activity would be experienced in the northwest and along the A90.

The magnitude of change during construction is judged to be no more than **Low**.

Magnitude of Change during Operation

The Proposed Development would be seen in middle-to-long distance views of approximately 1.4 km as people travel along the road network within the northwestern half of the VRA. People travelling along A90 would experience direct views towards the Proposed Development to the north and northwest, however these would be at a distance of at least 2.5 km and would be intermittently screened by intervening vegetation.

The Proposed Development would be seen in glimpsed middle-to-longer distance views from scattered properties in the north of the VRA. The distance and intervening vegetation would screen much of the Proposed Development

From North Water Bridge, views of the Proposed Development would either be fully or partially screened by the broadleaf woodland that surrounds this area.

In the southwestern extents of the VRA, around Logie Pert, the Proposed Development would be seen in the far distance in views to the northeast and north. However, it would be seen at distances of 7-8 km and so it is likely that the towers would not be perceptible at this distance. Furthermore, the Proposed Development would be backclothed by the Braes of Mearns / Braes of Angus and intervening woodland blocks would provide partial screening.

Residential receptors on the northwestern outskirts of Marykirk would be screened from the Proposed Development from the embankment of the Edinburgh to Aberdeen railway line.

VRA C17: Logie Pert to Blackiemuir	
	Receptors in the northeastern extents of the VRA, such as around Dykelands, would see the Proposed Development in the far distance in views to the north, northwest, and west. Although, it would be seen from relatively long distances of 4-5 km and so would be difficult to perceive. Also, the Proposed Development would be backclothed by the Braes of Mearns / Braes of Angus and intervening woodland blocks would provide partial screening. The scale of change resulting from the introduction of the Proposed Development is judged to be Small across the entire VRA. The magnitude of change during operation is judged to be no more than Low.
Significance of Effect during Construction	Significance of Effect during Operation
Taking account of the High sensitivity of residents in the VRA and the Low magnitude of change, the visual effect arising from construction is judged to be no more than Minor (Not Significant) for any receptor in the VRA.	Taking account of the High sensitivity of residents in the VRA, and the Low magnitude of change, the visual effect arising from operation is judged to be no more than Minor (Not Significant) for any receptor in the VRA.

Table 9.2.68: VRA C18: Luthermuir

VRA C18: Luthermuir	
Description of Receptor	Representative Viewpoint
Residents and local road users within Luthermuir, east of the Proposed Development (refer to Volume 3, Figure 9.3b.3: Visual Receptor Area, Viewpoint Locations and other Visual Receptors with Overhead Line Tower Height Zone of Theoretical Visibility (ZTV)). The VRA is located immediately adjacent to the Proposed Development.	N/A
Nature of Views	
Views within this VRA are generally internally focused on the village of Luthermuir, formed of one or two storey houses, with a variety of outlooks and degrees of screening. Caldhame Plantation obscures views to the north and east for the south and east of the village. Inverury Wood to the west restricts longer distance views for residents and road users. From the northern and western edges of the village there are long views out across flat agricultural fields with the Braes of the Mearns forming a distinctive backdrop to the north and northwest. Intermittent trees provide some screening along the minor roads and for residents at Primrosehill, however views are generally open, with long distance views possible in all directions. The Braes of Mearns forms the horizon to the north, Hill of Garvock to the east and the Braes of Angus to the west.	
Sensitivity	
Residential receptors are considered to be of High susceptibility to changes in the view, while users of the local road network, including cyclists, are considered to be of Low susceptibility. This VRA is not located within a designated landscape however the VRA has distant views of the Braes of Angus to the northwest, which form part of the Angus Glens LLA, and to the Braes of Mearns SLA to the north. These hills provide a dramatic backdrop to views from the VRA. However, as these are distant views, views are considered to be Medium in value. Taking account of the judgements of susceptibility and value, sensitivity is judged to be High for residents and Medium for other visual receptors in the VRA.	
Magnitude of Change during Construction	Magnitude of Change during Operation

VRA C18: Luthermuir	
Construction activity would be visible to the west and northwest of the VRA. From the properties at Primrosehill and minor roads in the north the construction of access and tracks would be visible in closer views. Construction traffic, vehicle movement, erection of steel lattice towers and lighting in hours of darkness would also be visible in these closer views. There would be views of the construction works for the Proposed Development extending to the northeast. Some views from properties at Primrosehill would be partially obscured by garden vegetation, although the construction activity would still be glimpsed between and above the treeline. From Laurencekirk and the minor roads in the south views of construction activity would be limited by coniferous woodland at Inverury Woods. Taller machinery would appear above the treeline. The scale of change resulting from construction activity is judged to be Large and would be focused in the north and west of the VRA around properties at Primrosehill and the minor roads. The magnitude of change during construction is judged to be up to High.	The Proposed Development would be visible at distances of approximately 0.1 km to the west and northwest in views experienced by residents and road users in the northwest of this VRA. From properties at Primrosehill and the section of minor road north of these properties, the Proposed Development would be seen in closer views to the west as it crosses undulating fields to the west. In these views, the steel lattice towers would appear as large-scale prominent features, particularly an angle tower which is the closest tower approximately 0.25 km to the east (S73), standing tall across the immediate horizon. There would be close to medium distance views from the minor road network running east-west, with the towers appearing backclothed against the dramatic horizon of the Braes of the Mearns. Visibility from within Luthermuir would be reduced, due to intervening buildings and in the east of the village the screening provided by Caldham Plantation. The towers would be seen visible from the gardens of residents in the north of the village, albeit at a distance of over 0.7 km. Views west from the north-south minor road and properties in Luthermuir would be limited due to the degree of screening provided by surrounding coniferous woodland at Inverury Wood. The scale of change resulting from the introduction of the Proposed Development is judged to be Large and would be experienced in the north and northwest of the VRA, around properties at Primrosehill and the minor road network. The magnitude of change during operation is judged to be up to High.
Significance of Effect during Construction	Significance of Effect during Operation
Taking account of the High sensitivity of residents in the VRA, and the High magnitude of change, the visual effect arising from construction is judged to be up to Major (Significant) for any receptor in the VRA, and for many receptors would be less.	Taking account of the High sensitivity of residents in the VRA, and the High magnitude of change, the visual effect arising from operation is judged to be up to Major (Significant) for any receptor in the VRA, and for many receptors would be less.

Table 9.2.69: VRA C19: Mains of Drumhendry

VRA C19: Mains of Drumhendry	
Description of Receptor	Representative Viewpoint
Road users and residents of the farmsteads and properties in scattered farmsteads, west and northwest of the Proposed Development (refer to Volume 3, Figure 9.3b.3: Visual Receptor Area, Viewpoint Locations and other Visual Receptors with Overhead Line Tower Height Zone of Theoretical Visibility (ZTV)). VRA is located immediately adjacent to the Proposed Development at its closest point.	N/A
Nature of Views	
The landform is broad and very gently undulating, allowing for expansive views in almost all directions. The exception is the north of the VRA, where the gently undulating landform contains northeast facing views to the middle distance. Views consist of arable fields bounded by post and wire fencing interspersed with broadleaf woodland, blocks of conifer plantation	

VRA C19: Mains of Drumhendry

and roadside trees. Distant hills provide clear horizons: the Hill of Garvock to the east; the ridge of the Mounth to the northwest, north, and northeast; and the Braes of Angus to the west. The southwest of the VRA contains Steelstrath Farm, which is more industrial than surrounding farms with several agricultural sheds, a depot for lorries and a wind turbine. In the south another wind turbine by Whitefield of Dun can be seen in the far distance in views to the south.

Sensitivity

Residential receptors are considered to be of **High** susceptibility to changes in the view and road users are considered to be of **Low** susceptibility to changes in the view.

While not situated in any designated landscapes, the VRA has many of the rural qualities of the nearby Howe of the Mearns: farmland distinct for its woodland, avenues, and beech hedges. There is a low density of receptors in this VRA, and therefore these views are considered **Medium** in value.

Taking account of the judgements of susceptibility and value, the sensitivity is judged to be **High** for residential receptors and **Medium** for others visual receptors within the VRA.

Magnitude of Change during Construction	Magnitude of Change during Operation
Construction activity would be visible in close distance views across the VRA and in longer distance views to the northeast and southwest. Construction activity would include use of machinery, vehicle movements, erection of steel lattice towers and lighting in hours of darkness. Inverury Wood would provide partial screening to residential receptors in the south of the VRA. Woodland along the road in the northeast would provide screening for road users and properties to the west of the road. The construction of access roads would be visible in the south by Gawloch and in the northeast south of Durie Mains Farm. The scale of change would be Large and would be experienced across the VRA. The magnitude of change during construction is judged to be up to High.	The Proposed Development would be seen by residential receptors in close distance views to the northeast, east, southeast, south and southwest and in longer distance views to the northeast and southwest. At its closest point, the Proposed Development is 15 m southeast of the VRA. In the north of the VRA, shelterbelts would provide partial screening to residential receptors, and the Proposed Development would be partially backclothed by conifer plantations and the Hill of Garvock in views to the east. However, due to its close proximity the Proposed Development would be very prominent, breaking the horizon and visible against the sky. Inverury Wood would provide some screening to views for residents in the south and west of the of the VRA, but the towers would be seen above the treeline. The Proposed Development would be seen in the context of existing wind turbines. However, the Proposed Development would appear far more prominent as it would be closer and larger. The scale of change would be Large. The magnitude of change during operation is judged to be up to High.
Significance of Effect during Construction	Significance of Effect during Operation
Taking account of the High sensitivity of residents and the High magnitude of change, the visual effect arising from construction is judged to be no more than Major (Significant) for any receptor and for many receptors would be less.	Taking account of the High sensitivity of residents and the High magnitude of change, the visual effect arising from operation is judged to be up to Major (Significant) for any receptor and for many receptors would be less.

Table 9.2.70: VRA C20: Edzell Airfield

VRA C20: Edzell Airfield	
Description of Receptor	Representative Viewpoint

VRA C20: Edzell Airfield

Road users and residents of the farmsteads and properties around the former Edzell Airfield, as well as recreational receptors travelling along Core Path 7CB.06, northwest of the Proposed Development (refer to **Volume 3, Figure 9.3b.3: Visual Receptor Area, Viewpoint Locations and other Visual Receptors with Overhead Line Tower Height Zone of Theoretical Visibility (ZTV)**). The VRA is 0.5 km from the Proposed Development at its closest point.

N/A

Nature of Views

The landform is flat, with views of arable and improved grassland fields bounded by post and wire fencing, hedgerows, or gorse. Middle distance views are generally restricted by roadside vegetation, vegetation along the River North Esk and mixed woodland shelter belts. The Hill of Garvock form the horizon to the east, the hills of the Forest of Birse to the north and northeast, and the Hill of Stracathro to the south. Although the former Edzell Airfield occupies much of the southwest of the VRA it is not very noticeable in views. Existing tall infrastructure is limited to occasional wood pole lines, a wind turbine at Steelstrath Farm and Tullo and Tullo Extension windfarms which can be seen in far distant views to the east and southeast respectively.

Sensitivity

Residential and recreational receptors are considered of **High** susceptibility to changes in the view and road users are considered to be of **Low** susceptibility to changes in the view. While not situated in any designated landscapes, the VRA has many of the rural qualities of the nearby Howe of the Mearns: farmland distinct for its woodland and flat landform. There is a low density of receptors experiencing the views within this VRA, and the views are considered to be **Medium** in value.

Taking account of the judgements of susceptibility and value, sensitivity is judged to be **High** for residential and recreational receptors and **Medium** for other visual receptors within the VRA.

Magnitude of Change during Construction

The Proposed Development would be visible in far distant views to the southeast from the north of the VRA and in close distance views to the southeast from the south. From the north the only visible construction activity would be the erection of steel lattice towers and lighting in hours of darkness, which would be seen on land of a similar elevation to receptors and would be backclothed by the Hill of Garvock in the east and Hill of Stracathro in the south. Erection of steel lattice towers would be seen in longer distance views to the northeast, and southwest. Intervening vegetation would provide screening to many of these views.

In the centre and east of the VRA, construction activity would be nearer and more visible. Visible activity would include use of machinery, vehicle movements, creation of access tracks, erection of steel lattice towers and lighting in hours of darkness, which would be seen on land of a similar elevation to receptors and backclothed by the Hill of Garvock in the east and Hill of Stracathro in the south. Construction activity would be visible in longer distance views to the northeast and southwest, although, in many instances, intervening vegetation would provide screening.

For receptors in the south there would be views of a new junction on Lang Stracht, along an existing track, and closer views towards the construction activity. Views would be more

Magnitude of Change during Operation

The Proposed Development would be visible in far distant views to the southeast from the north of the VRA and in close distance views to the southeast from the south. At its closest point, the Proposed Development would be located approximately 500 m from the VRA.

In the north of the VRA, the Proposed Development would be glimpsed in far distant views to the northeast, east and southeast. The towers would be backclothed by the Hill of Garvock in the east and Hill of Stracathro in the south, and intervening vegetation would provide screening of the lower elements of the towers.

In the centre and east of the VRA the Proposed Development would be closer and so would appear more prominent. Intervening roadside vegetation and at Clearly Wood would provide screening in many views. Seen from Lang Stracht in the south of the VRA, the Proposed Development would be prominent and visible against the sky in close distance views to the southeast. Clearly Wood would provide some screening in views to the east and west. Residential receptors at Dalladies Farm would see the Proposed Development in close distance views to the southeast in which it would be prominent and visible against the sky. The same receptors would see the Proposed Development in long distance views to the northwest and southwest. Some screening and filtering would be afforded by the woodland directly southeast of the farm. The Proposed Development would be seen in the

VRA C20: Edzell Airfield	
open than in the rest of the VRA. The scale of change would be Medium and concentrated in the south and east of the VRA. The magnitude of change during construction is judged to be no more than Medium .	context of some existing infrastructure: the wind turbine at Steelstrath Farm and Tullo and Tullo Extension windfarms which can be seen in far distant views to the east and southeast respectively. As the Proposed Development would be closer it would appear much more prominent than the existing infrastructure. The scale of change would be Medium and concentrated in the east and south of the VRA. The magnitude of change during operation is judged to be no more than Medium .
Significance of Effect during Construction	Significance of Effect during Operation
Taking account of the High sensitivity of residential and recreational receptors and the Medium magnitude of change, the visual effect arising from construction is judged to be no more than Moderate (Significant) for any receptor in the VRA, and for many receptors would be less.	Taking account of the High sensitivity of residential and recreational receptors and the Medium magnitude of change, the visual effect arising from operation is judged to be no more than Moderate (Significant) for any receptor in the VRA, and for many receptors would be less.

Table 9.2.71: VRA C21: Edzell Woods

VRA C21: Edzell Woods	
Description of Receptor	Representative Viewpoint
Road users and residents of Edzell Woods, northwest of the Proposed Development (refer to Volume 3, Figure 9.3b.3: Visual Receptor Area, Viewpoint Locations and other Visual Receptors with Overhead Line Tower Height Zone of Theoretical Visibility (ZTV)). The VRA is 1.7 km from the Proposed Development at its closest point.	N/A
Nature of Views	
Views within this VRA are often restricted by intervening residential properties, or blocks of conifer or mixed woodland. Views consist of rows of houses, areas of amenity green space, clusters of broadleaf trees and woodland, and sections of 6-foot high chain link fencing that separates areas of the former Edzell Airfield. From the edges of Edzell Woods, views are more open and take in arable and improved grassland fields bounded by post and wire fencing and occasional clusters of broadleaf woodland. The Hill of Wirren Views can be seen in far distance views to the northwest and the Hill of Stracathro in the south. Occasional wood pole lines are the only electricity infrastructure visible, there is barely any existing infrastructure besides occasional wood pole lines.	
Sensitivity	
Residential receptors are considered to be of High susceptibility to changes in the view and road users are considered to be of Low susceptibility to changes in the view. While not in any designated landscapes, the residents of Edzell Woods enjoy views out to far distant hills that are tranquil and rural in nature. These views are experienced by a relatively high density of receptors. Consequently, the views from this VRA are considered to be Medium in value. Taking account of the judgements of susceptibility and value, sensitivity is judged to be High for residential receptors and Medium for others.	
Magnitude of Change during Construction	Magnitude of Change during Operation
Construction activity would be visible in middle distance views to the southeast. In the centre, north and east of the VRA construction activity would not be visible as intervening	The Proposed Development would be visible in middle distance views to the southeast. At its closest point, the Proposed Development would be 1.7 km southeast of the VRA. In the

VRA C21: Edzell Woods	
vegetation and residential properties contain views to close distances. To the west of Edzell Woods the erection of steel lattice towers and lighting in hours of darkness would be glimpsed in long distance views to the southwest; although would be partially screened by intervening vegetation. From the south of Edzell Woods visible construction activity would erection of steel lattice towers and lighting in hours of darkness. This would be backclothed by the Hill of Stracathro and mostly screened by intervening vegetation. The scale of change would be Small in the western and southern parts of the VRA. The magnitude of change during construction is judged to be no more than Low.	centre, north and east of the VRA views of the Proposed Development would not be visible due to screening provided by intervening vegetation and residential properties. On the western and southern outskirts of Edzell Woods the Proposed Development would be seen in long distance views to the southwest and south. It would be seen on land of a similar elevation to receptors and would break the horizon. The towers would not be prominent as they would be backclothed by the Hill of Stracathro in the south and partially screened by intervening vegetation. The Proposed Development would also be glimpsed in far distance views to the southwest but again intervening vegetation would provide screening. The scale of change would be Small in the western and southern parts of the VRA. The magnitude of change during operation is judged to be no more than Low.
Significance of Effect during Construction	Significance of Effect during Operation
Taking account of the High sensitivity of residential receptors and the Low magnitude of change, the visual effect arising from construction is judged to be no more than Minor (Not Significant) for any receptor within the VRA.	Taking account of the High sensitivity of residential receptors and the Low magnitude of change, the visual effect arising from operation is judged to be no more than Minor (Not Significant) for any receptor within the VRA.

Table 9.2.72: VRA C22: Black Burn and Craigmoston Burn

VRA C22: Black Burn and Craigmoston Burn	
Description of Receptor	Representative Viewpoint
Road users and residents of the properties and farmsteads between Craigmoston Burn in the north and Black Burn in the centre and south northwest of the Proposed Development (refer to Volume 3, Figure 9.3b.3: Visual Receptor Area, Viewpoint Locations and other Visual Receptors with Overhead Line Tower Height Zone of Theoretical Visibility (ZTV)). The VRA is 0.8 km from the Proposed Development at its closest point.	N/A
Nature of Views	
In the northeast of the VRA the gently undulating landform sometimes contains views to middle distances. However, throughout much of the VRA views are open and expansive. Views consist of arable and improved grassland fields founded by post and wire fencing, hedgerows, and mixed shelterbelts. Occasional clusters of broadleaf trees and woodland, properties, and agricultural sheds provide features in the views. In the north of the VRA, views from properties and roads are often contained to middle and close distances by shelter belts. The ridge of the Mounth is seen in the far distance in views to the northwest, north, and northeast; the Hill of Garvock in the east and southeast; and the Hill of Stracathro in the south. The Tullo and Tullo Extension windfarms on top of the Hill of Garvock which can be seen in far distant views to the east but are not prominent. Occasional wood line poles are the only electricity infrastructure within the VRA.	
Sensitivity	
Residential receptors are considered of High susceptibility to changes in the view and road users are considered to be of Low susceptibility to changes in the view.	

VRA C22: Black Burn and Craigmoston Burn

The north of the VRA is located within the Braes of the Mearns SLA and the VRA displays the special qualities that define the SLA, such as the flat Howe of the Mearns contrasting with the ridge of the Mounth and the rural qualities of the Howe of the Mearns farmland with its distinctive woodland. While there is a low density of receptors in this VRA, these views are overall considered **Medium** in value.

Taking account of the judgements of susceptibility and value, sensitivity is judged to be **High** for residential receptors and **Medium** for others.

Magnitude of Change during Construction	Magnitude of Change during Operation
Construction activity would be seen in middle distance views to the southeast and in longer distance views to the northeast, east and south. In the north of the VRA, the erection of steel lattice towers and lighting in hours of darkness would be seen in middle distance views to the southeast on land of a similar elevation to receptors. However, this activity would be backclothed by the Hill of Garvock and partially screened by intervening shelter belts. In many instances in the northeast of the VRA construction activity would not be seen at all due to screening from shelter belts which confine views to close distances. In the centre of the VRA, construction activity would be more visible and would be seen in middle distance views to the southeast and in longer distance views to the northeast. Visible construction activity would include use of machinery, vehicle movements, erection of steel lattice towers, and lighting in hours of darkness which would be visible across land of a similar elevation to receptors and backclothed by the Hill of Garvock with few intervening features to provide screening. In the south of the VRA, the erection of steel lattice towers would be seen in far distant views to the northeast, east, southeast and south. However, this activity would be backclothed by the Hill of Stracathro and the Hill of Garvock and afforded partial screening by intervening vegetation. The scale of change would be Medium in the southern central part of the VRA. The magnitude of change during construction is judged to be no more than Medium.	The Proposed Development would be seen in middle distance views to the southeast and in longer distance views to the northeast, east and south. At its closest point, the Proposed Development would be located approximately 830 m southeast from the VRA. From the north of the VRA, the Proposed Development would be seen in middle distance views to the southeast on land of a similar elevation to receptors. The Proposed Development would not be prominent as it would be backclothed by the Hill of Garvock and partially screened by intervening shelter belts. In many instances throughout the northeast of the VRA the Proposed Development would not be visible as shelter belts would provide screening. In the southern centre of the VRA, the Proposed Development would be seen in middle distance views to the southeast and in longer distance views to the northeast and east. It would be prominent but would be backclothed by the Hill of Garvock and in places would be screened by Eslie Moss. In the northern centre of the VRA, the Proposed Development would be less prominent owing to the greater distance and screening provided by broadleaf trees lining roads. In the south the Proposed Development would be seen in far distant views to the northeast, east, southeast and south. The Proposed Development would break the horizon in places and be visible against the sky. It would be backclothed by the Hill of Stracathro and the Hill of Garvock and afforded partial screening by intervening vegetation. The Proposed Development would be seen in the context of existing infrastructure: the Tullo and Tullo Extension windfarms on top of the Hill of Garvock. However, the Proposed Development would appear more prominent than these windfarms as the towers would be closer and larger. The scale of change would be Medium in the southern central section of the VRA. The magnitude of change during operation is judged to be no more than Medium.
Significance of Effect during Construction	Significance of Effect during Operation
Taking account of the High sensitivity of residential receptors and the Medium magnitude of change, the visual effect arising from construction is judged to be no more than Moderate (Significant) for any receptor in the VRA, and for many receptors would be less.	Taking account of the High sensitivity of residential receptors and the Medium magnitude of change, the visual effect arising from operation is judged to be no more than Moderate (Significant) for any receptor in the VRA, and for many receptors would be less.

Table 9.2.73: VRA C23: Fettercairn

VRA C23: Fettercairn	
Description of Receptor	Representative Viewpoint
Road users and residents of Fettercairn, northwest of the Proposed Development (refer to Volume 3, Figure 9.3b.3: Visual Receptor Area, Viewpoint Locations and other Visual Receptors with Overhead Line Tower Height Zone of Theoretical Visibility (ZTV)). The VRA is 1.2 km from the Proposed Development at its closest point.	N/A
Nature of Views	
Views from within Fettercairn are contained to close distances by residential buildings and shops. Outside of Fettercairn, the landform is very gently undulating and sometimes contains views to middle distances, particularly in the northwestern extents of the VRA. However, generally views outside of Fettercairn are open and expansive. Outside of Fettercairn, views consist of arable and improved grassland fields bounded by post and wire fencing and mixed woodland shelterbelts and woodland blocks. The ridge of the Mounth can be seen in far distance views to the northwest and west and the Hill of Garvock can be seen on the horizon to the southeast. Occasional wood pole lines are the only vertical infrastructure in views.	
Sensitivity	
Residential receptors are considered of High susceptibility to changes in the view and road users are considered to be of Low susceptibility to changes in the view. The northern half of the VRA is located within the Braes of the Mearns SLA and the VRA contains the special qualities that define the SLA, such as the flat landform of the Howe of the Mearns contrasting with the ridge of the Mounth. Residents of Fettercairn also enjoy the rural qualities of the surrounding Howe of the Mearns farmland distinct for its woodland. There is also a high density of receptors in this VRA. Views are Medium in value. Taking account of the judgements of susceptibility and value, sensitivity is judged to be High for residential receptors and Medium for others.	
Magnitude of Change during Construction	Magnitude of Change during Operation
Construction activity would be visible in middle distance views to the southeast and in longer distance views to the southwest. Within Fettercairn and in the north of the VRA on the outskirts of Fettercairn, construction activity would not be visible as intervening buildings and shelterbelts and would provide screening. In the southeast construction activity would be seen in middle distance views to the southeast. Visible activity would include the erection of steel lattice towers and lighting in hours of darkness, but this would be partially screened by intervening vegetation. In the northwest of the VRA, outside the main settlement, erection of steel lattice towers would be seen in longer distance views to the southeast, but this would be partially screened by the gently undulating landform and intervening vegetation. The scale of change would be Small and would be experienced in the southeast and northwest of the VRA. The magnitude of change during construction is judged to be no more than Low .	The Proposed Development would be visible in middle distance views to the southeast and in longer distance views to the southwest. At its closest point, the Proposed Development would be located approximately 1.2 km southeast from the VRA. Within Fettercairn and in the north of the VRA on the outskirts of Fettercairn the Proposed Development would be screened by intervening buildings and shelterbelts and would not be visible. In the southeast on the outskirts of Fettercairn, the Proposed Development would be seen in middle distance views to the southeast. The towers would be not prominent as they would be backclothed by the Hill of Garvock and would be partially screened by intervening vegetation. It would also be seen in longer distance views to the southwest but again would not be prominent owing to the greater distance between the Proposed Development and receptors. In the northwest of the VRA on the outskirts of Fettercairn, the Proposed Development would be seen in longer distance views to the southeast. It would not be prominent as the gently undulating landform and intervening vegetation would provide partial screening. The scale of change would be Small and would be experienced in the southeast and northwest of the VRA. The magnitude of change during operation is judged to be no more than Low .

VRA C23: Fettercairn

Significance of Effect during Construction	Significance of Effect during Operation
Taking account of the High sensitivity of residential receptors and the Low magnitude of change, the visual effect arising from construction is judged to be no more than Minor (Not Significant) for any receptor in the VRA, and for many receptors would be less.	Taking account of the High sensitivity of residential receptors and the Low magnitude of change, the visual effect arising from operation is judged to be no more than Minor (Not Significant) for any receptor in the VRA, and for many receptors would be less.

Table 9.2.74: VRA C24: Hunters Hill to Tor Hill

VRA C24: Hunters Hill to Tor Hill

Description of Receptor	Representative Viewpoint
Road users and residents of the scattered properties and farmsteads around Lammas Muir, Goskiehill, Bogendollo, Fasque, Thainston, Thornyhill, and Tor Hill; northwest of the Proposed Development (refer to Volume 3, Figure 9.3b.3: Visual Receptor Area, Viewpoint Locations and other Visual Receptors with Overhead Line Tower Height Zone of Theoretical Visibility (ZTV)). The VRA is approximately 3 km from the Proposed Development at its closest point.	VP 23: Minor road, west of Mains of Balnakettle (refer to Volume 4 b, Figure 9.27a-d: VP23: Minor road, west of Mains of Balnakettle)
Nature of Views	
The landform is rolling and complex as this VRA encompasses the ridge of the Mounth that marks the line of the Highland Boundary Fault. The rolling landform sometimes contains views to close and middle distances. Views from the top of the ridge are sometimes more expansive. Views from the flat Howe of the Mearns in the east are often contained to middle distances by shelterbelts and woodland blocks. Views consists of parkland and rolling farmland of improved grassland fields bounded by hedgerows and post and wire fencing; blocks of conifer plantation, mixed woodland, shelterbelts, and lines of broadleaf trees along roads; and occasional properties. The ridge of the Mounth can be seen continuing into the distance in views to the northeast and the Hill of Garvock can be seen in the far distance in views to the southeast. The high voltage OHL East Coast 400 kV Upgrade passes through the northern extents of the VRA and in the southwest of the VRA Moss-Side of Esslie wind turbine can be seen in longer distance views to the southeast.	
Sensitivity	
Residential receptors are considered of High susceptibility to changes in the view and road users are considered to be of Low susceptibility to changes in the view. The majority of the VRA is within the Braes of the Mearns SLA and the VRA contains the special qualities for which the SLA has been designated, including the contrast between the flat landform of the Howe of the Mearns and the ridge of the Mounth. The Fasque House GDL occupies much of the centre of the VRA and the western extents of the VRA contain part of the Burn GDL. It has high levels of scenic interest for its woodland and parkland, which make a major contribution to the surrounding scenery. While the views from this VRA are experienced by a relatively low density of receptors, views from this VRA are considered to be High in value. Taking account of the judgements of susceptibility and value, sensitivity is judged to be High for residential receptors and Medium for others.	
Magnitude of Change during Construction	Magnitude of Change during Operation
Construction activity would be seen in middle and longer distance views to the southeast. From this distance, the only type of visible construction activity would be the erection of steel lattice towers. In the northeast of the VRA, the erection of steel lattice towers would be glimpsed between or above the rolling landform and conifer plantations which would provide screening. Similarly, views from the centre of the VRA would contain the erection of	The Proposed Development would be seen in middle and longer distance views to the southeast. At its closest point, the Proposed Development would be located approximately 2.9 km from the VRA. In the northeast of the VRA, the Proposed Development would only be glimpsed if seen at all as the rolling landform and conifer plantations would provide screening. Similarly, from the centre of the VRA, the Proposed Development would be

VRA C24: Hunters Hill to Tor Hill	
steel lattice towers, but these would only be glimpsed as intervening shelterbelts would provide much screening. From higher elevations, the erection of steel lattice towers would be seen from a distance of over 5 km and so would appear very small in scale and would be afforded screening from intervening hedgerows, woodland blocks and the rolling landform. In the western extents of the VRA, the erection of steel lattice towers would be seen from a distance of approximately 3.6 km; however, they would be backclothed by the Hill of Garvock and would be mostly screened by broadleaf trees lining roads and shelterbelts. The scale of change would be Small and would be experienced across the VRA. The magnitude of change during construction is judged to be no more than Low.	glimpsed but would only be mostly screened by intervening shelterbelts. From higher elevations, the Proposed Development would be seen from a distance of over 5 km and so would appear very small in scale and would be afforded screening from intervening hedgerows, woodland blocks and the rolling landform. In the western extents of the VRA, the Proposed Development would be seen from a distance of approximately 3.6 km; however, it would be backclothed by the Hill of Garvock and would be mostly screened by broadleaf trees lining roads and shelterbelts. The Proposed Development would be seen in the context of existing infrastructure: the high voltage OHL East Coast 400 kV Upgrade and the Moss-Side of Esslie wind turbine. Compared to the East Coast 400 kV Upgrade OHL, the Proposed Development would appear smaller in scale. The scale of change would be Small and would be experienced across the VRA. The magnitude of change during operation is judged to be no more than Low.
Significance of Effect during Construction	Significance of Effect during Operation
Taking account of the High sensitivity of residential receptors and the Low magnitude of change, the visual effect arising from construction is judged to be no more than Minor (Not Significant) for any receptor in the VRA, and for many receptors would be less.	Taking account of the High sensitivity of residential receptors and the Low magnitude of change, the visual effect arising from operation is judged to be no more than Minor (Not Significant) for any receptor in the VRA, and for many receptors would be less.

Table 9.2.75: VRA C25 - Mains of Thornton

VRA C25: Mains of Thornton	
Description of Receptor	Representative Viewpoint
Scattered clusters of residential properties along the minor road network and either side of the B9120 and B974, recreational receptors along informal tracks within mixed woodland blocks and visitors to Thornton Castle, and users of the road network, south and east of the Proposed Development (refer to Volume 3, Figure 9.3b.3: Visual Receptor Area, Viewpoint Locations and other Visual Receptors with Overhead Line Tower Height Zone of Theoretical Visibility (ZTV)). The VRA is located immediately adjacent to the Proposed Development at its closest point.	N/A
Nature of Views	
Views from within this VRA are varied, with large blocks of forestry in the centre of the VRA interrupting longer distance views, but open views across gently undulating agricultural fields elsewhere. Views from the B9120 in the north are generally enclosed, with dense roadside vegetation and wide bands of forestry screening outward views. Views from the minor road network near Bent in the northeast and in the south of the VRA are far reaching and broad, extending across open and large-scale fields towards the Mounth range in the north and towards the Hill of Garvock in the south. Occasional areas of mature roadside vegetation filter outward views. Large areas of mixed woodland at Little Thornton Wood, Lady Jane's Plantation, and Pitgarvie Wood along the B974 curtail longer distance views to the west and northwest from clusters of settlement at Brighton, Royal Arch Riverside Park and more scattered settlement further east, while mixed woodland at Knowlies Plantation interrupts northerly views from the centre of the VRA and from along the B9120. Views north and east from the minor road network and scattered properties to the west of the B974 are open and far reaching. In views south, the existing wind turbines at Tullo Wind Farm are noticeable features above the Hill of Garvock, and a solitary wind turbine at Thornton Home Farm occupies a prominent position near the low ridge in the southeast of the VRA.	

VRA C25: Mains of Thornton

Sensitivity

Residential and recreational receptors are considered to be of **High** susceptibility to changes in the view, and road users including cyclists are considered to be of **Low** susceptibility to changes in the view.

This VRA is not located within a designated landscape, and there are no promoted footpaths or designated recreation areas within the VRA, although Thornton Castle is a recreational destination in the south of the VRA. Views are generally of an undulating agricultural landscape, with occasional longer distant views to the north towards the Mounth range and south towards Hill of Garvock. As such views are considered to be **Medium** in value.

Taking account of the judgements of susceptibility and value, sensitivity is judged to be **High** for residents and recreational receptors, and **Medium** for other receptors within the VRA.

Magnitude of Change during Construction

Most of the construction activity would be seen in close-to-middle distance views to the west, north, and northeast from the VRA. Construction activity associated with temporary access tracks would be seen in immediate views from the B9120 as well as from along the B974 west of Pitgarvie Wood. Construction associated with the OHL would be seen in close distance views within approximately 50 m at the closest points, from scattered properties along the west side of the B974, west of Knowlies Plantation, and north of the B9120. In longer views, construction activity would be visible from the minor road network and scattered properties near Mains of Thornton, from distances of approximately 1 km or more. Use of machinery, vehicle movements, clearance of vegetation, creation of access tracks, erection of steel lattice towers and lighting in hours of darkness would be visible in close views, seen within the undulating agricultural fields to the north and west.

From the northern edges of the VRA most construction activity would be clearly visible, with limited intervening screening features in the landscape. From further south, large blocks of woodland would create more screened views to the west and north, screening lower elements of construction activity in views from the minor road network and scattered settlement. However, taller elements including partially constructed towers and cranes would be visible above the intervening treeline. The Mounth range to the north and blocks of woodland further north in the landscape would provide extensive backclothing to construction activity, reducing its prominence in the gently undulating landscape. Intermittent roadside vegetation would provide some screening in views from along the B974 and minor road network in the north, and periphery planting around scattered properties would also partially obscure views towards construction activity.

The scale of change resulting from construction activity is judged to be **Large** and would be focused along the minor road network and B roads in the north, and scattered properties in the west, north and northeast of the VRA.

The magnitude of change during construction is judged to be up to **High**.

Magnitude of Change during Operation

The Proposed Development would appear in close views to the west, north and northeast from scattered residential properties, the B roads, and the minor road network at distances of approximately 0.18 km at the closest points. Road users travelling north on the B9120 and B974 would pass directly under the Proposed Development. Views from the minor road network and residential properties in the south of the VRA would be more distant at distances between approximately 1.1 km and 1.7 km, with increased intervening landform and vegetation provided partial screening the Proposed Development.

The proposed steel lattice towers would be seen in close views from the B roads and from clusters of residential properties at the northern edge of the VRA. Due to the proposed proximity and scale of the towers, the Proposed Development would appear as a new, notable feature in these views. The proposed towers would form prominent vertical features in the agricultural landscape and would appear to extend high above the underlying landform. In views from residential properties along the B974 and from west of Knowlies Plantation, the Proposed Development would occupy a wide horizontal field of view, extending along the skyline and partially backclothed by the more distant Mounth range to the north. Scattered mature roadside vegetation would filter views to the west and north. From the scattered residential properties east of the B9120 the Proposed Development would be mostly backclothed by large blocks of mixed woodland to the north of the VRA, and views would be extensively to intermittently screened by dense bands of mixed woodland along and to the north of the B9120. Intervening woodland would screen lower portions of the Proposed Development, but the upper extents of towers and cables would remain clearly visible above the treeline.

From the south of the VRA, the towers would form prominent vertical features, extending along the undulating agricultural fields to the north. However, the intervening distances, increased backclothing, and blocks of mixed woodland would reduce the prominence of the infrastructure.

The scale of change resulting from the introduction of the Proposed Development is judged to be **Large** and would be focused along the minor road network and B roads in the north, and scattered properties in the west, north and northeast of the VRA.

The magnitude of change during operation is judged to be up to **High**.

VRA C25: Mains of Thornton	
Significance of Effect during Construction	Significance of Effect during Operation
Taking account of the High sensitivity of residents in the VRA, and the High magnitude of change, the visual effect arising from construction is judged to be up to Major (Significant) for any receptor in this VRA, and for many receptors would be less.	Taking account of the High sensitivity of residents in the VRA, and the High magnitude of change, the visual effect arising from operation is judged to be up to Major (Significant) for any receptor in this VRA, and for many receptors would be less.

Table 9.2.76: VRA C26: North of Lady Jane's Plantation

VRA C26: North of Lady Jane's Plantation	
Description of Receptor	Representative Viewpoint
Limited number of residents scattered between the B9120 and B974 and road users along the minor road network and B-roads, north and west of the Proposed Development (refer to Volume 3, Figure 9.3b.3: Visual Receptor Area, Viewpoint Locations and other Visual Receptors with Overhead Line Tower Height Zone of Theoretical Visibility (ZTV)). The VRA is located immediately adjacent to the Proposed Development at its closest point.	N/A
Nature of Views	
Views from within this VRA are relatively open to the west, east and north, with more enclosed views to the south where mature blocks of mixed woodland and large-scale buildings on the horizon curtail longer distance views. Gently rising landform to the east of the VRA partially foreshortens longer distance views, and layers of hedgerows and bands of mature woodland filter views across agricultural fields. Views from the B9120, B974 and minor road network are generally open, extending over undulating farmland, with the skyline punctuated by mature trees and large blocks of mixed woodland. Where views to the south are more open, views extend towards the Hill of Garvock in the distance. Many of the residential properties have open views, although some have mature boundary planting and large-scale agricultural buildings in proximity which provide some screening of views to the south and east. Wind turbines along the Hill of Garvock to the south are visible in long distance views, although these are not prominent features.	
Sensitivity	
Residential receptors are considered to be of High susceptibility to changes in the view, and road users including cyclists are considered to be of Low susceptibility to changes in the view. This VRA is not located within a designated landscape, and there are no promoted footpaths or designated recreation areas within the VRA. Views are generally of a rolling and wooded agricultural landscape, with scattered larger scale agricultural structures and intermittent longer views to the Hill of Garvock. As such views are considered to be Medium in value. Taking account of the judgements of susceptibility and value, sensitivity is judged to be High for residential receptors, and Medium for other receptors within the VRA.	
Magnitude of Change during Construction	Magnitude of Change during Operation
Construction activity would be seen in close to middle distance views to the south, seen from the minor road network and scattered residential properties. Activity associated with construction temporary access tracks would be seen in immediate views from the minor road near Craigmoston Mains Plump and from residential properties adjacent to the access track, in the centre of the VRA. Construction activity associated with the OHL would be	The Proposed Development would appear in close views to the south from some residential properties and from along the B-roads in the south of the VRA, at distances of within 0.1 km at the closest points. The proposed steel lattice towers would be seen in close views from the B roads and from some residential properties in the southwest and south of the VRA. Due to the

VRA C26: North of Lady Jane's Plantation

seen at distances within 0.1 km, from the B roads and properties at the southern edge of the VRA.

Use of machinery, vehicle movements, creation and upgrades of access tracks, forestry clearance, erection of steel lattice towers and lighting during hours of darkness would be visible across the undulating agricultural fields where the OHL crosses to the south, intermittently screened by blocks of mixed woodland along the southern edge off the VRA. Construction activity would generally be seen in direct close views from road users traveling south on the B-roads and access roads to residential properties. Undulating landform to the south and intervening vegetation would frequently screen lower-level construction activities, however taller elements would be clearly visible on the skyline. Partially built towers and cranes would be seen above the treeline but would be partially backclothed by more distant woodland and landform.

The scale of change resulting from construction activity is judged to be **Large** and would be seen by road users and residential receptors across the VRA.

The magnitude of change during construction is judged to be up to **High**.

proposed size and scale of the towers, the Proposed Development would form a prominent feature in views to the east. The towers would appear to extend high above the underlying landform and would be seen above the intervening treelines at the southern edge of the VRA. The Proposed Development would be partially backclothed by the more distant landforms of the Hill of Garvock to the south but would consistently appear to break the skyline. The dense forestry at Lady Jane's Plantation and in further distant fields would additionally screen and filter the lower portions of the proposed towers, reducing the prominence of the infrastructure. Views would be more open from the B974, with wider views to the southwest. Views from the B9120 would be more heavily screened by mixed woodland either side of the road at the southern edge of the VRA, and large section of the Proposed Alignment would be partially screened in views to the southeast. From further north in the VRA, from the minor road in the centre, views towards the Proposed Development would be glimpsed and peripheral, as the direction of travel is directed away from the Proposed Alignment.

In more direct views from the B roads and some residential properties, the Proposed Development would be seen in the context of the existing wind turbines along the Hill of Garvock to the south. The Proposed Development would appear larger scale and much closer in views and would increase the influence of vertical infrastructure in views to the southwest and south.

The scale of change resulting from the introduction of the Proposed Development is judged to be **Large** and would be seen by road users and residential receptors across the VRA.

The magnitude of change during operation is judged to be up to **High**.

Significance of Effect during Construction

Taking account of the **High** sensitivity of residents in the VRA, and the **High** magnitude of change, the visual effect arising from construction is judged to be up to **Major (Significant)** for any receptor in this VRA, and for many receptors would be less.

Significance of Effect during Operation

Taking account of the **High** sensitivity of residents in the VRA, and the **High** magnitude of change, the visual effect arising from operation is judged to be up to **Major (Significant)** for any receptor in this VRA, and for many receptors would be less.

Table 9.2.77: VRA C27: Inchgray Farm to Auchcairnie Croft

VRA C27: Inchgray Farm to Auchcairnie Croft	
Location / Type / Context	Representative Viewpoint
Residents of scattered farmsteads, recreational receptors and road users including cyclists of the minor road network (refer to Volume 3, Figure 9.3b.3: Visual Receptor Area, Viewpoint Locations and other Visual Receptors with Overhead Line Tower Height Zone of Theoretical Visibility (ZTV)). The VRA is located immediately adjacent to the Proposed Development at its closest point.	N/A

VRA C27: Inchgray Farm to Auchcairn Croft

Nature of Views

Views across the VRA are generally open and overlook a flat farmed landscape. To the north the Braes of Mearns form the horizon, and the Hill of Garvock forms the southern horizon. Features within the VRA include coniferous plantations and woodland blocks, concentrated in the southwest at Greenbottom Wood, shelterbelts and scattered farmsteads and associated farm buildings. Tree cover along the B966 is generally high, often screening views. In the centre west a large number of polytunnels screen views to the west. Tree cover on other minor roads is limited or completely absent, with open views possible from Landends Road in the south of the VRA. In the north of the VRA the topography starts to rise steeply. The rolling topography restricts views to the east and west.

Wood pole lines are visible throughout the VRA, and the Tullo windfarm is visible in the distance to the southeast. A single wind turbine is visible to the east near Gallows Knap.

Sensitivity

Residential and recreational receptors are considered to be of **High** susceptibility to changes in the view and road users including cyclists are considered to be of **Low** susceptibility to changes in the view.

Land north of the B966 is located within a designated landscape, the Braes of the Mearns SLA. The VRA is generally an open and underdeveloped landscape with views of distant hill forms. There are a limited number of receptors within the VRA to experience views. As such, views are considered to be **Medium** in value.

Taking account of the judgements of susceptibility and value, sensitivity is judged to be **High** for residents and **Medium** for other visual receptors in the VRA.

Magnitude of Change during Construction

Construction activity would be seen in close distance views in the south and east by residents and road users in this VRA. Views of construction from the north of the VRA would be seen in medium distance and would be limited to taller construction activity; ground level activity would be largely screened by vegetation and topography.

Use of machinery, vehicle movements, creation of access tracks, erection of steel lattice towers and lighting in hours of darkness would be visible across lower-lying land. The conifer plantations at Greenbottom Wood and Landends Wood would screen southern views towards the construction activity for residents on the western side of the VRA. From residential properties and stretches of the minor road network, some views would be partially obscured by deciduous trees that are scattered across field boundaries.

The scale of change resulting from construction activity is judged to be **Medium** and would be focused on the southern extent of the VRA.

The magnitude of change during construction is judged to be **Medium**.

Magnitude of Change during Operation

The Proposed Development would be seen in close distance views from residential properties in the south and east of the VRA, at a distance of 270 m at its closest point. From the north of the VRA there would be views south and east to the Proposed Development at a medium distance. The steel lattice towers would be visible on the horizon, though some would be backclothed by the distant topography of the Hill of Garvock. From Landsend Road and properties in the west of the VRA the conifer plantation at Greenbottom Wood would screen views of the Proposed Development.

Due to the proposed size and scale of the steel lattice towers, the Proposed Development would form a prominent feature in close ranging views from the south and east of the VRA. Parts of the visible extent of the Proposed Development would be backclothed by the surrounding landform. Where wood cover is low, towers would be visible as tall vertical features across the horizon, although at distances approximately > 3 km.

The Proposed Development would be seen in the context of existing vertical infrastructure, including wood pole lines and wind turbines. In comparison to the existing vertical infrastructure, the Proposed Development would be notably higher and larger scale than the existing elements and would result in a notable increase in the influence of vertical infrastructure in views from residents and road users in this VRA.

The scale of change resulting from the introduction of the Proposed Development is judged to be **Medium** and would be focused across the south and east of the VRA.

The magnitude of change during operation is judged to be **Medium**.

Significance of Effect during Construction

Significance of Effect during Operation

VRA C27: Inchgray Farm to Auchcairnie Croft

Taking account of the **High** sensitivity of residents in the VRA, and the **Medium** magnitude of change, the visual effect arising from construction is judged to be **Moderate (Significant)** for any receptor in the VRA, and for many receptors would be less.

Taking account of the **High** sensitivity of residents in the VRA, and the **Medium** magnitude of change, the visual effect arising from operation is judged to be **Moderate (Significant)** for any receptor in the VRA, and for many receptors would be less.

SECTION D

Table 9.2.78: VRA D1: Laurencekirk

VRA D1: Laurencekirk	
Description of Receptor	Representative Viewpoint
Residents of Laurencekirk, as well as road users moving through and tourists visiting the town and people travelling by train on the Kinnaber Junction to Aberdeen railway line. The VRA is southeast of the Proposed Development (refer to Volume 3, Figure 9.3b.3: Visual Receptor Area, Viewpoint Locations and other Visual Receptors with Overhead Line Tower Height Zone of Theoretical Visibility (ZTV)). The VRA is over 2 km from the Proposed Development at its closest point.	VP22: B9120 western edge of Laurencekirk (refer to Volume 4 b, Figure 9.26a-d: VP22: B9120, western edge of Laurencekirk)
Nature of Views	
The landform descends gently from southeast to northwest and is very gently undulating. Within Laurencekirk this is not perceptible as views are contained by the buildings of the settlement. The Kinnaber Junction to Aberdeen railway line passes through the town. Northwest of Laurencekirk, views consist of gently undulating farmland of arable fields bounded by post and wire fencing and occasional hedgerows; occasional blocks of mixed woodland; single track roads lined with occasional hedgerows, broadleaf trees, and clusters of gorse; and occasional properties and farmsteads. In the south of the VRA the A90 is seen in close distance views to the southeast. The ridge of the Mounth is seen in far distance views to the northwest, north, and northeast; the Hill of Garvock in far distance views to the east; and the Hill of Wirren in far distance views to the west. The Tullo, Tullo Extension, Shiels, Easter Tulloch, and Brownieleys windfarms can be seen atop the Hill of Garvock in far distance views to the east.	
Sensitivity	
Residential and recreational receptors are considered of High susceptibility to changes in the view and road users are considered to be of Low susceptibility to changes in the view. The VRA is not within any designated landscapes. However, the town is popular with tourists and both tourists and residents enjoy views looking from the town into the surrounding farmland, Howe of the Mearns, valued for its distinctive wooded character. Furthermore, views from within this VRA are experienced by a high density of receptors. Overall, the value of views from within this VRA are considered to be Medium in value. Taking account of the judgements of susceptibility and value, sensitivity is judged to be High for residential and recreational receptors and Medium for others.	
Magnitude of Change during Construction	Magnitude of Change during Operation
Construction activity would be seen in far distance views to the northwest, north, and northeast. From within Laurencekirk, construction activity would not be visible as intervening buildings would provide screening. Similarly, from the southern and southeastern outskirts of the town construction activity would not be visible as the town would provide screening, as would Denlethen Wood located to the southwest of the town. From the northern, northwestern and western outskirts of Laurencekirk construction activity would be seen in far distance views to the northwest, north, and northeast. From this distance, it is likely that the only type of activity to be visible would be the erection of steel lattice towers, which would be seen on land of a lower elevation to receptors and afforded partial screening by the intervening gently undulating landform and woodland blocks. The partially constructed steel lattice towers would also be backclothed by the ridge of the Mounth.	The Proposed Development would be seen in far distance views to the northwest, north, and northeast. At its closest point, the Proposed Development would be located approximately 2 km from the VRA. From within Laurencekirk, the Proposed Development would not be visible as intervening buildings would provide screening. Similarly, from the southern and southeastern outskirts of the town the Proposed Development would not be visible as the town would provide screening, as would Denlethen Wood located to the southwest of the town. However, from the northern, northwestern, and western outskirts of Laurencekirk the Proposed Development would be seen in far distance views to the northwest, north, and northeast. The Proposed Development would be seen on land of a lower elevation to receptors and would not be prominent owing to the distance from receptors and partial screening afforded by the gently undulating landform and woodland blocks. The Proposed Development would also be backclothed by the ridge of the Mounth.

VRA D1: Laurencekirk	
The scale of change would be Small in the northern, northwestern, and western extents of the VRA. The magnitude of change during construction is judged to be no more than Low .	The scale of change would be Small in the in the northern, northwestern, and western extents of the VRA. The magnitude of change during operation is judged to be no more than Low .
Significance of Effect during Construction	Significance of Effect during Operation
Taking account of the High sensitivity of residential and recreational receptors and the Low magnitude of change, the visual effect arising from construction is judged to be no more than Minor (Not Significant) for any receptor, and for many receptors would be less.	Taking account of the High sensitivity of residential and recreational receptors and the Low magnitude of change, the visual effect arising from operation is judged to be no more than Minor (Not Significant) for any receptor, and for many receptors would be less.

Table 9.2.79: VRA D2: Barnhill, Burnton, Burnhead, Johnston Mains, and Johnston Lodge, Hill of Garvock

VRA D2: Barnhill, Burnton, Burnhead, Johnston Mains, and Johnston Lodge, Hill of Garvock	
Description of Receptor	Representative Viewpoint
Road users and residents of the farmsteads and properties around Barnhill, Burnton, Burnhead, Johnston Mains, and Johnston Lodge on the Hill of Garvock, as well as recreational receptors ascending the Hill, southeast of the Proposed Development (refer to Volume 3, Figure 9.3b.3: Visual Receptor Area, Viewpoint Locations and other Visual Receptors with Overhead Line Tower Height Zone of Theoretical Visibility (ZTV)). The VRA is over 4 km from the Proposed Development at its closest point.	VP21: Hill of Garvock (refer to Volume 4 b, Figure 9.25a-d: VP21: Hill of Garvock)
Nature of Views	
The VRA is situated on the northwestern slopes of the Hill of Garvock, which descend from southeast to northwest and offer expansive views across the lower lying Howe of the Mearns. Views consist of rolling farmland of arable and improved grassland fields bounded by post and wire fencing and hedgerows; occasional farmsteads and properties; and mixed woodland blocks, conifer shelter belts, and conifer plantations. The woodland blocks, hedgerows and rolling landform often contain views to close distances. Laurencekirk Viewpoint and picnic area on the B9120 in the east of the VRA is promoted for its views across the Howe of the Mearns and the ridge of the Mounth, the latter seen in far distance views to the northwest. The high voltage OHLs Kintore to Tealing 275 kV and Fiddes to Brechin 132 kV pass through the centre of the VRA and can be seen in both close and middle distance views throughout the VRA. In the Tullo, Tullo Extension, Shiels, Easter Tulloch, and Brownieleys windfarms can be seen in middle distance views to the northeast.	
Sensitivity	
Residential and recreational receptors are considered of High susceptibility to changes in the view and road users are considered to be of Low susceptibility to changes in the view. The VRA is not situated within any designated landscapes. Views from within this VRA are promoted as the Hill of Garvock affords expansive views across the lower lying Howe of the Mearns to the ridge of the Mounth in the northwest, as shown by the promoted viewpoint and picnic area at Laurencekirk Viewpoint. The views from within this VRA are characteristic of the Howe of the Mearns farmland which is distinctive for its wooded character. While views from within this VRA are experienced by a low density of receptors, views are considered to be High in value. Taking account of the judgements of susceptibility and value, sensitivity is judged to be High for residential and recreational receptors and Medium for others.	

VRA D2: Barnhill, Burnton, Burnhead, Johnston Mains, and Johnston Lodge, Hill of Garvock	
Magnitude of Change during Construction	Magnitude of Change during Operation
Construction activity would be seen in far distance views to the west, northwest and north. The type of construction activity likely to be visible from this distance would be the erection of steel lattice towers. The partially constructed steel lattice towers would appear small in scale. Receptors would see the construction activity on lower lying land beneath the VRA. Views would also be backclothed by the ridge of the Mounth. In many areas throughout the VRA, the partially constructed steel lattice towers would be screened in views to the west and north by the rolling landform, woodland blocks, and hedgerows that often contain views to close distances. The scale of change would be Small and would be experienced across the VRA. The magnitude of change during construction is judged to be no more than Low.	At its closest point, the Proposed Development would locate approximately 4 km from the VRA. The Proposed Development would be seen in far distance views to the west, northwest and north. The Proposed Development would not be prominent, appearing small in scale owing to the long distance from receptors. The Proposed Development would be seen on lower lying land to receptors and would be backclothed by the ridge of the Mounth. In many areas throughout the VRA, the Proposed Development would be screened in views to the west and north by the rolling landform, woodland blocks, and hedgerows that often contain close distance views. The Proposed Development would be seen in the context of existing infrastructure: the windfarms to the northeast and the Kintore to Tealing 275 kV and Fiddes to Brechin 132 kV OHLs. Compared to this infrastructure the Proposed Development would appear much smaller in scale owing to the greater distance from receptors. The scale of change would be Small and would be experienced across the VRA. The magnitude of change during operation is judged to be no more than Low.
Significance of Effect during Construction	Significance of Effect during Operation
Taking account of the High sensitivity of residential and recreational receptors and the Low magnitude of change, the visual effect arising from construction is judged to be no more than Minor (Not Significant) for any receptor in the VRA, and for many receptors would be less.	Taking account of the High sensitivity of residential and recreational receptors and the Low magnitude of change, the visual effect arising from operation is judged to be no more than Minor (Not Significant) for any receptor in the VRA, and for many receptors would be less.

Table 9.2.80: VRA D3 - Haulkerton, Scotston and Haddo

VRA D3: Haulkerton, Scotston and Haddo	
Description of Receptor	Representative Viewpoint
Residential properties around Haulkerton, Scotston, and Haddo, as well as scattered properties along the A90. Road users along the minor road network and A90. Southeast of the Proposed Development (refer to Volume 3, Figure 9.3b.4: Visual Receptor Area, Viewpoint Locations and other Visual Receptors with Overhead Line Tower Height Zone of Theoretical Visibility (ZTV), p. 4). The VRA is located approximately 0.8 km from the Proposed Development at the closest point.	N/A
Nature of Views	
Views from within this VRA are wide and sweeping, with generally open views directed across gently undulating and low lying fields towards the northwest and the rising landforms of the Mounth. Views to the northwest extend towards the prominent Mounth landforms, while views to the east are curtailed by the rising forms of the Hill of Garvock. In the south of the VRA the landform begins to rise towards the Hill of Garvock, affording more elevated panoramic views from the minor road network and scattered properties in the south. Wind turbines of Tullo Wind Farm are visible beyond the ridgeline of the Hill of Garvock and are clearly visible from scattered properties and the road network across the VRA. Views from residential	

VRA D3: Haulkerton, Scotston and Haddo

properties and minor road network through the centre of the VRA extend over gently rolling agricultural fields, dotted with pockets of woodland and hedgerows. Gently rising landform near Drumforber provides partial screening in northerly views from the south of the VRA, interrupting longer distance views. More concentrated areas of woodland are found along the peripheries of scattered settlement, including at the Mains of Haulkerton and Lower Powburn.

Sensitivity

Residential receptors are considered to be of **High** susceptibility to changes in the view and road users including cyclists are considered to be of **Low** susceptibility to changes in the view.

This VRA is not located within a designated landscape, and there are no promoted footpaths or designated recreation areas within the VRA. However, there are wide ranging and panoramic views towards the Mounth from across the VRA. As such views are considered to be **Medium** in value.

Taking account of the judgements of susceptibility and value, sensitivity is judged to be **High** for residents and **Medium** for other visual receptors in the VRA.

Magnitude of Change during Construction

Construction activity would be seen in middle-to-longer distance views to the north and northwest, from the minor road network, A937, and clusters of settlement across the VRA. Seen from the northwestern half of the VRA, use of machinery, vehicle movements, creation of access tracks, erection of steel lattice towers and lighting in hours of darkness would be visible across the low lying and undulating agricultural fields, with limited intervening features in the landscape. In views from the north of the VRA, views from the minor road network and scattered properties would have mostly open views of construction activity on the horizon; although, the ridge of the Mounth would entirely backcloth construction activity. From Mains of Haulkerton, intervening vegetation along the northern peripheries of the settlement would provide filtering of views towards activity. Additionally, undulating landform would intermittently screen lower lying activity, although cranes and the erection of towers would be visible. A low-lying ridge at Drumforber in the northwestern extents of the VRA would partially screen northerly views from a limited number of properties and from the minor road network which lies to the southeast and southwest. From further south in the VRA the prominence of construction activity would be increasingly reduced, as the rising elevation affords more elevated vantage points, increasing the extent of backclothing in views and emphasising the scale of the Mounth range. However, lighting in hours of darkness and vehicle movements would be evident and seen in contrast with the more distant landforms, particularly in winter months.

In the southeastern extents of the VRA, around Haddo, partially constructed steel lattice towers would be seen in the far distance in views to the northwest and north. Although, the partially constructed towers would be backclothed by the ridge of the Mounth and intervening woodland blocks would provide partial screening. Furthermore, the partially constructed towers would be seen from relatively long distances of approximately 4-5 km and so would be more difficult to perceive.

The scale of change resulting from construction activity is judged to be **Small** and would be focused across the northwestern edge of the VRA, as well as the more elevated extents to the south.

The magnitude of change during construction is judged to be no more than **Low**.

Magnitude of Change during Operation

The Proposed Development would be seen in middle-to-longer distance views from residential properties and along the minor road network, in views to the north, northwest and northeast, at approximately 0.9 km at its closest point.

Due to the intervening distance and the extent of backclothing provided by the rising landforms within the Mounth range, the Proposed Development would appear relatively small-scale on the horizon in northerly views from the VRA. Undulating landform within the VRA would intermittently screen lower portions of the proposed towers in views from the minor road network and scattered properties within the north of the VRA. In views from the A90 the Proposed Development would be viewed in glimpsed and oblique views to the direction of travel and would not form prominent features within the wider landscape. In views from the south of the VRA, south of the A90, the rising landform would afford more elevated vantage points and panoramic outlooks from the minor road network and a limited number of residential properties, including from the cluster at Upper Powburn. The Proposed Development would occupy a wide horizontal field of view as it crosses the horizon from the northeast to the northwest, however the towers would form small scale features at the foot of the Mounth range in views. From these elevated extents the towers would appear entirely backclothed by the rising landform, and the contrast in scale would reduce the prominence of the infrastructure.

The Proposed Development would be seen in the context of scattered and solitary small-scale wind turbines, which are clearly visible against the darker backdrop of the Mounth range. However, the towers would appear larger scale and would increase the overall influence of vertical infrastructure in views.

In the southeastern extents of the VRA, around Haddo, the Proposed Development would be seen in the far distance in views to the northwest and north. Although, it would be backclothed by the ridge of the Mounth and intervening woodland blocks would provide partial screening. Furthermore, the Proposed Development would be seen from relatively long distances of approximately 4-5 km and so would be more difficult to perceive.

VRA D3: Haulkerton, Scotston and Haddo	
	The scale of change resulting from the introduction of the Proposed Development is judged to be Small and would be focused across the north of the VRA, as well as the more elevated extents to the south. The magnitude of change during construction is judged to be no more than Low.
Significance of Effect during Construction	Significance of Effect during Operation
Taking account of the High sensitivity of residents in the VRA and the Low magnitude of change, the visual effect arising from construction is judged to be no more than Minor (Not Significant) .	Taking account of the High sensitivity of residents in the VRA, and the Low magnitude of change, the visual effect arising from operation is judged to be no more than Minor (Not Significant) .

Table 9.2.81: VRA D4 - Westerton / Waulkmill

VRA D4: Westerton / Waulkmill	
Description of Receptor	Representative Viewpoint
Small clusters of residential properties scattered along the minor watercourses and minor road network across the VRA. South of the Proposed Development (refer to Volume 3, Figure 9.3b.4: Visual Receptor Area, Viewpoint Locations and other Visual Receptors with Overhead Line Tower Height Zone of Theoretical Visibility (ZTV), p. 4). The VRA is located immediately adjacent to the Proposed Development.	N/A
Nature of Views	
Views from within this VRA are mostly open in all directions from the minor road network and scattered residential properties, extending across broad and large-scale arable fields with the Mounth range in the distance to the northwest and the Hill of Garvock to the southeast. Gently undulating landform gives rise to low hills in the northeast and west of the VRA, partially screening views north from the minor road network. Views are generally of large scale agricultural fields, with limited field boundaries and scattered hedgerow trees. The Mounth range forms a focal point in views, providing an elevated backdrop to the north, northeast and northwest. Around the clusters of settlement, mature woodland and garden vegetation along the periphery of the properties creates partially enclosed outlooks, with filtered views to the north and northeast. A small number of existing isolated wind turbines form small scale features to the north, seen against the backdrop of the Mounth range, while views to the southeast extend towards the Tullo Wind Farm, seen on the skyline above the Garvock Hill ridgeline.	
Sensitivity	
Residential receptors are considered to be of High susceptibility to changes in the view and road users including cyclists are considered to be of Low susceptibility to changes in the view. This VRA is not located within a designated landscape, and there are no promoted footpaths or designated recreation areas within the VRA. However, there are wide ranging and panoramic views towards the Mounth from across the VRA. As such views are considered to be Medium in value. Taking account of the judgements of susceptibility and value, sensitivity is judged to be High for residents and Medium for other visual receptors in the VRA.	
Magnitude of Change during Construction	Magnitude of Change during Operation
Construction activity would be seen in close to middle distance northerly and northwesterly views from across most of the VRA, seen from the minor road network and small clusters of settlement. At its closest, construction activity including road improvements would be visible	The Proposed Development would appear in close views to the north from some residential properties, including Waulkhills, Westerton, and Easthills and from along the minor road network in the north of the VRA, at distances of within 0.1 km at the closest points. The

VRA D4: Westerton / Waulkmill

at distances within 0.1 km, seen to the north of Waulkmill and the minor road at the northern edge of the VRA. Construction of the OHL would also be visible within 0.1 km from the minor road network as receptors travel north, as well as from scattered properties from within 0.3 km. The undulating and low-lying landscape would also afford views from the south of the VRA, from scattered properties and minor road network within 0.7 km. Use of machinery, vehicle movements, creation of access tracks, erection of steel lattice towers and lighting in hours of darkness would be clearly visible across the undulating agricultural fields to the north. Most construction activity would be clearly visible, with limited intervening screening features in the landscape between the VRA and the Mounth range further north. The elevated landforms to the north would backcloth the majority of construction activity, although taller elements such as crane movements and partially built towers would be seen to extend above the more distant skyline. Night lighting would be particularly visible within the landscape, with limited intervening features to filter views and a dark backdrop. From clusters of properties at Waulkmills and at Westerton Farm, garden vegetation and boundary trees would filter outlook to the north.

The scale of change resulting from construction activity is judged to be **Large** and would be focused along the minor roads and properties in the north and centre of the VRA.

The magnitude of change during construction is judged to be up to **High**.

Significance of Effect during Construction

Taking account of the **High** sensitivity of residents in the VRA and the **High** magnitude of change, the visual effect arising from construction is judged to be up to **Major (Not Significant)** for any receptor in this VRA, and for many receptors would be less.

undulating and low-lying landscape would also afford middle views of the towers, visible in more distant views from residential properties and the minor road network at distances within 0.7 km.

The proposed steel lattice towers would be seen in close views from people travelling north along the road network, and from residential properties. Due to the proposed scale and proximity of the towers, the Proposed Development would form a prominent feature in views to the north, northwest and northeast. The towers would appear to extend high above the underlying landform and would be seen above any intervening treelines. However, the Proposed Development would be partially backclothed by more distant areas of elevation within the Mounth and smaller blocks of woodland further north, somewhat reducing the prominence of the infrastructure. From residential properties with intervening garden vegetation and trees along the property boundaries, the tops of towers and wires would be visible above the intervening treeline. The Proposed Development would occupy a wide horizontal field of views, extending along the foot of the Mounth in both directions to the northeast and southwest. Seen against the backdrop of the Mounth range, the Proposed Development would appear larger in views.

The scale of change resulting from the introduction of the Proposed Development is judged to be **Large** and would be focused along the minor roads and properties in the north and centre of the VRA.

The magnitude of change during operation is judged to be up to **High**.

Significance of Effect during Operation

Taking account of the **High** sensitivity of residents in the VRA, and the **High** magnitude of change, the visual effect arising from operation is judged to be up to **Major (Significant)** for any receptor in this VRA, and for many receptors would be less.

Table 9.2.82: VRA D5 - Cammackmuir Plantation / Gallows Knap

VRA D5: Cammackmuir Plantation / Gallows Knap	
Description of Receptor	Representative Viewpoint
Small clusters of residential properties scattered from southwest to northeast along the minor watercourses and minor road network across the VRA. North of the Proposed Development (refer to Volume 3, Figure 9.3b.4: Visual Receptor Area, Viewpoint Locations and other Visual Receptors with Overhead Line Tower Height Zone of Theoretical Visibility (ZTV), p. 4). The VRA is located immediately adjacent to the Proposed Development.	N/A
Nature of Views	
Views from within this VRA are mostly open in all directions from the minor road network and scattered residential properties, extending across broad and large-scale arable fields with the Hill of Garvock to the south in the distance and the foothills of the Mounth range to the north. Gently undulating landform gives rise to low hills in the northeast and northwest of the VRA, affording marginally more elevated views to the south from the minor road network in the north of the VRA. Views are generally of large scale agricultural fields, with limited field boundaries and scattered hedgerow trees. The Mounth range and Hill of Garvock form a backdrop in views along the horizon to the north and south and contain views. A larger area of woodland is situated around a cluster of properties in the southwest of the VRA, at Cammackmuir Plantation, with limited areas of woodland elsewhere within the VRA. Around the clusters of settlement, scattered trees and garden vegetation along the periphery of the properties creates partially enclosed outlooks, with filtered views to the north and northeast. A single isolated wind turbine forms a small scale feature to the north, seen against the backdrop of the Mounth range, while views to the southeast extend towards the Tullo Wind Farm, seen on the skyline above the Garvock Hill ridgeline.	
Sensitivity	
Residential receptors are considered to be of High susceptibility to changes in the view and road users including cyclists are considered to be of Low susceptibility to changes in the view. This VRA is not located within a designated landscape, and there are no promoted footpaths or designated recreation areas within the VRA. However, there are wide ranging and panoramic views towards the Mounth and Hill of Garvock from across the VRA. As such views are considered to be Medium in value. Taking account of the judgements of susceptibility and value, sensitivity is judged to be High for residents and Medium for other visual receptors in the VRA.	
Magnitude of Change during Construction	Magnitude of Change during Operation
Construction activity would be seen in close-to-middle distance southerly views from across most of the VRA, seen from the minor road network and small clusters of settlement. At its closest, construction activity including road improvements would be visible at distances within 0.1 km, seen from a minor road and properties east of Crookieden at the southern edge of the VRA. Construction of the OHL would also be visible within 0.1 km from the minor road network as receptors travel south, as well as from scattered properties from within 0.3 km. The undulating and low-lying landscape would also afford more elevated views from the north of the VRA, from scattered properties and minor road network within 0.9 km. Use of machinery, vehicle movements, creation of access tracks, erection of steel lattice towers and lighting in hours of darkness would be clearly visible across the undulating agricultural fields to the south and southwest. Most construction activity would be clearly visible, with limited intervening screening features in the landscape between the	The Proposed Development would appear in close views to the south from the minor road network at distances of approximately 0.1 km, and from scattered residential properties including from Northhill in the southwest corner of the VRA and Crookieden in the centre at distances of within 0.4 km at the closest points. The undulating and low-lying landscape would also afford middle views of the towers, visible in more distant views from residential properties and the minor road network at distances within 0.9 km. The proposed steel lattice towers would be seen in close views from people travelling south along the road network, and from residential properties. Due to the proposed scale and proximity of the towers, the Proposed Development would form a prominent feature in wide views to the south, southeast and southwest. The proposed towers would appear to extend high above the underlying landform and would be seen above any intervening treelines. A large area of mature woodland at Cammackmuir Plantation in the southwest of the VRA

VRA D5: Cammackmuir Plantation / Gallows Knap

VRA and the Hill of Garvock further south. Woodland near Cammackmuir Plantation would screen lower level elements in views from the minor road network and scattered properties in the northwest of the VRA, although taller elements would be visible above the treeline. The elevated landforms to the distant south would partially backcloth construction activity, although taller elements such as crane movements and partially built towers would be seen to extend above the skyline. Lighting in hours of darkness would be particularly visible within the rural and low-lying landscape, with limited intervening features to filter.

The scale of change resulting from construction activity is judged to be **Large** and would be focused along the minor roads and properties west of Cammackmuir Plantation and within the eastern half of the VRA.

The magnitude of change during construction is judged to be up to **High**.

would provide extensive screening of the lower portions of the proposed towers in views from the minor road network and scattered properties in the vicinity, however the tops of towers would remain visible above the treeline. In views from across the VRA the Proposed Development would be seen partially backclothed by more distant areas of elevation within the Hill of Garvock and smaller blocks of woodland further south and southwest of the VRA, somewhat reducing the prominence of the infrastructure. However, the Proposed Development would occupy a wide horizontal field of views, extending through gently undulating agricultural fields to the south, southeast and southwest of the VRA and forming focal points within the rural landscape. Seen against the backdrop of the Hill of Garvock, the Proposed Development would extend above the skyline and would appear as larger features than the distant wind turbines which are also visible above the Hill of Garvock ridgeline.

The scale of change resulting from the introduction of the Proposed Development is judged to be **Large** and would be focused along the minor roads and properties northwest of Cammackmuir Plantation and within the eastern half of the VRA.

The magnitude of change during operation is judged to be up to **High**.

Significance of Effect during Construction

Taking account of the **High** sensitivity of residents in the VRA and the **High** magnitude of change, the visual effect arising from construction is judged to be up to **Major (Significant)** for any receptor in this VRA, and for many receptors would be less.

Significance of Effect during Operation

Taking account of the **High** sensitivity of residents in the VRA, and the **High** magnitude of change, the visual effect arising from operation is judged to be up to **Major (Significant)** for any receptor in this VRA, and for many receptors would be less.

Table 9.2.83: VRA D6 – West Cairnbeg / Scotch-haugh Burn

VRA D6: West Cairnbeg / Scotch-haugh Burn

Description of Receptor

Residents concentrated in the west of the VRA at West Cairnbeg, along Luther Water in the east, and scattered along the B966 and minor road network. Recreational receptors along informal tracks in forestry along the northern edge of the VRA (refer to **Volume 3, Figure 9.3b.4: Visual Receptor Area, Viewpoint Locations and other Visual Receptors with Overhead Line Tower Height Zone of Theoretical Visibility (ZTV), p. 4**). This VRA is located approximately 0.5 km from the Proposed Development at the closest point.

Representative Viewpoint

N/A

Nature of Views

Views from within this VRA are generally open, with elevated views afforded from slopes in the north of the VRA and open views across low-lying fields in the south, extending towards the gently ridgeline of the Hill of Garvock in the distance. Views from the minor road network and B966 are similar across the VRA, with generally expansive views and limited roadside vegetation, although undulating fields occasionally curtail longer views to the south from along the B966. Views are more contained to the north, where the foothills of the Mounth range begin to rise and screen longer distance views. Scattered properties along the B966 and in the centre and west of the VRA are open to the south, except for when garden vegetation filters views at the peripheries of the properties. Overall, there are limited trees or hedgerows in views, except for in proximity to scattered properties and along the minor watercourses,

VRA D6: West Cairnbeg / Scotch-haugh Burn

including along Luther Water in the northeast and at Cammackmuir Planation to the southwest of the VRA. Elevated landform either side of Luther Water provides elevated vantage points from a cluster of residential properties along its eastern edge near Drumalan. Within the narrow valley of Luther Water views from the minor road and scattered properties are extensively contained by both landform and vegetation. Single wind turbines are visible to the southwest of the VRA, and the turbines of Tullo Wind Farm are visible in the distance to the south above the Hill of Garvock skyline.

Sensitivity

Residential receptors and recreational receptors are considered to be of **High** susceptibility to changes in the view, and road users including cyclists are considered to be of **Low** susceptibility to changes in the view.

This VRA is not located within a designated landscape but is partially located within the Braes of Mearns SLA. There are no promoted footpaths or designated recreation areas within the VRA. Views are generally of a gently undulating agricultural landscape, with frequently expansive and far-reaching views to the south and southwest towards the Hill of Garvock, and to the north towards the Mounth range. As such views are considered to be **Medium** in value.

Taking account of the judgements of susceptibility and value, sensitivity is judged to be **High** for residents and recreational receptors, and **Medium** for other receptors within the VRA.

Magnitude of Change during Construction

Construction activity associated with upgraded access tracks would be visible in close to middle distance views within 0.1 km from the B966 and residential properties in proximity to MS Cairnton. Construction activity associated with the OHL would be seen in middle distance to longer distance views to the south, southwest and east from along the minor road network, B966, and clusters of residential properties within the VRA. From elevated slopes in the north of the VRA, views are longer distance but have increasingly elevated outlooks from scattered residential properties and access tracks, with panoramic views to the south. Use of machinery, vehicle movements, creation of access tracks, erection of steel lattice towers and lighting in hours of darkness would be clearly visible across the lower-lying and undulating agricultural fields to the south and southeast of the VRA, with limited intervening features in the landscape.

In views from the south of the VRA, views from the minor road network and scattered properties would have middle distance and open views of construction activity, visible on the skyline to the south. To the distant south the elevated landforms of the Hill of Garvock would provide backclothing to lower level activities, although taller structures including cranes and partially built towers would be visible above the skyline. From the settlement of West Cairnbeg in the west of the VRA, properties along the southern edge of the settlement would have relatively open views to the south towards construction activity, while properties further north would be intermittently screened by intervening buildings. From the western edge of the VRA, construction activity would be seen behind intervening woodland to the south within Cammackmuir Plantation and an existing solitary wind turbine, which is visible in close views to the southwest. Views from the northern edge of the VRA are from elevated vantage with more panoramic views directed south and southwest, and construction activity would be visible across lower lying agricultural fields at distances of beyond approximately 1.3 km. From the northeast and east of the VRA, rising landform and bands of woodland would increasingly filter views, and the increased distance would reduce the prominence of activity in views.

Magnitude of Change during Operation

The Proposed Development would appear in middle distance to long distance views to the south, southwest, and southeast from the minor road network, B966 and scattered clusters of settlement across the length of the VRA. In the southeast of the VRA, the Proposed Development would be visible in middle distance views within approximately 0.6 km at the closest points, from the minor road network and a cluster of residential properties at Mains of Fordoun. From the B966 and scattered properties on rising slopes in the north, the Proposed Development would be visible in longer distance views, from approximately 1.5 km or more.

In views from the southeast of the VRA, the proposed towers would appear on the skyline to the south and would extend across a wide horizontal field of view to the southeast and southwest, forming new and notable features in the undulating agricultural landscape. The rising forms of the Hill of Garvock in the distance would provide extensive backclothing, however the tops of towers and cables would extend above the distant skyline. The Proposed Development would appear in mostly oblique views from the B966, and the proposed towers would appear almost entirely backclothed by the Hill of Garvock, as well as intermittently filtered in views by scattered blocks of forestry in the middle ground. From rising slopes in the north of the VRA, longer distance views of the Proposed Development from scattered properties as well as from the settlement of West Cairnbeg would be at distances of approximately 1.4 km or more. The elevated vantage would increase the appearance of backclothing provided by the Hill of Garvock, and the proposed towers would not appear to breach the skyline, reducing the prominence of the infrastructure. However, the Proposed Alignment would occupy a wide horizontal field of view, and the proposed towers would be notable features in the rural landscape. From the eastern edge of the VRA, the elevated vantage would afford distant views to the east and south and the Proposed Alignment would occupy a wide horizontal field of view, although would be seen mostly backclothed by the Hill of Garvock and filtered by intervening bands of mixed woodland.

VRA D6: West Cairnbeg / Scotch-haugh Burn

The scale of change resulting from construction activity is judged to be **Medium** and would be focused along the eastern edge of the VRA and along the B966, as well as the rising slopes and settlement in the southwest of the VRA.

The magnitude of change during construction is judged to be no more than **Medium**.

In most views across the VRA the Proposed Development would be seen in the context of the existing wind turbines along the Hill of Garvock to the south. The proposed towers would appear closer in views and more prominent and would increase the influence of vertical infrastructure in views to the south.

The scale of change resulting from the introduction of the Proposed Development is judged to be **Medium** and would be focused along the eastern edge of the VRA and along the B966, as well as the rising slopes and settlement in the southwest of the VRA.

The magnitude of change during operation is judged to be no more than **Medium**.

Significance of Effect during Construction

Taking account of the **High** sensitivity of residents in the VRA and the **Medium** magnitude of change, the visual effect arising from construction is judged to be no more than **Moderate (Significant)** for any receptor in this VRA, and for many receptors would be less.

Significance of Effect during Operation

Taking account of the **High** sensitivity of residents in the VRA, and the **Medium** magnitude of change, the visual effect arising from operation is judged to be no more than **Moderate (Significant)** for any receptor in this VRA, and for many receptors would be less.

Table 9.2.84: VRA D7 - Woods of Redhall / Nursery Burn

VRA D7: Woods of Redhall / Nursery Burn

Description of Receptor

Clusters of settlement to the west of Woods of Redhall and west of Nursery Burn, as well as scattered along the B966. Road users along the minor road network and B966 (refer to **Volume 3, Figure 9.3b.4: Visual Receptor Area, Viewpoint Locations and other Visual Receptors with Overhead Line Tower Height Zone of Theoretical Visibility (ZTV), p. 4**). This VRA is located immediately adjacent to the Proposed Development.

Representative Viewpoint

N/A

Nature of Views

View from within this VRA are varied, with open views across agricultural fields in the foreground, and more enclosed views to the middle ground and beyond, where bands of mixed woodland and shelterbelts sit on the skyline and filter longer distance views. In the southwest near Mains of Fordoun and Crossroads, views south are generally more open and extend towards the Hill of Garvock. The B966 which runs through the south of the VRA experiences intermittently screened views to the south, with frequent roadside vegetation and shelterbelts filtering views. In the northeast of the VRA, the wooded Nursery Burn runs along the eastern edge of the area and dense mixed woodland screens views to the east and southeast. In views from the minor road network and residential properties near Stoneyfield Belt and west of Nursery Burn, views south comprise a working agricultural landscape with larger-scale farm structures in the middle distance, and the wind turbines along the Hill of Garvock clearly visible in the distance, with closer intervening bands of mixed woodland providing some filtering in views. In easterly views from the minor road network near Mossend Burn, a solitary wind turbine is visible the middle distance at Saw Mill, and an existing OHL is visible on the more distant skyline of the Hill of Gyratesmyre.

Sensitivity

Residential receptors are considered to be of **High** susceptibility to changes in the view and road users including cyclists are considered to be of **Low** susceptibility to changes in the view.

VRA D7: Woods of Redhall / Nursery Burn

This VRA is not located within a designated landscape, and there are no promoted footpaths or designated recreation areas within the VRA. Views are generally of an undulating agricultural landscape with intermittent pockets of mixed woodland, with occasional longer distant views to south towards the Hill of Garvock. As such views are considered to be **Medium** in value.

Taking account of the judgements of susceptibility and value, sensitivity is judged to be **High** for residents and recreational receptors, and **Medium** for other receptors within the VRA.

Magnitude of Change during Construction	Magnitude of Change during Operation
Construction activity would be seen in close to middle distance views to the east and south from along the minor road in the southwest and east of the VRA, and from scattered properties along the B966 and at Crossroads. At its closest, construction activity associated with access track upgrades would be visible at distances within 0.1 km, at the eastern edge of the VRA and at the southern edge. Construction activity associated with the OHL would be visible at distances of at least 0.2 km, along the southern and eastern edges of the VRA. Use of machinery, vehicle movements, creation of access tracks, erection of steel lattice towers and lighting in hours of darkness would be visible, seen across wide agricultural fields and intermittently screened by intervening pockets of mixed woodland. Construction activity would be most evident south of Mains of Fordoun and near Crossroads, along the minor roads and from the residential properties within the hamlets, and from the B966 at the eastern edge of the VRA, clearly visible in proximity. From further north within the VRA, bands of intervening mixed woodland and shelterbelts would intermittently screen lower elements of activity, although taller elements such as cranes and partially built towers would be visible above the treeline. From residential properties west of Nursery Burn, views of construction activity would generally be to the southwest as woodland along the watercourse would screen and filter easterly views. The scale of change resulting from construction activity is judged to be Large and would be focused across the minor road network and residential properties in the south of the VRA, and the B966, minor road and residential properties in proximity to Mossend Burn at the eastern edge of the VRA. The magnitude of change during construction is judged to be up to High.	The Proposed Development would appear in views to the south and to the southeast from people travelling south along the minor road network and B966, and from residential properties near Mains of Fordoun, west of Nursery Burn, and from west of Woods of Redhall. At its closest, the proposed towers would be seen from distances of approximately 0.18 km from properties west of Woods of Redhalls, south of Mains of Fordoun, and south of Mossend Burn. Road users along the B966 would pass directly underneath the Proposed Alignment at the east edge of the VRA between towers S32 and S33. Due to the proposed size and scale of the steel lattice towers, the Proposed Development would form a prominent feature in close views. The proposed towers would extend high above the more distant skyline, partially backclothed by the Hill of Garvock and occupying a wide horizontal field of view from the southeast to the southwest. Residential properties at Crossroads as well as west of Nursery Burn would be closer to the Proposed Alignment however would be relatively enclosed by surrounding vegetation, screening direct views towards the Proposed Development. It would become less prominent with distance and when seen from the more elevated northern extents of the VRA, appearing in middle distant views within 0.5 km and with more frequent intervening bands of mixed woodland. While intervening vegetation would screen lower portions of towers, the tops and cabling would be visible above the treeline. The Proposed Development would be seen in the context of existing vertical infrastructure, including the existing wind turbines at Tullo Wind Farm in the distance to the south, as well as an existing OHL in the distance to the east. Given the proximity of the Proposed Development, it would appear notably higher and larger in scale than the existing infrastructure and would result in a notable increase in the influence of vertical infrastructure in views from residents and road users in the VRA. The scale of change resulting from the introduction of the Proposed Development is judged to be Large and would be focused across the minor road network and residential properties in the south of the VRA, and the B966, minor road and residential properties in proximity to Mossend Burn at the eastern edge of the VRA. The magnitude of change during operation is judged to be up to High.
Significance of Effect during Construction	Significance of Effect during Operation
Taking account of the High sensitivity of residents in the VRA and the High magnitude of change, the visual effect arising from construction is judged to be up to Major (Significant) for any receptor in this VRA, and for many receptors would be less.	Taking account of the High sensitivity of residents in the VRA, and the High magnitude of change, the visual effect arising from operation is judged to be up to Major (Significant) for any receptor in this VRA, and for many receptors would be less.

Table 9.2.85: VRA D8 - Redhall / Pittengardner

VRA D8: Redhall / Pittengardner	
Description of Receptor	Representative Viewpoint
Small clusters of residents at Redhall Cottage, Pittengardner and Auchenzeoch, and scattered along the minor road network further south towards Fordoun. Road users along the minor road network. South of the Proposed Development (refer to Volume 3, Figure 9.3b.4: Visual Receptor Area, Viewpoint Locations and other Visual Receptors with Overhead Line Tower Height Zone of Theoretical Visibility (ZTV), p. 4). The VRA is located immediately adjacent to the Proposed Development.	N/A
Nature of Views	
Views from within this VRA are relatively expansive, with intermittently open views across undulating agricultural fields in all directions. Large blocks of woodland along the northeastern edge of the VRA create localised perception of enclosure, as do occasional pockets of mixed woodland and mature hedgerows along the roadways, which intermittently screen views to the north and south. In views from the minor road network where gaps in roadside vegetation allow, views extend towards the Mounth range in the north, and the Hill of Garvock in the south, with undulating, broad agricultural fields unfolding to the east and west. From small clusters of residential properties in the north and east of the area, mature woodland at the peripheries of the property boundaries filters outlooks to the north and east. Landform within the VRA is undulating but gradually falls to the south, where views north from the minor road network and residential properties are partially screened by intervening landform further north. Large scale farm buildings are scattered across the VRA in proximity to the residential properties, and wind turbines of Tulloch Wind Farm are visible on the skyline to the south above the Hill of Garvock, as well as in the distance to the east at Droop Hill.	
Sensitivity	
Residential receptors are considered to be of High susceptibility to changes in the view and road users including cyclists are considered to be of Low susceptibility to changes in the view. This VRA is not located within a designated landscape, and there are no promoted footpaths or designated recreation areas within the VRA. Views are generally of an undulating agricultural landscape, with occasional longer distant views to the Mounth range in the north and Hill of Garvock to the south. As such views are considered to be Medium in value. Taking account of the judgements of susceptibility and value, sensitivity is judged to be High for residents and Medium for other visual receptors in the VRA.	
Magnitude of Change during Construction	Magnitude of Change during Operation
Construction activity would be seen in close to middle distance views to the north and northwest from the VRA, and in the middle distance from the minor road network and scattered properties in the south. At its closest, construction activity associated with road improvements/access tracks would be viewed in immediate proximity (within 10 m or closer) from receptors travelling on the minor road network at the northern edge of the VRA. Construction activity associated with the OHL would be viewed the minor road network in the north at distances of approximately 50 m at the closest points, and from approximately 0.2 km from residential properties in the north. Use of machinery, vehicle movements, creation of access tracks, erection of steel lattice towers and lighting in hours of darkness would be visible across the undulating agricultural fields to the north, partially backclothed by more elevated and undulating landform to the north. Undulating fields to the north would intermittently screen lower elements of construction activity from the minor road network and residential properties, but taller elements including cranes and partially built towers would remain visible on the skyline, extending above the more distant	The Proposed Development would appear in vies north from the minor road network and from residential properties in the north of the VRA, from distances between 0.1 km and 0.9 km. From the road network in the south of the VRA, travellers heading north would experience wider but more distant views towards the Proposed Development. The proposed steel lattice towers would be seen in close views from the minor road network and from some residential properties in the west and northeast of the VRA. Due to the proposed size and scale of the towers, the Proposed Development would form a prominent feature in views west. Road users travelling north in the west of the VRA would pass under the Proposed Alignment between towers S37 and S38 and would pass underneath towers S34 and S35 in the northeast, passing within 20 m of tower S35. The towers would form large-scale features within the lower-lying agricultural landscape, seen above intervening hedgerows and roadside vegetation. The Proposed Development would generally be seen partially backclothed by the more distant landforms to the north, although the tops of towers and cables would be seen to extend above the skyline. Where views

VRA D8: Redhall / Pittengardner	
landforms of the Mounth range. From some residential properties, periphery garden vegetation and intervening shelterbelts would screen visibility of construction activities. The scale of change resulting from construction activity is judged to be Large and would be focused along the minor road network and residential properties within the northern half of the VRA. The magnitude of change during construction is judged to be up to High.	north along the roadways and residential properties are open, the Proposed Alignment would occupy a wide horizontal field of view, extending to the northeast and northwest along the skyline. In the south of the VRA, views north from the minor road network and some residential properties would be partially screened by intervening landform and pockets of mature mixed woodland further north. However, the tops of towers and cables would remain clearly visible above the treeline and would extend across a large portion of views. The scale of change resulting from the introduction of the Proposed Development is judged to be Large, would be focused along the minor road network and residential properties within the northern half of the VRA. The magnitude of change during operation is judged to be up to High.
Significance of Effect during Construction	Significance of Effect during Operation
Taking account of the High sensitivity of residents in the VRA and the High magnitude of change, the visual effect arising from construction is judged to be up to Major (Significant) for any receptor in this VRA, and for many receptors would be less.	Taking account of the High sensitivity of residents in the VRA, and the High magnitude of change, the visual effect arising from operation is judged to be up to Major (Significant) for any receptor in this VRA, and for many receptors would be less.

Table 9.2.86: VRA D9 - Fordoun

VRA D9: Fordoun	
Description of Receptor	Representative Viewpoint
Large group of residential properties within the village of Fordoun. Road users along the minor road network to the north and along the A90 to the south. Travellers along the railway line. South of the Proposed Development (refer to Volume 3, Figure 9.3b.4: Visual Receptor Area, Viewpoint Locations and other Visual Receptors with Overhead Line Tower Height Zone of Theoretical Visibility (ZTV), p. 4). The VRA is located approximately 0.8 km from the Proposed Development at the closest point.	VP24: Minor road, northwest of Fordoun (refer to Volume 4 b, Figure 9.28a-f: VP24: Minor road, northwest of Fordoun).
Nature of Views	
Views from within this VRA are varied, with open outward views from the edges of the settlement towards the west and north, contained views from within the settlement and road network in the south, and generally enclosed northerly views from the A90 and railway line. Along the northern, western and northeastern edges of the settlement, views to the north, northeast and northwest extend across rolling agricultural fields scattered with small blocks of woodland, towards the more distant Mounth range. From within the village, outward views are generally screened by intervening buildings and garden vegetation, as well as large scale industrial structures along the northern edge of the settlement and embankments to the south. Views along the railway line are generally screened by rising adjacent landform and dense vegetation, and views from the A90 are generally screened to the north by embankments and roadside vegetation. To the west of the VRA, views from the railway gradually open up to the north and south, with reduced screening from landform or vegetation.	
Sensitivity	
Residential receptors are considered to be of High susceptibility to changes in the view and road users including cyclists are considered to be of Low susceptibility to changes in the view.	

VRA D9: Fordoun

This VRA is not located within a designated landscape, and there are no promoted footpaths or designated recreation areas within the VRA. Available views are generally of an undulating agricultural landscape, with occasional longer distant views to the north towards the Mounth Range and to the south towards the Hill of Garvock. As such views are considered to be **Medium** in value.

Taking account of the judgements of susceptibility and value, sensitivity is judged to be **High** for residents and **Medium** for other visual receptors in the VRA.

Magnitude of Change during Construction	Magnitude of Change during Operation
Construction activity would be seen in middle-to-longer distance views to the north, northwest and northeast from road users travelling north along the minor road north of Fordoun and from the northern edges of the settlement. At its closest, construction activity associated with the OHL would be visible from approximately 0.9 km from the minor road, and from beyond approximately 1 km from the edges of the settlement. Use of machinery, vehicle movements, creation of access tracks, erection of steel lattice towers and lighting in hours of darkness would be visible across the undulating agricultural fields where the OHL crosses to the north. Undulating intervening landform to the north of the settlement would intermittently screen lower level elements of construction activity, however taller elements particularly cranes and partially built towers would be clearly visible on the skyline. These elements would be mostly backclothed by the more distant landforms of the Mounth range. From further south within the VRA and settlement, and from along the A90/railway line, glimpsed peripheral views towards the construction activity would be seen at distance, and would be mostly screened by intervening structures and landform. The scale of change resulting from construction activity is judged to be Small and would be focused along the minor road to the north of the village and from residential properties at the northern edge of the VRA. The magnitude of change during construction is judged to no more than Low.	The Proposed Development would appear in middle-to-longer distance views to the north, northeast and northwest from residential properties at the northern edge of the settlement and from the minor road in the north of the VRA, from 0.93 km at the closest points. The proposed steel lattice towers would be seen in middle-to-longer distance views from the minor road in the north of the VRA, and from residential properties at the northern edge of Fordoun. Due to the proposed size and scale of the towers, the Proposed Development would appear as noticeable new features on the distant skyline, however would be almost entirely backclothed by the landforms of the Mounth range further north, reducing the prominence of the infrastructure (as illustrated by VP24: Minor road, northwest of Fordoun (Volume 4 b, Figure 9.28a-f: VP24: Minor road, northwest of Fordoun)). Additionally, intervening built structures within scattered settlement further north, and blocks of woodland within the intervening agricultural fields would intermittently screen the lower portions of the proposed towers. From further south in the VRA there would be limited views towards the Proposed Development, with intervening buildings and landform screening views north. The scale of change resulting from the introduction of the Proposed Development is judged to be Small and would be focused along the minor road to the north of the village and from residential properties at the northern edge of the VRA. The magnitude of change during operation is judged to no more than Low.
Significance of Effect during Construction	Significance of Effect during Operation
Taking account of the High sensitivity of residents in the VRA and the Low magnitude of change, the visual effect arising from construction is judged to be no more than Minor (Not Significant).	Taking account of the High sensitivity of residents in the VRA, and the Low magnitude of change, the visual effect arising from operation is judged to be no more than Minor (Not Significant).

Table 9.2.87: VRA D10 - Mondynes, Gyralesmyre, Kair, and Davo

VRA D10: Mondynes, Gyralesmyre, Kair, and Davo	
Description of Receptor	Representative Viewpoint
Residents and road users of the areas around Mondynes, Gyralesmyre, Kair, and Davo. Road users along the A90, B966 and B967, and travellers on the railway line. Southeast of the Proposed Development (refer to Volume 3, Figure 9.3b.4: Visual Receptor Area, Viewpoint Locations and other Visual Receptors with Overhead Line Tower Height Zone of Theoretical Visibility (ZTV), p. 4). The VRA is located approximately 0.9 km from the Proposed Development at the closest point.	N/A
Nature of Views	
Views from within this VRA are varied, with open views north of the A90 and along the elevated landforms at Kair, Gyralesmyre, and Davo and more enclosed views along the A90 and in proximity to the Bervie Water. Views from the minor road network and scattered residential properties in the north of the VRA are intermittently open towards the north, extending over an agricultural working landscape with frequent large scale farm buildings. The Mounth range forms a backdrop in the distance to the northwest. Along the A90, embanked landforms along the northern edge screen longer distance views to the north. South of the A90, undulating agricultural fields and more intermittent bands of mixed woodland create a more enclosed landscape, with longer distance views to the north curtailed, and more open views to the south and the Hill of Garvock. Tullo Wind Farm and an existing OHL are visible in middle distance views to the south from the B967 and scattered residential properties. From the elevated extents near Mains of Kair, views north are extensively open and the elevated vantage affords panoramic views to the north and west, extending across lower lying agricultural fields to the Mounth range in the distance. In the north of the VRA, the distinctive landform at Knock Hill curtails longer distance views to the west and northwest.	
Sensitivity	
Residential receptors are considered to be of High susceptibility to changes in the view and road users including cyclists are considered to be of Low susceptibility to changes in the view. The southeastern extents of the VRA contain much of the GDL of Arbuthnott House. This VRA is not located within a designated landscape, and there are no promoted footpaths or designated recreation areas within the VRA. Views are generally of a working agricultural landscape, with occasional longer distant panoramic views to the north towards the Mounth range. As such views are considered to be Medium in value. Taking account of the judgements of susceptibility and value, sensitivity is judged to be High for residents and Medium for other visual receptors in the VRA.	
Magnitude of Change during Construction	Magnitude of Change during Operation
Construction activity would be seen in middle distance to longer distance views to the northwest, from along the minor road north of the A90 and from more distant residential properties near Mains of Kair. Undulating intervening landform and scattered bands of woodland further north would intermittently screen lower elements of construction in views from the minor road, although taller elements including partially built towers and cranes would be visible above the intervening treeline. At its closest construction activity would be visible at distances of 1 km, and from beyond 2 km from more elevated extents in the south of the VRA. Use of machinery, vehicle movements, creation of access tracks, erection of steel lattice towers and lighting in hours of darkness would be visible in the distance to the north, seen across undulating agricultural fields and intervening woodland bands. From the lower lying extents of the VRA the majority of construction activity would appear partially	The Proposed Development would appear intermittently in longer distance views to the north and northwest, from along the minor road/B966 at the northern edge of the VRA at distances of 1.1 km at the closest points, as well as from longer distance from scattered residential properties and minor road network further south. Given the intervening distance, the undulating landform and presence of bands of mature mixed woodland in the intervening fields to the north, the Proposed Development would be partially screened from views from many areas of the VRA. Larger scale farm/light industrial buildings just beyond the northern edge of the VRA would provide additional screening in views from the minor road network/B966 in the north. Along the A90, dense roadside vegetation as well as embankments to the north would screen views towards the Proposed Development. From the north of the VRA, views from the minor road network and scattered

VRA D10: Mondynes, Gyratesmyre, Kair, and Davo

screened, either by intervening landform, large farm structures or bands of woodland, although taller elements would remain visible on the skyline. The more distant landforms associated with the Mounth range would provide extensive backclothing to the construction activity. From the more elevated extents in the south of the VRA, views would be relatively uninterrupted towards the construction activity; however, the increased distance and backclothing would reduce the prominence of activity within the landscape. Additionally, construction activity would be seen in context of the A90 and railway line, as well as scattered clusters of settlement.

Seen from the northeastern extents of the VRA, receptors would see the erecting of steel lattice towers in the far distance in views to the west – where they would be seen upon land of a lower elevation to receptors – and in the north and northwest – where they would be seen upon land of a higher elevation. Partially constructed steel lattice towers would be mostly backclothed by the Mounth; although, they would break the horizon in more northerly views. However, large sections of the partially constructed towers would be screened by intervening undulating landform. In the southeastern extents of the VRA, receptors would be largely screened from construction activity by the intervening undulating landform.

The scale of change resulting from construction activity is judged to be **Small** and would be focused along the minor road northwest of the A90 as well as across the more elevated extents in proximity of Mains of Kair.

The magnitude of change during construction is judged to be no more than **Low**.

Significance of Effect during Construction

Taking account of the **High** sensitivity of residents in the VRA and the **Low** magnitude of change, the visual effect arising from construction is judged to be no more than **Minor (Not Significant)**.

properties would be filtered by mature hedgerows and blocks of woodland, as well as intervening landform to the west, including at Knock Hill. Near Mains of Kair and Gyratesmyre, the elevated vantage would afford far reaching views to the north and northwest, and the Proposed Development would appear across a wide horizontal field of view in the lower-lying agricultural fields to the north at distances of beyond 2 km, and mostly backclothed. However, given the proposed size and scale of the steel lattice towers, the Proposed Development would be seen to intermittently break the more distant skyline, particularly as the Mounth range begins to descend to the east.

Seen from the northeastern extents of the VRA, receptors would see the Proposed Development in the far distance in views to the west, where it would be seen upon land of a lower elevation to receptors, and in the north and northwest, where it would be seen upon land of a higher elevation. The Proposed Development would be mostly backclothed by the Mounth; although, it would break the horizon in more northerly views. However, large sections of the Proposed Development would be screened by intervening undulating landform. In the southeastern extents of the VRA, receptors would be largely screened from the Proposed Development by the intervening undulating landform.

The scale of change resulting from the introduction of the Proposed Development is judged to be **Small** and would be focused along the minor road northwest of the A90 as well as across the more elevated extents in proximity of Mains of Kair.

The magnitude of change during operation is judged to be no more than **Low**.

Significance of Effect during Operation

Taking account of the **High** sensitivity of residents in the VRA, and the **Low** magnitude of change, the visual effect arising from operation is judged to be no more than **Minor (Not Significant)**.

Table 9.2.88: VRA D11 - Herscha Hill / Stoneyfield Belt

VRA D11: Herscha Hill / Stoneyfield Belt	
Description of Receptor	Representative Viewpoint
Scattered clusters of residents along the western edge of the VRA and along the minor road network near Mains of Kair. Road users along the A90, B966 and B967, and travellers on the railway line. Southeast of the Proposed Development (refer to Volume 3, Figure 9.3b.4: Visual Receptor Area, Viewpoint Locations and other Visual Receptors with Overhead Line Tower Height Zone of Theoretical Visibility (ZTV), p. 4). The VRA is located approximately 0.6 km from the Proposed Development at the closest point.	N/A

VRA D11: Herscha Hill / Stoneyfield Belt

Nature of Views

Views from within this VRA are generally varied, with rising landform in the north associated with Herscha Hill affording elevated views to the south, and more enclosed views to the west and southwest. The rising forms of Black Hill and the Mounth range curtail longer views to the west from the VRA, while mature blocks of mixed woodland and intervening landform along Luther Water to the southwest further filter views. From the minor road network and scattered residential properties, long distance views extend to the southeast and east across undulating agricultural fields with low hedgerows. Mature woodland at the southern edge of the VRA at Stoneyfield Belt provides partial screening of views further south. Views from the Core path in the south of the VRA would be mostly enclosed by surrounding forestry. Views in the east of the VRA extend to the distinctive Knock Hill to the southeast, as well as towards the Hill of Garvock to the distant south. The turbines of Tullo Wind Farm are visible on the skyline to the south.

Sensitivity

Residential receptors are considered to be of **High** susceptibility to changes in the view and road users including cyclists are considered to be of **Low** susceptibility to changes in the view.

This VRA is not located within a designated landscape although immediately adjacent to the Brae of the Mearns SLA, and there are no promoted footpaths or designated recreation areas within the VRA. Views are generally of an undulating agricultural landscape, with occasional longer distant views to the north towards Knock Hill and the Hill of Garvock. As such views are considered to be **Medium** in value.

Taking account of the judgements of susceptibility and value, sensitivity is judged to be **High** for residents and **Medium** for other visual receptors in the VRA.

Magnitude of Change during Construction

Construction activity would be seen in middle distance views to the east, from the minor road network and some residential properties in the east of the VRA at distances of approximately 0.6 km or more. Use of machinery, vehicle movements, creation of access tracks, erection of steel lattice towers and lighting in hours of darkness would be intermittently visible across the undulating agricultural fields further east, although would appear intermittently and partially screened by intervening landform. Blocks of woodland at the southern edge of the VRA at Stoneyfield Belt and Crossden Plantation would screen longer views towards construction activity from the minor road network in the south. Taller elements, including partially built towers would be intermittently visible above the treeline, although lower level elements would be largely screened. Extensive backclothing of construction activity would be afforded in views from the minor road network and scattered properties, due to the elevated vantage within the VRA. From more elevated extents in the north of the VRA the construction activity would occupy a wide horizontal field of view in views to the east and southeast, although intermittent screening from undulating landform and mature mixed woodland in the south would interrupt the continuity of construction in wide views. As the Proposed Alignment ascends rising slopes west of Knock Hill, a larger extent of construction activity would become visible in view from the north of the VRA.

The scale of change resulting from construction activity is judged to be **Medium** and would be focused along the minor road network in the east of the VRA as well as more elevated extents in the north.

The magnitude of change during construction is judged to be no more than **Medium**.

Magnitude of Change during Operation

The Proposed Development would appear in views to the east from some residential properties and from along the minor road network in the east of the VRA, at distance of approximately 0.6 km at the closest points. From more elevated landform in the north near Herscha Hill, the Proposed Development would be seen in more distant views from two residential properties and the minor road network at distances of 1.5 km or more.

Due to the proposed scale and size of the steel lattice towers, the Proposed Development would form a noticeable new feature in easterly and occasional southerly views from this VRA. Undulating intervening landform at the eastern and southern edges of the VRA would intermittently screen the lower portions of towers. In views from the minor road network and Core Path in the south of the VRA, mature forestry at Stoneyfield Belt and Crossden Plantation would filter more distant views to the south. However, the upper halves of towers and the cables would most often be seen on the skyline and would be clearly visible above the intervening treeline. The entirety of the Proposed Development would be backclothed by more distant rising landform to the south at the Hill of Garvock, and partially backclothed by rising landforms to the southeast and east, including at Knock Hill. However, as the Proposed Alignment ascends the slopes west of Knock Hill it would be seen entirely on the skyline.

In southerly views from the VRA the Proposed Development would be seen in the context of the distant turbines at Tullo Wind Farm, above the Hill of Garvock. The proposed towers would appear closer in views and larger in scale and would increase the influence of vertical infrastructure in views to the south.

VRA D11: Herscha Hill / Stoneyfield Belt	
	The scale of change resulting from the introduction of the Proposed Development is judged to be Medium and would be focused along the minor road network in the east of the VRA as well as more elevated extents in the north. The magnitude of change during operation is judged to be no more than Medium.
Significance of Effect during Construction	Significance of Effect during Operation
Taking account of the High sensitivity of residents in the VRA and the Medium magnitude of change, the visual effect arising from construction is judged to be no more than Moderate (Significant) for any receptor in this VRA, and for many receptors would be less.	Taking account of the High sensitivity of residents in the VRA, and the Medium magnitude of change, the visual effect arising from operation is judged to be no more than Moderate (Significant) for any receptor in this VRA, and for many receptors would be less.

Table 9.2.89: VRA D12 - Auchenblae

VRA D12: Auchenblae	
Description of Receptor	Representative Viewpoint
Residents within Auchenblae and local road users, west of the Proposed Development (refer to Volume 3, Figure 9.3b.4: Visual Receptor Area, Viewpoint Locations and other Visual Receptors with Overhead Line Tower Height Zone of Theoretical Visibility (ZTV), p. 4). The VRA is located approximately 1.5 km from the Proposed Development at the closest point.	VP25: Footpath off Hill View Road, Auchenblae (refer to Volume 4 b, Figure 9.29a-f: VP25: Footpath off Hill View Road, Auchenblae)
Nature of Views	
Views within Auchenblae are internally focused on the village, from properties which are generally two storeys. The rising topography and steep valley sides and vegetation along Burnie Shag to the east and Luther Water to the south provide screening from any longer distance views. From the north of the village there are views of a single wind turbine on the rolling hills, as well as an existing OHL. Black Hill to the west forms a dramatic wooded backdrop and skyline. From the local roads to the west of Auchenblae there are views east across the village towards Knock Hill. The Tullo Wind Farm forms a backdrop in views to the south. Existing OHLs in medium to long distance views do not form a significant element in views.	
Sensitivity	
Residential receptors are considered to be of High susceptibility to changes in the view and road users including cyclists are considered to be of Low susceptibility to changes in the view. The west of the VRA, west of Auchenblae, lies within the Braes of the Mearns SLA. Auchenblae is covered by a Conservation Area, and the setting of the village is considered in the Conservation Area Appraisal as <i>'almost as important as the village itself'</i>. The views within this VRA are therefore considered to be High in value. Taking account of the judgements of susceptibility and value, sensitivity is judged to be High for residents and Medium for other visual receptors in the VRA.	
Magnitude of Change during Construction	Magnitude of Change during Operation
Construction activity would be seen in middle-to-long distance views to the east for some residents at the periphery of the settlement and road users in this VRA. Use of machinery, erection of steel lattice towers and lighting in hours of darkness would be partially visible at a distance of approximately 2 km, against the backdrop of rural fields and Knock Hill to the northeast. Views would be partially obscured by the rising landform and, within the village,	The Proposed Development would be seen in middle-to-long distance views from the edges of Auchenblae at a distance of 1.8 km at its closest point. Due to the distance and intervening landform and occasional vegetation, the Proposed Development would not form a noticeable feature in views to the east from this VRA.

VRA D12: Auchenblae	
buildings. Occasional trees and field boundaries would also provide some filtering of views. Views within Auchenblae are not directed towards the Proposed Development and therefore would be minimal. The scale of change resulting from construction activity is judged to be Small and would be primarily experienced on the edges of Auchenblae and the local roads to the north and west of the VRA. The magnitude of change during construction is judged to be no more than Low.	Residents' views are generally focused inwards into the village, and the Proposed Development would not form part of these. Where visible, the Proposed Development would be seen in the context of existing vertical infrastructure, including existing high voltage OHLs, wood pole lines and wind turbines. Although the Proposed Development would increase the influence of vertical infrastructure in some views, the distance to the towers means that they would not be prominent. The scale of change resulting from the introduction of the Proposed Development is judged to be Small and would be experienced in the east and north of the VRA. The magnitude of change during operation is judged to be no more than Low.
Significance of Effect during Construction	Significance of Effect during Operation
Taking account of the High sensitivity of residents in the VRA and the Low magnitude of change, the visual effect arising from construction is judged to be no more than Minor (Not Significant).	Taking account of the High sensitivity of residents in the VRA, and the Low magnitude of change, the visual effect arising from operation is judged to be no more than Minor (Not Significant).

Table 9.2.90: VRA D13 - Mains of Glenfarquhar to Brae of Glenbervie

VRA D13: Mains of Glenfarquhar to Brae of Glenbervie	
Description of Receptor	Representative Viewpoint
Residents in scattered groups of properties across the VRA, and users of the local road network, west of the Proposed Development (refer to Volume 3, Figure 9.3b.4: Visual Receptor Area, Viewpoint Locations and other Visual Receptors with Overhead Line Tower Height Zone of Theoretical Visibility (ZTV), p. 4). The VRA is located approximately 0.6 km from the Proposed Development at the closest point.	N/A
Nature of Views	
Properties within the VRA are one or two storeys, with a variety of outlooks and degrees of screening. The rolling topography restricts long-distance views in many places. From higher ground in the south at Mains of Glenfarquhar and north around East Town Farm there are long distance views across the valleys. Small woodland blocks also provide some screening to views, including Paldyfair Wood in the south of the VRA. Along the central road intermittent trees provide some filtering of outward views, although there are some longer distance views to the east and south. An OHL runs through the south and east of the VRA and is visible in some views to the southeast. There are also longer distance views toward wind turbines at Pitwithie, Herscha Hill and Jacksbank Wind Farm, although these are not prominent features.	
Sensitivity	
Residential receptors are considered to be of High susceptibility to changes in the view, while users of the local road network, including cyclists, are considered to be of Low susceptibility. A very small part of the south of the VRA is within the Braes of the Mearns SLA. The west of the VRA has views to the wider SLA including the distinctive wooded Black Hill. Views of the SLA are experienced by a small number of people in the west. Views across the VRA are therefore considered to be Medium in value.	

VRA D13: Mains of Glenfarquhar to Brae of Glenbervie	
Taking account of the judgements of susceptibility and value, sensitivity is judged to be High for residents and Medium for other visual receptors in the VRA.	
Magnitude of Change during Construction	Magnitude of Change during Operation
Most of the construction activity would be visible to the west and northwest from properties and the roads. Construction traffic would be seen in close to medium distance views in the northeastern part of the VRA around East Town Farm where an access track is located within the VRA. Other construction activity including machinery, vehicle movements, creation of access tracks, erection of steel lattice towers and lighting in hours of darkness would be visible, although filtered by the intervening landform and vegetation and seen in middle-to-long distance views. Some of these views would also be partially obscured by intervening buildings within the settlement, roadside trees, or intervening trees and woodland in the middle distance. The scale of change resulting from construction activity is judged to be Small and would be experienced in some views from the central road and higher ground in the south at Mains of Glenfarquhar and north around East Town Farm. The magnitude of change during construction is judged to be no more than Low.	The Proposed Development would be seen in middle distance views to the west and northwest from residential properties and along the minor road network at a distance of approximately 600 m at its closest point. These views would be experienced from higher ground in the south at Mains of Glenfarquhar, north around East Town Farm and from some points of the central road which are not filtered by vegetation. The intervening landform and distance to the Proposed Development means the steel lattice towers would be noticeable in views from these parts of the VRA but would not be prominent. The Proposed Development would be seen in the same view as an existing OHL to the south of the central road and wind turbines. Although the Proposed Development would increase the influence of vertical infrastructure in views, the towers would not be as prominent as the closer existing towers, given the distance. The scale of change resulting from the introduction of the Proposed Development is judged to be Small and would be experienced in some views from the central road and higher ground in the south at Mains of Glenfarquhar and north around East Town Farm. The magnitude of change during operation is judged to be no more than Low.
Significance of Effect during Construction	Significance of Effect during Operation
Taking account of the High sensitivity of residents in the VRA, and the Low magnitude of change, the visual effect arising from construction is judged to be no more than Minor (Not Significant) for any receptor in this VRA.	Taking account of the High sensitivity of residents in the VRA, and the Low magnitude of change, the visual effect arising from operation is judged to be no more than Minor (Not Significant) for any receptor in this VRA.

Table 9.2.91: VRA D14 - Mains of Dellavaird

VRA D14: Mains of Dellavaird	
Description of Receptor	Representative Viewpoint
Residents in scattered groups of properties across the VRA, and users of the local road network, west of the Proposed Development (refer to Volume 3, Figure 9.3b.4: Visual Receptor Area, Viewpoint Locations and other Visual Receptors with Overhead Line Tower Height Zone of Theoretical Visibility (ZTV), p. 4). The VRA is located approximately 0.5 km from the Proposed Development at the closest point.	N/A
Nature of Views	
Properties within the VRA are one or two storeys, with a variety of outlooks and degrees of screening. There are also some agricultural barns. Occasional mature hedgerow trees line the road, filtering outward views. Close views are of open agricultural fields. Bervie Water runs through the south of the VRA, and views are often channelled along the watercourse between the steeply rising valley sides. Local hills Droop Hill, Knock Hill and Herscha Hill are all visible in medium to long distance views. Some blocks of woodland on the hillsides provide	

VRA D14: Mains of Dellavaird

screening to longer distance views. Views of existing high voltage OHLs to the northwest, wood pole lines and wind turbines at Droop Hill and Herscha Hill provide vertical elements in the view but are not overbearing features.

Sensitivity

Residential receptors are considered to be of **High** susceptibility to changes in the view, and users of the local road network, including cyclists, are considered to be of **Low** susceptibility. This VRA is not located within a designated landscape. There are occasional long distance views to the Braes of the Mearns SLA to the southwest, a recognised and distinctive hill range in this area. These views are experienced by a small number of people on the local road and within the properties. As such views to the VRA are considered to be **Medium** in value. Taking account of the judgements of susceptibility and value, sensitivity is judged to be **High** for residents and **Medium** for other visual receptors in the VRA.

Magnitude of Change during Construction

Most of the construction activity would be visible to the southeast from most properties and roads across the VRA. The elevated vantage from the minor road and properties in the centre and west of the VRA would afford longer distance views to the east. Construction activity including machinery, vehicle movements, erection of steel lattice towers and lighting in hours of darkness would be visible to the southeast, backclothed by Knock Hill, over 500 m from the Proposed Development. Some of these views would be partially obscured by roadside trees and intervening landform including Droop Hill which would obscure views to construction works to the east and northeast.

The scale of change resulting from construction activity is judged to be **Small** and would be experienced across the majority of the VRA.

The magnitude of change during construction is judged to be no more than **Medium**.

Magnitude of Change during Operation

The Proposed Development would be seen in middle distance views to the southeast from residential properties and along the minor roads at a distance of approximately 0.6 km at its closest point. The intervening landform of Droop Hill would screen any views of the Proposed Development to the northeast and east, and views from the VRA are likely to only be of towers S22 to S24. These would be backclothed against the views to Knock Hill, where views are channelled along the Bervie Water valley. In the southeast of the VRA, some views would be screened by the small woodland at Burn of Guinea.

The Proposed Development would not be seen in the same view as existing OHLs or wind turbines to the west of the settlement.

The scale of change resulting from the introduction of the Proposed Development is judged to be **Small** and would be experienced in views to the southeast channelled along the Bervie Water valley.

The magnitude of change during operation is judged to be no more than **Low**.

Significance of Effect during Construction

Taking account of the **High** sensitivity of residents in the VRA, and the **Medium** magnitude of change, the visual effect arising from construction is judged to be no more than **Moderate (Significant)** for any receptor in this VRA, and for many receptors would be less.

Significance of Effect during Operation

Taking account of the **High** sensitivity of residents in the VRA, and the **Low** magnitude of change, the visual effect arising from operation is judged to be no more than **Minor (Not Significant)**.

Table 9.2.92: VRA D15: North Blairs to Burnhead of Monboddo

VRA D15: North Blairs to Burnhead of Monboddo	
Description of Receptor	Representative Viewpoint
Residents in scattered groups of properties across the VRA, and users of the local road network, west of the Proposed Development (refer to Volume 3, Figure 9.3b.4: Visual Receptor Area, Viewpoint Locations and other Visual Receptors with Overhead Line Tower Height Zone of Theoretical Visibility (ZTV), p. 4). The VRA is located immediately adjacent to the Proposed Development.	N/A
Nature of Views	
Properties within the VRA are one or two storeys, with a variety of outlooks and degrees of screening. Views are typically of open rolling agricultural fields. The track which runs north of Glenbervie Road passes through a mixed woodland block, which restricts views. Views from the north of the track to Burnhead of Monboddo south of Glenbervie Road are also partially restricted by a linear shelterbelt. Elsewhere in the VRA views vary – some are restricted by intervening landform including Knock Hill, while there are some long-distance views towards the North Sea (13 km east). There are views of Droop Hill Wind Farm from North Blairs and the Tullo Wind Farm is visible on the horizon to the south (7 km south).	
Sensitivity	
Residential receptors are considered to be of High susceptibility to changes in the view and users of the local road network, including cyclists, are considered to be of Low susceptibility. This VRA is not located within a designated landscape. There are occasional expansive panoramic views, experienced by a small number of people in properties or on the local road network. Many views are restricted by landform and/or vegetation. As such views are considered to be Medium in value. Taking account of the judgements of susceptibility and value, sensitivity is judged to be High for residents and Medium for other visual receptors in the VRA.	
Magnitude of Change during Construction	Magnitude of Change during Operation
Construction activity would be visible to the east in close views, particularly in the east of the VRA from Glenbervie Road and scattered properties. Construction activity would include temporary and permanent access tracks, machinery, vehicle movements, creation of access tracks, erection of steel lattice towers and lighting in hours of darkness. Some views would be partially obscured by intervening landform and vegetation, particularly the woodland in the north of the VRA. The scale of change resulting from construction activity is judged to be Large and would be experienced across the majority of the VRA. The magnitude of change during construction is judged to be up to High.	The Proposed Development would be seen in close distance views to the east from residential properties and along the minor road network at distances within approximately 20 m at the closest points and up to approximately 850 m at its furthest point. From Glenbervie Road and scattered properties within the centre and east of the VRA, the proposed towers would be seen on the skyline to the east. The proximity, proposed size and scale of the steel lattice towers would result in the Proposed Development forming an obvious feature in views to the east and southeast. Some screening from the woodland along the northern track and shelterbelt south of Glenbervie Road would filter views. Additionally, the distinctive form of Knock Hill would provide backclothing to the Proposed Development, particularly from along Glenbervie Road and properties in the centre of the VRA. The Proposed Development would be seen in the same view as wind turbines; however the existing wind turbines are more distant, and the towers would be very prominent given the proximity. The scale of change resulting from the introduction of the Proposed Development is judged to be Large and would be experienced in views from the north and east of the VRA. The magnitude of change during operation is judged to be up to High.

VRA D15: North Blairs to Burnhead of Monboddoo	
Significance of Effect during Construction	Significance of Effect during Operation
Taking account of the High sensitivity of residents in the VRA, and the High magnitude of change, the visual effect arising from construction is judged to be up to Major (Significant) for any receptor in this VRA, and for some receptors would be less.	Taking account of the High sensitivity of residents in the VRA, and the High magnitude of change, the visual effect arising from operation is judged to be up to Major (Significant) for any receptor in this VRA, and for some receptors would be less.

Table 9.2.93: VRA D16 - Auchtochter

VRA D16: Auchtochter	
Description of Receptor	Representative Viewpoint
Residents in scattered groups of properties across the VRA, and users of the local road network, east of the Proposed Development (refer to Volume 3, Figure 9.3b.4: Visual Receptor Area, Viewpoint Locations and other Visual Receptors with Overhead Line Tower Height Zone of Theoretical Visibility (ZTV), p. 4). The VRA is located immediately adjacent to the Proposed Development.	VP26: Glenbervie Road, west of Glenbervie (refer to Volume 4 b, Figure 9.30a-i: VP26: Glenbervie Road, west of Glenbervie)
Nature of Views	
The handful of properties within the VRA are one or two storeys, with a variety of outlooks and degrees of screening. Views are of open rolling agricultural fields, with a large area of polytunnels in the south. Knock Hill in the east of the VRA screens any longer distance views to the east/southeast. Small blocks of woodland throughout the VRA, and vegetation along watercourses and the east of Glenbervie Road provide some screening. Screening is also provided by the rolling landform, although there are some longer views north from Glenbervie Road. Wind turbines at Droop Hill Wind Farm are visible to the north but are not prominent features in views.	
Sensitivity	
Residential receptors are considered to be of High susceptibility to changes in the view and users of the local road network, including cyclists, are considered to be of Low susceptibility. This VRA is not located within a designated landscape. There are three small clusters of properties within the VRA and only one minor road, therefore views are likely to be experienced by relatively few people. Landform and vegetation provide screening from long distance panoramic views. As such views are considered to be Low in value. Taking account of the judgements of susceptibility and value, sensitivity is judged to be High for residents and Low for other visual receptors in the VRA.	
Magnitude of Change during Construction	Magnitude of Change during Operation
Construction activity would be visible to the west and north in close views, particularly in the west of the VRA. Construction activity would include machinery, vehicle movements, erection of steel lattice towers and lighting in hours of darkness. Some views would be partially obscured by intervening landform and vegetation, particularly by vegetation associated with the watercourses and in the east of Glenbervie Road. The scale of change resulting from construction activity is judged to be Large and would be experienced in views north, northwest and west across the majority of the VRA. The magnitude of change during construction is judged to be no more than High	The Proposed Development would be seen in close distance views to the west from residential properties along the western edge of the VRA, from distances between approximately 360 m to 380 m at the closest points and along the minor road network at a distance of 230 m (from tower S25) at its closest point. The proximity, proposed size and scale of the steel lattice towers would result in the Proposed Development forming an obvious feature in views to the west, northwest and north, partially surrounding views from Glenbervie Road in particular. The proposed towers would be visible on the skyline to the west, partially backclothed by undulating landform further west, but the upper sections of the towers and cables would be seen against the sky. Some screening from vegetation along watercourses, angular shelterbelts and the landform would filter views.

VRA D16: Auchtochter	
	In views north the Proposed Development would be seen in the same view as wind turbines at Droop Hill Wind Farm. The Proposed Development would be partially backclothed by the rising landform of Droop Hill, and the towers would appear of a similar scale to the turbines. The scale of change resulting from the introduction of the Proposed Development is judged to be Large and would be experienced in views from the north and west of the VRA. The magnitude of change during operation is judged to be no more than High.
Significance of Effect during Construction	Significance of Effect during Operation
Taking account of the High sensitivity of residents in the VRA, and the High magnitude of change, the visual effect arising from construction is judged to be no more than Major (Significant) for any receptor in this VRA, and for many receptors would be less.	Taking account of the High sensitivity of residents in the VRA, and the High magnitude of change, the visual effect arising from operation is judged to be no more than Major (Significant) for any receptor in this VRA, and for many receptors would be less.

Table 9.2.94: VRA D17 - Glenbervie

VRA D17: Glenbervie	
Description of Receptor	Representative Viewpoint
Residents in the Glenbervie estate and settlement, residents in scattered groups of properties, and users of the local road network, southeast of the Proposed Development (refer to Volume 3, Figure 9.3b.4: Visual Receptor Area, Viewpoint Locations and other Visual Receptors with Overhead Line Tower Height Zone of Theoretical Visibility (ZTV), p. 4). The VRA is located immediately adjacent to the Proposed Development.	N/A
Nature of Views	
The properties within the VRA are one or two storeys, with a variety of outlooks and degrees of screening. Close distance views are of large arable fields, with some parkland trees forming avenues through the landscape, and providing some enclosure. Considerable woodland cover lines the watercourses and their steep valley sides in the north and south of the VRA. Muiry Hillock plantation in the northeast also provides visual screening. Views are screened by the larger landforms of Knockhill Wood and Knock Hill to the south and Droop Hill to the northwest. The Droop Hill Wind Farm is visible in some views to the northwest; although, this is not a prominent feature in views.	
Sensitivity	
Residential receptors are considered to be of High susceptibility to changes in the view and users of the local road network, including cyclists, are considered to be of Low susceptibility. Land in the southeast of the VRA is designated as Glenbervie House Garden and Designed Landscape. There are no specific designed views associated with the designation. There are few properties within the VRA and therefore views are likely to be experienced by a small number of people. As such views are considered to be Medium in value. Taking account of the judgements of susceptibility and value, sensitivity is judged to be High for residents and Medium for other visual receptors in the VRA.	
Magnitude of Change during Construction	Magnitude of Change during Operation

VRA D17: Glenbervie

Construction activity would be visible to the northwest and west in close to medium distance views, particularly in the north and west of the VRA. Construction activity would include machinery, vehicle movements, erection of steel lattice towers and lighting in hours of darkness. Views from the east of the VRA (east of Home Farm) would be obscured by intervening landform and woodland. Views from Glenbervie Road would be partially filtered by roadside vegetation and landform, but taller machinery would be visible. There would be clearer views along the roads leading to the north and northwest as they rise up the valley sides. Construction works would be visible above the treeline and seen in views with the Droop Hill Wind Farm.

The scale of change resulting from construction activity is judged to be **Medium** and would be experienced in views to the northwest and west from within the west and northwest areas of the VRA.

The magnitude of change during construction is judged to be no more than **Medium**.

The Proposed Development would be seen in close distance views to the west and northwest from users of the local road network in the west of the VRA, at a distance of 245 m at its closest point. The Proposed Development would also be seen in medium distance views from residential properties at Mill of Glenbervie Cottages and Burnhead. The proximity, proposed size and scale of the steel lattice towers would result in the Proposed Development forming a noticeable feature in views to the west and northwest. The Proposed Development would be seen in the same view as wind turbines at Droop Hill Wind Farm. However, the difference in scale between the turbines and towers would be visually jarring.

Views from Glenbervie, Milton Park and the road network east of Glenbervie would generally be screened by intervening landform and vegetation.

The scale of change resulting from the introduction of the Proposed Development is judged to be **Medium** and would be experienced in views from the north and west of the VRA.

The magnitude of change during operation is judged to be no more than **Medium**.

Significance of Effect during Construction

Taking account of the **High** sensitivity of residents in the VRA, and the **Medium** magnitude of change, the visual effect arising from construction is judged to be no more than **Moderate (Significant)** for any receptor in this VRA, and for many receptors would be less.

Significance of Effect during Operation

Taking account of the **High** sensitivity of residents in the VRA, and the **Medium** magnitude of change, the visual effect arising from operation is judged to be no more than **Moderate (Significant)** for any receptor in this VRA, and for many receptors would be less.

Table 9.2.95: D18 - Drumlithie

VRA D18: Drumlithie	
Description of Receptor	Representative Viewpoint
Residents in Drumlithie village, and users of the local road network, east of the Proposed Development (refer to Volume 3, Figure 9.3b.4: Visual Receptor Area, Viewpoint Locations and other Visual Receptors with Overhead Line Tower Height Zone of Theoretical Visibility (ZTV), p. 4). The VRA is located approximately 2.0 km from the Proposed Development at the closest point.	N/A
Nature of Views	
Properties within Drumlithie are one or two storeys, with a variety of outlooks and degrees of screening. Open arable fields form close distance views, with small woodland blocks visible in middle distance views. Views north are generally restricted by the rising landform, while to the west Knockhill Wood and Knock Hill form distinctive features in the view, and restrict any further views west and southwest. Wood pole lines are visible in close distance views, with some longer-distance views to OHLs to the east. These are not prominent in views.	
Sensitivity	
Residential receptors are considered to be of High susceptibility to changes in the view and users of the local road network, including cyclists, are considered to be of Low susceptibility.	

VRA D18: Drumlithie

There are no designated landscapes or promoted viewpoints within the VRA. Drumlithie is a small settlement with many views focused within the interior of the settlement. Longer ranging views are afforded from the edge of the settlement across the surrounding countryside. There are no documented or protected views within the settlement. As such views are considered to be **Medium** in value.

Taking account of the judgements of susceptibility and value, sensitivity is judged to be **High** for residents and **Medium** for other visual receptors in the VRA.

Magnitude of Change during Construction

Construction activity would be at its closest approximately 2 km to the west and north of the VRA. However, the intervening landform and pockets of intervening broadleaf woodland to the west would obscure most views within the VRA.

The scale of change resulting from construction activity is judged to be **Barely Perceptible** across the entire VRA.

The magnitude of change during construction is judged to be no more than **Barely Perceptible**.

Magnitude of Change during Operation

The Proposed Development would be seen in medium distance views to the west from properties in the west of Drumlithie and users of the local road network in the west of the VRA, at a distance of 2.1 km at its closest point. Most views would be screened by intervening properties, landform and vegetation and broadleaf woodland. The towers would be seen in glimpsed views from Rolland Road, seen to the west on the side of Droop Hill.

The scale of change resulting from the introduction of the Proposed Development is judged to be **Small** and would be experienced in views from the north and west of the VRA.

The magnitude of change during operation is judged to be no more than **Low**.

Significance of Effect during Construction

Taking account of the **High** sensitivity of residents in the VRA, and the **Barely Perceptible** magnitude of change, the visual effect arising from construction is judged to be no more than **Negligible (Not Significant)**.

Significance of Effect during Operation

Taking account of the **High** sensitivity of residents in the VRA, and the **Low** magnitude of change, the visual effect arising from operation is judged to be no more than **Minor (Not Significant)**.

Table 9.2.96: VRA D19 - Kinmonth

VRA D19: Kinmonth

Description of Receptor

Residents in scattered properties and users of the local road network, east of the Proposed Development (refer to **Volume 3, Figure 9.3b.4: Visual Receptor Area, Viewpoint Locations and other Visual Receptors with Overhead Line Tower Height Zone of Theoretical Visibility (ZTV), p. 4**). The VRA is located approximately 0.6 km from the Proposed Development at the closest point.

Representative Viewpoint

N/A

Nature of Views

The properties within the VRA are scattered. They consist of one or two storey detached properties, set adjacent to large arable fields. Linear shelterbelts in the west and centre of the VRA restrict some outward views. In the west there are close views to Jacksbank Wind Farm, and Clochnahill Wind Farm is visible on the horizon to the east. In the east of the VRA, views south look over Drumlithie with the Tullo Wind Farm on the distant horizon. There are longer distance views east and south as the topography falls, while views north and west are often blocked by the rising landform.

VRA D19: Kinmonth

Sensitivity

Residential receptors and recreational receptors on the core paths are considered to be of **High** susceptibility to changes in the view and users of the local road network, including cyclists, are considered to be of **Low** susceptibility.

There are no designated landscapes or promoted viewpoints within the VRA, however wide ranging views of the surrounding countryside are available, particularly to the east and south. These views are experienced by a relatively small number of people. As such views are considered to be **Medium** in value.

Taking account of the judgements of susceptibility and value, sensitivity is judged to be **High** for residents and **Medium** for other visual receptors in the VRA.

Magnitude of Change during Construction

Construction activity would be at its closest 250 m to the north of the VRA, as an access track at Jacksbank Wind Farm is upgraded, and within 1 km to the west of the VRA. However, the intervening landform and linear vegetation belts would obscure most views within the VRA. Views would be possible from small sections of Watery Baulk, seen above the treeline, as well as from the access track to Upper Kinmonth. Use of machinery and vehicle movements would be visible to the north, and taller elements including partially built steel lattice towers would be intermittently visible above the skyline to the west.

The scale of change resulting from construction activity is judged to be **Low** and would be experienced in a few locations on Watery Baulk in the centre of the VRA and in the north.

The magnitude of change during construction is judged to be no more than **Minor**.

Magnitude of Change during Operation

The Proposed Development would be seen in medium distance views to the west from Upper Kinmonth Farm at a distance of approximately 1 km, and from Watery Baulk, at a distance of approximately 1.8 km at the closest point. The majority of views within the VRA would be screened by intervening rising landform and vegetation, although tops of towers would be intermittently glimpsed above the intervening skyline to the west.

The scale of change resulting from the introduction of the Proposed Development is judged to be **Small** and only experienced in small areas of Watery Baulk in the centre of the VRA and near Upper Kinmonth in the north.

The magnitude of change during operation is judged to be no more than **Low**.

Significance of Effect during Construction

Taking account of the **High** sensitivity of residents in the VRA, and the **Low** magnitude of change, the visual effect arising from construction is judged to be no more than **Minor (Not Significant)**.

Significance of Effect during Operation

Taking account of the **High** sensitivity of residents in the VRA, and the **Low** magnitude of change, the visual effect arising from operation is judged to be no more than **Minor (Not Significant)**.

Table 9.2.97: VRA D20 - Inches

VRA D20: Inches

Description of Receptor

Residents at Inches, east of the Proposed Development (refer to **Volume 3, Figure 9.3b.4: Visual Receptor Area, Viewpoint Locations and other Visual Receptors with Overhead Line Tower Height Zone of Theoretical Visibility (ZTV), p. 4**). The VRA is located immediately adjacent to the Proposed Development.

Representative Viewpoint

N/A

Nature of Views

This small VRA contains two properties and their access track. Views are of open arable fields. Views south towards Knockhill Wood and Knock Hill, which forms the southern horizon. Droop Hill is the main focus of views west, and the landform restricts any longer views. Views north are generally restricted by the rising landform and a linear woodland belt at Jacksbank

VRA D20: Inches

Wood. Views east are also generally restricted by the landform, with no long-distance views possible. Two wind turbines on Droop Hill Wind Farm are clearly visible in views west, on the top of Droop Hill.

Sensitivity

Residential receptors are considered to be of **High** susceptibility to changes in the view.

There are no designated landscapes or promoted viewpoints within the VRA, however wide ranging views of the surrounding countryside are available. Only a small number of residents would experience the views. As such views are considered to be **Medium** in value.

Taking account of the judgements of susceptibility and value, sensitivity is judged to be **High** for residents in the VRA.

Magnitude of Change during Construction

Construction activity would be seen in close distance views immediately northwest to southwest of the VRA, associated with upgraded temporary access tracks at the western edge of the VRA, and construction of the OHL. There are some trees along the access path, but these would provide limited screening. Construction activity would include machinery, vehicle movements, erection of steel lattice towers and lighting in hours of darkness. This activity would be a large and obvious feature in all views northwest, west and southwest.

The scale of change resulting from construction activity is judged to be **Large** and would be experienced across the VRA.

The magnitude of change during construction is judged to be up to **High**.

Significance of Effect during Construction

Taking account of the **High** sensitivity of residents in the VRA, and the **High** magnitude of change, the visual effect arising from construction is judged to be up to **Major (Significant)** for any receptor in this VRA, and for many receptors would be less.

Magnitude of Change during Operation

The Proposed Development would be seen in close distance views to the northwest, west and southwest, at a distance of 150 m at its closest point from along the access track, and from 275 m from the closest property. The towers would not cross the access track but would be very clear and obvious in views. They would also be seen in context with the wind turbines on Droop Hill. The steel lattice towers would be much larger in scale and appearance than the existing turbines.

The scale of change resulting from the introduction of the Proposed Development is judged to be **Large** and would be experienced across all views northwest, west and southwest within the VRA.

The magnitude of change during operation is judged to be up to **High**.

Significance of Effect during Operation

Taking account of the **High** sensitivity of residents in the VRA, and the **High** magnitude of change, the visual effect arising from operation is judged to be up to **Major (Significant)** for any receptor in this VRA, and for many receptors would be less.

Table 9.2.98: VRA D21 - Jacksbank

VRA D21: Jacksbank

Description of Receptor

Residents in scattered properties and users of the local road network, west of the Proposed Development (refer to **Volume 3, Figure 9.3b.4: Visual Receptor Area, Viewpoint Locations and other Visual Receptors with Overhead Line Tower Height Zone of Theoretical Visibility (ZTV), p. 4**). The VRA is located immediately adjacent to the Proposed Development.

Representative Viewpoint

VP27: Minor road near Jacksbank (refer to **Volume 4 c, Figure 9.31a-i: VP27: Minor road near Jacksbank**)

VRA D21: Jacksbank

Nature of Views

The few properties within this VRA are scattered. There are open views across arable fields, with long distance views to other areas of higher ground to the north, south and west. Small areas of woodland provide some screening, but views are generally open. The Jacksbank and Droop Hill Wind Farms are visible in medium distance views across much of the VRA, as is the single turbine at Pitwathie to the northeast. An existing OHL is visible in medium to long distance views to the north and northwest from the minor road near Jacksbank Farm in the north of the VRA. These are not significant elements in the view.

Sensitivity

Residential receptors are considered to be of **High** susceptibility to changes in the view and users of the local road network, including cyclists, are considered to be of **Low** susceptibility. There are no designated landscapes or promoted viewpoints within the VRA, however wide ranging views are afforded of the surrounding countryside, including towards the eastern extents of the Highland Boundary Fault. These views are experienced by a small number of people in this VRA. As such views are considered to be **Medium** in value. Taking account of the judgements of susceptibility and value, sensitivity is judged to be **High** for residents and **Medium** for other visual receptors in the VRA.

Magnitude of Change during Construction

Construction activity would be in close distance views to the east and southeast. Construction activity would include machinery, vehicle movements (including from a new access route in the south of the VRA), erection of steel lattice towers and lighting in hours of darkness. Views of the construction activity would be open and seen across the VRA. Construction activity would be a large and obvious feature in all views east and south. The scale of change resulting from construction activity is judged to be **Large** and would be experienced across the VRA. The magnitude of change during construction is judged to be up to **High**.

Magnitude of Change during Operation

The Proposed Development would be seen in close to medium distance views to the east and south, at a distance of approximately 250 m at its closest point (tower S18) from the road network in the south of the VRA. In views south from the north of the VRA the steel lattice towers would be seen in front of the wind turbines of Jacksbank Wind Farm. In views to the east, the towers would be visible crossing the horizon but would be seen in context with existing OHLs to the northeast. In the south of the VRA there would be views east towards the Proposed Development, and tower S19 would be seen crossing the minor road approximately 300 m to the south. Views towards the Proposed Development would be open, with limited screening from small areas of woodland. The Proposed Development would be seen in the context of existing OHL and wind turbines and would result in a **Medium** scale of change. The Proposed Development would be experienced by residential receptors and users of the local road network in views to the south and east across the VRA. The magnitude of change during operation is judged to be no more than **Medium**.

Significance of Effect during Construction

Taking account of the **High** sensitivity of residents in the VRA, and the **High** magnitude of change, the visual effect arising from construction is judged to be up to **Major (Significant)** for any receptor in this VRA, and for many receptors would be less.

Significance of Effect during Operation

Taking account of the **High** sensitivity of residents in the VRA, and the **Medium** magnitude of change, the visual effect arising from operation is judged to be no more than **Moderate (Significant)** for any receptor in this VRA, and for many receptors would be less.

Table 9.2.99: VRA D22 - Newmill to Tannachie

VRA D22: Newmill to Tannachie	
Description of Receptor	Representative Viewpoint
Residents in scattered properties and users of the local road network and people travelling on the Dundee to Aberdeen railway line, east of the Proposed Development (refer to Volume 3, Figure 9.3b.4: Visual Receptor Area, Viewpoint Locations and other Visual Receptors with Overhead Line Tower Height Zone of Theoretical Visibility (ZTV), p. 4). The VRA is located immediately adjacent to the Proposed Development.	N/A
Nature of Views	
The properties within this VRA are scattered. Views are varied, with views in Newmill and along the railway line restricted by the rising topography. Longer distance views are possible from the higher elevations at Blererno and Tannachie. The surrounding land is pasture and arable, with the lack of field boundaries providing an open character. Hillside woodlands are visible in medium distance views, often forming the horizon. The Jacksbank Wind Farm is visible to the west, while the Pitwathie wind turbine and an existing OHL is visible to the northwest. From Tannachie the Moor of Auchendreich Wind Farm is visible on the horizon. These are not significant elements in the view.	
Sensitivity	
Residential receptors are considered to be of High susceptibility to changes in the view. Users of the local road network, including cyclists, and people travelling on the railway line are considered to be of Low susceptibility.	
There are no designated landscapes or promoted viewpoints however the VRA takes in views of the distinctive Mounth uplands which form part of the Highland Boundary Fault. Views are experienced by a number of dense groups of properties across this VRA. As such views are considered to be Medium in value.	
Taking account of the judgements of susceptibility and value, sensitivity is judged to be High for residents and Medium for other visual receptors in the VRA.	
Magnitude of Change during Construction	Magnitude of Change during Operation
Construction activity would be in close distance views to the north and west. Construction activity would include machinery, vehicle movements, the erection of steel lattice towers and lighting in hours of darkness. Views of the construction activity would be open and seen across the majority of the VRA. Views from the east of the VRA at Newmill and the railway line would be partially concealed by intervening buildings and the rising topography. Construction activity would be a large and obvious feature in views north and west. The scale of change resulting from construction activity is judged to be Large and would be experienced across the majority of the VRA. The magnitude of change during construction is judged to be up to High.	The Proposed Development would be seen in close to medium distance views to the north and west at a distance of 125 m at its closest point (tower S9) from the minor road in the north of the VRA. In views west from Blererno and Tannachie the steel lattice towers would be seen in front of an existing OHL and wind turbine at Pitwathie and would form larger scale features in northerly and westerly views. The proposed towers would be seen on the skyline, partially backclothed by more distant landform of the Fetteresso Forest. At Blererno the Proposed Development would also be seen in the same close views with the Jacksbank Wind Farm and would appear smaller in scale than the turbines. Views towards the Proposed Development would be open, with limited screening at Blererno from a small area of mixed woodland lining the road. The Proposed Development would be seen in the context of existing OHL and wind turbines but would generally appear more prominent. The scale of change resulting from the introduction of the Proposed Development would be Large and would be experienced by residential receptors and users of the local road network in views to the west and north across the VRA. People travelling on the railway line in the east of the VRA would have glimpsed views of the Proposed Development, partially screened by the intervening topography.

VRA D22: Newmill to Tannachie	
	The magnitude of change during operation is judged to be up to than High .
Significance of Effect during Construction	Significance of Effect during Operation
Taking account of the High sensitivity of residents in the VRA, and the High magnitude of change, the visual effect arising from construction is judged to be up to Major (Significant) for any receptor in this VRA, and for some receptors would be less.	Taking account of the High sensitivity of residents in the VRA, and the High magnitude of change, the visual effect arising from operation is judged to no more than Major (Significant) for any receptor in this VRA, and for many receptors would be less.

Table 9.2.100: VRA D23 - Carmont Hill

VRA D23 - Carmont Hill	
Description of Receptor	Representative Viewpoint
Residents in scattered properties and users of the local road network and people travelling on the Dundee to Aberdeen railway line, east and southeast of the Proposed Development (refer to Volume 3, Figure 9.3b.4: Visual Receptor Area, Viewpoint Locations and other Visual Receptors with Overhead Line Tower Height Zone of Theoretical Visibility (ZTV), p. 4). The VRA is located approximately 0.8 km from the Proposed Development at the closest point.	N/A
Nature of Views	
The properties within this VRA are scattered. Views are open across high ground. Near distance views are of pasture and arable fields, with more distant hills visible including Jacksbank Wood and the Jacksbank Wind Farm to the west. Hill of Quithel and the wooded Mid Hill form the horizon to the north, with an existing OHL visible on the horizon. Views in the centre, south and east of the VRA are often screened by large blocks of commercial forestry and the undulating topography. The railway line runs along the bottom of a river valley and is also in cutting throughout most of the VRA. Outward views from the railway are therefore highly constrained by the cutting and valley sides.	
Sensitivity	
Residential receptors are considered to be of High susceptibility to changes in the view. Users of the local road network, including cyclists, and people travelling on the railway line are considered to be of Low susceptibility. There are no designated landscapes or promoted viewpoints however the VRA takes in views of the distinctive Mounth uplands which form part of the Highland Boundary Fault. Views are experienced by a number of dense groups of properties across this VRA. As such views are considered to be Medium in value. Taking account of the judgements of susceptibility and value, sensitivity is judged to be High for residents and Medium for other visual receptors in the VRA.	
Magnitude of Change during Construction	Magnitude of Change during Operation
Construction activity would include machinery, vehicle movements, the erection of steel lattice towers and lighting in hours of darkness. This would be seen in medium distance views to the west and northwest of the VRA.	The Proposed Development would be visible in medium distance views to the west and northwest at a distance of 800 m at its closest point (tower S7), from the access tracks at the northern edge of the VRA.

VRA D23 - Carmont Hill

Views of the construction activity would be screened in much of the centre and south of the VRA by the undulating topography and woodland. People travelling on the railway line would have no views of the construction activity due to the valley landform.

From higher ground in the north and west of the VRA, such as the access track to Gowans in the north of the VRA, construction activity would be seen in open views, in front of existing OHL in the distance, and close to the Jacksbank Wind Farm. Construction activity would be a large and visible feature in views west and northwest.

The scale of change resulting from construction activity is judged to be **Medium** and would be experienced in the north and west of the VRA, at the highest elevations with limited woodland cover.

The magnitude of change during construction is judged to be no more than **Medium**.

Significance of Effect during Construction

Taking account of the **High** sensitivity of residents in the VRA, and the **Medium** magnitude of change, the visual effect arising from construction is judged to be no more than **Moderate (Significant)** for any receptor in this VRA, and for many receptors would be less.

The undulating topography and woodland cover would result in few views of the Proposed Development from the east and centre of the VRA. The valley landscape in which the railway line sits would also result in no views towards the Proposed Development.

In views from the north and east of the VRA, where there is less woodland cover and the elevations are higher, the Proposed Development would be seen in medium distance views, in context with the more distant existing OHL and close to the Jacksbank Wind Farm. The Proposed Development would be an obvious feature in these views and would result in a **Medium** scale of change.

The Proposed Development would be experienced by residential receptors and users of the local road network in the west and north of the VRA.

The magnitude of change during operation is judged to be no more than **Medium**.

Significance of Effect during Operation

Taking account of the **High** sensitivity of residents in the VRA, and the **Medium** magnitude of change, the visual effect arising from operation is judged to be no more than **Moderate (Significant)** for any receptor in this VRA, and for many receptors would be less.

Table 9.2.101: VRA D24 - Quithel

VRA D24: Quithel	
Description of Receptor	Representative Viewpoint
Residents in scattered properties and users of the local road network, north and west of the Proposed Development (refer to Volume 3, Figure 9.3b.4: Visual Receptor Area, Viewpoint Locations and other Visual Receptors with Overhead Line Tower Height Zone of Theoretical Visibility (ZTV), p. 4). The VRA is located immediately adjacent to the Proposed Development.	N/A
Nature of Views	
The few properties within the VRA are scattered. Views are across open agricultural fields with medium distance views to surrounding hills crowned by small woodlands. Views from the minor road in the centre of the VRA are often restricted by the rising topography to the north and south, with views predominately to the east and west. In the north of the VRA the topography steeply increases, and longer distance views to the south and west are possible – the distinctive wooded Black Hill forms the horizon to the southwest. An existing OHL and Pitwathie turbine are visible to the north. Jacksbank Wind Farm with Droop Hill Wind Farm behind are visible to the southwest. These are obvious but not overbearing features.	
Sensitivity	
Residential receptors are considered to be of High susceptibility to changes in the view. Users of the local road network, including cyclists, and people travelling on the railway line are considered to be of Low susceptibility.	

VRA D24: Quithel

There are no designated landscapes or promoted viewpoints however the VRA takes in views of the distinctive Mounth uplands which form part of the Highland Boundary Fault. A low density of people is located within this VRA. As such views are considered to be **Medium** in value.

Taking account of the judgements of susceptibility and value, sensitivity is judged to be **High** for residents and **Medium** for other visual receptors in the VRA.

Magnitude of Change during Construction	Magnitude of Change during Operation
Construction activity would include machinery, vehicle movements, the erection of steel lattice towers and lighting in hours of darkness. This would be seen in close distance views to the east, south and southwest. The minor road which leads to Upper Quithel would be used as an access route. As this road has a steep topography and lies above the rest of the VRA, the vehicle movements would be visible across the majority of the VRA. The construction activity would be seen in context with the Jacksbank Wind Farm in views to the southwest. The scale of change resulting from construction activity is judged to be Large and would be experienced across the VRA. The magnitude of change during construction is judged to be up to High.	The Proposed Development would be in very close distance views to the east, south and southwest at a distance of 40 m at its closest point (tower S7). The Proposed Development would also be seen continuing into the distance to the southwest. Views of the continuing Proposed Development to the northeast would be generally screened by intervening topography. The Proposed Development would be prominent in views, although seen backclothed against the surrounding higher landform, especially in views from the minor road which runs east-west through the VRA. The Proposed Development would be seen in the same views as the Jacksbank Wind Farm to the southwest. The Proposed Development would not be seen in the same view as the existing OHL to the northwest, however people travelling along the minor road network would see electricity infrastructure both to the northwest and southeast. The Proposed Development would be seen in closer distance views and would be larger scale than the existing OHL. The scale of change resulting from the Proposed Development would be Large and would be experienced by residential receptors and people using the local road network across the VRA. The magnitude of change during operation is judged to be up to High.
Significance of Effect during Construction	Significance of Effect during Operation
Taking account of the High sensitivity of residents in the VRA, and the High magnitude of change, the visual effect arising from construction is judged to be up to Major (Significant) for any receptor in this VRA, and for many receptors would be less.	Taking account of the High sensitivity of residents in the VRA, and the High magnitude of change, the visual effect arising from operation is judged to be up to Major (Significant) for any receptor in this VRA, and for many receptors would be less.

Table 9.2.102: VRA D25 - Elfhill

VRA D25: Elfhill	
Description of Receptor	Representative Viewpoint
Residents in scattered properties and users of the local road network, south and east of the Proposed Development (refer to Volume 3, Figure 9.3b.4: Visual Receptor Area, Viewpoint Locations and other Visual Receptors with Overhead Line Tower Height Zone of Theoretical Visibility (ZTV), p. 4). The VRA is located immediately adjacent to the Proposed Development.	N/A

VRA D25: Elfhill

Nature of Views

The few properties within the VRA line the minor road which runs east-west through the VRA. Views are across open agricultural fields, which slope upwards to the north and south. The topography restricts any longer distance views north and south, with trees and shelterbelts seen on the top of the slopes. Views east and west are channelled along the valley, with limited longer distance views. There are very limited views of development within the VRA. Some existing infrastructure can be seen on the horizon - an existing OHL is visible to the northwest; a wind turbine at Tewel and OHL can be seen in the distance on the horizon to the east; and in the east of the VRA the Clochnahill Wind Farm can be seen on the horizon to the southeast.

Sensitivity

Residential receptors are considered to be of **High** susceptibility to changes in the view. Users of the local road network, including cyclists are considered to be of **Low** susceptibility.

There are no designated landscapes or promoted viewpoints however the VRA takes in views of the distinctive Mounth uplands which form part of the Highland Boundary Fault. A low density of people are located within this VRA. As such views are considered to be **Medium** in value.

Taking account of the judgements of susceptibility and value, sensitivity is judged to be **High** for residents and **Medium** for other visual receptors in the VRA.

Magnitude of Change during Construction

Construction activity would include machinery, vehicle movements, the erection of steel lattice towers and lighting in hours of darkness. This would be seen in close distance views to the north, northwest and west. Access tracks would be constructed north from Elfhill and Annamuick, with associated construction activity visible in immediate views from the minor road and property. As the topography steeply slopes north, vehicles using the access tracks would be noticeable features in views from properties and the minor road.

In the west of the VRA the construction activity would be seen in context with the existing OHL to the northwest.

The scale of change resulting from construction activity is judged to be **Large** and would be experienced in all views north, northwest and west across the VRA.

The magnitude of change during construction is judged to be up to **High**.

Magnitude of Change during Operation

The Proposed Development would be visible in close views to the north, northwest and west, at a distance of 200 m at its closest point (tower S6), from the access tracks and minor road at the northern edge of the VRA. The Proposed Development would also be seen continuing into the distance to the southwest. Views of the continuing Proposed Development to the north would be generally screened by intervening topography and commercial forestry. The degree of visibility of the Proposed Development within Fetteresso Forest to the north would vary over time due to rotational forestry felling and restocking regimes that would influence the degree of screening. However, it is considered that any forestry that remains during felling cycles would continue to provide a degree of screening of the Proposed Development in views to the north from this VRA, particularly the lower levels of steel lattice towers.

The Proposed Development would be prominent in views, although seen backclothed against the rising topography to the north. The Proposed Development would be seen in front of the existing OHL to the northwest, although the towers would be larger in scale due to its proximity. A permanent access track that would ascend the southern slopes of Elf Hill would also be partially visible from the eastern part of the VRA.

The scale of change resulting from the Proposed Development would be **Large** and would be experienced by residential receptors and people using the local road network across the VRA.

The magnitude of change during operation is judged to be up to **High**.

Significance of Effect during Construction

Taking account of the **High** sensitivity of residents in the VRA, and the **High** magnitude of change, the visual effect arising from construction is judged to be no more than **Major (Significant)** for any receptor in this VRA, and for many receptors would be less.

Significance of Effect during Operation

Taking account of the **High** sensitivity of residents in the VRA, and the **High** magnitude of change, the visual effect arising from operation is judged to be no more than **Major (Significant)** for any receptor in this VRA, and for many receptors would be less.

Table 9.2.103: VRA D26 - The Wyndings

VRA D26: The Wyndings	
Description of Receptor	Representative Viewpoint
Residents in scattered properties, users of the local road network and people travelling on the Dundee to Aberdeen railway line, southeast and east of the Proposed Development (refer to Volume 3, Figure 9.3b.4: Visual Receptor Area, Viewpoint Locations and other Visual Receptors with Overhead Line Tower Height Zone of Theoretical Visibility (ZTV), p. 4). The VRA is located approximately 0.9 km from the Proposed Development at the closest point.	VP28: Nether Wyndings (refer to Volume 4 c, Figure 9.32a-c: VP28: Nether Wyndings)
Nature of Views	
From the minor road, views south are of arable and pasture fields falling towards the Carron Water, with the wooded hill of Carron Wood rising behind and forming the horizon. Views north are of sloping fields, which form the horizon and restrict any longer distance views. Views east and west along the minor road are largely channelled by the topography to the north and south. Views from the railway line are largely restricted by topography as it is within the valley of the Carron Water. The Clognahill Wind Farm and existing OHLs are visible in views south and southeast. In views east from the minor road a single wind turbine at Tewel is a clear feature, with existing OHL in the background on the horizon.	
Sensitivity	
Residential receptors are considered to be of High susceptibility to changes in the view. Users of the local road network, including cyclists and people travelling on the railway are considered to be of Low susceptibility. There are no designated landscapes or promoted viewpoints however the VRA takes in views of the distinctive Mounth uplands which form part of the Highland Boundary Fault. A low density of people are located within this VRA. As such views are considered to be Medium in value. Taking account of the judgements of susceptibility and value, sensitivity is judged to be High for residents and Medium for other visual receptors in the VRA.	
Magnitude of Change during Construction	Magnitude of Change during Operation
Views of construction activity would include machinery, vehicle movements, the erection of steel lattice towers and lighting in hours of darkness. This would be seen in at a distance to the west and northwest. The most noticeable element of the construction activities would be the movement of vehicles on the new access track west of Elfhill, where vehicles would be seen on the hillside. Cranes and the erection of steel lattice towers would also be seen at a distance of at least 1 km. Receptors in the eastern extents of the VRA would be screened from construction activity by the rolling landform and intervening woodland. The construction activity would be seen in context with existing OHL. The scale of change resulting from construction activity is judged to be Medium and would be experienced in all views from the west of the VRA, as the topography would restrict views from the east. The magnitude of change during construction is judged to be no more than Medium.	The Proposed Development would be in views to the northwest and west, at a distance of 1 km at its closest point (towers S3 and S4). The Proposed Development would also be seen continuing into the distance to the southwest. Views of the continuing Proposed Development to the northwest would be generally obscured by intervening topography and commercial forestry in Fetteresso Forest. The degree of visibility of the Proposed Development within Fetteresso Forest to the north would vary over time due to rotational forestry felling and restocking regimes that would influence the degree of screening. However, it is considered that any forestry that remains during felling cycles would continue to provide a degree of screening of the Proposed Development in views to the northwest from this VRA, particularly the lower levels of steel lattice towers. Receptors in the eastern extents of the VRA would be screened from the Proposed Development by the rolling landform and intervening woodland. The Proposed Development would be seen on the skyline, in context with existing OHL and views of existing wind turbines. Due to the distance, the towers would not appear prominent in views.

VRA D26: The Wyndings

	The scale of change resulting from the Proposed Development would be Small and would be experienced by residential receptors and people using the local road network in the west of the VRA. The magnitude of change during operation is judged to be no more than Low.
Significance of Effect during Construction	Significance of Effect during Operation
Taking account of the High sensitivity of residents in the VRA, and the Medium magnitude of change, the visual effect arising from construction is judged to be no more than Moderate (Significant) for any receptor in this VRA, and for many receptors would be less.	Taking account of the High sensitivity of residents in the VRA, and the Low magnitude of change, the visual effect arising from operation is judged to be no more than Minor (Not Significant).

SECTION E

Table 9.2.104: VRA E1 - Fetteresso Forest

VRA E1: Fetteresso Forest	
Description of Receptor	Representative Viewpoint
Recreational users along informal footpaths and forestry tracks within the open access land across the VRA. Limited number of residents in scattered properties along minor tracks north of Cowie Water, west of the Proposed Development (refer to Volume 3, Figure 9.3b.4: Visual Receptor Area, Viewpoint Locations and other Visual Receptors with Overhead Line Tower Height Zone of Theoretical Visibility (ZTV), p. 4). The VRA is located immediately adjacent to the Proposed Development.	N/A
Nature of Views	
Views from within this VRA are generally enclosed, set within dense commercial forestry. Partially open views are afforded from small clearings within the forestry along the Cowie Water, and framed views to the east from a number of forestry tracks across the VRA. These intermittent framed views to the east often take in the prominent towers of an existing OHL which cuts north to south along the eastern edge of the VRA, connecting with the Fetteresso Substation in the southeast corner of the VRA. In the centre and east of the VRA, including from around the Hill of Trusta, there are few clearings and views are largely enclosed by forestry and rising landform. At the southern edge of the VRA immediately beyond the forestry edge views are partially contained by the dual rising landforms of Hill of Quithel and Mid Hill, with narrow views directed southeast along the Burn of Annamuick and across undulating farmland to the south in the distance.	
Sensitivity	
Residential receptors and recreational users including walkers or mountain bikers are considered to be of High susceptibility to changes in the view and road users including cyclists are considered to be of Low susceptibility to changes in the view.	
This VRA is not located within a designated landscape, and there are no promoted footpaths or designated recreation areas within the VRA, however informal tracks within the open access forestry are used by recreational receptors. Views are generally contained to the immediate vicinity, enclosed by dense forestry. As such views are considered to be Medium in value.	
Taking account of the judgements of susceptibility and value, sensitivity is judged to be High for residential and recreational receptors and Medium for others.	
Magnitude of Change during Construction	Magnitude of Change during Operation
Construction activity would be partially seen in close to middle distance views to the northeast and east from residents and recreational users in this VRA. Forestry clearance, vehicle movements, creation of access tracks, erection of steel lattice towers and lighting in hours of darkness would be intermittently and partially visible from a limited number of locations, concentrated along the minor tracks near Cowie Water and forestry tracks south of the Hill of Trusta. These views would be heavily constricted by forestry on either side of the clearings or forestry tracks, with narrow views towards construction activity in the east. More distant views of construction activity would be visible as the Proposed Development descends across the southern slopes of Mid Hill and Hill of Quithel, south of the VRA unit. From all residential properties and stretches of forestry track views would be partially to mostly obscured by intervening commercial forestry and undulating landform. Further west,	The Proposed Development would be seen in close to middle distance views from a small number of residential properties and from along the forestry track network in views to the northeast and east, at a distance of approximately 0.2 km at its closest point. Due to the proposed size and scale of the steel lattice towers, the Proposed Development would form a large-scale feature in limited and partial views from the eastern extents of this VRA. Most of the visible extent of the Proposed Development would be backclothed against forestry within Fetteresso Forest, reducing the prominence of the infrastructure. The degree of visibility of the Proposed Development within Fetteresso Forest would vary over time due to rotational forestry felling and restocking regimes that would influence the degree of screening. However, it is considered that any forestry that remains during felling

VRA E1: Fetteresso Forest

construction would be less visible as distances from it increases. Furthermore, the rolling landform and dense forestry would provide almost complete screening.

The scale of change resulting from construction activity is judged to be **Small** and would be focused across the eastern part of the VRA.

The magnitude of change during construction is judged to be no more than **Low**.

cycles would continue to provide a degree of screening of the Proposed Development in views to the east from this VRA, particularly the lower levels of steel lattice towers.

Undulating topography along the eastern extents of the VRA would also screen wider views of the Proposed Alignment. Where the Proposed Development crosses the eastern slopes of the Hill of Three Stones and west of Mergie, towers would be visible as tall vertical features in framed views on the skyline, seen in framed views from forestry tracks near Cowie Water, from distances within 0.25 km.

Further west within the VRA, the Proposed Development would be less visible as distances from it increase. Furthermore, the rolling landform and dense forestry would provide almost complete screening.

The Proposed Development would be seen in the context of existing vertical and commercial infrastructure, including an existing high voltage OHL. The Proposed Development would be taller than the existing OHL and would result in an increase in the influence of vertical infrastructure in views.

The scale of change resulting from the introduction of the Proposed Development is judged to be **Small** and would be focused across intermittent clearances in the east of the VRA.

The magnitude of change during operation is judged to be no more than **Low**.

Significance of Effect during Construction

Taking account of the **High** sensitivity of residents and recreational users in the VRA, and the **Low** magnitude of change, the visual effect arising from construction is judged to be no more than **Minor (Not Significant)** for any receptor in this VRA, and for many receptors would be less.

Significance of Effect during Operation

Taking account of the **High** sensitivity of residents and recreational users in the VRA, and the **Low** magnitude of change, the visual effect arising from operation is judged to be no more than **Minor (Not Significant)** for any receptor in this VRA, and for many receptors would be less.

Table 9.2.105: VRA E2 - Hill of Swanley, Cheyne, and Fetteresso

VRA E2: Hill of Swanley, Cheyne, and Fetteresso	
Description of Receptor	Representative Viewpoint
Recreational users along informal footpaths and forestry tracks within the open access land across the VRA. Limited number of residents in scattered properties across the southern descending slopes of Hill of Swanley, east of the Proposed Development (refer to Volume 3, Figure 9.3b.4: Visual Receptor Area, Viewpoint Locations and other Visual Receptors with Overhead Line Tower Height Zone of Theoretical Visibility (ZTV), p. 4). The VRA is located immediately adjacent to the Proposed Development.	N/A
Nature of Views	
Views from within this VRA are varied, with generally enclosed views within the dense forestry in the western half and open views in eastern half overlooking sloping pastoral fields and the broad valley of Carron Water. In the north of the VRA, views from forestry tracks and a small number of properties are largely enclosed by both forestry and surrounding elevated	

VRA E2: Hill of Swanley, Cheyne, and Fetteresso

landforms. Areas of cleared forestry along the western slopes of Hill of Swanley afford open westerly views across the Burn of Day and towards the Hill of Trusta. In the south of the VRA, views from scattered properties and minor road network are expansive and extend south across undulating pastoral valley slopes. An existing OHL is intermittently visible to the west of the VRA deeper within Fetteresso Forest. Two existing high voltage OHLs cross the eastern extents of the VRA. Visible to the north is a telecommunications mast which is visible from cleared forestry areas in the north of the VRA, and wind turbines are visible to the south on the skyline at Cloch-na Hill, visible from the minor road network and scattered properties in the south.

Sensitivity

Residential receptors and recreational receptors are considered to be of **High** susceptibility to changes in the view, and road users including cyclists are considered to be of **Low** susceptibility to changes in the view.

This VRA is not located within a designated landscape, and there are no promoted footpaths or designated recreation areas within the VRA. However, there are popular informal tracks through the forested area, and there are occasionally open views to the west where forestry has been cleared. As such views are considered to be **Medium** in value.

Taking account of the judgements of susceptibility and value, sensitivity is judged to be **High** for residents and recreational receptors, and **Medium** for road users.

Magnitude of Change during Construction

Construction activity would be seen in close to middle distance views to the west and southwest from tracks, properties, and the minor road network. Use of machinery, forestry clearance, vehicle movements, creation of access tracks, erection of steel lattice towers and lighting in hours of darkness would be intermittently visible from a number of locations, concentrated along the western and southern slopes of the Hill of Swanley and Hill of Baulk, and from informal paths closer to Hurlie Bog. From along the western slopes of the Hill of Swanley, the outlook is elevated and alternates between more open or enclosed depending on rotational forestry felling and restocking regimes within surrounding forestry blocks. Well-used informal tracks along these slopes are afforded elevated middle-distance views towards construction activity as it crosses the eastern slopes of Hill of Trusta. Forestry would screen smaller elements of construction activity, although cranes and the erection of towers would be visible above the treetops.

More distant southwestern views from the pastoral southern slopes of Hill of Swanley and Hill of Baulk would be generally open towards construction activity as it crosses the valley form of Carron Water, with limited areas of intervening landform or forestry although garden trees and vegetation closer to residential properties would provide some screening. Taller elements of construction activity would be most visible in this context, particularly the erection of towers and use of cranes, which would be clearly visible along the valley slopes and floor.

Seen from the eastern extents of the VRA, around Cheyne and Fetteresso, the erection of steel lattice towers would be seen in the far distance in views to the southwest and west upon land of a higher elevation to receptors and would break the horizon. Seen from this relatively long distance of approximately 4.5 km the partially constructed steel lattice towers would appear small-scale. In some places intervening vegetation would provide filtering and screening.

Magnitude of Change during Operation

The proposed steel lattice towers would be seen in middle distance views from the western slopes of Hill of Swanley and some forestry tracks north of the Hill of Baulk. In these views the towers would form large scale features in views to the west and northwest, due to their proximity and height. The towers would be partially screened by intervening forestry, with only tops of the towers and the OHLs visible above the treetops. West of the Proposed Development, rising forested hills within Fetteresso Forest would provide extensive backclothing of the proposed towers, reducing the prominence of the infrastructure. The degree of visibility of the Proposed Development within Fetteresso Forest would vary over time due to rotational forestry felling and restocking regimes that would influence the degree of screening. However, it is considered that any forestry that remains during felling cycles would continue to provide a degree of screening of the Proposed Development in views to the west from this VRA, particularly the lower levels of steel lattice towers.

From parts of the VRA south and east of Fetteresso Forest, the Proposed Development would be visible in longer distance views (>1.5 km). The proposed towers would be seen scattered properties and the minor road network, visible as the Proposed Alignment extends south and southwest across the undulating slopes of Carron Water. Views southwest across the valley are generally open and broad, and the Proposed Development would be clearly visible, seen across undulating arable fields and partially on the skyline.

Seen from the eastern extents of the VRA, around Cheyne and Fetteresso, the Proposed Development would be seen in the far distance in views to the southwest and west upon land of a higher elevation to receptors and would break the horizon. Seen from this relatively long distance of approximately 4.5 km the Proposed Development would appear small-scale. In some places intervening vegetation would provide filtering and screening. In the eastern half of the VRA, the Proposed Development would be seen in the context of existing infrastructure: the high voltage OHLs Kintore to Tealing 275 kV and Craigiebuckler to Fiddes 132 kV, compared to which the Proposed Development would appear smaller in scale.

VRA E2: Hill of Swanley, Cheyne, and Fetteresso

The scale of change resulting from construction activity is judged to be **Medium** and would be focused across the western slopes of Hill of Swanley, and the southern slopes of Hill of Swanley and Hill of Baulk.

The magnitude of change during construction is judged to be no more than **Medium**.

As the Proposed Alignment continues southwest over the rising form of Jacksbank, the proposed towers would again be visible on the skyline, seen in the context of existing wind turbines. In comparison to the existing vertical infrastructure, the Proposed Development would appear smaller scale than the existing elements. However, the introduction of towers and OHLs would still increase the overall influence of vertical infrastructure in views from residents and road users in the south of this VRA.

The scale of change resulting from the introduction of the Proposed Development is judged to be **Medium** and would be focused across the western and southern slopes of Hill of Swanley and Hill of Baulk.

The magnitude of change during operation is judged to be no more than **Medium**.

Significance of Effect during Construction

Taking account of the **High** sensitivity of residents and recreational users in the VRA, and the **Medium** magnitude of change, the visual effect arising from construction is judged to be no more than **Moderate (Significant)** for any receptor in the VRA, and for many receptors would be less.

Significance of Effect during Operation

Taking account of the **High** sensitivity of residents and recreational users in the VRA, and the **Medium** magnitude of change, the visual effect arising from operation is judged to be no more than **Moderate (Significant)** for any receptor in the VRA and for many receptors would be less.

Table 9.2.106: VRA E3 - Cowie Water and Black Burn

VRA E3: Cowie Water and Black Burn

Description of Receptor

Residential receptors in properties along the Cowie Water and Black Burn, recreational users, and road users along the minor road network, to the east of the Proposed Development (refer to **Volume 3, Figure 9.3b.4: Visual Receptor Area, Viewpoint Locations and other Visual Receptors with Overhead Line Tower Height Zone of Theoretical Visibility (ZTV), p. 4**). The VRA is located immediately adjacent to the Proposed Development.

Representative Viewpoint

N/A

Nature of Views

Views from within this VRA are generally enclosed with rising landforms in all directions, and outward views filtered by surrounding forestry on upper slopes to the south and within the upland valley associated with the Cowie Water. However, gaps in woodland in the foreground of views occasionally afford longer distance views, which are generally focused to the west and northwest towards the Hill of Three Stones and to the north/northeast across descending valley slopes. Residential properties across the VRA are scattered throughout, with a small concentration near Mergie at the western edge of the VRA where views are directed west towards the rising slopes of Fetteresso Forest, and which intermittently take in existing OHL infrastructure. There are a limited number of properties scattered across elevated slopes south of Cowie Water, with views generally directed north across pastoral fields interspersed with blocks of forestry, and which take in distant views of large-scale wind turbines to the northeast. A telecommunications mast is visible to the north, intermittently visible to residential receptors and road users south of Cowie Water.

VRA E3: Cowie Water and Black Burn

Sensitivity

Residential and recreational receptors are considered to be of **High** susceptibility to changes in the view, and road users including cyclists are considered to be of **Low** susceptibility to changes in the view.

This VRA is not located within a designated landscape, and there are no promoted footpaths or designated recreation areas within the VRA. However, there are occasionally open views to the west and north where forestry has been cleared. As such views are considered to be **Medium** in value.

Taking account of the judgements of susceptibility and value, sensitivity is judged to be **High** for residential and recreational receptors, and **Medium** for road users.

Magnitude of Change during Construction

Construction activity would be seen in close to middle distance westerly views from scattered properties and the minor road network between Cowie Water and Fetteresso Forest. Use of machinery, forestry clearance, vehicle movements, creation of access tracks, erection of steel lattice towers and lighting in hours of darkness would be intermittently visible from along the southern slopes of Cowie Water and near Mergie, and from the minor road network which heads west across the southern slopes of Fetteresso Forest. From residential properties near Mergie, close views west and northwest would be partially screened by rising landform and intervening vegetation, although construction activity would extend across a wide horizontal field of view from these locations. From further east along the pastoral slopes of Cowie Water, middle distance westerly views would be afforded towards construction activity, although bands of intervening woodland would entirely screen lower elements of activity, and only the tops of cranes and partially built towers would be visible above the treeline.

Views become more open further south up the slopes of Cowie Water, and properties near Clachanshiels would experience wide and elevated views towards construction activity, with fewer areas of intervening forestry and landform. Taller elements of construction activity would be most visible in this context, particularly the erection of towers and use of cranes, which would be notable as the Proposed Alignment crosses Cowie Water and up the slopes of Fetteresso Forest to the southwest.

The scale of change resulting from construction activity is judged to be **Medium** and would be generally focused across the area between Mergie and Clachanshiels.

The magnitude of change during construction is judged to be no more than **Medium**.

Magnitude of Change during Operation

The proposed steel lattice towers would be seen in close to middle distance views from scattered properties in the western area of the VRA along Black Burn and from along the minor road network. In these views the towers would form large scale features in views to the west and northwest, due to their proximity and height, and would be seen in the context of an existing OHL. Intervening rising landform would screen the lower elements of the towers, and bands of broadleaved and riparian woodland along Cowie Water would intermittently filter and screen views towards the Proposed Alignment. Above the treeline, the tops of towers would be visible. The towers would frequently be backclothed by forested hills further west, including the Hill of Three Stones, reducing the prominence of the infrastructure.

From southern areas of the VRA, near Clachanshiels, the Proposed Development would be visible in longer distance views from elevated areas. The proposed towers would be seen from a small number of properties and their associated access tracks. Views west and northwest from the slopes at the northern edge of Fetteresso Forest are generally open and expansive, and the Proposed Development would be seen across a wide horizontal field of view. The towers would be clearly visible, descending the forested hills within the Fetteresso Forest to the south, passing over the narrow upland valley floor and ascending the slopes north of Cowie Water. The proposed towers would be intermittently visible along the skyline as the Proposed Alignment crosses the valley floor, and entirely backclothed and partially screened to the north and south on the slopes of Cowie Water. Visible in the context of an existing OHL, the Proposed Development would appear larger in scale than existing elements and would increase the overall influence of vertical infrastructure in views from residents and road users in this VRA.

The scale of change resulting from the introduction of the Proposed Development is judged to be **Medium** and would be focused across the area near Mergie and slopes at the northern edge of Fetteresso Forest.

The magnitude of change during operation is judged to be up to **Medium**.

Significance of Effect during Construction

Taking account of the **High** sensitivity of residents in the VRA, and the **Medium** magnitude of change, the visual effect arising from construction is judged to be no more than **Moderate (Significant)** for any receptor in the VRA, and for many receptors would be less.

Significance of Effect during Operation

Taking account of the **High** sensitivity of residents in the VRA, and the **Medium** magnitude of change, the visual effect arising from construction is judged to be up to **Major (Significant)** for any receptor in the VRA, and for many receptors would be less.

Table 9.2.107: VRA E4 - Rickarton and Slug Road

VRA E4: Rickarton and Slug Road	
Description of Receptor	Representative Viewpoint
Residents in scattered groups of properties and road users within the area between Cowton Bridge and Roadside Cottage on Slug Road, east of the Proposed Development (refer to Volume 3, Figure 9.3b.4: Visual Receptor Area, Viewpoint Locations and other Visual Receptors with Overhead Line Tower Height Zone of Theoretical Visibility (ZTV), p. 4). The VRA is located immediately adjacent to the Proposed Development.	VP29: Slug Road (A957), west of Roadside Cottage (refer to Volume 4 b, Figure 9.29a-f: VP25: Footpath off Hill View Road, Auchenblae).
Nature of Views	
Views from within this VRA are generally directed east and west along the upland valley of Cowie Water, with the rising hills of Fetteresso Forest in the south and the Hill of Pitspunkie (205 m AOD) and Craigneil (265 m AOD) in the north curtailing longer distance views. Some views along the valley sides are obscured by pockets of forestry or broadleaved woodland, including views from scattered properties and from limited stretches of the A957/Slug Road. Existing OHL towers and a telecom mast form prominent vertical features on the horizon to the west, as they cross the rising slopes of Fetteresso Forest, visible beyond the western edge of the VRA from receptors along Slug Road and a small number of properties along the northern slopes of Cowie Water. A number of wind turbines are visible in the distance to the east and to the west, seen on distant elevated landforms and partially screened by intervening valley slopes.	
Sensitivity	
Residential receptors are considered to be of High susceptibility to changes in the view, and road users including cyclists are considered to be of Low susceptibility to changes in the view. This VRA is not located within a designated landscape, and there are no promoted footpaths or designated recreation areas within the VRA. However, views along the northern valley slopes and valley floor are relatively open and take in the rising hills of Fetteresso Forest to the south. As such views are considered to be Medium in value. Taking account of the judgements of susceptibility and value, sensitivity is judged to be High for residents and Medium for road users.	
Magnitude of Change during Construction	Magnitude of Change during Operation
Construction activity would be seen in close to middle distance views to the northwest and west from residents and road users in this VRA. Use of machinery, forestry clearance, vehicle movements, creation of access tracks, erection of steel lattice towers and lighting in hours of darkness would be intermittently visible from a number of locations, concentrated along Slug Road and a small number of properties on the northern slopes of Cowie Water. These views would generally be open but would occasionally be partially filtered and screened by intervening topography within the valley and bands of woodland and forestry. From along Slug Road, westerly views would be wide and generally open, with views towards construction activity as it crosses Cowie Water and the roadway. More distant views of construction activity would be more screened, seen across agricultural fields as the valley form meanders to the east and intervening landform intermittently curtails longer distance views from the east of the VRA. From residential properties on the upper slopes of Cowie Water, views towards construction activity would generally be filtered by intervening garden vegetation and patches of woodland in the intervening fields.	The proposed steel lattice towers would be seen in close westerly views (<100 m) from the western section of Slug Road and from residential properties at Roadside Cottage, and from middle distance views (<1 km) from further sections of Slug Road and residential properties at Millsburn and Bogheadley. In these views, the proposed towers would form large scale features in views to the west and northwest, due to their proximity and height. The towers would be clearly visible as the Proposed Alignment crosses Cowie Water and Black Burn, and the southern descending slopes of Craigneil. As the Proposed Alignment crosses to the south, the proposed towers would be mostly backclothed by rising forested landforms at Hill of Three Stones and Hill of Trusta. An area of cleared forestry (infrastructure and management felling) on the southern side of the Black Burn would also be visible from the section of Slug Road to the west of Roadside Cottage. This felling would result in a new area of exposed ground which would form a notable feature in views to the south from Slug Road. From other parts of the VRA further east, past Hill of Bogheadley, the Proposed Development would be partially visible in middle-to-longer distance westerly views,

VRA E4: Rickarton and Slug Road

The scale of change resulting from construction activity is judged to be **Large** and would be focused in the west between Millsburn and Roadside Cottage.

The magnitude of change during construction is judged to be no more than **Medium**.

intermittently seen from Slug Road and properties at Rickarton. Although intervening landform and bands of woodland would filter the lower elements of the Proposed Development, the proposed towers would be seen extending above these intervening features within the landscape and would appear as large-scale features across a wide horizontal field of view. The proposed towers would be particularly visible as they descend into the Cowie Valley as views are more open along the valley floor, but they would be backclothed by rising landforms further west, including the Hill of Mossmaud and Hill of Three Stones.

The Proposed Development would be seen in the context of existing vertical and commercial infrastructure, including existing high voltage OHLs, a telecoms tower, and wind turbines in the distance in the west. In comparison to the existing vertical infrastructure, the Proposed Development would be higher and larger scale than the existing elements and would result in an increase in the influence of vertical infrastructure in views from residents and road users in this VRA.

The scale of change resulting from the introduction of the Proposed Development is judged to be **Large** and would be focused across much of the VRA, between Roadside Cottage and Rickarton.

The magnitude of change during operation is judged to be up to **High**.

Significance of Effect during Construction

Taking account of the **High** sensitivity of residents in the VRA, and the **Medium** magnitude of change, the visual effect arising from construction is judged to be no more than **Moderate (Significant)** for any receptor in the VRA, and for many receptors would be less.

Significance of Effect during Operation

Taking account of the **High** sensitivity of residents in the VRA, and the **High** magnitude of change, the visual effect arising from operation is judged to be up to **Major (Significant)** for any receptor in the VRA, and for many receptors would be less.

Table 9.2.108: VRA E5 - Strathgyle Wood, Hill of Auquhollie, and Nether Auquhollie

VRA E5: Strathgyle Wood, Hill of Auquhollie, and Nether Auquhollie	
Description of Receptor	Representative Viewpoint
Recreational users along informal footpaths and forestry tracks within Strathgyle Wood open access land in the north of the VRA and visitors to Lang Stane standing stone. Limited number of residents in scattered properties and minor road users across the southern descending slopes of Hill of Auquhollie and Hill of Saddle, east of the Proposed Development (refer to Volume 3, Figure 9.3b.4-5: Visual Receptor Area, Viewpoint Locations and other Visual Receptors with Overhead Line Tower Height Zone of Theoretical Visibility (ZTV), pp. 4-5). The VRA is located immediately adjacent to the Proposed Development.	N/A

VRA E5: Strathgyle Wood, Hill of Auquhollie, and Nether Auquhollie

Nature of Views

Views from within this VRA are varied, with generally enclosed views from within Strathgyle Wood in the north and more open views in the south. In the north, views from forestry tracks and informal footpaths are generally enclosed by forestry and surrounding undulating landform. In the south of the VRA views from a small number of properties, informal footpaths and a minor road network are more open, affording panoramic views to the south, southwest and east over the broad landscape of scrub and heather, expanses of rough grazing and areas of regenerating forestry. From the more elevated landforms at the cleared southern edge of Strathgyle Wood, views extend towards the rising hills of Fetteresso Forest in the distance to the south, which form a dark backdrop in views, and to the North Sea in the east. Longer distance views west are curtailed by rounded landforms at Cragneil, Hill of Auquhollie and Hill of Pitspunkie. Various telecommunication towers are visible on the distant skyline to the south and southwest, and there are views of Meikle Carewe wind farm to the northeast, partially visible above the skyline.

Sensitivity

Residential receptors and recreational receptors are considered to be of **High** susceptibility to changes in the view, and road users including cyclists are considered to be of **Low** susceptibility to changes in the view.

This VRA is not located within a designated landscape, and there are no promoted footpaths or designated recreation areas within the VRA. However, there are informal tracks through the forested area, as well as panoramic open views in the south of the VRA. As such views are considered to be **Medium** in value.

Taking account of the judgements of susceptibility and value, sensitivity is judged to be **High** for residents and recreational receptors, and **Medium** for other receptors within the VRA.

Magnitude of Change during Construction

Construction activity would be seen from close to middle distance views from informal tracks within Strathgyle Wood, and middle-to-longer distance westerly views in the south of the VRA. Use of machinery, forestry clearance, vehicle movements, creation of access tracks, erection of steel lattice towers and lighting in hours of darkness would be intermittently visible from western facing tracks within Strathgyle Wood. From scattered properties and tracks on the southern slopes of Hill of Auquhollie (219 m AOD), the erection of towers and use of cranes would be most apparent in middle-to-longer distance views.

From within Strathgyle Wood, narrow views of construction activity would be channelled along forestry tracks, and broader views from across areas of cleared forestry during rotational forestry felling and restocking regimes. Views from the western edge of the VRA would generally be close range, although intervening forestry would frequently screen smaller elements of construction activity. Cranes and the erection of steel lattice towers would be visible above the treetops.

More distant views west and southwest from scattered properties and the minor road network in the south of the VRA would be broad and generally open, particularly as the Proposed Alignment crosses lower land at Cowie Water to the southwest. Intervening landform at Cragneil Hill (265 m AOD) and Hill of Pitspunkie would provide screening of construction activity in westerly views. However, taller elements (cranes and partially built towers) would be partially visible again as the Proposed Alignment crosses more elevated land to the north and south. Bands of woodland along minor watercourses and garden vegetation at the peripheries of scattered properties would filter views to the southwest.

Magnitude of Change during Operation

The Proposed Development would be seen in close to middle distance westerly views within Strathgyle Wood, at a distance of approximately 0.15 km at its closest point. In these views the proposed towers would form large scale features in views to the west, due to their proximity and height. The towers would be partially screened by intervening commercial forestry, with only tops of the towers and the OHLs visible above the treetops. The degree of visibility of the Proposed Development within Durris Forest would vary over time due to rotational forestry felling and restocking regimes that would influence the degree of screening. However, it is considered that any forestry that remains during felling cycles would continue to provide a degree of screening of the Proposed Development in views to the west from this VRA, particularly the lower levels of steel lattice towers.

West of the Proposed Development, elevated forms including Cairn-mon-earn (378 m AOD) and Mundernal (324 m AOD) would provide partial backclothing of the proposed towers, reducing the prominence of the infrastructure.

From parts of the VRA south of Strathgyle Wood, the Proposed Development would be visible in middle-to-longer distance views (>2.0 km). The proposed towers would be visible from scattered properties and the minor road network, seen as the Proposed Alignment extends south and southwest across slopes of Cowie Water and further south into Fetteresso Forest. Views southwest across the valley are generally open and broad, although garden vegetation and bands of woodland along minor watercourses in the middle ground of views would provide partial screening of the Proposed Development. The proposed towers would be seen in the context of the high voltage OHL Kintore to Tealing 275 kV and would appear smaller-scale in views; although, the proposed towers would still appear as a notable new features in the landscape. Views west are generally screened by

VRA E5: Strathgyle Wood, Hill of Auquhollie, and Nether Auquhollie	
The scale of change resulting from construction activity is judged to be Medium and would be focused across the western area of the VRA within Strathgyle Wood and along the southern slopes of Hill of Auquhollie. The magnitude of change during construction is judged to be no more than Medium.	intervening landform along the western edge of the VRA, although the tops of towers would be visible as the Proposed Alignment ascends more elevated slopes to the southwest and northwest. The scale of change resulting from the introduction of the Proposed Development is judged to be Medium and would be focused across the forestry tracks within Strathgyle Wood and scattered properties, informal tracks within open access land, and minor road network south of the woodland edge. The magnitude of change during operation is judged to be no more than Medium.
Significance of Effect during Construction	Significance of Effect during Operation
Taking account of the High sensitivity of residents and recreational users in the VRA, and the Medium magnitude of change, the visual effect arising from construction is judged to be no more than Moderate (Significant) for any receptor in the VRA and for many receptors would be less.	Taking account of the High sensitivity of residents and recreational users in the VRA, and the Medium magnitude of change, the visual effect arising from operation is judged to be no more than Moderate (Significant) for any receptor in the VRA and for many receptors would be less.

Table 9.2.109: VRA E6 - Cairn-mon-earn, Durris Forest

VRA E6: Cairn-mon-earn, Durris Forest	
Description of Receptor	Representative Viewpoint
Recreational users along informal footpaths and forestry tracks within Durris Forest, west of the Proposed Development. Small number of residential properties along the northwestern edge of the forestry along Calladrum Burn. Road users along Slug Road, which crosses southeast - northwest through forestry in the southern half of the VRA (refer to Volume 3, Figure 9.3b.4-5: Visual Receptor Area, Viewpoint Locations and other Visual Receptors with Overhead Line Tower Height Zone of Theoretical Visibility (ZTV), pp. 4-5). The VRA is located immediately adjacent to the Proposed Development.	N/A
Nature of Views	
Views from within this VRA are generally enclosed, although areas of clearance within and at the edges of Durris Forest afford broad and panoramic views to the southeast, south, and north. Within Durris Forest dense conifers cover the central swathe of the VRA, with limited areas of clearance at the summits of Cairn-mon-earn (378 m AOD), Craigbeg, and Mundernal. From the cleared summits panoramic and far-reaching views are afforded across areas of surrounding forestry and recent logging, moor, areas of undulating rough grazing, the North Sea to the east, Deeside to the north, and Grampian foothills further west and south. These elevated views take in the radio towers at Cairn-mon-earn, transmission tower at Durris, and more distant windfarms at Meike Carewe and Mid Hill. Forestry tracks and well-used recreational paths afford channelled views through forestry, with sequential and relatively contained views along the paths to the summits and along the minor watercourses, and which intermittently take in views of existing OHL and smaller telegraph lines. Along the northern and southern edges of Durris Forest, views are relatively open and extend across undulating rough pastoral fields and scrub vegetation.	
Sensitivity	
Residential receptors and recreational receptors, including hikers and mountain bikers, are considered to be of High susceptibility to changes in the view, and road users including cyclists are considered to be of Low susceptibility to changes in the view.	

VRA E6: Cairn-mon-earn, Durris Forest

This VRA is not located within a designated landscape, and there are no promoted footpaths within the VRA. However, there are popular walking and biking tracks through the forested area, as well as panoramic and open views in elevated locations. As such views are considered to be **Medium** in value.

Taking account of the judgements of susceptibility and value, sensitivity is judged to be **High** for residents and recreational receptors, and **Medium** for other receptors within the VRA.

Magnitude of Change during Construction

Construction activity would be seen from close to middle distance easterly views from informal tracks within Durris Forest (within approximately 0.1 km at the closest points), along Clash Burn and from the eastern and southern slopes of Cairn-mon-earn. Use of machinery, widening of the cleared path along the existing OHL right of way, vehicle movements, lighting in hours of darkness, and erection of steel lattice towers would be intermittently visible in these views. Views from these locations would typically be narrow, channelled along cleared tracks through dense forestry. Intermittent areas of recently cleared forestry would afford occasional broader views. Views from the southern edge of Durris Forest and along Slug Road would also experience close to middle distant views of construction activity, clearly visible on rising slopes of heather and rough grassland to the north and east. Construction activity would cross Slug Road, with the erection of a tower immediately north along the road. Where recreational footpaths intersect with access tracks, vehicle movements would be notable in very close views. From further distance along the tracks, forestry would screen smaller elements of construction activity although cranes and the erection of towers would be visible above the treeline.

Middle to longer distance views northeast would be available from a small number of residential properties at the northern edge of Durris Forest although intervening areas of forestry which extend north towards Calladrum Burn would provide extensive screening. Cleared summits within Durris Forest including Cairn-mon-earn would also afford elevated panoramic views towards construction, although smaller elements would be screened by intervening forestry.

The scale of change resulting from construction activity is judged to be **Large** and would be concentrated across the east of the VRA near Cairn-mon-earn and in the south along Slug Road. Construction activity would become less perceptible with distance.

The magnitude of change during construction is judged to be up to **High**.

Magnitude of Change during Operation

The Proposed Development would be seen in close (< 0.1 km) views to the northeast and east of the VRA, from recreational users and road users. At its closest, the Proposed Development would be seen by road users travelling along Slug Road where the Proposed Alignment crosses the roadway. Road users would pass directly under the Proposed Development with tower N86 immediately north of the road and would view towers N81 to N86 as the Proposed Alignment climbs slopes to the north, in both direct and oblique views. Close views would also be experienced by recreational users travelling along forest tracks and informal paths within Durris Forest.

Longer distance views (0.5 km-1 km) would be afforded towards the Proposed Development from a small number of properties along the northwestern edge of Durris Forest, as well as from the cleared summits (Cairn-mon-earn, Craigbeg, Mundernal) within the forestry.

From closer range views, the Proposed Development would appear both in framed narrow views from forest tracks, and in more open views from along Slug Road. From tracks within Durris Forest, the proposed towers would be seen in direct and oblique sequential views, although partially screened and backclothed by dense commercial forestry in the immediate surroundings. However, tops of towers and wires would be intermittently visible above the treeline. The degree of visibility of the Proposed Development within Durris Forest would vary over time due to rotational forestry felling and restocking regimes that would influence the degree of screening. However, it is considered that any forestry that remains during felling cycles would continue to provide a degree of screening of the Proposed Development in views to the east from this VRA, particularly the lower levels of steel lattice towers.

From along Slug Road, the Proposed Development would extend across a wide horizontal field of view as the roadway passes under the Proposed Alignment. The proposed towers would be seen to extend along elevated slopes either side of the roadway, with scattered roadside vegetation providing limited filtering of views. Rising landform would provide partial backclothing to the Proposed Development, although the towers would be seen as new and notable vertical features and would be seen alongside a smaller existing OHL. In longer distance views from further north and west in the VRA, the towers would form large scale vertical features seen above the treeline of Durris Forest. Forestry would screen lower elevations of the towers, but the wires and tops of towers would remain visible cutting across the horizon and largely seen against the skyline. The Proposed Development would appear more prominent than the existing towers and would be seen at higher elevations.

VRA E6: Cairn-mon-earn, Durris Forest	
	The scale of change resulting from the Proposed Development is judged to be Large and would be experienced from forestry tracks along the eastern slopes of Mundernal and Cairn-mon-earn and from along Slug Road. The magnitude of change resulting from the introduction of the Proposed Development is judged to be High.
Significance of Effect during Construction	Significance of Effect during Operation
Taking account of the High sensitivity of residents and recreational users in the VRA and the High magnitude of change, the visual effect arising from construction is judged to be up to Major (Significant) for any receptor in the VRA, and for many receptors would be less.	Taking account of the High sensitivity of residential and recreational users in the VRA, and the High magnitude of change, the visual effect arising from operation is judged to be up to Major (Significant) for any receptor in the VRA, and for many receptors would be less.

Table 9.2.110: VRA E7 - Tilquhillie, Blairydrine, and Crossroads

VRA E7: Tilquhillie, Blairydrine, and Crossroads	
Description of Receptor	Representative Viewpoint
Residential receptors scattered around Tilquhillie, Blairydrine, and Crossroads; recreational visitors to Forestry Commission woodlands; and road users travelling along A957/Slug Road and minor road network, west of the Proposed Development (refer to Volume 3, Figure 9.3b.5: Visual Receptor Area, Viewpoint Locations and other Visual Receptors with Overhead Line Tower Height Zone of Theoretical Visibility (ZTV), p. 5). The VRA is located approximately 0.8 km from the Proposed Development at its closest point.	N/A
Nature of Views	
Views from within this VRA are generally open, with rolling pastoral and arable fields interspersed by pockets of woodland, and occasional landforms in the middle ground curtailing longer views. Views from along Slug Road are generally expansive to the south and southeast, extending towards the rising forested hills of Durris Forest to the southeast and south, and the foothills of the Grampians to the southwest. In the north of the VRA, views from Slug Road and the minor road network extend across the Dee Valley and its pastoral matrix of arable fields, farmsteads and pockets of woodland. Views from scattered properties across the VRA are generally open, although garden vegetation and shelterbelts at the peripheries of the properties create filtered outlooks. There is a general absence of infrastructure in views beyond small-scale telegraph lines, although telecommunications masts are visible above Durris Forest in the distance to the south of the VRA.	
Sensitivity	
Residential and recreational receptors are considered to be of High susceptibility to changes in the view, and road users including cyclists are considered to be of Low susceptibility to changes in the view.	
The north of this VRA is located within the Dee Valley SLA, and there are panoramic views across the Dee Valley to the north, and towards Durris Forest in the south. As such views are considered to be High in value.	
Taking account of the judgements of susceptibility and value, sensitivity is judged to be High for residents and recreational receptors, and Medium for road users.	

VRA E7: Tilquhillie, Blairydrine, and Crossroads

Magnitude of Change during Construction

Construction activity would be seen in middle-to-long distance easterly views from the road network within the VRA and from scattered properties near Balladrum and West Funach, although intervening forestry closer to the alignment would provide extensive screening of activity. Some taller construction activity such as machinery, part built towers and lighting in hours of darkness (associated with the towers N63 to N73) would be visible above the intervening treelines. Tree clearance activity would also be visible on higher land north of Mundernal. Lower-level activity such as ground works and access track creation would be less perceptible in views due to intervening landform and vegetation.

At the closest points, construction activity would be seen in framed views along the Calladrum Burn, where a gap between Target Wood and Balladrum Wood would afford longer distance easterly views. However, these views would be experienced at distances of more than 1.2 km from the minor road network and a small number of properties along the Burn of Sheeoch, with vegetation along Calladrum Burn filtering views.

Construction activity would also be visible to the east from slightly more elevated areas further north in the VRA, from scattered properties along Slug Road and south of Funach Wood, at distances of more than 1.5 km. Views across the sloping pastoral fields would be more open, and the elevated vantage would allow wider views to the east and southeast. Intervening forestry at Free Church Wood and Balladrum Wood would screen ground works and lower elevation activity. However, taller construction activity would be visible above the treeline, and would be particularly seen to the southeast, as the Proposed Alignment climbs the forested slopes of Mundernal. Views from Slug Road would be oblique to the direction of travel, although the minor road heading east towards West Funach would experience direct views towards construction activity.

Receptors in the northwestern extents, around Tilquhillie, would be screened from construction activity by intervening rolling landform and conifer plantations. Receptors in the southwestern extents would see the partially erected towers in the far distance in views to the northeast. While these partially constructed towers would be visible against the sky, only a relatively small number would be visible as the intervening rolling landform would provide much screening.

Views of construction related activity would be greatest from the scattered properties and minor roads near West Funach, although experienced at a distance and partially screened.

The scale of change resulting from construction activity is judged to be **Small** for road users and residents across the area north of Calladrum Burn and east of Slug Road near Funach Wood.

The magnitude of change during construction is judged to be no more than **Low**.

Magnitude of Change during Operation

The Proposed Development would be seen in middle-to-longer distance views (beyond 1.2 km at the closest point) as people travel along the minor road network north of Calladrum Burn, and near Crossroads and West Funach. People travelling along these routes would experience direct views of the Proposed Development to the east, and from oblique angles at more distance locations, including from people travelling along Slug Road.

The Proposed Development would be seen in middle-to-longer distance views (>1.5 km) from properties near Balladrum and along Calladrum Burn as it descends the forested slopes of Mundernal, and near West Funach as it crosses the Burn of Sheeoch. However, vegetation around these properties would provide some screening. Intervening forestry at Free Church Wood, Balladrum Wood, and Target Wood would provide screening of the Proposed Development, although tops of towers would be visible above the treeline.

Although the Proposed Development would be visible in views from the VRA, the intervening areas of forestry closer to the Proposed Alignment would provide extensive screening. Towers N70 to N76 would be visible as they descend the slopes of Mundernal, and the tops of towers and wires would be visible as they oversail the Burn of Sheeoch, near Meikledams. The Proposed Development would be seen beyond and in parallel with an existing OHL, which would be especially apparent to the southeast of the VRA as the Proposed Alignment climbs in elevation. The towers would form large vertical features to the southeast as they descend forested slopes and cross Calladrum Burn into the lower lying pastoral landscape and would be seen on the skyline in the distance to the east, although partially backclothed by more distant landforms. From further north in the VRA, the towers would be largely screened by intervening forestry, although the tops of the towers would be visible above the treeline.

Receptors in the northwestern extents, around Tilquhillie, would be screened from the Proposed Development by intervening rolling landform and conifer plantations. Receptors in the southwestern extents would see the Proposed Development in the far distance in views to the northeast. While the Proposed Development would be visible against the sky, only a relatively short section would be visible as the intervening rolling landform would provide much screening.

The scale of change resulting from the introduction of the Proposed Development is judged to be **Medium** for road users and residents in the north of the VRA and would be focused across the slopes south of Funach Wood.

The magnitude of change during operation is judged to be no more than **Medium** for residents and road users near Funach Wood.

VRA E7: Tilquhillie, Blairydrine, and Crossroads

Significance of Effect during Construction	Significance of Effect during Operation
Taking account of the High sensitivity of residents in the VRA and the Low magnitude of change, the visual effect arising from construction is judged to be no more than Moderate (Significant) for any receptor in the VRA, and for many receptors would be less.	Taking account of the High sensitivity of residents in the VRA and the Medium magnitude of change, the visual effect arising from operation is judged to be no more than Moderate (Significant) for any receptor in the VRA, and for many receptors would be less.

Table 9.2.111: VRA E8 - Balladrum Wood

VRA E8: Balladrum Wood	
Description of Receptor	Representative Viewpoint
Recreational users along informal footpaths and forestry tracks within Balladrum Wood, residential receptors near Calladrum Den and Meikledamns, and users of the minor road network, west of the Proposed Development (refer to Volume 3, Figure 9.3b.5: Visual Receptor Area, Viewpoint Locations and other Visual Receptors with Overhead Line Tower Height Zone of Theoretical Visibility (ZTV), p. 5). The VRA is located immediately adjacent to the Proposed Development.	N/A
Nature of Views	
Views from within the VRA are generally open, with views across undulating pastoral fields which rise towards Durris Forest in the south and gently rounded landforms further east. Large patches of woodland beyond the peripheries of the VRA screen longer distance views to the north and south. Within the VRA, vegetation is mostly concentrated within Balladrum Wood in the centre, along Calladrum Burn in the south, and along the Burn of Sheeoch and Free Church Wood in the north. Minor roadways in the south of the VRA have limited roadside vegetation beyond low hedges or fences, enabling open views across the landscape. Scattered properties in the south and north of the VRA are generally enclosed by boundary vegetation or have close large-scale agricultural buildings which screen views to the east. An existing OHL is a prominent feature to the east of the VRA and is visible from the minor road and scattered properties and their access tracks.	
Sensitivity	
Residential receptors and recreational receptors are considered to be of High susceptibility to changes in the view, and road users including cyclists are considered to be of Low susceptibility to changes in the view. This VRA is not located within a designated landscape, and there are no promoted footpaths or designated recreation areas within the VRA. However, there are informal tracks through the forested area, and there are occasionally open views across pastoral fields to the south where the slopes of Durris Forest begin to climb. As such views are considered to be Medium in value. Taking account of the judgements of susceptibility and value, sensitivity is judged to be High for residents and recreational receptors, and Medium for road users.	
Magnitude of Change during Construction	Magnitude of Change during Operation
Construction activity would be seen in close to middle distance views to the east from scattered properties and the minor roads and tracks which serve them. Use of machinery, forestry clearance, vehicle movements, creation of access tracks, erection of steel lattice towers and lighting in hours of darkness would be intermittently visible from a number of locations, concentrated along the undulating fields between Burn of Sheeoch and	The Proposed Development would be seen in close views along the eastern edge of the VRA by residential properties and road users. At its closest the Proposed Development would be seen at distances within approximately 0.1 km as the minor road in the south approaches the Proposed Alignment. Close views of the towers would be experienced from

VRA E8: Balladrum Wood

Calladrum Burn at the eastern edge of the VRA. Construction activity would also be visible to the southeast as the Proposed Alignment enters Durris Forest to the south, seen on rising slopes parallel to the existing OHL. At its closest, construction activity would be experienced at distances of less than 0.1 km from the minor road in the south of the VRA and from distances within 0.3 km from properties near Meikledams and Calladrum Burn. Activity associated with re-alignment of the existing OHL would also be visible in close views from around the residential property at Meikledams. There would also be upgrades to the minor road in the south of the VRA, which would introduce activity immediately adjacent to two properties.

Generally, views of construction activity would be open and would occupy a wide horizontal field of view, particularly from the minor road in the south as it approaches the Proposed Alignment. Views from residential properties would generally be filtered by intervening vegetation or farm buildings, although there would be occasional open views to the southeast, particularly in the south of the VRA.

The scale of change resulting from construction activity is judged to be **Large** and would be experienced across the northeast and southeast of the VRA near Calladrum Burn and near Meikledams. Construction activity would become less perceptible with distance.

The magnitude of change during construction is judged to be up to **High**.

within 0.3 km from residential properties at the northeastern and southeastern edges of the VRA.

The Proposed Development would be visible in middle distance views to the southeast as the Proposed Alignment descends the northern slopes of Mundernal in Durris Forest. Continuing into the lower-lying pastoral fields to the north, the proposed towers would form large-scale features in close views, extending above the treeline in the distance to the east but partially backclothed by the undulating landform. This experience would be particularly pronounced for road users travelling east along the minor road in the south, which would experience direct and close views towards the Proposed Alignment. In views southeast, the towers would appear partially backclothed by the rising elevation in the south, although the towers would intermittently break the skyline in sequential views from minor tracks in the north and the minor road in the south. The proposed towers would be seen in the context of the existing OHL and would appear further away in views, but would still appear as large scale features and would increase the influence of vertical infrastructure in views to the east and southeast.

The scale of change resulting from the introduction of the Proposed Development is judged to be **Large**. It would be experienced in views from across the eastern half of the VRA, particularly across the more elevated land in the north of the VRA as well as along the minor road to the south.

The magnitude of change during operation is judged to be up to **High**.

Significance of Effect during Construction

Taking account of the **High** sensitivity of residents and the **High** magnitude of change, the visual effect arising from construction is judged to be up to **Major (Significant)** for any receptor in the VRA, and for many receptors would be less.

Significance of Effect during Operation

Taking account of the **High** sensitivity of residents and the **High** magnitude of change, the visual effect arising from construction is judged to be up to **Major (Significant)** for any receptor in the VRA, and for many receptors would be less.

Table 9.2.112: VRA E9 – Funach Wood

VRA E9: Funach Wood

Description of Receptor

Limited number of residents scattered along the north and south edges of Free Church Wood and Funach Wood, road users along the minor road network, and recreational users along informal tracks within areas of forestry in the centre of the VRA (refer to **Volume 3, Figure 9.3b.5: Visual Receptor Area, Viewpoint Locations and other Visual Receptors with Overhead Line Tower Height Zone of Theoretical Visibility (ZTV), p. 5**). The VRA is located immediately adjacent to the Proposed Development.

Representative Viewpoint

N/A

VRA E9: Funach Wood

Nature of Views

Views from within the VRA are varied, with relatively open views to the north and more contained and channelled views in the centre and south of the VRA. In the north, views from B9077, the minor road network and a small number of residential properties are relatively open. Views extend north across undulating agricultural fields and bands of woodland along the River Dee, with the rising landforms of Midmar Forest forming a backdrop in the distance. An existing OHL forms a notable feature in views east and north and is visible extending across the River Dee and its surrounding arable fields, continuing towards the rising forms in the north. Views from residential properties along the southwestern edge of Free Church Wood and the minor road network in the south of the VRA are channelled to the southwest and west, contained by Free Church Wood to the east and Funach Wood to the north and west, with Balladrum Wood and the rising forms of Durris Forest curtailing longer distance views to the south.

Sensitivity

Residential receptors and recreational receptors are considered to be of **High** susceptibility to changes in the view, and road users including cyclists are considered to be of **Low** susceptibility to changes in the view.

The entire VRA except for the southern edge is located within the Dee Valley SLA, and there are open views across the Dee Valley to the north, and channelled views towards Durris Forest in the south. As such views are considered to be **High** in value.

Taking account of the judgements of susceptibility and value, sensitivity is judged to be **High** for residents and recreational receptors, and **Medium** for other receptors within the VRA.

Magnitude of Change during Construction

Most of the construction activity associated with the Proposed Development would be visible to the northeast of the VRA, including from a small number of residential properties, and from the minor road network and B9077. Use of machinery, forestry clearance, vehicle movements, creation of access tracks, erection of steel lattice towers and lighting in hours of darkness would be intermittently visible as the Proposed Alignment threads between Free Church Wood and Kirkton Wood and continues north across the River Dee. Dismantling and re-alignment of the existing OHL would also be visible in close easterly views from the road network and properties, from within approximately 0.2 km. From the B9077 and properties in the north of the VRA, construction activity would be seen in longer distant views to the north as the Proposed Alignment crosses the River Dee, cutting through bands of woodland and across arable fields. From the south of the VRA, construction activity would be visible in middle-to-longer distance views to the east and southeast, where views open to the south past the edge of Free Church Wood. This experience is particularly concentrated along the road network northeast of Funach Wood, including the B9077 as it travels directly towards the Proposed Alignment. From further south in the VRA, taller elements of construction would be visible as they extend towards Durris Forest in the southeast and across higher elevation. Bands of intervening forestry would screen ground level activities; however tops of partially constructed towers and crane movements would be visible above the treeline to the southeast.

The scale of change resulting from construction activity is judged to be **Large** and would be mostly concentrated across the northern edge of Free Church Wood and Funach Wood, and south of Funach Wood.

The magnitude of change during construction is judged to be up to **High**.

Magnitude of Change during Operation

The Proposed Development would be seen in close to middle distance views from the road network from within 0.2 km at the closest points. Close views would also be afforded from two residential properties north of Free Church Wood and Funach Wood, within 0.35 km at the closest point. From longer distances the Proposed Development would be seen from a small number of residential properties and the road network in the south of the VRA.

Due to the proposed size and scale of the steel lattice towers, the Proposed Development would form large scale and notable features in views to the east and north from this VRA. From the north of the VRA, the Proposed Development would appear in close views, appearing on the skyline to the east and northeast, with some partially backclothed by forestry and undulating landform further east. The proposed towers would extend above the treeline and would appear in very close views from both the minor road just north of Funach Wood and from the B9077. From the residential properties in the north of the VRA, the Proposed Development would appear in close to middle distance views. The towers would extend across a wide horizontal field of view as the Proposed Alignment continues towards the River Dee and across undulating arable fields in the north. Some intervening vegetation, particularly along the northeastern edges of the properties, would provide partial filtering of views to the east and northeast. From the south of the VRA, the Proposed Development would appear in more distant views to the southeast, with the towers visible as the Proposed Alignment descends the northern slopes of Durris Forest/Target Wood. From the minor road and residential properties south of Funach Wood, the towers would appear mostly backclothed by rising landforms within Durris Forest and partially screened by intervening forestry. In both the north and south of the VRA, the proposed towers would be seen beyond the re-aligned existing OHL and would appear of similar scale, increasing the influence of vertical infrastructure in views to the east, northeast, and southeast.

VRA E9: Funach Wood	
	The scale of change resulting from the introduction of the Proposed Development is judged to be Large. It would be experienced in views from across the east of the VRA, particularly across the more open land in the north of the VRA, and south of Funach Wood. The magnitude of change during operation is judged to be up to High.
Significance of Effect during Construction	Significance of Effect during Operation
Taking account of the High sensitivity of residents and recreational users in the VRA, and the High magnitude of change, the visual effect arising from construction is judged to be up to Major (Significant) for any receptor in the VRA, and for many receptors would be less.	Taking account of the High sensitivity of residents and recreational users in the VRA, and the High magnitude of change, the visual effect arising from operation is judged to be up to Major (Significant) for any receptor in the VRA, and for many receptors would be less.

Table 9.2.113: VRA E10 – Calladrum Wood

VRA E10: Calladrum Wood	
Description of Receptor	Representative Viewpoint
Limited number of residents scattered along descending slopes north of Calladrum Wood and along the minor road in the south of the VRA, and road users along the minor road network (refer to Volume 3, Figure 9.3b.5: Visual Receptor Area, Viewpoint Locations and other Visual Receptors with Overhead Line Tower Height Zone of Theoretical Visibility (ZTV), p. 5). The VRA is located immediately adjacent to the Proposed Development.	N/A
Nature of Views	
Views from within this VRA are generally open. More elevated land in the northeast provides wide views to the west and southwest across a minor watercourse. Large-scale agricultural fields across the south of the VRA offer expansive views to the east and west. Views are generally of smaller blocks of forestry and undulating and large-scale agricultural fields, with rising landform to the south within Durris Forest and the elevated forms of Midmar Forest appearing in the far distance to the north. The densely planted Calladrum Wood in the centre of the VRA interrupts views and provides partial screening in panoramic vistas from the minor road network in the south and residential properties further east in the VRA. An existing OHL is visible to the west of the VRA, forming a notable feature on the skyline but is mostly backclothed by landform and blocks of forestry further west.	
Sensitivity	
Residential receptors are considered to be of High susceptibility to changes in the view, and road users including cyclists are considered to be of Low susceptibility to changes in the view.	
This VRA is not located within a designated landscape, and there are no promoted footpaths or designated recreation areas within the VRA. Views are generally of an undulating agricultural landscape, with occasional longer distant views to the north towards Midmar Forest. As such views are considered to be Medium in value.	
Taking account of the judgements of susceptibility and value, sensitivity is judged to be High for residents and recreational receptors, and Medium for other receptors within the VRA.	

VRA E10: Calladrum Wood

Magnitude of Change during Construction

Construction activity would be seen in close to middle distance views to the west and southwest from along the minor road in the south of the VRA, and from scattered properties north and immediately south of Calladrum Wood. At its closest, construction activity of road improvements would be visible at distances within 0.1 km, whilst construction activity of the OHL would be visible at distances of at least 0.2 km. Use of machinery, vehicle movements, creation of access tracks, erection of steel lattice towers and lighting in hours of darkness would be visible across the undulating agricultural fields where the OHL crosses, and would be visible on the descending slopes of Durris Forest to the south. Forestry felling (infrastructure and management felling) as part of the Proposed Development, along the Burn of Sheeoch around tower N67 would also be visible in close to the middle distant views to the west.

Most construction activity would be clearly visible, with limited intervening screening features in the landscape to the west. However, undulating landform and occasional bands of forestry would intermittently screen lower lying activities. Taller elements, such as construction of the towers would be visible against the skyline, although would be partially backclothed by more distant blocks of forestry and landform. From residential properties and stretches of the minor road network, some views would be partially obscured by vegetation along the roadway and at the peripheries of properties.

The scale of change resulting from construction activity is judged to be **Large** and would be focused along the minor road to the south of the VRA and west of Calladrum Wood.

The magnitude of change during construction is judged to be up to **High**.

Significance of Effect during Construction

Taking account of the **High** sensitivity of residents in the VRA, and the **High** magnitude of change, the visual effect arising from construction is judged to be up to **Major (Significant)** for any receptor in the VRA and for many receptors would be less.

Magnitude of Change during Operation

The Proposed Development would appear in views to the west from some residential properties and from along the minor road network in the south of the VRA, at distances of within 0.1 km at the closest points. From more elevated landform north of Calladrum Wood, the Proposed Development would be seen in more distant views from a residential property and its access track, within 0.5 km.

The proposed steel lattice towers would be seen in close views from the minor road in the south of the VRA and from two residential properties along the roadway. Due to the proposed size and scale of the towers, the Proposed Development would form a large feature in views to the west. The towers would appear to extend high above the underlying landform and would be seen above any intervening treelines. However, the Proposed Development would be partially backclothed by more distant areas of forestry and rising landform to the west, reducing the prominence of the infrastructure. Where the Proposed Alignment is visible on the northern slopes of Durris Forest to the southwest of the VRA, the rising landforms would mostly backcloth the proposed towers. From the north of the VRA where the landform rises to the northeast, the Proposed Development would be seen in middle distance views, within 0.5 km. The proposed towers would be seen from a single residential property and the access track and would be visible across a wide horizontal field of view to the southwest to the northwest. Intervening vegetation along watercourses and within small blocks of forestry to the west and southwest would screen lower portions of the towers, however the tops of towers and wires would be clearly visible above the treeline.

The Proposed Development would be seen in the context of an existing OHL; although, the Proposed Development would appear closer and of similar scale to the existing infrastructure and would increase the influence of vertical infrastructure in views to the west and southwest.

The scale of change resulting from the introduction of the Proposed Development is judged to be **Large** and would be primarily focused along the minor road in the south and residential properties either side of Calladrum Wood.

The magnitude of change during operation is judged to be up to **High**.

Significance of Effect during Operation

Taking account of the **High** sensitivity of residents in the VRA, and the **High** magnitude of change, the visual effect arising from operation is judged to be up to **Major (Significant)** for any receptor in the VRA and for many receptors would be less.

Table 9.2.114: VRA E11 - Woodlands of Durris, Denside, and Muirskie

VRA E11: Woodlands of Durris, Denside, and Muirskie	
Description of Receptor	Representative Viewpoint
Recreational users along informal footpaths and tracks within open access forestry blocks including Clune Wood, and watercourse-adjacent woodland throughout the VRA. Residents within and around the settlements of Woodlands of Durris, Denside, and Muirskie as well as scattered residential properties between blocks of forestry in the south of the VRA. Road users along the minor road network (refer to Volume 3, Figure 9.3b.5: Visual Receptor Area, Viewpoint Locations and other Visual Receptors with Overhead Line Tower Height Zone of Theoretical Visibility (ZTV), p. 5). The VRA lies east of the Proposed Development which is 1.1 km at its closest point.	N/A
Nature of Views	
Views from within this VRA are relatively enclosed, with significant areas of forestry creating channelled and layered outward views, and undulating fields and elevated landform in the centre of the VRA, such as around Craigie Daff Wood, curtailing longer distance views. In the northwestern extents of the VRA, near Woodlands of Durris, bands of woodland and rising landform along the Burn of Durris screen views north and west. Lower landform south of the watercourse and a gap between Sawmill Wood and Woodlands Wood affords longer distance views to the southwest, across agricultural fields and towards Durris Forest in the distance. From further south within the VRA, enclosing blocks of forestry along the western, eastern, and centre of the VRA interrupt longer distance views. From scattered residential properties along Strathieburn longer distance views are mostly contained, with rising landform screening outward views. From the centre of the VRA there are occasionally open and long-distance views to the northwest from elevated areas near the settlement of Denside, with views extending across the broad valley of the River Dee and towards the elevated form of Midmar Forest in the distance. Views from the eastern extents are mostly contained to close-and-middle distances by the surrounding rolling landform, with some longer views to the northeast where the landform descends towards the river valley of the River Dee. Existing OHL and telecommunications towers are visible in occasional views to the southwest on the skyline above Durris Forest, as well as within the lower-lying landscape to the distant northwest.	
Sensitivity	
Residential receptors and recreational receptors are considered to be of High susceptibility to changes in the view, and road users including cyclists are considered to be of Low susceptibility to changes in the view. This VRA is not located within a designated landscape, and there are no promoted footpaths or designated recreation areas within the VRA. However, there are popular informal tracks through the forested areas as well as along the Burn of Durris, and views are generally out across an undulating pastoral and forested landscape. As such views are considered to be Medium in value. Taking account of the judgements of susceptibility and value, sensitivity is judged to be High for residents and recreational receptors, and Medium for other receptors within the VRA.	
Magnitude of Change during Construction	Magnitude of Change during Operation
In the western extents of the VRA, most of the construction activity associated with the Proposed Development would be screened by intervening landform near Woodlands Wood in the northwest of the VRA, as well as by rising landform within Strathie Wood to the southwest. Some taller construction activity such as partially built towers, cranes and lighting in hours of darkness would be visible above the treeline to the west. From the northwestern edge of the VRA, there would be glimpses of construction activity from along the minor road as it travels west, south of Woodlands Wood. Lower-level activity such as ground works, road improvements, and access track creation would be mostly screened in views due to intervening landform and significant areas of forestry. From further south and	In the western extents of the VRA, the Proposed Development would appear in narrow views to the west from some residential properties and from along the minor road network, at distances of approximately 1.1 km at the closest points. Given the intervening distance, undulating landform and the presence of dense forestry and mature vegetation within Strathie Wood, Clune Wood and Woodlands Wood, as well as at Calladrum Wood further west, the Proposed Development would be partially screened from view from most areas within the VRA. In the western extents of the VRA, the degree of visibility of the Proposed Development to receptors would vary over time due to rotational forestry felling and restocking regimes within Durris Forest, Clune Wood and Woodlands

VRA E11: Woodlands of Durris, Denside, and Muirskie

east within the VRA, intervening forestry and landform at Strathie Wood and Clune Wood, and broadleaved woodland along Burn of Durris, would screen construction activity in westerly views. In the centre of the VRA, distant views of construction activity would be afforded from elevated areas west of Denside, where more open views to the northwest are afforded. However, in the eastern half of the VRA, receptors would be screened from the Proposed Development by the surrounding rolling landform.

The scale of change resulting from construction activity is judged to be **Small** and would be mostly focused on the area south of Woodlands Wood and northwest of Strathieburn.

The magnitude of change during construction is judged to be no more than **Low**.

Wood that would influence the degree of screening. However, it is considered that any forestry that remains during felling cycles would continue to provide a degree of screening of the Proposed Development in views to the west and southwest from the western extents of the VRA, particularly the lower levels of steel lattice towers. Mature vegetation along the Burn of Durris in the northwestern extents of the VRA would also provide extensive screening in views from residential properties at Woodlands of Durris. However, given the proposed size and scale of the steel lattice towers, the Proposed Development would be seen to break the skyline, particularly as it emerges from higher elevation within Durris Forest/Target Wood to the south and extends across the lower-lying agricultural fields further north. The proposed towers would intermittently be seen above the treeline within Strathie Wood and Woodlands Wood, and further west at Calladrum Wood. As the Proposed Alignment continues north, the towers would appear mostly backclothed by more distant elevated landform to the northwest, reducing the prominence of the infrastructure.

Receptors in the eastern half of the VRA would be screened from the Proposed Development by the surrounding rolling landform.

The Proposed Development would be seen in the context of the existing OHL; however, would appear closer in views and marginally larger in scale, and would increase the overall influence of vertical infrastructure in views.

The scale of change resulting from the introduction of the Proposed Development is judged to be **Small** and would be mostly focused on the area south of Woodlands Wood and northwest of Strathieburn.

The magnitude of change during operation is judged to be no more than **Low**.

Significance of Effect during Construction

Taking account of the **High** sensitivity of residents and recreational users in the VRA, and the **Low** magnitude of change, the visual effect arising from construction is judged to be no more than **Minor (Not Significant)** for any receptor in the VRA, and for many receptors would be less.

Significance of Effect during Operation

Taking account of the **High** sensitivity of residents and recreational users in the VRA, and the **Low** magnitude of change, the visual effect arising from operation is judged to be no more than **Minor (Not Significant)** for any receptor in the VRA, and for many receptors would be less.

Table 9.2.115: VRA E12 – Balfour Cottages / B9077

VRA E12: Balfour Cottages / B9077	
Description of Receptor	Representative Viewpoint
Scattered residents south of the River Dee, along the B9077 and minor road which links to Woodlands of Durris. Recreational users along informal tracks along the river and road users along the road network (refer to Volume 3, Figure 9.3b.5: Visual Receptor Area, Viewpoint Locations and other Visual Receptors with Overhead Line Tower Height Zone of Theoretical Visibility (ZTV), p. 5). The VRA is located approximately 0.7 km from the Proposed Development at its closest point.	N/A
Nature of Views	
Views from within this VRA are generally open, extending along the valley floor in the north of the VRA, and with far-reaching views across descending slopes and the River Dee from the south of the VRA. From along the B9077, views are directed east-west across the low-lying and gently undulating fields in the floodplain, and views from scattered residential properties extend over the surrounding pastoral fields and layered bands of woodland. Dense woodland along the River Dee and Burn of Sheeoch, and more distant elevated landforms in the north provides a backdrop in views, and intermittent roadside vegetation provides some screening. Immediately south of the B9077 the landform begins to rise and mature vegetation along the slopes provides partial screening of views from the minor road and residential properties, although higher up the slopes the views become more open and panoramic. Along the southern edge of the VRA, rising landform within agricultural fields to the west directs views to the north across the valley and towards the Hill of Fare and Midmar Forest, and northeast along the river valley. In occasional views from along the valley floor, an existing OHL appears on the skyline to the west and northwest, visible above the treeline. Telegraph poles are frequent features along the valley floor and road.	
Sensitivity	
Residential receptors and recreational receptors are considered to be of High susceptibility to changes in the view, and road users including cyclists are considered to be of Low susceptibility to changes in the view. Land north of the B9077 is within the Dee Valley SLA. There are no promoted footpaths or designated recreation areas within the VRA, however views to the north extend across the pastoral valley along the River Dee, and longer distance views are afforded from the south of the VRA. As such views are considered to be Medium in value. Taking account of the judgements of susceptibility and value, sensitivity is judged to be High for residents, and Medium for other visual receptors in the VRA.	
Magnitude of Change during Construction	Magnitude of Change during Operation
Construction activity would be seen in middle distance views to the west and northwest from along the valley floor, and in more distant views from elevated areas in the south of the VRA. Construction activity would be experienced by residential receptors within the VRA, in elevated views to the northwest. Use of machinery, vehicle movements, creation of access tracks, erection of steel lattice towers and lighting in hours of darkness would be visible across the lower-lying land to the northwest as it crosses the River Dee, and further north as it begins to climb gently rising landform. Given the elevated nature of the south of the VRA, construction activity would largely be seen against the backdrop of lower-lying undulating rural fields and areas of woodland. From the lower valley floor, most views to the west and northwest would be partially obscured by deciduous trees and scrub on the northern slopes of the River Dee and along the Burn of Sheeoch to the west. Intervening woodland along the watercourses and at Kirkton Wood would screen smaller elements of	The Proposed Development would be seen in middle distance westerly views from along the valley floor south of the River Dee, at distances of beyond 0.8 km. From more elevated areas, the intervening distance increases to approximately 1.2 km and 1.8 km, with the Proposed Development appearing in more distant views. The steel lattice towers would form large-scale new features in middle distance views from along the B9077 and residential properties along the road, with channelled views to the west along the flat valley floor. Mature woodland west of the VRA along the Burn of Sheeoch and within Kirkton Wood would partially screen the Proposed Development, although the tops of towers and the wires would remain visible above the treeline. As the Proposed Alignment crosses the River Dee to the north, gaps in vegetation afford longer distance views to the north, from which road users would gain glimpses of the Proposed Alignment as it ascends undulating landform further north. Rising landform to the north would provide partial backclothing of the proposed towers, reducing the prominence of the

VRA E12: Balfour Cottages / B9077

construction activity, although cranes and the partially erected towers would be partially visible above the treeline.

The scale of change resulting from construction activity is judged to be **Small** and would be focused along the B9077 and across the higher slopes approaching Woodlands of Durris.

The magnitude of change during construction is judged to be no more than **Low**.

infrastructure. From the elevated south of the VRA the Proposed Alignment would be visible from the minor roads and from scattered residential properties and would occupy a wider horizontal field of view. However, the Proposed Development would become less prominent with distance and when seen from the more elevated locations due to being backclothed by landform, reducing the prominence of the infrastructure.

The Proposed Development would be seen in the context of the existing OHL but would appear closer in views and marginally larger in scale and would increase the overall influence of vertical infrastructure in views.

The scale of change resulting from the introduction of the Proposed Development is judged to be **Small** and would be focused along the B9077 and across the higher slopes approaching Woodlands of Durris.

The magnitude of change during operation is judged to be no more than **Low**.

Significance of Effect during Construction

Taking account of the **High** sensitivity of residents and recreational users in the VRA, and the **Low** magnitude of change, the visual effect arising from construction is judged to be no more than **Minor (Not Significant)**.

Significance of Effect during Operation

Taking account of the **High** sensitivity of residents and recreational users in the VRA, and the **Low** magnitude of change, the visual effect arising from operation is judged to be no more than **Minor (Not Significant)**.

Table 9.2.116: VRA E13 – Kirkton of Durris

VRA E13: Kirkton of Durris

Description of Receptor

Representative Viewpoint

Residents within Kirkton of Durris, and road users along the B9077 and minor road network. Recreational users along Core Paths and informal tracks within forestry along the Burn of Sheeoch and within Kirkton Wood (refer to **Volume 3, Figure 9.3b.5: Visual Receptor Area, Viewpoint Locations and other Visual Receptors with Overhead Line Tower Height Zone of Theoretical Visibility (ZTV), p. 5**). The VRA is located immediately adjacent to the Proposed Development.

N/A

Nature of Views

Views from within this VRA are varied, with generally enclosed views from within Kirkton of Durris and Kirkton Wood, and more open views along the northwestern and northeastern edges of the VRA. Rising landform south of the B9077 generally directs views north, east and west across the River Dee and its pastoral and wooded valley. Longer distance views north extend towards the elevated forms of Hill of Fare and Midmar Forest. The Burn of Sheeoch meanders north towards the River Dee through the centre of the VRA, and is heavily wooded along its length, interrupting longer distance views. From west of the Burn of Sheeoch views from the B9077 and two residential properties are relatively open, extending west and north across sloping arable fields, with bands of woodland concentrated further afield along the River Dee to the north and forestry blocks further west. In these views, an existing OHL forms a prominent feature cutting north-south across the landscape in the middle distance. Most of the residential properties within the VRA are concentrated immediately east of the Burn of Sheeoch, and westerly views are restricted by dense intervening woodland. From further east within the VRA, views west from the B9077 are partially contained by woodland along the watercourse, although more open to the northwest across the descending slopes associated with the River Dee.

VRA E13: Kirkton of Durris

Sensitivity

Residential receptors and recreational receptors are considered to be of **High** susceptibility to changes in the view, and road users including cyclists are considered to be of **Low** susceptibility to changes in the view.

This VRA is partially within the Dee Valley SLA. There are no promoted footpaths or designated recreation areas within the VRA, however views to the north extend across the pastoral and wooded valley along the River Dee, and there are longer views afforded towards the distant elevated forms within Midmar Forest. As such views are considered to be **Medium** in value.

Taking account of the judgements of susceptibility and value, sensitivity is judged to be **High** for residents, and **Medium** for other visual receptors in the VRA.

Magnitude of Change during Construction

Construction activity would be seen in close westerly views from across the more open landscape west of Burn of Sheeoch from the B9077 and a small number of residential properties. Construction activity would also be experienced in longer distance views from the eastern edge of the VRA from along the B9077 and minor road network. Use of machinery, vehicle movements, public road improvements including a new bellmouth junction along the B9077, creation of access tracks, erection of steel lattice towers and lighting in hours of darkness would be seen in close views from the western edge of Burn of Sheeoch, visible from across the sloping agricultural fields. Additionally, activity associated with the dismantling and realignment of up to four towers of the existing 132 kV OHL would be visible in close views as they are moved further west to accommodate the Proposed Development. From the eastern edge of the VRA only taller elements of construction activity would be visible. They would be seen above the treeline to the west and in longer distance views to the north, as the Proposed Alignment begins to climb the gently rising slopes north of the River Dee. Partially constructed towers and crane movements would be visible above intervening bands of woodland either side of the river and would be mostly backclothed by more distant landforms within Midmar Forest. From residential properties along the eastern edge of the Burn of Sheeoch, views towards construction activity would be heavily screened by dense intervening bands of woodland along the watercourse.

The scale of change resulting from construction activity is judged to be **Large** and would be focused along the western side of the Burn of Sheeoch.

The magnitude of change during construction is judged to be up to **High**.

Significance of Effect during Construction

Taking account of the **High** sensitivity of residents in the VRA, and the **High** magnitude of change, the visual effect arising from construction is judged to be up to **Major (Significant)** for any receptor within the VRA, and for many receptors would be less.

Magnitude of Change during Operation

The Proposed Development would be seen in close views to the west, from the road network and from two residential properties along the western side of the Burn of Sheeoch, at distances from between approximately <0.1 km and 0.25 km. From areas further east within the VRA the intervening distance increases to between approximately 0.8 km and 1 km, with the Proposed Development appearing in more distant views.

The proposed steel lattice towers would form large-scale new features in close westerly views from along the B9077 and two residential properties west of the Burn of Sheeoch. Views towards the Proposed Development would be clear and wide, extending across sloping agricultural fields with a small amount of intervening vegetation concentrated along the minor watercourse near Wester Durris. The towers would appear as new and notable features in views from the west of the VRA, seen partially on the skyline in direct views west, and mostly backclothed as the Proposed Alignment continues north towards the River Dee. The Proposed Development would be seen in context with the realigned existing OHL but would appear closer in views and larger in scale. The Proposed Development would also be seen in more distant views from the eastern half of the VRA, from the B9077. Dense woodland bands on either side of the River Dee would screen lower portions of the towers, however the tops and wires would remain visible above the treeline. The Proposed Development would become less prominent with distance and would be mostly backclothed by more distant landforms north of the River Dee, reducing the prominence of the infrastructure.

The scale of change resulting from the introduction of the Proposed Development is judged to be **Large** and would be focused along the western side of the Burn of Sheeoch.

The magnitude of change during operation is judged to be up to **High**.

Significance of Effect during Operation

Taking account of the **High** sensitivity of residents in the VRA, and the **High** magnitude of change, the visual effect arising from operation is judged to be up to **Major (Significant)** for any receptor within the VRA, and for many receptors would be less.

Table 9.2.117: VRA E14 - Maryfield and Crathes

VRA E14: Maryfield and Crathes	
Description of Receptor	Representative Viewpoint
Recreational users along the Deeside Way/NCN Route 195, informal footpaths within open access forestry across the VRA, as well as visitors to the Royal Deeside steam railway and Crathes Castle. Residents within and around Maryfield and Crathes and scattered residents south of Durris Bridge, and road users along the A957, B9077, Slug Road, and minor road network (refer to Volume 3, Figure 9.3b.5: Visual Receptor Area, Viewpoint Locations and other Visual Receptors with Overhead Line Tower Height Zone of Theoretical Visibility (ZTV), p. 5). The VRA is located approximately 0.8 km from the Proposed Development at its closest point.	VP30: Durris Bridge (refer to Volume 4 b, Figure 9.34a-f: VP30: Durris Bridge).
Nature of Views	
Views from within this VRA are varied, with generally enclosed and screened views from within the settlement of Crathes and southeast of the River Dee, and more open views east of the settlement and across more elevated extents in the southwest of the VRA. Along the River Dee views from the lower-lying landscape are generally directed towards and along the river, with frequent bands of woodland and blocks of forestry screening longer distance views to the east and west. From within the settlement of Crathes and further north, intervening buildings and blocks of forestry enclose views. To the east of the settlement and along the A93, gently rising landform to the north curtails longer distance views and directs views east and southeast across broad agricultural fields and more distant bands of woodland, towards the rising forms of Durris Forest visible in the south. Along the A957 and Durris Bridge, views are relatively open although bands of woodland along the river intermittently screen views to the east. Although the southwestern extents of the VRA are more elevated, views are often contained to close distances by blocks of conifer plantation and the rolling landform. The existing OHL appears in distant easterly views from the elevated areas within the VRA and is intermittently visible above the treeline in views from the lower-lying land along the river.	
Sensitivity	
Residential receptors and recreational receptors are considered to be of High susceptibility to changes in the view, and road users including cyclists are considered to be of Low susceptibility to changes in the view. This VRA is entirely located within the Dee Valley SLA. The long-distance Deeside Way footpath extends east-west along the river through the centre of the VRA, as does the NCN Route 195. The Royal Deeside Railway, a popular tourist destination, extends into the VRA along its northwestern edge. Much of the northern half the VRA is located within the GDL of Crathes Castle. There are occasional long distance and elevated views from the southwest of the VRA, and from the eastern edge of the VRA from rising slopes along the River Dee. As such views are considered to be High in value. Taking account of the judgements of susceptibility and value, sensitivity is judged to be High for residents and recreational receptors, and Medium for other receptors within the VRA.	
Magnitude of Change during Construction	Magnitude of Change during Operation
Construction activity would be seen in long distance views to the east from the A93, Deeside Way/NCN Route 195, and in more distant views from Slug Road, the minor road network and scattered properties in the southwest of the VRA. Use of machinery, forestry clearance, erection of steel lattice towers and lighting in hours of darkness would be intermittently visible from across the agricultural open fields in the northeast and from elevated areas in the southwest. From along the A93, east of Crathes, the outlook is open and extends to the southeast towards rising forested slopes south of the river. From Durris Bridge views extend along the river but dense bands of forestry curtail longer distance views. Construction activity would be visible in the distance as the Proposed Alignment	The Proposed Development would be seen in longer distance easterly views from the northeast of the VRA, along the A93 and parallel recreational paths, at minimum distances of approximately 1.2 km or more. The Proposed Development would be visible in the distance to the east, with the proposed towers seen above the intervening treeline on the horizon. From the northern slopes of the River Dee, east of Crathes, the Proposed Development would be visible from the A93 and scattered properties as it climbs the slopes of Durris Forest to the southeast of the VRA, at distances beyond approximately 1.2 km. The Deeside Way/NCN Route 195 would take in distant easterly and southeasterly views of the proposed towers, although these would be

VRA E14: Maryfield and Crathes

passes into Durris Forest and would be visible above the intervening treeline. However, forestry would screen smaller elements of construction activity, with taller machinery movement and partially built towers visible. More distant views east and northeast from the slopes southwest of the River Dee are open and panoramic, extending across the lower-lying wooded landscape along the river. Taller elements of construction activity would be most visible in this context, particularly the erection of towers and use of cranes, which would be partially visible in the distance along the valley slopes and floor. From west of Crathes and southeast of Durris Bridge, intervening settlement, landform and forestry would generally screen views towards construction activity.

In the southwestern extents of the VRA, the erection of steel lattice towers would be glimpsed at approximately 4.8 km to the northeast, from which distance they would appear relatively small-scale. However, it is likely construction activity would not be visible at all due to extensive screening provided by intervening vegetation and the rolling landform.

The scale of change resulting from construction activity is judged to be **Small** and would be focused across the northern banks of the River Dee east of Crathes, and the slopes southwest of Durris Bridge.

The magnitude of change during construction is judged to be no more than **Low**.

mostly screened by intervening forestry. For travellers heading north on Durris Bridge, there would be glimpsed views of the Proposed Development to the northeast and east, partially visible above the distant treeline in generally oblique views (as seen in VP30 – refer to **Volume 4 b, Figure 9.34a-f: VP30: Durris Bridge**). From west of Crathes and southeast of Durris Bridge, intervening buildings within the settlement, landform and forestry would provide extensive screening of the Proposed Development. From the more elevated extents in the centre of the VRA, the proposed towers would briefly appear on the skyline as the Proposed Alignment crosses the River Dee in the distance, at distances beyond approximately 2 km. The lower extents of the towers would be screened by forestry. East of the Proposed Development, more distant rising landform would provide partial backclothing to the proposed towers, reducing the prominence of the infrastructure.

In the southwestern extents of the VRA, the Proposed Development would be glimpsed at approximately 4.8 km to the northeast, from which distance the Proposed Development would appear relatively small-scale. However, it is likely the Proposed Development would not be visible at all due to extensive screening provided by intervening vegetation and the rolling landform.

The Proposed Development would form small scale features within the wider landscape and would be seen beyond the existing OHL.

The scale of change resulting from the introduction of the Proposed Development is judged to be **Small** and would be focused across the northern slopes of the River Dee east of Crathes, and across the more elevated southwestern extents of the VRA.

The magnitude of change during operation is judged to be no more than **Low**.

Significance of Effect during Construction

Taking account of the **High** sensitivity of residents and recreational users in the VRA, and the **Low** magnitude of change, the visual effect arising from construction is judged to be no more than **Minor (Not Significant)** for any receptor in the VRA, and for many receptors would be less.

Significance of Effect during Operation

Taking account of the **High** sensitivity of residents and recreational users in the VRA, and the **Low** magnitude of change, the visual effect arising from operation is judged to be no more than **Minor (Not Significant)** for any receptor in the VRA, and for many receptors would be less.

Table 9.2.118: VRA E15: A93 / West Park

VRA E15: A93 / West Park	
Description of Receptor	Representative Viewpoint
Recreational users along the Deeside Way/NCN Route 195. Residents within West Park and along the A93, as well as scattered properties further north along the rising landform. Road users along the A93 and minor road network (refer to Volume 3, Figure 9.3b.5: Visual Receptor Area, Viewpoint Locations and other Visual Receptors with Overhead Line Tower Height Zone of Theoretical Visibility (ZTV), p. 5). The VRA is located immediately adjacent to the Proposed Development.	N/A
Nature of Views	
Views from within this VRA are generally open to the south, extending over the lower lying and wooded landscape along the River Dee, and more enclosed to the north where gradually rising landform curtails longer distance views. Consistent mature trees and roadside vegetation along the A93 intermittently screens outward views from the road and minor road network. From the Deeside Way/NCN 195 views south are more open, with limited intervening vegetation filtering views across the broad and pastoral river valley. Bands of woodland along the river in the southeastern corner of the VRA and along the minor watercourse in the north of the VRA provide extensive screening of views across the wider landscape to the southeast. As the landform rises in the north of the VRA, views from residential properties are intermittently afforded longer distant views to the south towards Durris Forest, where gaps in intervening woodland and vegetation allow. Within the small settlement of West Park, views are generally directed south across the lower slopes of the Dee. The existing OHL forms a notable feature in close views across the VRA, extending through the centre of the West Park settlement, and seen on the skyline to the east and north, and in more distant views to the south as it extends across the valley.	
Sensitivity	
Residential receptors and recreational receptors are considered to be of High susceptibility to changes in the view, and road users including cyclists are considered to be of Low susceptibility to changes in the view. This VRA is entirely located within the Dee Valley SLA. The long-distance Deeside Way footpath extends east-west along the river through the centre of the VRA, as does the NCN Route 195. There are occasional long-distance views from the north of the VRA, and from the Deeside Way to the south across the pastoral landscape associated with the River Dee. As such views are considered to be High in value. Taking account of the judgements of susceptibility and value, sensitivity is judged to be High for residents and recreational receptors and Medium for road users.	
Magnitude of Change during Construction	Magnitude of Change during Operation
Construction activity would be seen in close to middle distance views to the southeast and northeast of the VRA from the minor road network in the north, the Deeside Way, and in contained easterly views from the A93. Use of machinery, forestry clearance, vehicle movements, creation of access tracks, erection of steel lattice towers and lighting in hours of darkness would be visible in direct close views to the east from the A93. In marginally more distant views, the erection of towers and crane movements would be visible on the skyline to the northeast and southeast from properties within West Park, the minor road network, and from the Deeside Way. From the Deeside Way, views are intermittently open to the southeast where construction activity would be visible above the treeline, partially screened by intervening bands of woodland along the River Dee. From West Park and the minor road network in the north of the VRA, the outlook is more elevated, and construction	The Proposed Development would be seen in close views to the east from the A93 from distances within 0.1 km, and middle distant views to the northeast and southeast from West Park and the minor road network and from Deeside Way, from distances between approximately 0.5 km and 1 km. Due to the proposed size and scale of the steel lattice towers and the close proximity of the OHL (tower N60) along the A93, the Proposed Development would form a large feature in direct easterly views along the roadway within approximately 0.1 km. Receptors travelling along the Deeside Way would also experience close views of the Proposed Development, however views would be more filtered towards the towers by intervening woodland along the road. The proposed towers would also be seen at greater distances beyond approximately 0.5 km to the southeast from the A93 and Deeside Way as the Proposed

VRA E15: A93 / West Park

activity is intermittently seen on the skyline of rising landform to the northeast and to the southeast, although mature vegetation around residential properties within West Park would provide extensive filtering of views. Views of construction activity to the southeast would be partially screened by intervening bands of woodland within the lower-lying valley. Taller elements of construction activity would be most visible in this context, particularly the erection of towers and use of cranes, which would be partially visible along the valley slopes and floor.

The scale of change resulting from construction activity is judged to be **Large** and would be focused across the eastern side of the VRA, including from the settlement of West Park and the minor road network in the north, and the Deeside Way.

The magnitude of change during construction is judged to be up to **High**.

Alignment extends across the River Dee. The towers would appear partially backclothed by elevated landform to the south and partially screened by extensive bands of woodland along the river, reducing the prominence of the infrastructure. In views from the minor road network and eastern curtilages of the residential properties within West Park, the Proposed Development would partially be visible on the skyline of rising landform to the northeast, seen across more open agricultural fields. From the north of the VRA the towers would also be visible in more distant views to the southeast as the Proposed Alignment extends across the valley, although the infrastructure would be almost entirely backclothed. The Proposed Development would be seen in the context of the existing OHL, appearing more distant in views although of similar scale, and would increase the influence of vertical infrastructure in views.

The scale of change resulting from the introduction of the Proposed Development is judged to be **Large** and would be focused across the eastern side of the VRA, including from the settlement of West Park and the minor road network in the north, and the Deeside Way.

The magnitude of change during operation is judged to be up to **High**.

Significance of Effect during Construction

Taking account of the **High** sensitivity of residents and recreational users in the VRA, and the **Large** magnitude of change, the visual effect arising from construction is judged to be up to **Major (Significant)** for any receptor in the VRA, and for many receptors would be less.

Significance of Effect during Operation

Taking account of the **High** sensitivity of residents and recreational users in the VRA, and the **High** magnitude of change, the visual effect arising from operation is judged to be up to **Major (Significant)** for any receptor in the VRA, and for many receptors would be less.

Table 9.2.119: VRA E16: Park House / A93

VRA E16: Park House / A93

Description of Receptor

Recreational users along the Deeside Way/NCN Route 195, and visitors to the fishing destination at Park. Residents within scattered properties along the A93 and within the woodland east of Hawk Hillock, and road users along the A93 and minor road network (refer to **Volume 3, Figure 9.3b.5: Visual Receptor Area, Viewpoint Locations and other Visual Receptors with Overhead Line Tower Height Zone of Theoretical Visibility (ZTV), p. 5**). The VRA is located immediately adjacent to the Proposed Development.

Representative Viewpoint

N/A

Nature of Views

Views from within this VRA are relatively contained, with dense mature trees along the southern edge of the A93 filtering views to the south and gradually rising landform to the north curtailing longer distance views. Dense intervening woodland associated with Park provides extensive screening of views to the southwest. Views become more open to the west as vegetation along the road becomes more permeable, and large-scale agricultural fields afford more open views to the northwest. From the elevated north of the VRA, views from the minor road network are mostly contained by roadside vegetation, although where gaps views open to the west and southwest towards the rising forms of Durrus Forest in the distance.

VRA E16: Park House / A93

Along the Deeside Way views are intermittently contained by mature trees along the path, although where gaps in vegetation allow channelled views are available along the valley. Views to the north across large scale open fields are afforded from along the A93 in the east of the VRA. An existing OHL is glimpsed in middle distance views from the western edge of the VRA where gaps in vegetation allow, visible from the A93 and Deeside Way.

Sensitivity

Residential receptors and recreational receptors are considered to be of **High** susceptibility to changes in the view, and road users including cyclists are considered to be of **Low** susceptibility to changes in the view.

This VRA is entirely located within the Dee Valley SLA. The long-distance Deeside Way footpath extends east-west along the river through the centre of the VRA, as does the NCN Route 195. There are occasional long-distance views from the north of the VRA and from the Deeside Way to the west and southwest across the pastoral landscape associated with the River Dee. As such views are considered to be **High** in value.

Taking account of the judgements of susceptibility and value, sensitivity is judged to be **High** for residents and recreational receptors, and **Medium** for other receptors within the VRA.

Magnitude of Change during Construction

Construction activity would be seen in close to middle distance views to the west, from the A93 and Deeside Way from within 0.1 km, as well as from scattered properties along the A93. There would also be close views afforded from the minor road network in the north of the VRA, where construction activity would be visible to the west and in more distant views to the southwest. Use of machinery, forestry clearance, vehicle movements, creation of access tracks, erection of steel lattice towers and lighting in hours of darkness would be clearly visible from the minor road in the north of the VRA, Couper's Road, as the Proposed Alignment crosses wide agricultural fields. Construction activity would also be visible in more filtered views to the west and southwest from scattered properties along the A93 and from the road, as well as from Deeside Way. Mature vegetation around the properties as well as along the road would heavily filter views, although where gaps allow more open views to the southwest would be afforded, particularly from Deeside Way. However, taller elements of construction activity would be visible, intermittently visible above the intervening treeline.

The scale of change resulting from construction activity is judged to be **Large** and would be focused across the minor road network in the north of the VRA as well as the A93 and Deeside Way in the west.

The magnitude of change during construction is judged to be up to **High**.

Magnitude of Change during Operation

The Proposed Development would be seen in close views from the road network along the western and northern edge of the VRA, at distances within 0.2 km to the west. People travelling west along the A93 would pass under the OHL between towers N60 and N61. There would also be more distant and filtered views from scattered properties along the A93 and from the Deeside Way, from within 1 km.

Due to the proposed size and scale of the steel lattice towers, and the close proximity of the OHL to the minor road and A93, the Proposed Development would form a large feature in views from this VRA. Along the minor road Couper's Road in the north of the VRA, road users travelling north would experience mostly direct views of the towers, which would appear as large scale and notable new features in the agricultural fields to the west. The proposed towers would appear mostly on the skyline, although would appear partially backclothed by more distant forestry. Road users travelling west along the A93 would experience direct and close views of the Proposed Development as it oversails the roadway, and tower N60 would appear in proximity to the road. As the Proposed Alignment extends through elevated agricultural fields to the north, the rear of scattered properties along the A93 and road users would experience close to middle distance views to the north, with towers appearing on the skyline. In views to the west the Proposed Development would appear in the context of the existing OHL but would appear much closer in views and larger in scale and would increase the influence of vertical infrastructure in views. From Deeside Way and scattered properties along the A93, roadside vegetation and intervening mature trees to the west would provide extensive filtering of views, although tops of towers would intermittently be visible above the intervening treeline.

The scale of change resulting from the introduction of the Proposed Development is judged to be **Large** and would be focused across the minor road network in the north of the VRA as well as the A93 and Deeside Way in the west.

The magnitude of change during operation is judged to be up to **High**.

VRA E16: Park House / A93

Significance of Effect during Construction	Significance of Effect during Operation
Taking account of the High sensitivity of residents and recreational users in the VRA, and the High magnitude of change, the visual effect arising from construction is judged to be up to Major (Significant) for any receptor in the VRA, and for many receptors would be less.	Taking account of the High sensitivity of residents and recreational users in the VRA, and the High magnitude of change, the visual effect arising from operation judged to be up to Major (Significant) for any receptor in the VRA, and for many receptors would be less.

Table 9.2.120: VRA E17 – Keith's Tower

VRA E17: Keith's Tower	
Description of Receptor	Representative Viewpoint
Recreational users along Deeside Way / NCN 195, and visitors to the River Dee, Glebe Park, the quarry loch, and tower near Keith's Hill. Scattered properties north and south of the river, and road users along the B9077 and minor road network (refer to Volume 3, Figure 9.3b.5: Visual Receptor Area, Viewpoint Locations and other Visual Receptors with Overhead Line Tower Height Zone of Theoretical Visibility (ZTV), p. 5). The VRA is located approximately 1.4 km from the Proposed Development at its closest point.	N/A
Nature of Views	
Views from this VRA are varied, with more open views along the minor road network at the western edge of the VRA, and more enclosed views further east as more extensive blocks of forestry provide screening. Views from Park Bridge and the minor road through the quarry are afforded generally open and elevated views to the west, extending across undulating arable fields and the densely wooded River Dee, towards the rising forested form of Durris Forest in the distance. Scattered properties along the western edge of the VRA are similarly afforded open and elevated views to the west; although, gradually rising landform to the north screens views in this direction. Views from the Deeside Way/NCN 195 and Glebe Park, northeast of the bridge along the River Dee, are relatively contained, with intervening landform and forestry to the west along the river. East of the minor road through the quarry, views are generally contained by surrounding vegetation and undulating landform, including from informal tracks at Keith's Hill/Tower and the quarry loch. From the B9077 in the south of the VRA, intermittent vegetation along the road provides partial screening in views to the north and west, although occasionally open long distance views extend towards rising forms in the distance to the north. In distant views to the west, an existing OHL is visible on the skyline as it crosses through Durris Forest, as is the telecommunications tower at the Durris transmitting station.	
Sensitivity	
Residential receptors and recreational receptors are considered to be of High susceptibility to changes in the view, and road users including cyclists are considered to be of Low susceptibility to changes in the view. This VRA is almost entirely located within the Dee Valley SLA. The long-distance Deeside Way footpath passes through the northeastern corner of the VRA, and there are designated recreation destinations along the river and near Keith's Hill. There are occasional long-distance views from the west of the VRA, to the west and southwest across the pastoral landscape associated with the River Dee. As such views are considered to be High in value. Taking account of the judgements of susceptibility and value, sensitivity is judged to be High for residents and recreational receptors, and Medium for other receptors within the VRA.	
Magnitude of Change during Construction	Magnitude of Change during Operation
Construction activity would be seen in longer distance views to the west, from the minor road along the quarry in the centre of the VRA, and from scattered properties further west.	The Proposed Development would be seen in long distance views to the west from residential properties and road users. At its closest, the Proposed Development would be

VRA E17: Keith's Tower

Use of machinery, erection of steel lattice towers, and lighting in hours of darkness would be intermittently visible, seen across agricultural fields and frequent intervening bands of woodland concentrated along the River Dee. At its closest, construction activity would be seen at distances of approximately 1.7 km to the west, with intervening bands of woodland along the river providing partial screening. Distant views of construction activity would be experienced by residential receptors, as well as road users travelling along the minor road in the quarry, although it is noted that views experienced by people on the minor road would be generally peripheral to the direction of travel.

The scale of change resulting from construction activity is judged to be **Small** and would be experienced across the western half of the VRA and would become less perceptible with distance.

The magnitude of change during construction is judged to be no more than **Low**.

Significance of Effect during Construction

Taking account of the **High** sensitivity of residents and recreational receptors in the VRA, and the **Low** magnitude of change, the visual effect arising from construction is judged to be no more than **Minor (Not Significant)** for any receptor in this VRA, and for many receptors would be less.

seen at a distance of approximately 1.8 km from isolated properties in the western half of the VRA, and in more distant views from the minor road network.

Although the Proposed Development would be visible from the VRA, it would be largely seen backclothed by more distant landform within Durris Forest and at Cairnshee Wood and would be partially screened by intervening blocks of forestry. The towers would intermittently be seen on the skyline as they cross low-lying hills and the lower landscape along the River Dee but would form small-scale features within the wider landscape. The towers would be most visible where they extend across the summit of the elevated landforms within Durris Forest. The Proposed Development would be seen in the context of the existing OHL at this location and given the intervening distance of more than 3.5 km, would appear of similar scale.

The scale of change resulting from the introduction of the Proposed Development is judged to be **Small** and would be experienced across the western half of the VRA and would become less perceptible with distance.

The magnitude of change during operation is judged to be no more than **Low**.

Significance of Effect during Operation

Taking account of the **High** sensitivity of residents and recreational receptors in the VRA, and the **Low** magnitude of change, the visual effect arising from operation is judged to be no more than **Minor (Not Significant)** for any receptor in this VRA, and for many receptors would be less.

SECTION F

Table 9.2.121: VRA F1 - Upper Park/Beechgrove Cottages

VRA F1: Upper Park/Beechgrove Cottages	
Description of Receptor	Representative Viewpoint
Residents of Upper Park and Upper Park West and road users of the nearby minor road network, west of the Proposed Development (refer to Volume 3, Figures 9.3b.5: Visual Receptor Area, Viewpoint Locations and other Visual Receptors with Overhead Line Tower Height Zone of Theoretical Visibility (ZTV), p. 5). This VRA is located immediately adjacent to the Proposed Development.	N/A
Nature of Views	
Views from within this VRA extend across a landscape of flat pastoral fields with shelterbelts and hedgerows along field boundaries, which partially screen views experienced by visual receptors within the VRA. Views east are of predominantly flat pastoral fields which begin to gently descend to the south towards the River Dee. In middle distance views, shelterbelts and blocks of commercial forestry near Beechgrove Cottages filter views, while rising landform and forestry screen longer distance easterly views. To the south, views are open and generally uninterrupted, extending across the Dee valley towards rising landform within Durris Forest, which forms a backdrop. Across the skyline to the south, steel lattice towers of the existing Tealing to Kintore 275 kV OHL are visible on the rising terrain, partly concealed by commercial forestry. Rising landform to the north and south form the backdrop of longer-distance views. To the north, large fields bordered by shelterbelts are intersected by wooden pole OHLs. Meikle Tap (359 m AOD) and St. Duthac's Wood are notable features in northwest views.	
Sensitivity	
Residential receptors are considered to be of High susceptibility to changes in the view and road users are considered to be of Low susceptibility to changes in the view. This VRA is situated within the Dee Valley SLA. Key characteristics of the SLA, such as the River Dee, its adjacent woodland and granite vernacular buildings, are less prominent in this VRA due to its more elevated position in relation to the River Dee in the south. Views are primarily experienced by a small number of residents and road users on minor roads. As such, views are considered to be Medium in value. Taking account of the judgements of susceptibility and value, sensitivity is judged to be High for residents and Medium for other visual receptors in the VRA.	
Magnitude of Change during Construction	Magnitude of Change during Operation
Construction activity would be visible in close views to the east and southeast, from properties at Upper Park some 200 m to the north. Works would be clearly visible across the sloping pastoral fields. Use of machinery, vehicle movements, access track construction, steel lattice tower erection, and lighting in hours of darkness would be visible in close-distance views to the east and southeast for properties in the eastern part of the VRA and for road users on the minor road. Lower elements of construction activity to the south would be backclothed by landform. Taller construction activity, including partially built towers, would be seen above the distant skyline to the south. Construction traffic on the proposed temporary access track would be visible to residential receptors at Upper Park and Beechgrove Cottages. Shelterbelts and hedgerows in the	The Proposed Development would be visible to the south and southeast at close range (approximately 200 m south and southeast) and in longer-distance views as the Proposed Development crosses the Dee Valley. Residential properties in Upper Park and Upper Park West, as well as road users on the minor road, would experience these views. The Proposed Development would be partially backclothed by rising landform to the south, although the upper sections of the towers would be seen against the skyline. Shelterbelts and blocks of woodland in the east would partially screen easterly views, reducing the prominence of the infrastructure. The woodland to the south of Upper Park would provide some screening of the base of towers, however the upper sections would be visible above the intervening treeline.

VRA F1: Upper Park/Beechgrove Cottages

middle distance would partially screen views of the works to the east and northeast, along with clusters of broadleaved and commercial forestry.

The scale of change resulting from construction activity is judged to be **Large** and would be experienced by south and southeast facing properties at Upper Park and Beechgrove Cottages, and along the minor road which serves these properties.

The magnitude of change during construction is judged to be up to **High**.

Due to their size and scale the steel lattice towers would form large-scale features in views from residences, particularly when crossing the open pastoral fields, due to the lack of intervening features. The Proposed Development would be seen in the context of distant existing OHL infrastructure already present in Durris Forest to the south. The proposed towers would appear much closer in views and would appear greater in scale.

The scale of change resulting from the introduction of the Proposed Development is judged to be **Large** and would be experienced by south and southeast facing properties at Upper Park and Beechgrove Cottages, and along the minor road which serves these properties

The magnitude of change during operation is judged to be up to **High**.

Significance of Effect during Construction

Taking account of the **High** sensitivity of residents in the VRA, and the **High** magnitude of change, the visual effect arising from construction is judged to be up to **Major (Significant)** for any receptor within the VRA, and for many receptors would be less.

Significance of Effect during Operation

Taking account of the **High** sensitivity of residents in the VRA, and the **High** magnitude of change, the visual effect arising from operation is judged to be up to **Major (Significant)** for any receptor within the VRA, and for many receptors would be less.

Table 9.2.122: VRA F2 – Myrebird and the Neuk

VRA F2: Myrebird and the Neuk

Description of Receptor

Residents within and around Myrebird and the Neuk and users of the minor road network, to the west of the Proposed Development (refer to **Volume 3, Figures 9.3b.5: Visual Receptor Area, Viewpoint Locations and other Visual Receptors with Overhead Line Tower Height Zone of Theoretical Visibility (ZTV), p. 5**). This VRA is located approximately 0.7 km from the Proposed Development at the closest point.

Representative Viewpoint

N/A

Nature of Views

Views within this VRA are varied, with extensive commercial forestry intermittently enclosing views throughout the centre of the VRA, while areas of open sloping fields throughout much of the rest of the VRA afford expansive views to the south and southeast across pastoral fields. In the southeastern extents of the VRA, middle distance views are restricted by the extensive commercial forestry and broadleaved woodland of Baldarroch Wood and Coy Wood. Shelterbelts and mature hedgerows enclosing field boundaries provide some screening to views. Longer distance views look across undulating landform, with the rising forested hills of the Fetteresso Forest and Drumtochty Forest forming a scenic backdrop. Views east are screened by mixed forestry from sections of the minor road travelling through Baldarroch Wood and the western edge of Coy Wood. Immediate views north across pastoral fields are partially screened by forestry in the middle distance. Longer distance views are towards the hills of Meikle Tap (359 m AOD) and Berry Hill (233 m AOD) to the northwest. Properties within this VRA are predominantly located adjacent to the minor road that runs along the Burn of Coy. Properties have a variety of outlooks, with primary views usually to the south, and have extensive screening from the wooded nature of the area.

Wooden poles are visible running adjacent to the minor road and crossing fields. In views to the east from sections of the minor road network, the existing Tealing to Kintore 275 kV OHL is visible, running along the eastern edge of Coy Wood and seen above the treeline.

VRA F2: Myrebird and the Neuk

Sensitivity

Residential and recreational receptors are considered to be of **High** susceptibility to changes in the view, and road users including cyclists are considered to be of **Low** susceptibility to changes in the view.

The southern half of this VRA is within the within the Dee Valley SLA. Some key characteristics of the SLA are present in this VRA, including sections of coniferous and broadleaved woodland. A large part of the southern extents of the VRA are made up of the Crathes Castle GDL. Views are primarily experienced by residents and take in the varied Dee Valley landscape. The value of the views is **Medium**.

Taking account of the judgements of susceptibility and value, sensitivity is judged to be **High** for residents and **Medium** for other visual receptors in the VRA.

Magnitude of Change during Construction

Construction activity would mostly be screened by intervening mixed forestry within the VRA and to the southeast at distances of over 2 km. However, taller elements including the erection of steel lattice towers and lighting in hours of darkness would be partially visible above the blocks of commercial forestry. This would be seen from elevated sections of the minor road in middle distance views where views are more open. Construction activity would be screened by intervening landform from properties located along the Burn of Coy. Wider views of construction activity across the VRA would be screened by the extensive mixed forestry in views south and southeast towards the Proposed Alignment. Undulating landform to the south and southeast would screen longer distance views.

In the western half of the VRA, the partially constructed steel lattice towers would be glimpsed in the far distance in views to the east, where they would be seen against the sky from a minimum distance of approximately 3.5 km and would appear small-scale. Furthermore, intervening vegetation and rolling landform would provide extensive, and in some places total, screening.

The scale of change resulting from construction activity is judged to be **Small** and would be experienced in glimpsed and transitory views from the minor road network.

The magnitude of change during construction is judged to be no more than **Low**.

Magnitude of Change during Operation

The Proposed Development would be seen in middle-to-longer distance views over commercial forestry to the south and southeast from elevated sections of the minor road network, at distances of approximately 2 km at its closest point. The Proposed Development would be backclothed by more distant landform which would reduce its prominence, and intervening forestry would screen the lower portions of towers. These views would be experienced by road users in transitory views. Wider views of the Proposed Development across the VRA would be screened by the extensive commercial forestry and mixed woodland in views south and southeast towards the Proposed Alignment. Undulating landform to the south and southeast would screen longer distance views.

In the western half of the VRA, the Proposed Development would be glimpsed in the far distance in views to the east, where it would be seen against the sky from a minimum distance of approximately 3.5 km. At this distance, the Proposed Development would be small-scale, appearing smaller than the intervening Kintore to Fetteresso 275 kV OHL. Furthermore, intervening vegetation and rolling landform would provide extensive, and in some places total, screening.

Although the Proposed Development would increase the influence of vertical infrastructure in views, the towers would not be as prominent as the closer existing towers and would be seen at a distance.

The scale of change resulting from the introduction of the Proposed Development is judged to be **Small** and would be experienced in glimpsed and transitory views from the minor road network.

The magnitude of change during operation is judged to be no more than **Low**.

Significance of Effect during Construction

Taking account of the **High** sensitivity of residents in the VRA, and the **Low** magnitude of change, the visual effect arising from construction is judged to be no more than **Minor (Not Significant)**.

Significance of Effect during Operation

Taking account of the **High** sensitivity of residents in the VRA, and the **Low** magnitude of change, the visual effect arising from operation is judged to be no more than **Minor (Not Significant)**.

Table 9.2.123: VRA F3 - Loch of Park & Collonach Plantation

VRA F3: Loch of Park & Collonach Plantation	
Description of Receptor	Representative Viewpoint
A small number of residential properties (Westhills Cottage, Woodbank House, Lochside) and users of Couper's Road as it leaves Collonach Plantation, located east of the Proposed Development (refer to Volume 3, Figures 9.3b.5: Visual Receptor Area, Viewpoint Locations and other Visual Receptors with Overhead Line Tower Height Zone of Theoretical Visibility (ZTV), p. 5). The VRA is located immediately adjacent to the Proposed Development.	N/A
Nature of Views	
Views along the eastern edge of the VRA are across medium-scale pastoral fields bounded by shelterbelts and hedgerows, with longer distance views restricted by strongly undulating landform to the east and west. Views southeast are largely screened by shelterbelts lining Couper's Road; rising landform can be seen through breaks in the trees with blocks of mixed forestry in longer distance views on the skyline. Scattered blocks of commercial forestry foregrounds views west, interspersed with pastoral fields in middle distance views, and the rising hills of the Hill of Fare massif form the backdrop of long-distance views to the northwest. Dense woodland of Collonach Plantation screens views to the north. Landform gradually slopes from north to south across the VRA. Wooden poles are seen above the skyline of fields.	
Sensitivity	
Residential receptors are considered to be of High susceptibility to changes in the view and road users including cyclists are considered to be of Low susceptibility to changes in the view. The southern edge of this VRA is within the within the Dee Valley (8), Aberdeenshire SLA. Key characteristics of the SLA, such as the River Dee, its adjacent woodland, and granite vernacular, are less prominent in this VRA due to its more elevated position with relation to the River Dee in the south. Views are primarily experienced by a small number of residents and road users on minor roads, giving them a Medium value. Taking account of the judgements of susceptibility and value, sensitivity is judged to be High for residential receptors and Medium for other visual receptors in the VRA.	
Magnitude of Change during Construction	Magnitude of Change during Operation
Construction activity would largely be screened by broadleaved woodland, shelterbelts and intervening landform to the east and southeast in views from the properties north of Loch of Park (Westhills Cottage and Woodbank House) and from along the access track and minor road in the north. Some construction activity would be visible in middle distance views to the south and southeast from the two properties at Lochside Cottage. Views of construction activity would include construction traffic, use of machinery, forestry clearance, vehicle movements, creation of access tracks, erection of steel lattice towers and lighting in hours of darkness, intermittently visible in middle distance views to the southeast where there are breaks in woodland. Construction activity of the proposed access track, approximately 300 m east of Lochside Cottage at its closest point, would be visible up close. This would be visible for receptors travelling on the road and for residents, including when entering and leaving properties. The scale of change resulting from construction activity is judged to be Medium and would be experienced in views from the residential properties in the north and south of the VRA.	The Proposed Development would be partially screened by forestry in views east and southeast. Where there are breaks in tree cover to the south of the VRA, the Proposed Development would be seen intermittently in close views by residents of Lochside Cottage. The proposed towers would be visible to the east at approximately 300 m at its closest point, in narrow views framed by intervening bands of mixed woodland. Residents in the properties of Westhills Cottage and Woodbank House are unlikely to experience views, with sharply rising landform to the north and mature trees along the northern property boundaries. Due to the proposed size and scale of the steel lattice towers, the tops of towers would be seen in views on the skyline above the trees and would be seen within the undulating agricultural fields to the east, where there are breaks in tree coverage. The Proposed Development would introduce vertical infrastructure into close distance views; however the extent of intervening woodland and landform would reduce the prominence and visibility of the infrastructure.

VRA F3: Loch of Park & Collonach Plantation	
The magnitude of change during construction is judged to be no more than Medium .	The scale of change resulting from the introduction of the Proposed Development is judged to be Medium , and would be experienced by residents, road and recreational receptors in the VRA. The magnitude of change is judged to be no more than Medium .
Significance of Effect during Construction	Significance of Effect during Operation
Taking account of the High sensitivity of residents in the VRA, and the Medium magnitude of change, the visual effect arising from construction is judged to be no more than Moderate (Significant) for any receptor in this VRA.	Taking account of the High sensitivity of residents in the VRA, and the Medium magnitude of change, the visual effect arising from operation is judged to be no more than Moderate (Significant) for any receptor in this VRA.

Table 9.2.124: VRA F4 - West of Drumoak

VRA F4: West of Drumoak	
Description of Receptor	Representative Viewpoint
Residents of properties located between the Proposed Development and Drumoak to the east. Road users on Couper's Road and another minor road network north of the A93. (Refer to Volume 3, Figures 9.3b.5: Visual Receptor Area, Viewpoint Locations and other Visual Receptors with Overhead Line Tower Height Zone of Theoretical Visibility (ZTV), p. 5). The VRA is located immediately adjacent to the Proposed Development.	VP31: Couper's Road (refer to Volume 4 b, Figure 9.35a-e: VP31: Couper's Road).
Nature of Views	
Views within this VRA are varied, with relatively enclosed views in the west and centre, and more open views from the elevated northern extents and in the east. Views from the west look across an undulating landform of medium-scale pastoral fields, with frequent bands of mixed woodland and mature hedgerows. A band of broadleaved woodland runs vertically across the centre of the VRA to the southern boundary, interrupting middle distance views. Landform descends to the south, across medium-scale pastoral fields, with views filtered by scattered blocks of commercial forestry. Views east and southeast from the minor road leading to Tersets Farm are elevated and open, although in some sections hedgerows and clusters of shelterbelts break the view. Durris Forest can be seen on the skyline in longer distance views to the south. Views north are limited by rising landform and Collonach Plantation. Dense broadleaved woodland along Couper's Road provides screening, limiting longer distance views to the east and to the west. Wooden poles are visible running adjacent to the road and seen above the skyline of fields. To the southwest, from sections of Couper's Road, high voltage OHLs and a telecommunications mast can be seen on the skyline of distant hills.	
Sensitivity	
Residential receptors are considered to be of High susceptibility to changes in the view and road users including cyclists are considered to be of Low susceptibility to changes in the view. Approximately half of this VRA, to the south, is within the Dee Valley SLA. Key characteristics of the SLA are less prominent in this VRA due to its more elevated position with relation to the River Dee in the south, and proximity to the more populated settlement of Drumoak to the east. Views are primarily experienced by a number of residents and road users. As such views are considered to be Medium in value.	

VRA F4: West of Drumoak

Taking account of the judgements of susceptibility and value, sensitivity is judged to be **High** for residential receptors and **Medium** for other visual receptors.

Magnitude of Change during Construction

Construction activity would be visible in close distance views from Couper's Road and adjacent properties, particularly where the Proposed Alignment crosses this road in the north. Works would include activity associated with the creation of three access tracks off Couper's Road, including a permanent access track at the southwestern edge of the VRA. Construction activity would also be visible from the cluster of properties at Hill of Park to the north and from the property (Lochwood Cottage) located just west of Couper's Road. From further east in the VRA, construction activity would be largely screened in westerly views by the band of woodland and trees east of Couper's Road.

Construction activity, including vegetation clearance, machinery, vehicle movements, creation of access tracks, erection of steel lattice towers and lighting in hours of darkness would be seen in close-to middle distance views from Couper's Road and adjacent houses, although shelterbelts lining the road would provide some screening.

The scale of change resulting from construction activity is judged to be **Large** and would be experienced by road users on Couper's Road and adjacent residential receptors.

The magnitude of change is judged to be **High** at these properties and lower elsewhere.

Magnitude of Change during Operation

The Proposed Development would be seen in close distance views to the west and northwest from the residential properties along Couper's Road, at approximately 170 m at the closest points. Due to the proposed size and scale of the steel lattice towers, the Proposed Development would be seen above the skyline and intervening vegetation in views from across the VRA. The proposed towers would appear in direct and oblique views and would form new and notable features to the west. Although undulating landform and intervening bands of mixed woodland would intermittently screen lower portions of towers in views, the tops of towers and cables would frequently be seen on the skyline. Close distance views would also be experienced by road receptors on Couper's Road, although the nature of these views is transitory and glimpsed. A permanent access track would be visible at the southwestern edge of the VRA, to the west off Couper's Road.

The Proposed Development would be visible in middle-to-longer distance views, from the minor road and residential properties in the north and further east within the VRA. Due to the elevated vantage of the properties in the north, the proposed towers would be visible as they descend across lower-lying landform into the distance to the south. The elevated vantage of views would increase the extent of backclothing in views and would reduce the prominence of the infrastructure. The Proposed Development would be seen on the skyline above the trees and traversing across landform where there are breaks in tree coverage.

The scale of change resulting from the introduction of the Proposed Development is judged to be **Large** and would be experienced by road users on Couper's Road and adjacent residential receptors.

The magnitude of change is judged to be no more than **High** at these properties and lower elsewhere.

Significance of Effect during Construction

Taking account of the **High** sensitivity of residents in the VRA, and the **Medium** magnitude of change, the visual effect arising from construction is judged to be no more than **Moderate (Significant)** for any receptor in this VRA, and for some receptors would be less.

Significance of Effect during Operation

Taking account of the **High** sensitivity of residents in the VRA, and the **High** magnitude of change, the visual effect arising from operation is judged to be no more than **Major (Significant)** for any receptor in this VRA, and for some receptors would be less.

Table 9.2.125: VRA F5 - Drumoak

VRA F5: Drumoak	
Description of Receptor	Representative Viewpoint
Residents and recreational receptors within the settlement of Drumoak. Road users, including cyclists of the A93/minor roads and NCN Route 195, east of the Proposed Development (refer to Volume 3, Figures 9.3b.5: Visual Receptor Area, Viewpoint Locations and other Visual Receptors with Overhead Line Tower Height Zone of Theoretical Visibility (ZTV), p. 5). The VRA is located approximately 1.1 km from the Proposed Development at the closest point.	N/A
Nature of Views	
Views to the west are screened by deciduous trees lining the A93 and by sections of commercial forestry in the middle distance. Views from within the settlement are screened by garden vegetation, intermittent trees and intervening buildings. Properties within Drumoak are typically one to two storeys, with outlooks in all directions. Medium-scale pastoral fields are visible to the north and northwest, with longer-distance views screened by rising landform and commercial forestry within the Collonach and Coldstream plantation. From the southeastern extent of the VRA, views are screened by dense deciduous plantation (Moss-side plantation, Cairnton Wood). The rising landform of Durris Forest forms a backdrop to longer distance views to the south. High voltage OHLs can be seen on the skyline of rising hills in long distance views to the south from the southeastern extent of the VRA. A high voltage OHL can also be seen across rising landform to the north. Wooden pole lines cross the skyline and are visible throughout the settlement.	
Sensitivity	
Residential receptors are considered to be of High susceptibility to changes in the view and road users including cyclists are considered to be of Low susceptibility to changes in the view. The southern half of this VRA is the within the Dee Valley SLA. Key characteristics of the SLA are less prominent in this VRA due to its more elevated position to the River Dee in the south and the more densely populated character of Drumoak. Views are primarily experienced by a number of residents and road users. A Core Path (Deeside Way) traverses part of the southern section of the VRA, and the NCN Route 195 passes through the southern section of the VRA, running adjacent to the A93. Views are predominantly screened by forestry in these sections. As such, views are considered to be Medium in value. Taking account of the judgements of susceptibility and value, sensitivity is judged to be High for residential receptors and Medium for other visual receptors within the VRA.	
Magnitude of Change during Construction	Magnitude of Change during Operation
Some construction activity would be visible at over 1 km from the southwestern extents of the VRA. Construction traffic, erection of steel lattice towers and lighting in hours of darkness would be visible in intermittent views through breaks in shelterbelts and over the top of trees. These views would be experienced from sections of the A93 and by residents located in the cluster of properties at the western edge of the VRA. Views of construction activity from within the settlement would largely be screened by intervening trees, garden foliage, and buildings within the settlement. Woodland would screen views in the middle distance. The scale of change resulting from construction activity is judged to be Small. The magnitude of change during construction is judged to be no more than Low.	The Proposed Development would be seen over the tops of trees in middle-to-long distance views to the west and northwest from properties located on the southwestern extent of the VRA and for receptors travelling on the A93. The Proposed Development would introduce vertical infrastructure into views, however the screening from woodland and scattered shelterbelts would mean that the Proposed Development would not become a prominent feature in the view. The scale of change resulting from the introduction of the Proposed Development is judged to be Small. The magnitude of change during operation is judged to be no more than Low.

VRA F5: Drumoak	
Significance of Effect during Construction	Significance of Effect during Operation
Taking account of the High sensitivity of residents in the VRA, and the Low magnitude of change, the visual effect arising from construction is judged to be no more than Minor (Not Significant) .	Taking account of the High sensitivity of residents in the VRA, and the Low magnitude of change, the visual effect arising from operation is judged to be no more than Minor (Not Significant) .

Table 9.2.126: VRA F6 - Mains of Drum, Coalford, and Dalmaik

VRA F6: Mains of Drum, Coalford, and Dalmaik	
Description of Receptor	Representative Viewpoint
Residents within and around Mains of Drum, Coalford, and Dalmaik, as well as recreational receptors walking the River Dee. Road users, including cyclists, on the A93, minor roads and NCN Route 195, east of the Proposed Development (refer to Volume 3, Figures 9.3b.5: Visual Receptor Area, Viewpoint Locations and other Visual Receptors with Overhead Line Tower Height Zone of Theoretical Visibility (ZTV), p. 5). The VRA is located approximately 2 km from the Proposed Development at the closest point.	N/A
Nature of Views	
Views west and southwest look down the A93; longer distance views are largely screened by deciduous trees and hedgerows on both sides of the road. Views north are of medium scale agricultural fields and partially restricted by rising landform. Views east looking down the A93 are screened by blocks of commercial forestry (Moss-side Plantation), and landform rising to the southeast. To the south, views are more open across pastoral fields, longer distance views are screened by shelterbelts, commercial forestry, with rising landform forming a backdrop to longer distance views. From sections of the road, wooden pole lines cross fields and a high voltage OHL crosses the eastern extent of the VRA. Views east from the Core Path adjacent to the River Dee include a quarry. To the southeast, a high voltage OHL is on the skyline on rising landform. The Mid Hill windfarm can be seen on the skyline to the southeast.	
Sensitivity	
Residential and recreational receptors are considered to be of High susceptibility to changes in the view and road users including cyclists are considered to be of Low susceptibility to changes in the view. The southern half of this VRA is the within the Dee Valley SLA. The River Dee crosses the southwestern extent of the VRA which is cited as a special landscape feature of the SLA. Views from this section include existing infrastructure of a quarry. As such, views are considered to be Medium in value. Taking account of the judgements of susceptibility and value, sensitivity is judged to be High for residential receptors and Medium for other visual receptors in the VRA.	
Magnitude of Change during Construction	Magnitude of Change during Operation
Some construction activity would be visible in filtered views to the east. Construction traffic travelling on the road would be visible up close. Erection of steel lattice towers and lighting in hours of darkness would be visible in longer distance views, at approximately 2.4 km to the east on the A93 and from the minor road to the northeast of Mains of Drum. These	The Proposed Development would be seen in longer distance views to the east from the road at a distance of approximately 2.4 km at its closest point. These views would be transitory, predominantly being experienced by road receptors and residential receptors where garden foliage does not provide screening. The tops of proposed towers would be

VRA F6: Mains of Drum, Coalford, and Dalmaik

views would be predominantly screened by coniferous trees, mature hedgerows and garden hedging/foliage.

In the eastern extents of the VRA, partially constructed steel lattice towers would be seen in the far distance in views to the west where it would be visible against the sky. However, the intervening rolling landform and vegetation would provide much screening.

The scale of change resulting from construction activity is judged to be **Small**.

The magnitude of change during construction is judged to be no more than **Low**.

intermittently seen above the intervening treelines, although they would not become a main feature of views.

In the eastern extents of the VRA, the Proposed Development would be seen in the far distance in views to the west where it would be visible against the sky. However, owing to the intervening distance the Proposed Development would appear small in scale and the intervening rolling landform and vegetation would provide much screening.

The Proposed Development would introduce vertical infrastructure into views, however, views would be from longer distance and partially screened.

The scale of change resulting from the introduction of the Proposed Development is judged to be **Small**.

The magnitude of change during operation is judged to be no more than **Low**.

Significance of Effect during Construction

Taking into account the **High** sensitivity of residents in the VRA, and the **Low** magnitude of change, the visual effect arising from construction is judged to be no more than **Minor (Not Significant)**.

Significance of Effect during Operation

Taking account of the **High** sensitivity of residents in the VRA, and the **Low** magnitude of change, the visual effect arising from operation is judged to be no more than **Minor (Not Significant)**.

Table 9.2.127: VRA F7 - North of Drumoak

VRA F7: North of Drumoak	
Description of Receptor	Representative Viewpoint
Residential receptors at farm properties and road receptors on the minor road, located east of the Proposed Development, and southwest of the Drum Castle estate (refer to Volume 3, Figures 9.3b.5: Visual Receptor Area, Viewpoint Locations and other Visual Receptors with Overhead Line Tower Height Zone of Theoretical Visibility (ZTV), p. 5). The VRA is located approximately 0.5 km from the Proposed Development at the closest point.	N/A
Nature of Views	
Views from this VRA are generally open, with long distance views afforded across medium scale pastoral fields to the Dee Valley in the south, with large blocks of forestry at the peripheries of the VRA which provide some enclosure. Landform slopes down from north to south across the VRA. Mature hedgerows bordering the minor road provide partial screening. Views to the northwest are open, with the rising landform of Hill of Fare (470 m AOD) providing a backdrop and some screening in longer distance views. Coldstream Plantation and rising landform to the west screens longer distance westerly views. To the northeast, the landform rises and some forestry at Drum Wood curtails longer distance views. Views to the south include the settlement of Drumoak, with landform rising in longer distance views to coniferous plantations on hill summits.	

VRA F7: North of Drumoak	
Sensitivity	
Residential receptors are considered to be of High susceptibility to changes in the view and road users including cyclists are considered to be of Low susceptibility to changes in the view. This VRA is not located within a designated landscape, although there are open views afforded to the south towards the Dee Valley. As such, views are considered to be Medium in value. Taking into account judgements of susceptibility and value, sensitivity is judged to be High for residential receptors and Medium for other visual receptors in the VRA.	
Magnitude of Change during Construction	Magnitude of Change during Operation
Construction activity would largely be screened by the intervening landform and commercial forestry of Coldstream Plantation to the west. Taller elements, including the erection of steel lattice towers and lighting in hours of darkness, would be visible in glimpsed westerly views on sections of the minor road and from residential properties at distances beyond 0.7 km at the closest properties. Intervening landform is likely to mostly screen views. There would be longer distance views of construction activity to the southwest, as the Proposed Alignment descends into the lower-lying landscape along the Dee River. The intervening distance and bands of mixed woodland within the valley would reduce the perceptibility of any activity. The scale of change resulting from construction activity is judged to be Small and would be focused along the minor road in the east and scattered properties. The magnitude of change during construction is judged to be no more than Low.	The Proposed Development would be intermittently seen in middle-to-long distance views to the west, seen on the more distant skyline above intervening landform at distances beyond 0.7 km at the closest properties. These views would be experienced by road receptors travelling on the minor road to the east of the VRA and from scattered residential properties. Views would be intermittent and would largely be screened by intervening landform and hedgerows, as well as by the dense commercial forestry at Coldstream Plantation. The scale of change resulting from the introduction of the Proposed Development is judged to be Small and would be focused along the minor road in the east and scattered properties. The magnitude of change is judged to be no more than Low.
Significance of Effect during Construction	Significance of Effect during Operation
Taking into account the High sensitivity of residents in the VRA, and the Low magnitude of change, the visual effect arising from construction is judged to be no more than Minor (Not Significant).	Taking account of the High sensitivity of residents in the VRA, and the Low magnitude of change, the visual effect arising from operation is judged to be no more than Minor (Not Significant).

Table 9.2.128: VRA F8: Drum Castle

VRA F8: Drum Castle	
Description of Receptor	Representative Viewpoint
Residential receptors at farm properties and road users on the minor road, as well as visitors to the Drum Castle Estate (National Trust for Scotland). The VRA is east of the Proposed Development (refer to Volume 3, Figures 9.3b.5: Visual Receptor Area, Viewpoint Locations and other Visual Receptors with Overhead Line Tower Height Zone of Theoretical Visibility (ZTV), p. 5). The VRA is located approximately 1.5 km from the Proposed Development at the closest point.	N/A

VRA F8: Drum Castle

Nature of Views

Properties within this VRA are largely associated with the Drum Castle Estate, located in the centre of the VRA, including the Castle itself and outlying farms and cottages. Views west are largely screened by dense broadleaved woodland and coniferous plantations (Old Wood/Forest of Drum and Drumhill Wood) and by intermittent trees within the garden grounds of the Castle. Elevated landform at the western edge of the VRA provides screening of middle and longer distance westerly views.

From the short section of the minor road located to the west of this VRA, immediate views west look across undulating pastoral fields. Middle and longer distance views are curtailed by gently undulating and rising landform to the west and the commercial forestry at Coldstream Plantation that can be seen across the skyline. To the northwest, views are open, with the rising landform of Meikle Tap (359 m AOD) and Hill of Fare (433 m AOD) forming a backdrop. Views southwest are open, with the rising landform of Durris Forest forming a backdrop to views. Views east are screened by Drumhill Wood.

From the southern edge of this VRA and Drum Castle Garden Estate, views south are open and expansive. Views are of medium-scale pastoral fields, with rising landform largely consisting of commercial forestry in longer distance views. A high voltage OHL is visible, extending across the skyline of Durris Forest in the distance.

Sensitivity

Residential and recreational receptors are considered to be of **High** susceptibility to changes in the view and road users including cyclists are considered to be of **Low** susceptibility to changes in the view.

This VRA is not located within a designated landscape, although the VRA contains Drum Castle Estate and Gardens which has value as an estate landscape and visitor attraction. As such, views are considered to be **High** in value.

Taking account of the judgements of susceptibility and value, sensitivity is judged to be **High** for residential and recreational receptors and **Medium** for other visual receptors in the VRA.

Magnitude of Change during Construction

Construction activity would only likely be visible to the west from the short section of the minor road within this VRA, where middle-to-longer distance views are more open. Construction activity, including lighting in hours of darkness and taller elements such as the erection of steel lattice towers, would be visible in filtered views west at a distance of approximately 1.5 km at its closest point. Wider views of construction activity within the VRA would be screened by garden vegetation and woodland enclosing the Drum Estate.

The scale of change resulting from construction activity is judged to be **Small** and would be experienced in views from the southwest of the VRA.

The magnitude of change during construction is judged to be no more than **Low**.

Magnitude of Change during Operation

The Proposed Development would only be seen in views west from the short section of the minor road that runs through the southwestern extent of this VRA. These views would be experienced at approximately 1.5 km at its closest point by road receptors travelling on the minor road, recreational receptors visiting Drum Castle and Gardens, and residential receptors that live within the Drum Estate. The tops of towers would be seen, introducing OHL infrastructure into views, but would only be partially visible from longer distance and would not occupy a large horizontal or vertical extent of the view.

The scale of change resulting from the introduction of the Proposed Development is judged to be **Small**.

The magnitude of change during operation is judged to be no more than **Low**.

Significance of Effect during Construction

Taking into account the **High** sensitivity of residents in the VRA, and the **Low** magnitude of change, the visual effect arising from construction is judged to be no more than **Minor (Not Significant)**.

Significance of Effect during Operation

Taking account of the **High** sensitivity of residents in the VRA, and the **Low** magnitude of change, the visual effect arising from operation is judged to be no more than **Minor (Not Significant)**.

Table 9.2.129: VRA F9: Quartains

VRA F9: Quartains	
Description of Receptor	Representative Viewpoint
Residents of properties and road users, mostly along minor roads east of the Proposed Development and northwest of Drum Castle Estate (refer to Volume 3, Figures 9.3b.5: Visual Receptor Area, Viewpoint Locations and other Visual Receptors with Overhead Line Tower Height Zone of Theoretical Visibility (ZTV), p. 5). The VRA is located immediately adjacent to the Proposed Development.	N/A
Nature of Views	
From the north of the VRA, views are largely open and expansive, across medium scale pastoral fields with little tree cover. In the centre, commercial forestry restricts middle distance views to the west from the minor road that runs to the south of Horsewells and Quartains Moss. Screening is provided by clusters of shelterbelts and enclosing garden vegetation, and the landform is gently undulating. From higher ground there are very long views northward across central Aberdeenshire. The rising landform of Meikle Tap (359 m AOD) is visible to the west, and there are longer views to the east. The southern part of the VRA is lower lying and views are more restricted.	
Sensitivity	
Residential receptors are considered to be of High susceptibility to changes in the view and road users including cyclists are considered to be of Low susceptibility to changes in the view. This VRA is not located within a designated landscape. Views are generally of a working agricultural landscape and are not experienced by a high density of receptors. As such views are considered to be Low in value. Taking account of the judgements of susceptibility and value, sensitivity is judged to be High for residents and Low for other visual receptors in the VRA.	
Magnitude of Change during Construction	Magnitude of Change during Operation
Construction activity would be visible to the west from the properties and sections of the three minor roads that cross the VRA. Views would occasionally be screened by shelterbelts and tree plantations. Construction activity that would be visible includes machinery, vehicle movements, creation of access tracks, erection of steel lattice towers and lighting in hours of darkness. Forestry felling (infrastructure and management felling) as part of the Proposed Development at tower N46 would also be visible in close to the middle distant views to the west, northwest and southwest. The closest property (Newhall) would be adjacent to construction works, but other properties would be more distant. Some views would be partially obscured by garden vegetation, shelterbelts and tree plantations. The commercial forestry of Quartains Moss, and the northern extents of Old Drum Wood would provide screening in views west from the centre of the VRA. The scale of change resulting from construction activity is judged to be Medium and would be experienced predominantly at the properties and minor roads in the west of the VRA where there is limited screening. The magnitude of change is judged to be no more than Medium .	The Proposed Development would be visible to the west of the properties and sections of the three minor roads that cross the VRA, where there are open views. The Proposed Development would be seen in close and middle distance views. Most of these views would be experienced by road receptors travelling on the minor road network, where there is less screening. In these views the Proposed Development would appear on the skyline, intermittently screened by bands of intervening forestry. The tops of towers and cables would frequently be seen above the intervening treeline. Views west from the residential properties in the VRA would be partly screened by garden vegetation, though there would be visibility from some properties. Due to the proposed size and scale of the steel lattice towers, the Proposed Development would form a notable feature in views where visible and would introduce vertical infrastructure into views. The scale of change resulting from the introduction of the Proposed Development is judged to be Medium and would be experienced by the scattered residential properties to the north, centre and south of the VRA. The magnitude of change during operation is judged to be no more than Medium .

VRA F9: Quartains	
Significance of Effect during Construction	Significance of Effect during Operation
Taking into account the High sensitivity of residents in the VRA, and the Medium magnitude of change, the visual effect arising from construction is judged to be no more than Major (Significant) for any receptor, and for most receptors would be less.	Taking account of the High sensitivity of residents in the VRA, and the Medium magnitude of change, the visual effect arising from operation is judged to be no more than Major (Significant) for any receptor and for many receptors would be less.

Table 9.2.130: VRA F10: Hirn, Glashmore, and Rashenloch

VRA F10: Hirn, Glashmore, and Rashenloch	
Description of Receptor	Representative Viewpoint
Road users and residents of and around Hirn, Glashmore, and Rashenloch, and road users, west of the Proposed Development and north of Collonach Plantation (refer to Volume 3, Figures 9.3b.5: Visual Receptor Area, Viewpoint Locations and other Visual Receptors with Overhead Line Tower Height Zone of Theoretical Visibility (ZTV), p. 5). The VRA is located immediately adjacent to the Proposed Development.	N/A
Nature of Views	
Views east are across medium scale pastoral fields, with middle distance views restricted by shelterbelts and hedgerows. Longer distance views are across undulating landform. A band of commercial forestry runs from Quiddies Mill Croft to Glashmore, screening views further west from a section of the minor road. Blocks of commercial forestry are scattered across this VRA to the northwest, centre and south. Middle distance views north are partially screened by commercial forestry, and the rising landform of Meikle Tap (359 m AOD) forms a backdrop to longer distance views. Views west are relatively open, partially screened by commercial forestry, with rising landform forming a backdrop to longer distance views. Properties are scattered across this VRA and have a variety of outlooks.	
Wooden pole lines cross fields. To the west of the VRA, the high voltage OHL Kintore to Fetteresso 275 kV crosses to the east of Druggam towards Hares Wood. Visibility of the line is partially screened by commercial forestry.	
Sensitivity	
Residential receptors are considered to be of High susceptibility to changes in the view and road users including cyclists are considered to be of Low susceptibility to changes in the view.	
This VRA is not located within a designated landscape. Views are not experienced by large numbers of receptors. As such views are considered to be Low in value.	
Taking account of the judgements of susceptibility and value, sensitivity is judged to be High for residents and Low for other receptors in the VRA.	
Magnitude of Change during Construction	Magnitude of Change during Operation
Construction activity would largely be screened by sections of forestry across the VRA and lining the east of Couper's Road. This woodland would limit views of construction works for receptors to the west. Construction activity would be visible to receptors at Broomfield, on the east side of Couper's Road and close to the works. Visible features would include machinery, vehicle movements, creation of access tracks, erection of steel lattice towers and lighting in hours of darkness.	The Proposed Development would largely be screened by sections of forestry across the VRA and lining the east of Couper's Road. The tips of towers and OHL would be seen from closer receptors to the west of this road. The OHL would not be seen as a prominent feature in views experienced by receptors on Couper's Road and those further west due to this screening.

VRA F10: Hirn, Glashmore, and Rashedloch	
In the western extents of the VRA, partially constructed steel lattice towers would be seen in the far distance in views to the east where they would be visible against the sky. Although, the intervening distance would be relatively long – from approximately 4 km – and consequently the partially constructed towers would appear small in scale, especially in comparison to the intervening OHL Kintore to Fetteresso 275 kV. Furthermore, intervening vegetation and the rolling landform would provide much screening. The scale of change resulting from construction activity is judged to be Medium and would be experienced to the east of Couper's Road. The magnitude of change during construction is judged to be no more than Medium.	The Proposed Development would be seen in closer views from Broomfield to the east of Couper's Road. The Proposed Development would be seen in open views across farmland, and due to the size and scale of the steel lattice towers, it would form a notable feature in views. In the western extents of the VRA, the Proposed Development would be seen in the far distance in views to the east where it would be visible against the sky. Although, the intervening distance would be relatively long – from approximately 4 km – and consequently the Proposed Development would appear small in scale, especially in comparison to the intervening Kintore to Fetteresso 275 kV OHL. Furthermore, intervening vegetation and the rolling landform would provide much screening. The scale of change resulting from the introduction of the Proposed Development is judged to be Medium and would be experienced to the east of Couper's Road. The magnitude of change during operation is judged to be no more than Medium.
Significance of Effect during Construction	Significance of Effect during Operation
Taking into account the High sensitivity of residents in the VRA, and the Medium magnitude of change, the visual effect arising from construction is judged to be no more than Major (Significant), and for most receptors would be less.	Taking account of the High sensitivity of residents in the VRA, and the Medium magnitude of change, the visual effect arising from operation is judged to be no more than Major (Significant), and for most receptors would be less.

Table 9.2.131: VRA F11: Schoolhill

VRA F11: Schoolhill	
Description of Receptor	Representative Viewpoint
Residents of scattered properties and road users, west of the Proposed Development (refer to Volume 3, Figures 9.3b.5: Visual Receptor Area, Viewpoint Locations and other Visual Receptors with Overhead Line Tower Height Zone of Theoretical Visibility (ZTV), p. 5). The VRA is located immediately adjacent to the Proposed Development.	N/A
Nature of Views	
Views east from the VRA look across undulating landform of pastoral fields, with shelterbelts and irregular patches of deciduous trees partially screening views. Views north are foreshortened by undulating landform and blocks of commercial forestry in the middle distance, rising landform can be seen behind forestry in longer distance views. Meikle Tap (359 m AOD) can be seen in views northwest. Views to the southwest are more open, partially screened by broadleaved woodland (east of Red Moss), with the rising landform of Scolty Hill (299 m AOD) in the distance. Properties are scattered across the VRA, have outlooks in all directions, and generally are surrounded by extensive garden curtilage. Couper's Road and the minor road that follows Gormack Burn are lined by deciduous trees, while views from the B9125 are relatively open. A high voltage OHL can be seen on the skyline above forestry in views southwest.	

VRA F11: Schoolhill

Sensitivity

Residential receptors are considered to be of **High** susceptibility to changes in the view and road users including cyclists are considered to be of **Low** susceptibility to changes in the view.

This VRA is not located within a designated landscape and has limited intervisibility with the Dee Valley SLA. Views are generally of a working agricultural landscape and are not experienced by a high density of receptors. As such views are considered to be **Low** in value.

Taking account of the judgements of susceptibility and value, sensitivity is judged to be **High** for residents and **Low** for other receptors in the VRA.

Magnitude of Change during Construction

Construction activity would be seen from open sections of the B9125 when travelling east, from the north of the VRA where views are more open, and from clusters of residential properties to the northeast of the VRA that have less screening from garden curtilage (Westerton, West Cullerley and Schoolhill). Construction traffic would be seen in close views at approximately 35 m at the closest point, travelling on the minor road network as well as along the proposed access tracks - to the tower (N41) to the north and to the tower (N45) in the south. Other construction activity that would be visible includes machinery, vehicle movements, creation of access tracks, erection of steel lattice towers and lighting in hours of darkness. In the southeastern part of the VRA, close proximity views of forestry felling (infrastructure and management felling) as part of the Proposed Development at tower N46 would also be visible.

The scale of change resulting from construction activity is judged to be **Large** and would be experienced predominantly by residential receptors in the northeast of the VRA, residents in the southeast of the VRA and road users travelling on the B9125 and minor road network in the east of the VRA.

The magnitude of change is judged to be up to **High**.

Significance of Effect during Construction

Taking into account the **High** sensitivity of residents in the VRA, and the **High** magnitude of change, the visual effect arising from construction is judged to be no more than **Major (Significant)**, and for many receptors would be less.

Magnitude of Change during Operation

The Proposed Development would be seen across the VRA, both in open views across undulating agricultural fields and partially screened, where tips of towers would be seen on the skyline above intervening woodland, in close-to-middle distance views. The Proposed Development would be seen from open sections of the B9125 when travelling east, and from clusters of residential properties in the northeast of the VRA that have less screening from garden curtilage (Westerton, West Cullerley and Schoolhill). These views would be predominantly experienced by residential receptors and road users in the east of the VRA at 180 m at the closest point (from the properties at Schoolhill). However middle distance views of the Proposed Development would also be afforded from the minor road network, where proposed towers would appear in easterly views above bands of intervening forestry. Due to the size and scale of the steel lattice towers, the Proposed Development would form notable and new vertical features, seen on the skyline above undulating landform.

The Proposed Development would introduce large scale vertical infrastructure into close-to middle distance views. The scale of change resulting from the Proposed Development is judged to be **Large** and would be experienced predominantly in the east of the VRA.

The magnitude of change during operation is judged to be up to **High**.

Significance of Effect during Operation

Taking account of the **High** sensitivity of residents in the VRA, and the **High** magnitude of change, the visual effect arising from operation is judged to be no more than **Major (Significant)**, and for many receptors would be less.

Table 9.2.132: VRA F12 - North Eddieston, Little Eddieston, Meikle Eddieston, Upper Anguston, Easter Anguston

VRA F12: North Eddieston, Little Eddieston, Meikle Eddieston, Upper Anguston, Easter Anguston	
Description of Receptor	Representative Viewpoint
Road users and residents of the properties and farmsteads around North Eddieston, Little Eddieston, Meikle Eddieston, Upper Anguston, Easter Anguston, east of the Proposed Development. (refer to Volume 3, Figures 9.3b.5: Visual Receptor Area, Viewpoint Locations and other Visual Receptors with Overhead Line Tower Height Zone of Theoretical Visibility (ZTV), p. 5). The VRA is located approximately 0.8 km from the Proposed Development at its closest point.	VP33: Little Eddieston (See Volume 4 b, Figure 9.37a-f: VP33: Little Eddieston)
Nature of Views	
Views vary somewhat as the landform is very gently undulating, in some places views are contained to short distances by the landform and woodland blocks particularly in the south of the VRA. Elsewhere in the VRA, including from the more elevated areas to the east, the views are open and cover longer distances towards hills and mountains that form distinctive focal points; the hills of the Durris Forest can be seen in the far distance in views to the south while the Hill of Fare in the west is nearer, at a distance of approximately 10 km. Views consist of arable and improved grassland fields bounded by dry stone walls and post and fire fencing, woodland blocks and thickets, scattered properties and farmsteads, and open skies. There is limited existing infrastructure besides wood pole lines.	
Sensitivity	
Residential receptors are considered to be of High susceptibility to changes in the view and road users are considered to be of Low susceptibility to changes in the view. The southeastern extents of the VRA contain the northern extents of the designed landscape of Drum Castle, which incorporates the earlier features of the Old Forest of Drum. As such, the views of the VRA take in the ancient woodland associated with the Castle. The VRA has a rural character, and experiences open skies and views of the Hill of Fare and the hills of Durris Forest. While views from this VRA are experienced by a relatively low density of receptors, these views are Medium in value. Taking account of the judgements of susceptibility and value, sensitivity is judged to be High for residents and Medium for other receptors.	
Magnitude of Change during Construction	Magnitude of Change during Operation
Construction activities would be visible in middle distance views from higher elevations within the VRA and in the western extents of the VRA as the landform descends towards the southwest, enabling longer views in that direction. In the southern extents of the VRA, construction activities would be mostly screened from residents and road users as the landform ascends to the west. This ascending landform and the woodland blocks that cover much of the southern extents of the VRA would screen lower-level construction activities. However, taller elements including partially constructed steel lattice towers and lighting in hours of darkness would be intermittently visible in middle distance views to the west and northwest, visible in the midground against distant rolling landform and hills. Forestry felling (infrastructure and management felling) as part of the Proposed Development at tower N46 would also be visible along the middle distant horizon in views to the west. In the western extents of the VRA construction activity would be screened by the rolling landform, intervening woodland blocks, and thickets of vegetation. The scale of change would be Small focused across the western extents of the VRA and across areas of higher elevation further east.	The Proposed Development would be visible in middle distance views from the western edge of the VRA and in middle-to-longer distance views from the northeastern extents of the VRA. At its closest point, the Proposed Development would be located approximately 780 m west of the VRA. While partially backclothed by the rolling landform and hills in the far distance, the Proposed Development would be intermittently visible on the skyline above intervening treelines, and the proposed towers would form noticeable features in the distance. However, in the southern and western extents of the VRA, the Proposed Development would not be visible due to intervening woodland blocks and buildings. The Proposed Development would be seen in the context of limited existing infrastructure beyond occasional wood pole lines. The scale of change would be Medium focused across the western extents of the VRA and across areas of higher elevation in the northeast. The magnitude of change during operation is judged to be no more than Medium .

VRA F12: North Eddieston, Little Eddieston, Meikle Eddieston, Upper Anguston, Easter Anguston	
The magnitude of change during construction is judged to be no more than Low .	
Significance of Effect during Construction	Significance of Effect during Operation
Taking account of the High sensitivity of residents and the Low magnitude of change, the visual effect arising from construction is judged to be no more than Minor (Not Significant) .	Taking account of the High sensitivity of residents and the Medium magnitude of change, the visual effect arising from operation is judged to be no more than Moderate (Significant) for any receptor, and for many receptors would be less.

Table 9.2.133: F13 - Garlogie, Redhill, Benthoul and Cairnie

VRA F13: Garlogie, Redhill, Benthoul and Cairnie	
Description of Receptor	Representative Viewpoint
Road users and residents of the properties in the area around Garlogie, Redhill, Benthoul, and Cairnie, as well as visitors to the Standing Stones of Echt. The VRA is northeast of the Proposed Development. (refer to Volume 3, Figures 9.3b.5: Visual Receptor Area, Viewpoint Locations and other Visual Receptors with Overhead Line Tower Height Zone of Theoretical Visibility (ZTV), p. 5). The VRA is located approximately 1.3 km from the Proposed Development at the closest point.	N/A
Nature of Views	
The views from within the VRA vary, in some places the landform is only gently undulating, allowing for views of middle and longer distances. However, in other areas the landform is more rolling, containing views to short and middle distances. Frequent woodland blocks and scrub vegetation also contain views to short distances. Views southwards from Roadside of Garlogie extend to the commercial forestry south of Newleuchar in the distance, across the intervening low-lying land of Leuchar Moss. Longer distance views are afforded from the southwestern extents of the VRA from the B9125 looking southwest, from where it is possible to see the hills of the Forest of Birse in the far distance. Views typically consist of stretches of bog, commercial forestry, arable and improved grasslands fields bound by post and wire fencing and occasional dry-stone walls and scattered clusters of properties. The high voltage Craigiebuckler to Tarland 132 kV OHL passes through the southern extents of the VRA.	
Sensitivity	
Residential and recreational receptors are considered to be of High susceptibility to changes in the view and road users are considered to be of Low susceptibility to changes in the view. While this VRA is not located within a designated landscape, it contains interesting historical landscape features owing to the settlement of Garlogie by Leuchar Burn, which is a conservation area, and the Standing Stones of Echt. Although views from within this VRA are experienced by a relatively low density of receptors, views from this VRA are Medium in value. Taking account of the judgements of susceptibility and value, sensitivity is judged to be High for residential and recreational receptors and Medium for others.	
Magnitude of Change during Construction	Magnitude of Change during Operation
Visibility of construction activity would be concentrated in the southwestern extents of the VRA, including from the B9125 in longer distance views to the southwest. Construction activities visible in these longer distance views would include partially constructed steel lattice towers and lighting in hours of darkness, seen at distances of approximately 1.3 km	The Proposed Development would be visible from the southwestern extents of the VRA, such as from the B9125 in longer distance views to the southwest. At its closest point, the Proposed Development would be located approximately 1.3 km southwest of the VRA. The Proposed Development would be backclothed by the Forest of Birse in the far distance,

VRA F13: Garlogie, Redhill, Benthoul and Cairnie

to the southwest. Construction works would be backclothed by the Forest of Birse in the far distance. Views of construction activity from the B9125 would only be glimpsed when looking southwest along the route of the B9125, as views on either side are screened by woodland blocks and the gently undulating landform. Views from much of the rest of the VRA are screened by intervening landform, buildings, and woodland blocks. For example, views from the conservation area settlement of Garlogie by Leuchar Burn are mostly contained to close distances by riparian woodland associated with the watercourse, while longer distance views are contained to the middle distance by Swailend Wood plantation. Similarly, in the northeastern extents of the VRA such as from around Cairnie, construction activity would be screened by intervening woodland.

The scale of change would be **Small**, focused along the southwestern extents of the VRA. The magnitude of change during construction is judged to be no more than **Low**.

Significance of Effect during Construction

Taking account of the **High** sensitivity of residential and recreational receptors and the **Low** magnitude of change, the visual effect arising from construction is judged to be no more than **Minor (Not Significant)**.

and only a small section would be visible as many of the views to the southwest from the southwestern extents of the VRA are screened by woodland blocks and the gently undulating landform. The Proposed Development would be partially if not fully screened from residential receptors in the southern extents due to the rising landforms southwest of the properties. Views from the western extents would be screened by intervening landform and woodland. The Proposed Development would be seen in the context of existing infrastructure, including the existing Craigiebuckler to Tarland 132 kV OHL, compared to which the Proposed Development would appear relatively less prominent due to its increased distance from the VRA.

The scale of change would be **Small** focused along the southwestern extents of the VRA. The magnitude of change during operation is judged to be no more than **Low**.

Significance of Effect during Operation

Taking account of the **High** sensitivity of residential and recreational receptors and the **Low** magnitude of change, the visual effect arising from operation is judged to be no more than **Minor (Not Significant)**.

Table 9.2.134: VRA F14 - Hill of Braigie, Braigiewell, East Finncery, Northton and Templefold

VRA F14: Hill of Braigie, Braigiewell, East Finncery, Northton and Templefold	
Description of Receptor	Representative Viewpoint
Road users and residents of the farmsteads around Hill of Braigie, Braigiewell, East Finncery, Northton and Templefold, northeast of the Proposed Development (refer to Volume 3, Figures 9.3b.5: Visual Receptor Area, Viewpoint Locations and other Visual Receptors with Overhead Line Tower Height Zone of Theoretical Visibility (ZTV), p. 5). The VRA is located immediately adjacent to the Proposed Development.	N/A
Nature of Views	
In the northern extents of the VRA views are contained to close and middle distances by the rolling landform and woodland blocks. However, in the central section and southern extents of the VRA, the landform is very gently undulating and descends gradually towards the southwest. Consequently, the Hill of Fare can be seen in views to the west, the hills of the Forest of Birse to the southwest, and the hills of Durrus Forest in the south. Views consist of woodland blocks – some standing and some recently felled – as well as arable and improved grassland fields bounded by dry stones walls and post and wire fencing, occasional farmsteads, and patches of scrub. From Braigies Moss in the western extents of the VRA, the landform ascends eastward to a high point of 115 m AOD southwest of the gas compressor station. The high voltage Craigiebuckler to Tarland 132 kV OHL passes through the central section of the VRA.	
Sensitivity	
Residential receptors are considered to be of High susceptibility to changes in the view and road users are considered to be of Low susceptibility to changes in the view.	

VRA F14: Hill of Braigie, Braigiewell, East Finncery, Northton and Templefold

While the VRA is not within any designated landscapes, it has a rural character and takes in views of far distant hills from several directions, denoting quality. Although, the views from within this VRA are perceived from a low density of receptors. Overall, the value of these views is **Medium**.

Taking account of the judgements of susceptibility and value, sensitivity is judged to be **High** for residential receptors and **Medium** for others.

Magnitude of Change during Construction	Magnitude of Change during Operation
Construction activity would be visible throughout much of the VRA, particularly within the southern half where it would be visible at a close distance. Visible construction activity would include use of machinery, vehicle movements, creation of access tracks, erection of steel lattice towers and lighting in hours of darkness as well as construction traffic travelling through the VRA and along a proposed access track extending from an existing single track road at East Finncery. The landform in the southern half of the VRA is very gently undulating and descends southwest towards the Proposed Alignment, and as such construction activity would be seen across lower lying land. Some screening would be afforded by the gently undulating landform and the woodland blocks, particularly in the northern extents of the VRA. The scale of change would be Large concentrated across the southern and western extents of the VRA. the magnitude of change during construction is judged to be up to High.	Throughout much of the VRA, the Proposed Development would be seen in close-to-middle distance views to the southwest and west. In the central section of the VRA, particularly from higher elevations, the Proposed Development would be visible in middle and longer distance views to the south, southwest, west, and northwest. At its closest point, the Proposed Development is approximately 150 m from the VRA. As the Proposed Development would be visible on lower lying land, it would be backclothed by far distant hills. However, in views to the southwest from the southern half of the VRA the Proposed Development would break the horizon and would form a new and notable feature in views. Some screening would be afforded by the gently rolling landform and the woodland blocks. The Proposed Development would be seen in the context of existing infrastructure: the high voltage Craigiebuckler to Tarland 132 kV OHL, compared to which the Proposed Development would appear much the same scale in the central section of the VRA and much larger in scale when viewed from the southern extents. The scale of change in the northern extents of the VRA would be Large, with effects concentrated across the southwestern extents of the VRA. The magnitude of change during operation is judged to be up to High.
Significance of Effect during Construction	Significance of Effect during Operation
Taking account of the High sensitivity of residents and the Medium magnitude of change, the visual effect arising from construction is judged to be no more than Moderate (Significant) for any receptor in this VRA and for many receptors would be less.	Taking account of the High sensitivity of residents and the High magnitude of change, the visual effect arising from operation is judged to be up to Major (Significant) for any receptor in this VRA and for many receptors would be less.

Table 9.2.135: VRA F15 - Landerberry, Milton of Finncery and Tillyshogle

VRA F15: Landerberry, Milton of Finncery and Tillyshogle	
Description of Receptor	Representative Viewpoint
Road users and residents of the farmsteads and properties around Landerberry, Milton of Finncery, and Tillyshogle. The Proposed Development passes through the northeastern extents of the VRA (refer to Volume 3, Figures 9.3b.5: Visual Receptor Area, Viewpoint Locations and other Visual Receptors with Overhead Line Tower Height Zone of Theoretical Visibility (ZTV), p. 5). The VRA is located immediately adjacent to the Proposed Development.	N/A
Nature of Views	

VRA F15: Landerberry, Milton of Finnercy and Tillyshogle

The landform is gently rolling and contains views to short and middle distances. In more open areas the skies seem expansive, views to the west take in the Hill of Fare. Views consist of arable fields bounded by dry stone walls and post and wire fencing and occasional properties and woodland blocks, most of which are conifer plantations with one instance of mixed ancient woodland between Millcroft and Milton of Finnercy. These woodland blocks provide screening. Landerberry Road which passes through the VRA as a central spine is a single track road. In views to the southwest the Kintore to Fetteresso 275 kV/400 kV OHL can be seen on higher elevations and the Craigiebuckler to Tarland 132 kV OHL can be seen in views to the northeast.

Sensitivity

Residential receptors are considered to be of **High** susceptibility to changes in the view and road users are considered to be of **Low** susceptibility to changes in the view.

While not situated within any designated landscapes, views from within this VRA are rural in character and takes in views of the Hill of Fare, which is “*integral to Aberdeenshire’s landscape identity*.”¹ While the views are experienced from a low density of receptors, the value of these views is considered to be **Medium**.

Taking account of the judgements of susceptibility and value, sensitivity is judged to be **High** for residential receptors and **Medium** for others.

Magnitude of Change during Construction

Construction activity would be visible at close distances to the northeast. Construction traffic travelling through Landerberry Road as well as along the proposed access tracks in the northeastern and eastern extents of the VRA would be visible when close. Seen from Landerberry Road and the properties along it, most of the main construction activity, including machinery, vehicle movements, creation of access tracks, erection of steel lattice towers and lighting in hours of darkness, would be visible upon a higher elevation against a rural backdrop of fields, commercial forestry and sky. In northeast-facing views, residential receptors in the centre of the VRA along Landerberry Road would see the construction of the diamond crossing where the Proposed Development would cross over Craigiebuckler to Tarland South 132 kV. Visible construction activity associated with the diamond crossing would include the erection of temporary structures to divert Craigiebuckler to Tarland South 132 kV while the Proposed Development is being constructed, as well as reconductoring of the existing OHL. Higher elevations northeast of Milton of Finnercy would provide screening to receptors southwest of this higher landform and the woodland blocks throughout the VRA would also provide screening.

The scale of change would be **Large** focused along the northern edge of the VRA, at Landerberry Road and the minor road network.

The magnitude of change during construction is judged to be up to **High**.

Significance of Effect during Construction

Taking account of the **High** sensitivity of residents and the **High** magnitude of change, the visual effect arising from construction is judged to be up to **Major (Significant)** for any receptors within the VRA, and for many receptors would be less.

Magnitude of Change during Operation

The Proposed Development would be visible at a close distance in views to the northeast from Landerberry Road and the properties along it at distances of approximately 270 m. Although seen against more elevated land, the Proposed Development would break the horizon and be visible against the sky. Parts of the Proposed Development would be partially screened by woodland blocks and the higher elevation northeast of Milton of Finnercy, although mixed woodland blocks would be less effective at screening in Winter. In northeast-facing views, residential receptors in the centre of the VRA along Landerberry Road would see the diamond crossing where the Proposed Development would cross over Craigiebuckler to Tarland 132 kV OHL. The diamond crossing would be a significant increase in the volume of infrastructure and would be framed in occasional views by blocks of mixed woodland to its west and east. Throughout much of the VRA, the Proposed Development would be seen in the context of existing vertical infrastructure and would appear larger in scale.

The scale of change would be **Large** focused along the northern edge of the VRA, at Landerberry Road and the minor road network.

The magnitude of change during operation is judged to be up to **High**.

Significance of Effect during Operation

Taking account of the **High** sensitivity of residents and the **High** magnitude of change, the visual effect arising from operation is judged to be up to **Major (Significant)** for any receptor in the VRA, and for many receptors would be less.

¹ NatureScot, 2019. National Landscape Character Assessment. Landscape Character Type 28: Outlying Hills and Ridges. [Online] Available at: <https://www.nature.scot/sites/default/files/LCA/LCT%2028%20-%20Outlying%20Hills%20and%20Ridges%20-%20Final%20pdf.pdf>.

Table 9.2.136: VRA F16 - Meikle Tap, East Woodside and Wester Tillyshogle

VRA F16: Meikle Tap, East Woodside and Wester Tillyshogle	
Description of Receptor	Representative Viewpoint
Road users and residents of the properties and farmsteads around East Woodside and Wester Tillyshogle, as well as recreational receptors on the eastern slopes of the Hill of Fare, including those ascending and at the summit of Meikle Tap. This VRA is located southwest of the Proposed Development (refer to Volume 3, Figures 9.3b.5: Visual Receptor Area, Viewpoint Locations and other Visual Receptors with Overhead Line Tower Height Zone of Theoretical Visibility (ZTV), p. 5). The VRA is located approximately 0.5 km from the Proposed Development at the closest point.	VP34: Meikle Tap (See Volume 4 b, Figure 9.38a-d: VP34: Meikle Tap)
Nature of Views	
The landform in the southern extents of the VRA is rolling while the landform in the northern extents appears flatter but ascends southwest towards Meikle Tap (359 AOD), one of the high points of the Hill of Fare. Higher elevations in the western half of the VRA allow for long distance views towards the northeast and east, which contrast with the sudden enclosure by woodland on the slopes of Hill of Fare and in the southern extents of the VRA. Views from the eastern extents of the VRA are of longer distances towards Brimmond Hill, Hill of Keir, Auchronie Hill and the hills of Kirkhill Forest. Views consist of arable and improved grassland fields bounded by dry stone walls and post and wire fencing, scattered clusters of farmsteads and residential properties and frequent woodland blocks that are mostly commercial forestry and provide much screening. The Depot by the Birks is mostly screened by a woodland band that borders its western and southern perimeters. Passing southeast to northwest through the centre of the VRA is the existing Kintore to Fetteresso 275 kV/400 kV OHL, which is also visible from Meikle Tap, as is the Craigiebuckler to Tarland 132 kV OHL and a communication mast located by the summit of Meikle Tap.	
Sensitivity	
Residential and recreational receptors are considered to be of High susceptibility to changes in the view and road users are considered to be of Low susceptibility to changes in the view. While the VRA is not within any designated landscapes, Meikle Tap is one of the high points of the Hill of Fare, which is popular for recreation due to its " <i>commanding views over the lowlands of Aberdeenshire</i> ." ² As such, the value of views is Medium . Taking into account of the judgements of susceptibility and value, sensitivity is judged to be High for residential and recreational receptors and Medium for others.	
Magnitude of Change during Construction	Magnitude of Change during Operation
From the eastern extents of the VRA, construction activity would be seen in the middle distance in views to the northeast. From the higher elevations of Hill of Fare, including from Meikle Tap, construction activity would be seen in far distance views to the northeast, east, and southeast at distances of approximately 3.5-5 km. From the eastern extents of the VRA, visible construction activity would include use of machinery, vehicle movements, creation of access tracks, erection of steel lattice towers and lighting in hours of darkness, which would be seen on land of a similar elevation to residential receptors around Newfield, Banks of Finnercy and Wester Tillyshogle at minimum distances of approximately 850 m, and 890 m, and 1.2 km respectively. From the higher elevations of Hill of Fare, construction	From the eastern extents of the VRA, the Proposed Development would be seen by residential receptors in middle distance in views to the northeast and from Hill of Fare recreational receptors would see the Proposed Development in long distance views to the northeast, east, and southeast at distances of approximately 3.5-5 km. From lower elevations in the northern and southern extents of the VRA, the Proposed Development would be largely screened from residential receptors and road users by woodland blocks. From the eastern extents of the VRA, the Proposed Development would be visible to residential receptors around Newfield, Banks of Finnercy and Wester Tillyshogle at minimum distances of approximately 850 m, and 890 m, and 1.2 km respectively and the

² NatureScot, 2019. National Landscape Character Assessment. Landscape Character Type 28: Outlying Hills and Ridges. [Online] Available at: <https://www.nature.scot/sites/default/files/LCA/LCT%2028%20-%20Outlying%20Hills%20and%20Ridges%20-%20Final%20pdf.pdf>.

VRA F16: Meikle Tap, East Woodside and Wester Tillyshogle	
activity would be less noticeable due to the increased distance from receptors. At lower elevations in the southeastern and northern extents of the VRA many receptors would be screened from construction activity by woodland blocks, as would some receptors in the eastern extents. In the eastern extents of the VRA, the scale of change would be Medium in the eastern extents, reducing elsewhere in the VRA including from higher vantage points such as from Meikle Tap. The magnitude of change during construction is judged to be no more than Medium.	Proposed Development would be seen on land of a similar elevation to receptors and visible against the sky, although partially backclothed by far distant hills including Brimmond Hill, Hill of Keir, Auchronie Hill and the hills of Kirkhill Forest. From higher elevations of Hill of Fare, including Meikle Tap, the Proposed Development would be less noticeable due to the increased distance and backclothing by lower-lying farmland, provided by the receptors' higher vantage point. At lower elevations in the southeastern and northern extents of the VRA residential receptors and road users would be screened from the Proposed Development by woodland blocks, as would some receptors in the eastern extents. From Hill of Fare, the Proposed Development would be seen in the context of pre-existing infrastructure: the communication mast at the top of Meikle Tap and Kintore to Fetteresso 275 kV/400 kV OHL and Craigiebuckler to Tarland 132 kV OHL. To residential receptors in the eastern extents of the VRA, the Proposed Development would be seen in views to the northeast and east that take in the Craigiebuckler to Tarland 132 kV OHL, visible at a distance of approximately 1.2 km to the northeast. In the eastern extents of the VRA, the scale of change would be Medium reducing elsewhere in the VRA including from elevated areas further west such as from Meikle Tap. The magnitude of change during operation is judged to be no more than Medium.
Significance of Effect during Construction	Significance of Effect during Operation
Taking account of the High sensitivity of residential and recreational receptors and Medium magnitude of change, the visual effect arising from construction is judged to be up to Moderate (Significant) for any receptor in the VRA and for many would be less.	Taking account of the High sensitivity of residential and recreational receptors and the Medium magnitude of change, the visual effect arising from operation is judged to be up to Moderate (Significant) for any receptor in the VRA and for many would be less.

Table 9.2.137: VRA F17 - South Kirkton, Mill of Echt and Tillioch

VRA F17: South Kirkton, Mill of Echt and Tillioch	
Description of Receptor	Representative Viewpoint
Road users and residents of the properties and farmsteads of and around South Kirkton, Mill of Echt, and Tillioch, west of the Proposed Development (refer to Volume 3, Figures 9.3b.6: Visual Receptor Area, Viewpoint Locations and other Visual Receptors with Overhead Line Tower Height Zone of Theoretical Visibility (ZTV), p. 6). The VRA is located approximately 0.5 km from the Proposed Development at the closest point.	N/A
Nature of Views	
Views to the east tend to be bounded to the middle distance by the rolling landform, particularly in the eastern extents of the VRA where views are bounded at a close distance by the landform which ascends to a gently rounded high point of 100 m AOD west of South Kirkton. Views to the southwest take in the northeastern slopes of the Hill of Fare clad in conifer plantations. Views consist of farmland of arable fields and improved grassland, bounded by dry stone walls and post and wire fencing. The B977, which passes through the VRA, is lined with broadleaf trees as it passes by the Manse. There is no woodland in this VRA, although the properties around South Kirkton are surrounded by trees. Two high voltage OHLs pass	

VRA F17: South Kirkton, Mill of Echt and Tillioch

through this VRA: Kintore to Fetteresso 275 kV/400 kV OHL and Craigiebuckler to Tarland 132 kV OHL, both of which pass largely southwest to northeast, crossing one another northwest of the VRA.

Sensitivity

Residential receptors are considered to be of **High** susceptibility to changes in the view and road users are considered to be of **Low** susceptibility to changes in the view.

While not situated within any designated landscapes, the open skies, views of the Hill of Fare, and tree-lined avenue by the Manse denote value. Although the views from within this VRA are experienced by a low density of receptors, the value of these views is **Medium**.

Taking account of the judgements of susceptibility and value, sensitivity is judged to be **High** for residential receptors and **Medium** for others.

Magnitude of Change during Construction

The residential receptors and road users closest to the construction activity would see it in middle distance views to the east from a distance of approximately 950 m. The properties around Tillioch are at a higher elevation and would be afforded longer distance views towards the construction activity at a distance of approximately 1.8 km east. Visible construction activity would include use of machinery, vehicle movements, erection of steel lattice towers and lighting in hours of darkness which would be seen against the gently rolling farmland and the sky. In southeast-facing views, residential receptors in the eastern extents of the VRA would see the construction of the diamond crossing where the Proposed Development would cross over Craigiebuckler to Tarland 132 kV OHL. Visible construction activity associated with the diamond crossing would include the erection of temporary structures to divert Craigiebuckler to Tarland 132 kV OHL while the Proposed Development is being constructed, as well as reconductoring of the existing OHL. Views from the properties in the northern extents of the VRA would be screened from the construction activity by the landform that ascends eastwards.

The scale of change would be **Medium**, focused across the centre and eastern extents of the VRA

The magnitude of change during construction is judged to be no more than **Medium**.

Significance of Effect during Construction

Taking account of the **High** sensitivity of residents and the **Medium** magnitude of change, the visual effect arising from construction is judged to be no more than **Moderate (Significant)** for any receptor in the VRA and for many would be less.

Magnitude of Change during Operation

From the eastern extents of the VRA, the Proposed Development would be visible in middle distance views to the east and in the western extents of the VRA it would be seen in longer distance views. At its closest point, the VRA is located 440 m west of the Proposed Development. The Proposed Development would be seen across land of a similar elevation to many of the receptors in the VRA and would be visible on the skyline. In southeast-facing middle distance views at distances of approximately 800 m, residential receptors in the eastern extents of the VRA would see the diamond crossing where the Proposed Development would cross over the Craigiebuckler to Tarland 132 kV OHL. The diamond crossing would be a significant increase in the volume of vertical infrastructure. Views from properties in the northern extents of the VRA would be screened from the Proposed Development by the rising landform to the east, that ascends eastwards. The Proposed Development would be seen in the context of existing infrastructure in the form of the Craigiebuckler to Tarland 132 kV OHL and would appear smaller in scale due to the increased intervening distance.

The scale of change would be **Medium**, focused along the eastern extents of the VRA including from the minor road network and scattered residential properties.

The magnitude of change during operation is judged to be no more than **Medium**.

Significance of Effect during Operation

Taking account of the **High** sensitivity of residents and the **Medium** magnitude of change, the visual effect arising from operation is judged to be no more than **Moderate (Significant)** for any receptor in the VRA and for many would be less.

Table 9.2.138: VRA F18 - Knockquharn, Easter Echt, Milton of Garlogie and Lothead

VRA F18: Knockquharn, Easter Echt, Milton of Garlogie and Lothead	
Description of Receptor	Representative Viewpoint
Road users and residents of the properties and farmsteads around Knockquharn, Easter Echt, Milton of Garlogie and Lothead, as well as recreational receptors visiting Dunecht House designed landscape. The VRA is northeast of the Proposed Development (refer to Volume 3, Figures 9.3b.6: Visual Receptor Area, Viewpoint Locations and other Visual Receptors with Overhead Line Tower Height Zone of Theoretical Visibility (ZTV), p. 6). The VRA is located approximately 0.4 km from the Proposed Development at the closest point.	N/A
Nature of Views	
The landform is gently rolling and descends from northwest to southeast. As such, views from within the northern and southern extents are contained to close and middle distances by the landform and woodland blocks. Whereas views from the western extents of the VRA are more expansive with longer distance views towards the southeast, south, and southwest – the latter direction taking in views of the Hill of Fare. Views generally consist of scattered houses and farmsteads and conifer plantations and mixed ancient woodland blocks amongst farmland of arable fields and improved grassland bounded by dry stone walls, post and wire fencing, and boundary trees. The northern half of the VRA is within the designed landscape associated with Dunecht House and as such views feature parkland features, such as broadleaf tree-lined avenues. From the centre of the VRA views to the northwest take in Barmekin Hill. There is limited existing infrastructure besides occasional wood pole lines.	
Sensitivity	
Residential and recreational receptors are considered to be of High susceptibility to changes in the view and road users are considered to be of Low susceptibility to changes in the view. Much of the northern half of the VRA is within the designed landscape and ancient woodland associated with Dunecht House, while views to the southwest and northwest take in views of the Hill of Fare and Barmekin Hill respectively, denoting value. Views are considered to be Medium in value. Taking account of the judgements of susceptibility and value, sensitivity is judged to be High for residential and recreational receptors and Medium for others.	
Magnitude of Change during Construction	Magnitude of Change during Operation
From the southwestern extents of the VRA, construction activity would be visible in close-to-middle distance views to the west from the B9119 and a small number of minor roads. From the northwestern extents of the VRA, construction activity would be visible in middle distance views to the west and longer distance view to the southwest. Visible construction activity would include use of machinery, vehicle movements, creation of access tracks, erection of steel lattice towers and lighting in hours of darkness. From the northwestern extents of the VRA, construction activity would be visible across lower lying land in the southwest and across land in the west of a similar elevation to receptors. Two intervening high points to the west of the VRA and to the east of Monecht would provide some screening to receptors in the northern half of the VRA, as would the mixed woodland blocks. In the southwestern extents of the VRA, construction activity would be seen upon land of both similar and higher elevation to receptors and would be visible on the skyline while partially backclothed by the gently rolling landform. The woodland blocks that occur	In the western extents of the VRA, residential receptors would see the Proposed Development in middle-to-longer distance views to the west and southwest. From the southwestern extents of the VRA, the Proposed Development would be visible to road users and residential receptors in close-to-middle distance views to the west. At its closest point, the Proposed Development would be 370 m west from the VRA. To receptors throughout the western extents of the northern half of the VRA, the Proposed Development would be visible across lower lying land in the southwest and across land to the west of a similar elevation to receptors. The Proposed Development would be visible against the sky in places but partially backclothed by hills such as the Hill of Fare. Much of the Proposed Development would be screened by the rolling landform and woodland blocks. Throughout the eastern extents of the VRA the Proposed Development would be screened by intervening woodland and the rolling landform. To receptors in the southwestern extents, the Proposed Development would be notable in views to the west and northwest – especially so in views to the northwest as the Proposed Development would be visible on

VRA F18: Knockquharn, Easter Echt, Milton of Garlogie and Lochead	
throughout much of the southern half of the VRA would partially screen construction activity from receptors in the southwestern extents of the VRA and would screen much if not all of the construction activity from receptors in the eastern half of the VRA. The scale of change would be Small, concentrated across the southwestern and more elevated northwestern extents of the VRA. The magnitude of change during construction is judged to be no more than Low.	higher elevations to receptors and would be visible on the skyline. The Proposed Development would be screened in views to the southwest by woodland blocks. The Proposed Development would be seen in the context of existing infrastructure but would appear larger in views. The scale of change would be Medium, concentrated across the western extents of the VRA. The magnitude of change during operation is judged to be up to Medium.
Significance of Effect during Construction	Significance of Effect during Operation
Taking account of the High sensitivity of residential and recreational receptors and the Low magnitude of change, the visual effect arising from construction is judged to be no more than Minor (Not Significant).	Taking account of the High sensitivity of residential and recreational receptors and the Medium magnitude of change, the visual effect arising from operation is judged to be up to Moderate (Significant) for any receptor in this VRA, and for many receptors would be less.

Table 9.2.139: VRA F19 - Easter Culfosie, North Monecht and Meanecht

VRA F19: Easter Culfosie, North Monecht and Meanecht	
Description of Receptor	Representative Viewpoint
Residents of the properties and farmsteads and road users around Easter Culfosie, North Monecht, and Meanecht, northeast of the Proposed Development (refer to Volume 3, Figures 9.3b.6: Visual Receptor Area, Viewpoint Locations and other Visual Receptors with Overhead Line Tower Height Zone of Theoretical Visibility (ZTV), p. 6). The VRA is located immediately adjacent to the Proposed Development.	N/A
Nature of Views	
The landform is rolling, sometimes allowing for open views into the far distance and sometimes containing views to close and middle distances. Broadly, the landform descends from northwest to southeast, bar two elevated knolls atop with trees. Views to the southwest take in the Hill of Fare and views from the northern extents facing west of the VRA take in Barmekin Hill. Views consist of arable fields and improved grassland bounded by dry stone walls and post and wire fencing, as well as woodland blocks, field boundary trees, and roads lined with trees which sometimes contain views to close distances. There is limited existing infrastructure besides occasional wood pole lines.	
Sensitivity	
Residential receptors are considered to be of High susceptibility to changes in the view and road users are considered to be of Low susceptibility to changes in the view. The VRA has parkland features, such as tree-lined avenues and clusters of trees on top of elevated landforms, as the northern extents of the VRA are within the designed landscape associated with Dunecht House. These features along with the views to the Hill of Fare and Barmekin Hill denote value. Although views would be experienced by a relatively low density of receptors, views are considered to be Medium in value. Taking account of the judgements of susceptibility and value, sensitivity is judged to be High for residential receptors and Medium for others.	

VRA F19: Easter Culfosie, North Monecht and Meanecht	
Magnitude of Change during Construction	Magnitude of Change during Operation
Construction activity would be visible in close and middle distance views to the northwest, west, and southwest. Types of construction activity that would be visible include use of machinery, vehicle movements, creation of access tracks, erection of steel lattice towers and lighting in hours of darkness. This activity would be visible across gently rising landform to receptors in the northwestern extents of the VRA and across lower-lying or similar elevations to receptors in the rest of the VRA. Construction activity would be partially backclothed by the Hill of Fare in the southwest and Barmekin Hill in the west, and in some views from further north and east in the VRA intervening woodland blocks would provide partial screening. Owing to the close distance of the construction activity to residents and road users along the southern edge of the VRA and at the northwestern edge, the scale of change would be Large. The magnitude of change during construction is judged to be up to High.	The Proposed Development would be visible to residential receptors in close and middle distance views to the northwest, west and southwest as well as longer distance views to the southeast. At its closest point, the Proposed Development would be within 10 m southwest from the VRA. The Proposed Development would appear as a new and large-scale feature and would introduce significant vertical elements to views, seen upon land of both higher and lower elevations to receptors. While partially backclothed by Barmekin Hill and Hill of Fare to the west and southwest, the Proposed Development would break the horizon by a substantial height and would be visible against the sky. In the northern extents of the VRA, the Proposed Development would pass close to residential receptors at Easter Culfosie, with towers across a wide horizontal field of view. The Proposed Development would be seen in the context of a rural landscape with limited existing infrastructure besides occasional wood pole lines. The scale of change would be Large concentrated along the southern and northwestern edges of the VRA. The magnitude of change during operation is judged to be up to High.
Significance of Effect during Construction	Significance of Effect during Operation
Taking account of the High sensitivity of residents and the High magnitude of change, the visual effect arising from construction is judged to be no more than Major (Significant) for any receptor in the VRA, and for many would be less.	Taking account of the High sensitivity of residents and the High magnitude of change, the visual effect arising from operation is judged to be up to Major (Significant) for any receptor in the VRA, and for many would be less.

Table 9.2.140: VRA F20 - North Mains, Myriewell, Kirk Cottages and South Monecht

VRA F20: North Mains, Myriewell, Kirk Cottages and South Monecht	
Description of Receptor	Representative Viewpoint
Road users and residents of the properties and farmsteads around North Mains, Myriewell, Kirk Cottages and South Monecht, southwest of the Proposed Development (refer to Volume 3, Figures 9.3b.6: Visual Receptor Area, Viewpoint Locations and other Visual Receptors with Overhead Line Tower Height Zone of Theoretical Visibility (ZTV), p. 6). The VRA is located immediately adjacent to the Proposed Development.	N/A
Nature of Views	
Broadly, the landform descends south and west from a minor hill north of Myriewell Wood and is gently rolling – allowing for expansive, longer distance views in some places while containing views to close and middle distance in others. Views consist of arable fields and improved grassland bounded by dry stone walls interspersed with occasional properties, field boundary trees, shelter belts, and woodland blocks, the latter containing views to close distances. Hill of Fare can be seen in views to the southwest and Barmekin Hill to the northwest. There is limited existing infrastructure beyond occasional wood pole lines.	

VRA F20: North Mains, Myriewell, Kirk Cottages and South Monecht	
Sensitivity	
Residential receptors are considered to be of High susceptibility to changes in the view and road users are considered to be of Low susceptibility to changes in the view. While not situated within any designated landscapes, the VRA has a rural character with a rolling landform that takes in views of ancient woodland blocks, mature boundary trees, and the Hill of Fare, denoting value. Although the views from within this VRA are experienced from a low density of receptors, the value of these views is considered to be Medium in value. Taking account of the judgements of susceptibility and value, sensitivity is judged to be High for residential receptors and Medium for others.	
Magnitude of Change during Construction	Magnitude of Change during Operation
Construction activity would be visible in close and middle distance views to the north, northeast, east and southeast from road users travelling east and north along the B9119 and minor road network. Use of machinery, vehicle movements, creation of access tracks, erection of steel lattice towers and lighting in hours of darkness would be visible upon higher elevations to most residential receptors and seen against the backdrop of the rolling landform. In views from the B9119 and minor road network construction activity would appear in direct and immediate views, in channelled views along the roadways. Some of the activity would be partially screened by woodland blocks and shelter belts. The scale of change would be Large, with effects concentrated across the minor road network and properties in the northwest and in the south. The magnitude of change during construction is judged to be up to High.	Residential receptors and road users would see the Proposed Development in close and middle distance views to the north, northeast, east and southeast and in longer distance views to the north and southeast. At its closest point, the Proposed Development would be seen approximately 25 m northeast from the VRA. The Proposed Development would be partially backclothed by Barmekin Hill in views to the northwest. However, the majority of the Proposed Development would be seen at close distances and often on higher ground, breaking the horizon and visible against the sky. While the rolling landform and woodland blocks would ensure that only relatively short sections of the Proposed Development would be visible to some residential receptors, the towers would be seen as large scale features. The Proposed Development would be seen in the context of a rural landscape with limited existing infrastructure. The scale of change would be Large with effects concentrated across the minor road network and properties in the northwest and in the south. The magnitude of change during operation is judged to be up to High.
Significance of Effect during Construction	Significance of Effect during Operation
Taking account of the High sensitivity of residents and the Medium magnitude of change, the visual effect arising from construction is judged to be no more than Moderate (Significant) for any receptor in the VRA and for many would be less.	Taking account of the High sensitivity of residents and the High magnitude of change, the visual effect arising from operation is judged to be up to Major (Significant) for any receptor within the VRA and for many would be less.

Table 9.2.141: VRA F21 - Echt

VRA F21: Echt	
Description of Receptor	Representative Viewpoint
Residents of Echt and the surrounding farmsteads and properties, as well as road users, southeast of the Proposed Development (refer to Volume 3, Figures 9.3b.6: Visual Receptor Area, Viewpoint Locations and other Visual Receptors with Overhead Line Tower Height Zone of Theoretical Visibility (ZTV), p. 6). The VRA would be located approximately 0.5 km from the Proposed Development at the closest point.	VP35: Footpath north of Echt (refer to Volume 4 b, Figure 9.39a-f: VP35: Footpath north of Echt)

VRA F21: Echt

Nature of Views

Broadly, the landform descends towards the southeast and is very gently rolling, containing views to middle distances throughout much of the VRA except in the western extents where the higher elevations allow for longer distance views. Outside of Echt, views consist of gently rolling farmland of arable fields bounded by dry stone walls, post and wire fencing, and occasional boundary trees. There are occasional dwellings of farmsteads and Echt can be seen in the centre of the VRA; woodland blocks are interspersed throughout the horizon. Barmekin Hill is visible in views to the northeast and Hill of Fare to the southwest. In the southern extents of the VRA, some the roads and properties are lined and surrounded by trees. Within Echt, views are contained by buildings within the settlement, with longer distance views along the B9119, from which it is possible to see the Hill of Fare to the southwest. In the western extents of the VRA, middle distance views to the southwest take in high voltage OHLs: Kintore to Fetteresso 275 kV/400 kV and Craigiebuckler to Tarland 132 kV OHL, both of which can also be seen from the eastern extents of the VRA in more distant views to the southwest and southeast respectively.

Sensitivity

Residential receptors are considered to be of **High** susceptibility to changes in the view and road users are considered to be of **Low** susceptibility to changes in the view.

The VRA is not situated within any designated landscapes; however, the VRA has a rural character – outside of Echt the views take in wide open skies, the gently rolling landform, and the Hill of Fare, denoting value. These views are experienced by residents of Echt. Overall, these views are **Medium** in value.

Taking account of the judgements of susceptibility and value, sensitivity is judged to be **High** for residential receptors and **Medium** for others.

Magnitude of Change during Construction

Construction activity would be visible in middle distance views to the north, northeast, east, and southeast. Use of machinery, vehicle movements, creation of access tracks, erection of steel lattice towers and lighting in hours of darkness would be visible across land of a higher elevation to most receptors and partially backclothed by the gently rolling landform. Outside of Echt, there would be little screening due to the lack of intervening features, and views north from the B977 and east along the B9119 would experience direct views towards construction activity. Rising landform to the northwest would provide partial screening of lower-lying elements, although taller elements including partially built towers would be visible along the skyline. Within Echt the outlook would be more limited, with intervening buildings within the settlement providing screening in many places.

The scale of change would be **Medium**, focused within the eastern part of the VRA around the settlement of Echt and along the B9119.

The magnitude of change during construction is judged to be no more than **Medium**.

Magnitude of Change during Operation

The Proposed Development would be visible in middle distance views to the north, northeast, east. From the northern extents of the VRA, the Proposed Development would be seen in longer distance views to the northeast as multiple towers would be seen to recede into the distance. Similarly in the eastern extents of the VRA, the Proposed Development would be seen in longer distance views to the southeast. At its closest point, the Proposed Development would appear approximately 510 m northeast from the VRA. The Proposed Development would be seen as a new and large-scale feature, only partially backclothed by the gently rolling landform (see **Volume 4 b, Figure 9.39a-f: VP35: Footpath north of Echt**). The proposed towers would be seen across higher elevations to most residential receptors within the VRA and would break the horizon, visible on the skyline. Outside of Echt, there would be little screening due to the lack of intervening features. However, within Echt the buildings would provide screening in many places. The Proposed Development would be seen in the context of existing infrastructure including the Kintore to Fetteresso 275 kV/400 kV OHL and Craigiebuckler to Tarland 132 kV OHL and would appear larger in scale due to its increased proximity.

The scale of change would be **Large** focused within the eastern part of the VRA around the settlement of Echt and along the B9119.

The magnitude of change during operation is judged to be up to **High**.

Significance of Effect during Construction

Taking account of the **High** sensitivity of residents and the **Medium** magnitude of change, the visual effect arising from construction is judged to be no more than **Moderate (Significant)** for any receptor in the VRA, and for many would be less.

Significance of Effect during Operation

Taking account of the **High** sensitivity of residents and the **High** magnitude of change, the visual effect arising from operation is judged to be up to **Major (Significant)** for any receptor in the VRA, and for many would be less.

Table 9.2.142: VRA F22 - North Tillydaff, Upper Balblair, Cunningar, Mill of Hole and West Mains

VRA F22: North Tillydaff, Upper Balblair, Cunningar, Mill of Hole and West Mains	
Description of Receptor	Representative Viewpoint
Road users, recreational receptors accessing the Hill of Fare, and the residents of the properties and farmsteads around North Tillydaff, Upper Balblair, Cunningar, Mill of Hole, and West Mains, southwest of the Proposed Development (refer to Volume 3, Figures 9.3b.6: Visual Receptor Area, Viewpoint Locations and other Visual Receptors with Overhead Line Tower Height Zone of Theoretical Visibility (ZTV), p. 6). The VRA would be located approximately 1.8 km from the Proposed Development at the closest point.	N/A
Nature of Views	
Broadly, the landform descends from northwest to southeast except in the southwestern extends of the VRA which encompass the rising slopes of the Hill of Fare. The rolling landform often contains views to close and middle distances. Views consist of woodland blocks, arable fields and improved grassland bounded by dry stone walls, post and wire fencing, and occasional thickets of scrub. Blocks of commercial forestry at varying stages of regrowth are interspersed throughout the west of the VRA, sometimes containing views to closer distance. From many places within the VRA, the Hill of Fare is a prominent feature in views to the southwest, as is Barmekin Hill to the northeast. In the northern extents of the VRA views to the northwest take in the Menaway Hills in the far distance. The high voltage Craigiebuckler to Tarland 132 kV OHL passes though the central section of the VRA from southeast to northwest and can be seen in close, middle, and longer distance views throughout much of the VRA. In the eastern extents of the VRA, the high voltage Kintore to Fetteresso 275 kV/400 kV OHL can be seen in middle distance in views to the northeast, east, and southeast.	
Sensitivity	
Residential and recreational receptors have High susceptibility to changes in the view and road users are considered to be of Low susceptibility to changes in the view. While not situated within any designated landscapes, the views from within the VRA take in its rural character and nearby hills, denoting value. While the density of receptors within the VRA is relatively low; overall, these views are Medium in value. Taking account of the judgements of susceptibility and value, sensitivity is judged to be High for residential and recreational receptors and Medium for other receptors.	
Magnitude of Change during Construction	Magnitude of Change during Operation
Some construction activity would be visible to receptors in the southern half of the VRA in long distance views to the southeast and east. However, it is likely that intervening features such as vegetation and buildings would provide screening. Types of construction activity that would be partially and intermittently visible would include the erection of steel lattice towers and lighting in hours of darkness, which would be glimpsed across lower lying landform in the east and southeast; although, intervening rolling landform and vegetation would provide extensive screening. Reconductoring of the existing Craigiebuckler to Tarland 132 kV OHL would be visible in middle distance views from the east of the VRA but would not form a notable element of construction activity. The scale of change would be Barely Perceptible , concentrated across the southeast of the VRA. The magnitude of change during construction is judged to be no more than Barely Perceptible .	At its closest point, the Proposed Development would be 1.8 km northeast of the VRA. In the northern extents of the VRA, views of the Proposed Development experienced by residential receptors and road users would be limited by intervening rolling landform and commercial forestry. Residential and recreational receptors in the centre and southern half of the VRA would take in glimpsed and intermittent long-distance views of the Proposed Development to the east and southeast, although intervening features such as vegetation and buildings would provide extensive screening. Where visible, the Proposed Development would be seen in the context of existing infrastructure including the high voltage Craigiebuckler to Tarland 132 kV OHL and Kintore to Fetteresso 275 kV/400 kV OHL, compared to which the Proposed Development would appear smaller and less prominent due to the increased intervening distance. The scale of change would be Small , experienced by receptors in the southeast of the VRA. The magnitude of change during operation is judged to be no more than Low .

VRA F22: North Tillydaff, Upper Balblair, Cunningar, Mill of Hole and West Mains	
Significance of Effect during Construction	Significance of Effect during Operation
Taking account of the High sensitivity of recreational and residential receptors and the Barely Perceptible magnitude of change, the visual effect arising from construction is judged to be no more than Negligible (Not Significant) .	Taking account of the High sensitivity of recreational and residential receptors and the Low magnitude of change, the visual effect arising from operation is judged to be no more than Minor (Not Significant) .

Table 9.2.143: VRA F23 - Barmekin Hill, Barmekin Wood and surroundings

VRA F23: Barmekin Hill, Barmekin Wood and surroundings	
Description of Receptor	Representative Viewpoint
Residents and road users of the scattered properties and farmsteads along the minor road network, west of the Proposed Development (refer to Volume 3, Figures 9.3b.6: Visual Receptor Area, Viewpoint Locations and other Visual Receptors with Overhead Line Tower Height Zone of Theoretical Visibility (ZTV), p. 6). The VRA is located immediately adjacent to the Proposed Development.	VP36: Barmekin Hill (See Volume 4 b, Figure 9.40a-f: VP36: Barmekin Hill).
Nature of Views	
Broadly the landform descends eastwards and is gently rolling – allowing for expansive, longer distance views in most places. Barmekin Hill forms a prominent elevated feature at the western edge of the VRA, with descending landform to the north, east and south, allowing for extensive, longer distance and panoramic views. Views consist of arable fields and improved grassland bounded by dry stone walls interspersed with occasional properties, farmsteads, field boundary trees, shelter belts, and coniferous and mixed woodland, the latter containing views to close distances in the western area of the VRA. On Barmekin Hill (VP36, Volume 4 b, Figure 9.40a-f: VP36: Barmekin Hill), views consist of moorland and dry stone walls, extending to expansive views of the landscape. From Barmekin Hill, Hill of Fare can be seen in views to the southwest. Existing high voltage OHL are visible at distance to the west, north, and south, although there is limited existing infrastructure beyond occasional wood pole lines within the VRA.	
Sensitivity	
Residential receptors are considered to be of High susceptibility to changes in the view and road users including cyclists are considered to be of Low susceptibility to changes in the view. This VRA is not located within a designated landscape but contains a distinctive and historic viewpoint at Barmekin Hill (VP36, Volume 4 b, Figure 9.40a-f: VP36: Barmekin Hill). As such views are considered to be Medium in value. Taking account of the judgements of susceptibility and value, sensitivity is judged to be High for residents and recreational users and Medium for other visual receptors.	
Magnitude of Change during Construction	Magnitude of Change during Operation
Construction activity would be seen in close-to-middle distance views to the east from residents and road users in this VRA, at distances of approximately 0.1 km and over. Use of machinery, vehicle movements, creation of access tracks, erection of steel lattice towers and lighting in hours of darkness, forestry clearance and scaffolding would be visible to most residential receptors and seen against the backdrop of the rolling landform. Construction activity would also be seen in middle-to-longer distance easterly views from	The Proposed Development would be visible in close-to-middle distance views from residential receptors in the northeast and east of the VRA. At its closest point, the Proposed Development overlaps the VRA at the northeastern corner. With the landform descending east towards the Proposed Development, the sections of the Proposed Development visible to residential receptors along the eastern edge of the VRA would appear as large-scale features within the landscape. Towers would be clearly visible along

VRA F23: Barmekin Hill, Barmekin Wood and surroundings

Barmekin Hill (**Volume 4 b, Figure 9.40: VP36: Barmekin Hill**), entirely backclothed by lower-lying undulating farmland

The scale of change would be **Large**, focused across the eastern extents of the VRA, with lesser effects experienced from elevated areas further west.

The magnitude of change during construction is judged to be up to **High**.

the skyline, occupying a wide horizontal field of view. From further west within the VRA, longer views towards the Proposed Development would be afforded from the elevated form of Barmekin Hill (see **Volume 4 b, Figure 9.40a-f: VP36: Barmekin Hill**). In these views the towers would be noticeable but entirely backclothed by lower-lying undulating farmland, reducing the prominence of the infrastructure.

The Proposed Development would be seen in the context of more distant high voltage OHL to the north and south and would appear larger in views, increasing the influence of vertical infrastructure.

The scale of change would be **Large**, focused across the east of the VRA, with lesser effects experienced from higher elevations to the west.

The magnitude of change during operation is judged to be up to **High**.

Significance of Effect during Construction

Taking account of the **High** sensitivity of residents in the VRA, and the **High** magnitude of change, the visual effect arising from construction is judged to be up to **Major (Significant)** for any receptor in this VRA, and for some receptors would be less.

Significance of Effect during Operation

Taking account of the **High** sensitivity of residents in the VRA, and the **High** magnitude of change, the visual effect arising from operation is judged to be up to **Major (Significant)** for any receptor in this VRA, and for some receptors would be less.

Table 9.2.144: VRA F24 - Banteith, Wateridgemuir, Meikle Midmar and Nethermuir

VRA F24: Banteith, Wateridgemuir, Meikle Midmar and Nethermuir

Description of Receptor	Representative Viewpoint
Residents and road users of the clustered and scattered properties and farmsteads along the minor road network, west of the Proposed Development (refer to Volume 3, Figures 9.3b.6: Visual Receptor Area, Viewpoint Locations and other Visual Receptors with Overhead Line Tower Height Zone of Theoretical Visibility (ZTV), p. 6). The VRA is located approximately 1.4 km from the Proposed Development at its closest point.	N/A
Nature of Views Views from this VRA are varied, with undulating topography foreshortening views in places. Broadly, from the centre of the VRA the landform ascends to east and to the west, forming a shallow undulating valley within the VRA. The primarily coniferous wooded ridge at Craig-na-laoigh Wood screens long distance views to the east of the VRA. The rolling landform often contains views to close and middle distances. Views consist of woodland, arable fields, improved grassland and rough grazing bound by dry stone walls, post and wire fencing, and occasional margins of scrub. A large, primarily broadleaved woodland makes up much of the southeastern extents of the VRA. From some places in the VRA, Barmekin Hill is prominent in views to the south and southeast. In the eastern extents of the VRA, the existing Kintore to Fetteresso 275 kV/400 kV OHL can be seen from properties and the local road network in the close and middle distances in views to the northeast, east, and southeast. Wood pole lines are visible from properties and the local road network in various views throughout this VRA, including in middle and close distance in the east and north.	

VRA F24: Banteith, Wateridgemuir, Meikle Midmar and Nethermuir	
Sensitivity	
Residential and recreational receptors have High susceptibility to changes in the view and road users are considered to be of Low susceptibility to changes in the view. Although the VRA is not situated within any designated landscapes, the views take in the rural character of the VRA and nearby hills, denoting value. While the density of receptors within the VRA is relatively low, views are considered to be Medium in value. Taking account of the judgements of susceptibility and value, sensitivity is judged to be High for residential and recreational receptors and Medium for other receptors in the VRA.	
Magnitude of Change during Construction	Magnitude of Change during Operation
Due to the distance and intervening commercial forestry and rising topography east of the VRA, there would be limited visibility of construction activity. Glimpsed views of the erection of steel lattice towers and lighting in hours of darkness on the skyline would be experienced from some parts of the VRA in the west and southwest across rising landform. Construction traffic on the minor road in the north of the VRA would be visible closer to residential and farmstead receptors. Woodland and undulating landform in the foreground of views would screen construction traffic for other residential receptors further south. The scale of change would be Small, focused across the north of the VRA. The magnitude of change during construction is judged to be no more than Low.	The Proposed Development would be intermittently visible in views northeast of the VRA, seen above the intervening treeline and landform further east. Long distance views would be afforded from residential properties and along the minor road network in the northeast of the VRA, with the proposed towers appearing at distances of approximately 2.7 km. In other parts of the VRA, intervening broadleaved woodland, commercial forestry blocks, and rising topography would obscure views of the Proposed Development. Where visible, the Proposed Development would be seen beyond the existing high voltage OHL which runs along the eastern edge of the VRA and would appear much less prominent in views. The scale of change would be Small, focused across the north of the VRA. The magnitude of change during operation is judged to be no more than Low.
Significance of Effect during Construction	Significance of Effect during Operation
Taking account of the High sensitivity of residents in the VRA, and the Low magnitude of change, the visual effect arising from construction is judged to be no more than Minor (Not Significant).	Taking account of the High sensitivity of residents in the VRA, and the Low magnitude of change, the visual effect arising from operation is judged to be no more than Minor (Not Significant).

Table 9.2.145: VRA F25 – Dunecht Village and surroundings

VRA F25: Dunecht Village and surroundings	
Description of Receptor	Representative Viewpoint
Residents and road users of Dunecht village, and scattered properties and farmsteads along the minor road network, east of the Proposed Development (refer to Volume 3, Figures 9.3b.6: Visual Receptor Area, Viewpoint Locations and other Visual Receptors with Overhead Line Tower Height Zone of Theoretical Visibility (ZTV), p. 6). The VRA is located immediately adjacent to the Proposed Development.	VP37: Dunecht near the Primary School (see Volume 4 b, Figure 9.41a-i: VP37: Dunecht near the primary school)

VRA F25: Dunecht Village and surroundings

Nature of Views

Broadly the landform is gently undulating – allowing for middle-to-longer distance views in most places. The A944 and village of Dunecht sit within a shallow valley along Corskie Burn in the centre of the VRA, with views channelled east and west along the valley. Gently rising landform north and south of Corskie Burn curtails longer distance views in these directions, as do the elevated forms of Hill of Corskie in the north and Hind Hill in the south of the VRA. Across the VRA, scattered properties are situated on elevations that face southwest, west, and northwest.

Views consist of arable fields and improved grassland bounded by dry stone walls and post and wire fences interspersed with occasional properties, farmsteads, field boundary trees, and broadleaved woodland. Field boundary trees and broadleaved woodland contain views west in some places. Structures within the village of Dunecht (VP37, **Volume 4 b, Figure 9.41a-i: VP37: Dunecht near the primary school**) and surroundings contain westerly views from further east within the settlement and along the A994. In the south of the VRA, Barmekin Hill is a prominent feature in views to the southwest.

In the north of the VRA, the existing Kintore to Fetteresso 275 kV/400 kV OHL can be seen from properties and the local road network in the middle and longer distances in views to the north and northwest. Wood pole lines are visible from properties and the local road network in various views throughout this VRA, and there are some small industrial/commercial buildings associated with Dunecht Village.

Sensitivity

Residential receptors are considered to be of **High** susceptibility to changes in the view and road users including cyclists are considered to be of **Low** susceptibility to changes in the view.

This VRA is not located within a designated landscape, but the southern extent is within the designed landscape and ancient woodland associated with Dunecht House, while views to the southwest take in views of Barmekin Hill, denoting value. As such views are considered to be **Medium** in value.

Taking account of the judgements of susceptibility and value, sensitivity is judged to be **High** for residents and **Medium** for other visual receptors.

Magnitude of Change during Construction

Construction activity would be seen in close and middle distance views to the west from residents and road users in this VRA, with some construction activity associated with the creation of temporary or upgraded access tracks situated west of the B977 and south of the A944.

Use of machinery, vehicle movements, creation of access tracks, restoration of existing access, forestry clearance, erection of steel lattice towers and lighting in hours of darkness and scaffolding would be visible to residential receptors within Dunecht and its surroundings and would be visible across more elevated landform to the west and seen against a backdrop of rolling landform and mixed woodland blocks. Construction activity would be seen in close-to-middle distance westerly views from Dunecht as the Proposed Alignment passes along the western edge of the VRA. From residential properties across more elevated landform along the B977 in the south of the VRA, construction activity would be clearly visible to the west and northwest, mostly backclothed by lower-lying undulating fields.

The scale of change would be **Large**, focused across the west of the VRA.

The magnitude of change during construction is judged to be no more than **High**.

Magnitude of Change during Operation

Residential receptors and road users west of Dunecht would see the Proposed Development in close-to-middle distance views to the north, northwest, west and southwest. At its closest point, road users travelling west along the A944 would pass directly underneath the Proposed Development. Due to the proximity, lack of intervening landform and woodland, the Proposed Development would be visible to residential receptors to the west and northwest as it crosses the shallow valley of Corskie Burn and ascends rising landform to the north (VP37, **Volume 4 b, Figure 9.41a-i: VP37: Dunecht near the primary school**). In these views the proposed towers would form new and notable features in the agricultural landscape and would be clearly visible on the skyline to the west. An area of cleared forestry (infrastructure and management felling) on the western corner of Tillyfoddie Wood would also be visible from the A944 and from the western edge of Dunecht. This felling would result in a new area of exposed ground which would form a notable feature in views west towards the Proposed Development.

From elevated areas in the north and south of the VRA, views towards the Proposed Development would be from higher vantage points, increasing the extent of backclothing by more distant lower-lying landform, and thus reducing the prominence of the infrastructure. From further east within the VRA, the Proposed Development would become increasingly filtered by roadside vegetation and intervening buildings.

VRA F25: Dunecht Village and surroundings	
	The Proposed Development would be seen in the context of the existing wood pole lines, and in the northwest of the VRA would be seen in front of the Kintore to Fetteresso 275 kV/400 kV OHL. The scale of change would be Large focused across the west of the VRA. The magnitude of change during operation is judged to be up to High.
Significance of Effect during Construction	Significance of Effect during Operation
Taking account of the High sensitivity of residents in the VRA, and the High magnitude of change, the visual effect arising from construction is judged to be up to Major (Significant) for any receptor in this VRA, and for some receptors would be less.	Taking account of the High sensitivity of residents in the VRA, and the High magnitude of change, the visual effect arising from operation is judged to be up to Major (Significant) for any receptor in this VRA, and for some receptors would be less.

Table 9.2.146: VRA F26 - Warton Loch, Dunecht House and surroundings

VRA F26: Warton Loch, Dunecht House and surroundings	
Description of Receptor	Representative Viewpoint
Residents, recreational users and road users, including properties on the Dunecht Estate and Dunecht House, to the east of the Proposed Development (refer to Volume 3, Figures 9.3b.6: Visual Receptor Area, Viewpoint Locations and other Visual Receptors with Overhead Line Tower Height Zone of Theoretical Visibility (ZTV), p. 6). The VRA is located approximately 0.5 km from the Proposed Development at its closest point.	N/A
Nature of Views	
The landform is gently rolling, generally ascending from the centre of the VRA to the edges. Mixed woodland, broadleaved woodland, coniferous and deciduous tree avenues and scattered parkland trees are present across most of the VRA and surrounding landscape. As such, views from within the majority of the VRA are contained to close and middle distances by the surrounding landform and woodland. There are more expansive views west from the minor road network and some residential properties in the far northern and southern sections of the VRA, however residential views are partially screened by trees. Views to the south of the VRA are longer distance and filtered by intervening landform and vegetation. The majority of the VRA is within the designed landscape associated with the Dunecht House GDL and as such views feature parkland features, such as broadleaf tree-lined avenues, woodland, designed gardens, scattered properties and a golf course (see Volume 4 e, Figure: 10.35a-c: CH33: Dunecht House GDL and Figure: 10.36a-f: CH34: Dunecht House (LB 3133) / Dunecht House GDL (GDL 153)). There is limited infrastructure besides polytunnels at Springhill Nurseries, which are screened by trees.	
Sensitivity	
Residential and recreational receptors are considered to be of High susceptibility to changes in the view and road users including cyclists are considered to be of Low susceptibility to changes in the view. Much of the VRA is within the designed landscape and ancient woodland associated with Dunecht House, while views to the southwest take in views of Barmekin Hill, denoting value. Views are considered to be Medium in value. Taking account of the judgements of susceptibility and value, sensitivity is judged to be High for residential and recreational receptors and Medium for others.	

VRA F26: Warton Loch, Dunecht House and surroundings	
Magnitude of Change during Construction	Magnitude of Change during Operation
From much of the VRA, views of construction activity would be screened by intervening high points to the west and southwest of the VRA, and by the woodland blocks, tree avenues and boundary trees. It is unlikely that construction activity would be viewed by receptors in much of the VRA, and construction traffic would be limited or not present due to the private nature of the road network within the VRA. Construction activity would be seen in intermittent middle-to-longer distance views to the west from residents and road users in the southwest of the VRA, at distances of approximately 0.6 km at the closest points. Intervening lines of trees would filter views, and lower-lying elements of construction activity would be mostly to entirely screened. Taller elements, including partially constructed towers and lighting in hours of darkness would be glimpsed above the intervening landform and treeline to the west and southwest. The scale of change resulting from the construction activity would be Small, with effects concentrated across the southwest of the VRA. The magnitude of change during construction is judged to be no more than Low.	From much of the VRA, views of the Proposed Development experienced by residential and recreational receptors and road users would be limited by intervening rolling landform and woodland to the west, with tree avenues and boundary trees, including within the Dunecht House GDL, providing additional screening. In the southwest of the VRA residential and recreational receptors and road users would have partial and intermittent middle distance views of the Proposed Development to the west and southwest, although intervening blocks of woodland would filter views, and the proposed towers would be mostly backclothed by the rising form of Barmekin Hill. The upper section of the towers would be visible for some residential and recreational users in the southwest of the VRA. The majority of residential receptors are screened by intervening woodland, or by close distance trees around the properties. The scale of change resulting from the introduction of the Proposed Development would be Small with effects concentrated across the southwest of the VRA The magnitude of change during operation is judged to be no more than Low.
Significance of Effect during Construction	Significance of Effect during Operation
Taking account of the High sensitivity of residents and recreational users in the VRA, and the Low magnitude of change, the visual effect arising from construction is judged to be no more than Minor (Not Significant).	Taking account of the High sensitivity of residents and recreational users in the VRA, and the Low magnitude of change, the visual effect arising from operation is judged to be no more than Minor (Not Significant).

Table 9.2.147: VRA F27 – Lyne of Skene, Balmuir Wood and Knockquarn Lodge

VRA F27: Lyne of Skene, Balmuir Wood and Knockquarn Lodge	
Description of Receptor	Representative Viewpoint
Residents of the settlement of Lyne of Skene, Skene House and other properties to the south, and road users on the A944 and B9126, all to the east of the Proposed Development (refer to Volume 3, Figures 9.3b.6: Visual Receptor Area, Viewpoint Locations and other Visual Receptors with Overhead Line Tower Height Zone of Theoretical Visibility (ZTV), p. 6). The VRA is located approximately 1 km from the Proposed Development at its closest point.	None
Nature of Views	
The landform is gently rolling, ascending from the centre of the VRA to the southern, eastern and western edges. Views are varied, with the undulating landform allowing for expansive, longer distance views in many areas of the VRA, with topography and woodland containing close and middle distance views in others. Views consist of arable fields and improved grassland bounded by post and wire fence and dry stone walls interspersed with occasional properties, farmsteads, field boundary trees, coniferous shelter belts, and coniferous and mixed woodland blocks. Coniferous shelterbelts and woodland blocks contain views to close distances in the western and southern areas of the VRA. Undulating topography and	

VRA F27: Lyne of Skene, Balmuir Wood and Knockquarn Lodge

additional woodland and shelterbelts to the west of the VRA would curtail longer views west for much of the residential receptors in the VRA. There are more expansive views west from the A944, minor roads and some residential properties in the wests of the VRA.

In the north and east of the VRA, the existing high voltage 275 kV OHL can be seen from properties and the local road network in the middle and longer distances in views to the north, northeast and east. Wood pole lines are visible from properties and the local road network in various views throughout this VRA.

Sensitivity

Residential and recreational receptors are considered to be of **High** susceptibility to changes in the view and road users are considered to be of **Low** susceptibility to changes in the view. The designed landscape and woodland associated with Skene House is present in the centre of the VRA, with the designed landscape and ancient woodland associated with Dunecht House present in the south of the VRA. Views are considered to be **Medium** in value.

Taking account of the judgements of susceptibility and value, sensitivity is judged to be **High** for residential and recreational receptors and **Medium** for others.

Magnitude of Change during Construction

From much of the VRA, views of construction activity would be screened by intervening elevated landform to the west, southwest and northwest of the VRA, and by the woodland blocks, coniferous shelterbelts and boundary trees. Views from much of the VRA would have screened outlooks towards the west. Residential and farmstead receptors along the A944 and along the western edge of the VRA would experience closer views of construction traffic on the A944 and minor road network, although undulating landform to the west would screen lower-lying elements of construction. Construction activity would be seen in middle-to-long distance views to the west from residents and road users in the west of the VRA, at distances of approximately 1.3 km at the closest points. Intervening mixed woodland blocks and shelterbelts would filter views. Use of machinery, vehicle movements, creation of access tracks, erection of steel lattice towers and lighting in hours of darkness would be partially visible across the undulating landscape to the west.

The scale of change resulting from construction activity would be **Small**, concentrated across the western extents of the VRA.

The magnitude of change during construction is judged to be no more than **Low**.

Significance of Effect during Construction

Taking account of the **High** sensitivity of residents and recreational users in the VRA, and the **Low** magnitude of change, the visual effect arising from construction is judged to be no more than **Minor (Not Significant)** for any receptor in this VRA, and for some receptors would be less.

Magnitude of Change during Operation

From much of the VRA, views of the Proposed Development would be limited by intervening rolling landform and woodland, shelterbelts and boundary trees, which would filter westerly outlooks. In the west of the VRA at Bogentry Wood, and along the A944, residential receptors and road users would be afforded glimpsed longer distance views towards the Proposed Development to the west and northwest, at distances of 1.4 km at the closest point. Intervening features such as boundary and roadside vegetation, and blocks of mixed woodland would provide extensive screening. The upper portions of the proposed towers would be visible for some residential and recreational users in the west of the VRA, visible above the intervening treeline. Outward views from the majority of residential receptors would be screened by intervening woodland and landform, and enclosing vegetation at the peripheries of the properties.

The Proposed Development would be seen in the context of existing vertical infrastructure, including wood pole lines, and existing high voltage OHL to the north.

The scale of change resulting from the introduction of the Proposed Development would be **Small**.

The magnitude of change during operation is judged to be no more than **Low**.

Significance of Effect during Operation

Taking account of the **High** sensitivity of residents and recreational users in the VRA, and the **Low** magnitude of change, the visual effect arising from operation is judged to be no more than **Minor (Not Significant)** for any receptor in this VRA, and for some receptors would be less.

Table 9.2.148: VRA F28 - Courtcairn, Sauchen, West Kinnernie, West Achath and surroundings

VRA F28: Courtcairn, Sauchen, West Kinnernie, West Achath and surroundings	
Description of Receptor	Representative Viewpoint
Residents and road users of the clustered and scattered properties and farmsteads along the minor road network and A944, west of the Proposed Development (refer to Volume 3, Figures 9.3b.6: Visual Receptor Area, Viewpoint Locations and other Visual Receptors with Overhead Line Tower Height Zone of Theoretical Visibility (ZTV), p. 6). The VRA is located approximately 0.4 km from the Proposed Development at its closest point.	N/A
Nature of Views	
Views from this VRA are varied, with undulating topography foreshortening views in places. There are several hills within and adjacent to the VRA, with properties located at various elevations within the VRA. From some places in the VRA, Gallow Hill is prominent in views to the northwest, and Lumphanan Hill is prominent in views to the east and northeast. The various hills within and adjacent to the VRA screen middle-to-long distance views east. The rolling landform often contains views to the fore and middle ground. Views consist of arable fields, improved grassland, coniferous, mixed and broadleaved woodland blocks, shelterbelts and occasional scrub. Fields are bounded by a mix of dry stone walls and post and wire fencing. Extensive woodland blocks and shelterbelts on the eastern edge of the VRA contain longer distance easterly views. Elevated areas in the northern extents of the VRA are afforded longer distance views to the east. These views take in the existing Kintore to Fetteresso 275 kV/400 kV OHL and are filtered by mixed woodland blocks and shelterbelts. In the southeastern extents of the VRA, the existing Kintore to Fetteresso 275 kV/400 kV OHL can be seen from properties and the A944 in close, middle and long distance views to the east, and southeast. Wood pole lines are visible from properties and the local road network in various views throughout this VRA, including in middle and close distance in the centre and south. Craigenlow Quarry, an active granite quarry, is situated in the southeast of the VRA, and is relatively screened by landform and woodland blocks.	
Sensitivity	
Residential receptors are considered to be of High susceptibility to changes in the view and road users including cyclists are considered to be of Low susceptibility to changes in the view. This VRA is not located within a designated landscape. The southern edge of the Castle Fraser designed landscape is located in the northern extent of the VRA. Views from the southern section include existing high voltage OHL infrastructure. As such, views are considered to be Medium in value. Taking into account judgements of susceptibility and value, sensitivity is judged to be High for residential receptors and Medium for other visual receptors in the VRA.	
Magnitude of Change during Construction	Magnitude of Change during Operation
Due to the distance and intervening rising topography, woodland and shelterbelts, there would be limited visibility of construction activity. Glimpsed and partial easterly views of taller elements of construction activity including the erection of steel lattice towers, movements of cranes, and lighting in hours of darkness on the skyline would be experienced from more elevated parts of the VRA. Taller elements would be mostly screened by intervening vegetation and would only be partially visible above the treeline. There would be longer distance channelled views towards construction activity experienced by road users travelling east along the A94, at the eastern edge of the VRA. Construction traffic on the minor road network and A944 would be visible closer to residential and farmstead receptors. Woodland and undulating landform in the close distance would screen views of construction traffic for other residential receptors.	The Proposed Development would be viewed above the intervening treelines and landform in longer distance views from residential properties and along the minor road network in the eastern extents of the VRA in views to the southeast, at a distance of around 2 km. The majority of the proposed towers would be screened by the intervening features, with only tops of towers and cables perceptible above the treeline. In other parts of the VRA, including from lower elevations along Kinnernie Burn in the southeastern extents of the VRA, the intervening deciduous and coniferous woodland blocks, shelterbelts and topography would obscure views of the Proposed Development. The Proposed Development would be seen in the context of existing vertical infrastructure, beyond the existing high voltage OHL which crosses the eastern edge of the VRA.

VRA F28: Courtcairn, Sauchen, West Kinnernie, West Achath and surroundings	
The scale of change resulting from construction activity would be Small , concentrated within the southeastern extents of the VRA. The magnitude of change during construction is judged to be no more than Low .	The scale of change resulting from the introduction of the Proposed Development would be Small , concentrated across the northeast elevated areas of the VRA. The magnitude of change during operation is judged to be no more than Low .
Significance of Effect during Construction	Significance of Effect during Operation
Taking account of the High sensitivity of residents in the VRA, and the Low magnitude of change, the visual effect arising from construction is judged to be no more than Minor (Not Significant) .	Taking account of the High sensitivity of residents in the VRA, and the Low magnitude of change, the visual effect arising from operation is judged to be no more than Minor (Not Significant) .

Table 9.2.149: VRA F29 - Lauchintilly and Glack

VRA F29: Lauchintilly and Glack	
Description of Receptor	Representative Viewpoint
Residents in scattered detached properties and farmsteads along the minor road network, and clusters of residences near Acharth House and Tillybin northwest of the Proposed Development (refer to Volume 3, Figures 9.3b.6: Visual Receptor Area, Viewpoint Locations and other Visual Receptors with Overhead Line Tower Height Zone of Theoretical Visibility (ZTV), p. 6). The VRA would be located approximately 0.3 km from the Proposed Development at the closest point.	N/A
Nature of Views	
Views from within this VRA are varied, with views over the undulating agricultural land (arable and pasture), interspersed with blocks of coniferous woodland and heathland. The undulating topography restricts views in places, although these are more open towards the southeast in the centre of the VRA. In places, longer distance visibility is afforded, including towards rolling hills south of Kinernie Burn in views to the south. These views are experienced by road users and residents along the minor road network to Lauchintilly, Glack and Tillybin. In the southwest and northeast of the VRA larger coniferous woodland blocks at Glack Hill and Firley Moss restrict views and create a greater sense of enclosure. The presence of scrub and rough pasture creates a sense of naturalness in some views. However, existing vertical infrastructure including OHLs and wood pole lines visible on the skylines detract from this. This includes an OHL which runs through the VRA in the south providing near distance views of steel lattice towers.	
Sensitivity	
Residential receptors are considered to be of High susceptibility to changes in the view and road users including cyclists are considered to be of Low susceptibility to changes in the view. This VRA is not located within a designated landscape, nor takes in any particularly distinctive viewpoints. However, the undulating landform, woodland blocks, scrubby heath and rough pasture, as well as the irregular field pattern add a sense of naturalness and rurality. This is somewhat detracted by the presence of existing OHLs. As such views are considered to be Medium in value. Taking account of the judgements of susceptibility and value, sensitivity is judged to be High for residents and Medium for other visual receptors within the VRA.	

VRA F29: Lauchintilly and Glack	
Magnitude of Change during Construction	Magnitude of Change during Operation
Construction activity would be visible at distances of approximately 0.7 km and over in the centre of the VRA at Lauchentilly and Nether Lauchentilly, where downwards sloping topography offers more open views to the southeast in the direction of the Proposed Development. From this part of the VRA, construction activity including erection of steel lattice towers, creation of temporary access tracks, vehicle movements and lighting in hours of darkness would be visible in the middle distance views to the southeast. Construction activity includes access upgrades and creation of a temporary stone access track within the VRA south from Lauchintilly Farm. Elsewhere in the VRA, intervening topography at Glack Hill and Hillhead constrain views southeast towards the Proposed Development. Intervening coniferous vegetation in the southwest at Glack hill further reduce visibility. Therefore, views of construction would be limited. The scale of change resulting from construction activity is judged to be Medium and would be focused within the central part of the VRA around Lauchentilly and Nether Lauchentilly and the connecting minor road network. The magnitude of change during construction is judged to be no more than Medium.	The Proposed Development would be visible at distances of approximately 0.7 km and over to centre of the VRA in views to the southeast. From these parts of the VRA, the Proposed Development would be seen in middle distance views to the southeast, as well as in more distant views south (at Lauchentilly) and north (at Nether Lauchentilly). In these views, the steel lattice towers would appear as large scale vertical features below a skyline formed by rolling hills. Some towers would be seen breaking the skyline. Elsewhere in the VRA, intervening topography at Glack Hill and Hillhead would largely constrain views southeast towards the Proposed Development. Intervening coniferous vegetation in the southwest at Glack Hill further reduce visibility. There would be glimpsed views of the Proposed Development above the skyline in places. Further south within the VRA, including around Mains of Careston and Careston Castle, views of the Proposed Development would be more heavily filtered by broadleaf woodland. Further southwest, around Waterston and Noranbank, views of the Proposed Development would largely be screened by the intervening ridgeline near Hilton of Fern to the north. The scale of change resulting from the introduction of the Proposed Development is judged to be Large and would be focused within the northern part of the VRA around Careston and the minor road to the west of Careston. The magnitude of change during operation is judged to be up to High.
Significance of Effect during Construction	Significance of Effect during Operation
Taking account of the High sensitivity of residents in the VRA, and the Medium magnitude of change, the visual effect arising from construction is judged to be no more than Moderate (Significant) for any receptor in the VRA and for many would be less.	Taking account of the High sensitivity of residents in the VRA, and the High magnitude of change, the visual effect arising from operation is judged to be up to Major (Significant) for any receptor in the VRA and for many would be less.

Table 9.2.150: VRA F30 - Backhill of Glack to Leylodge

VRA F30: Backhill of Glack to Leylodge	
Description of Receptor	Representative Viewpoint
Residents in isolated farms and properties along the minor road network northwest of the Proposed Development. This long, narrow VRA extends from Corskie in the south past Firley Moss to the Kintore substation in the north (refer to Volume 3, Figures 9.3b.6: Visual Receptor Area, Viewpoint Locations and other Visual Receptors with Overhead Line Tower Height Zone of Theoretical Visibility (ZTV), p. 6). The VRA would be located immediately adjacent to the Proposed Development.	N/A

VRA F30: Backhill of Glack to Leylodge

Nature of Views

Views from the minor road network within this VRA are generally open over the gently sloping farmland, with longer distance views restricted by large blocks of coniferous and mixed woodland including Firley Moss and the edge of Harthills Plantation. Rolling topography, whilst low lying, foreshortens views in places, with views south in the southern part of the VRA particularly limited by Corskie Hill. The minor road network is mostly focused in the centre of the VRA, where views are more open towards the south (further south) and to the north (further north). Trees along the narrow lanes filter and screen views in places.

A number of existing high voltage OHLs are visible from properties and from the local road network in various views throughout this VRA, including in middle and distant views along the skyline and in up close.

Sensitivity

Residential receptors are considered to be of **High** susceptibility to changes in the view and road users including cyclists are considered to be of **Low** susceptibility to changes in the view.

This VRA is not located within a designated landscape, nor takes in any particularly distinctive viewpoints. Frequent large woodland blocks, rolling landform and medium scale field pattern add a sense of naturalness. Views to the southeast incorporate some moorland views which further add to a sense of naturalness. As such views are considered to be **Medium** in value.

Taking account of the judgements of susceptibility and value, sensitivity is judged to be **High** for residents and **Medium** for other visual receptors within the VRA.

Magnitude of Change during Construction

Construction activity would be visible at distances of up to 0.7 km to the northeast, east, south east and south. Throughout the majority of the VRA, construction activity including erection of steel lattice towers, creation and upgrading of temporary access tracks, vehicle movements and lighting in hours of darkness would be visible in near distance views. In places ground level activity, would be filtered by intervening trees and woodland. In the north, east of Leylodge, additional changes would include the dismantling of an existing OHL which runs through the VRA and construction of the realigned OHL along the eastern edge of the VRA.

The scale of change resulting from construction activity is judged to be **High**, and would be experienced throughout the VRA, with the exception of the minor lane north of woodland at Firley Moss. The scale of change would be particularly noticeably in the north, which includes construction of two OHLs and dismantling of an existing one.

The magnitude of change during construction is judged to be no more than **High**.

Significance of Effect during Construction

Taking account of the **High** sensitivity of residents in the VRA, and the **High** magnitude of change, the visual effect arising from construction is judged to be up to **Major (Significant)** for any receptor in the VRA and for many would be less.

Magnitude of Change during Operation

The Proposed Development would be visible at distances of approximately up to 0.7 km across the VRA. The Proposed Development would be seen in near distance views to the east, northeast and southeast, as well as in more distant views to the north (from the southern part of the VRA) and south from the north of the VRA. In near distance views, the steel lattice towers would appear as large scale vertical features, contrasting with the generally flat to gently rolling skyline. In limited places particularly within the centre of the VRA, intervening vegetation would filter close views of the Proposed Development.

The scale of change resulting from the introduction of the Proposed Development is judged to be **Large** and would be experienced throughout the VRA.

The magnitude of change during operation is judged to be up to **High**.

Significance of Effect during Operation

Taking account of the **High** sensitivity of residents in the VRA, and the **High** magnitude of change, the visual effect arising from operation is judged to be up to **Major (Significant)** for any receptor in the VRA and for many would be less.

Table 9.2.151: VRA F31 - Westhill

VRA F31: Westhill	
Description of Receptor	Representative Viewpoint
Residents and employees in scattered and small clusters of farms and properties along the minor road network south and east of the Proposed Development (refer to Volume 3, Figures 9.3b.6: Visual Receptor Area, Viewpoint Locations and other Visual Receptors with Overhead Line Tower Height Zone of Theoretical Visibility (ZTV), p. 6). The Proposed Development would be located immediately adjacent to the Proposed Development.	N/A
Nature of Views	
Views within the VRA are varied owing to the change in elevation associated with the hill landform, and presence of coniferous woodlands at lower elevation. In places, elevated locations afford open and expansive views across the surrounding rolling farmed and wooded landscape to the south, where hilly landform provides an undulating skyline. In the southeast, there is a sense of enclosure, with views to the south and east restricted by large coniferous woodland blocks and to the northwest by rising landform. A number of existing high voltage OHLs are visible from properties and from the local road network throughout this VRA.	
Sensitivity	
Residential receptors are considered to be of High susceptibility to changes in the view and road users including cyclists are considered to be of Low susceptibility to changes in the view. This VRA is not located within a designated landscape, nor does it take in any particularly distinctive viewpoints. Frequent large woodland blocks, rolling landform and medium scale field pattern add a degree of naturalness. As such views are considered to be Medium in value. Taking account of the judgements of susceptibility and value, sensitivity is judged to be High for residents and Medium for other visual receptors.	
Magnitude of Change during Construction	Magnitude of Change during Operation
From the section of minor lanes that runs from the road network towards Wester Letter Steading and the minor road networks near Wardes Cottages, construction activity would be visible in closer views at a distance of over 200 m to the north and west. This includes closer views of erection of steel lattice towers, creation and upgrading of temporary access tracks, vehicle movements and lighting in hours of darkness. In the north of the VRA, creation and upgrading of access tracks is particularly prevalent and closer views due to constructions traffic would also be experienced. In the north of the VRA there would be some construction activity associated with the realignment of an existing OHL. From the south of the VRA, construction works would be seen in middle distant views to the south, however with some of these views likely to be fully or partially screened by intervening mixed woodland, scattered trees and topography. Elsewhere, the rising topography to the summit of Westhill restricts views of construction of the Proposed Development. The scale of change resulting from construction activity is judged to be Large , although spatially restricted to the western and northern parts of the VRA.	The Proposed Development would be seen in close distance views from residential properties and along the minor road in the western half of the VRA, in views to the west. Further east, the Proposed Development would be mostly screened by the rising landform which foreshortens views. In the south of the VRA, some elevated positions offer long ranging views to the south, where the Proposed Development would be seen in the middle and far distance, at distances of over 0.7 km. Due to the proposed size and scale of the steel lattice towers, the Proposed Development would be visible above the rising landform in the west of the VRA and woodland blocks to the south. The tops of the towers above the treeline and skyline would form the visible extent of the Proposed Development from large parts of the VRA. Around Wester Letter Steading and Wardes Cottages, their elevated positions compared to the Proposed Development would experience greater intervisibility with the steel lattice towers. A permanent access track that would ascend the eastern side of Drum Hill would also be partially visible from northern extents of the VRA. In the north, realignment of an existing OHL would provide an additional new OHL closer to this VRA in views to the east.

VRA F31: Westhill	
The magnitude of change during construction is judged to be up to High .	The Proposed Development would be seen in the context of existing vertical infrastructure, including existing high voltage OHLs. In comparison to the existing vertical infrastructure, the Proposed Development would be notably higher and larger scale than the existing elements and viewed at notably closer distances in most places. This would result in an increase in the influence of vertical infrastructure in views from residents and road users in this VRA. The scale of change resulting from the introduction of the Proposed Development is judged to be Large, experienced from across the west and north of the VRA. The magnitude of change during operation is judged to be up to High.
Significance of Effect during Construction	Significance of Effect during Operation
Taking account of the High sensitivity of residents in the VRA, and the High magnitude of change, the visual effect arising from construction is judged to be up to Major (Significant) for any receptor, and for many receptors would be less.	Taking account of the High sensitivity of residents in the VRA, and the High magnitude of change, the visual effect arising from operation is judged to be up to Major (Significant) for any receptor and for many receptors would be less.

Table 9.2.152: VRA F32 - Womblehill, Burnside, Upper Terryvale and Glasgoforest

VRA F32: Womblehill, Burnside, Upper Terryvale and Glasgoforest	
Description of Receptor	Representative Viewpoint
Residents and road users of the clustered and scattered properties and farmsteads along the B977 and minor road network (refer to Volume 3, Figures 9.3b.6: Visual Receptor Area, Viewpoint Locations and other Visual Receptors with Overhead Line Tower Height Zone of Theoretical Visibility (ZTV), p. 6). The Proposed Development would be located approximately 580 m from the VRA at the closest point.	None
Nature of Views	
Views from this VRA are varied, with undulating topography foreshortening views in places, whilst in more elevated areas more expansive views over the gently rolling farmland to the east are afforded. The small to medium scale field pattern and blocks of woodland break up views in places. From the northwestern extents of the VRA, some locations at the tops of slopes offer long distance views west over the surrounding gently rolling farmland towards the Bennachie Hills, which form a distinctive backdrop. A number of existing high voltage OHLs are visible from properties and from the local road network in various views throughout this VRA, including in middle and close distance in the north and in the middle and far distance further south.	
Sensitivity	
Residential receptors are considered to be of High susceptibility to changes in the view and road users including cyclists are considered to be of Low susceptibility to changes in the view. This VRA is not located within a designated landscape, nor takes in any particularly distinctive viewpoints, although occasional views do take in distant views of Bennachie SLA to the east. Rolling farmed landscape is interrupted by woodland belts, as well as road and industrial infrastructure which reduces the sense of naturalness. As such views are considered to be Medium in value.	

VRA F32: Womblehill, Burnside, Upper Terryvale and Glasgoforest

Taking account of the judgements of susceptibility and value, sensitivity is judged to be **High** for residents and **Medium** for other visual receptors.

Magnitude of Change during Construction	Magnitude of Change during Operation
Due to the distance and intervening rising topography, there would be limited visibility of construction activity. Glimpsed views of the erection of steel lattice towers and lighting in hours of darkness on the skyline would be experienced from some parts of the VRA. In the west of the VRA, round Burnside Cottages, upgrades to an access track within the VRA would be visible, including an increase in constructions traffic. Further north, in the east of the VRA, construction of a sealing end compound, associated with undergrounding of an existing OHL forms part of the mitigation for the Proposed Development. There would be some intervisibility with this in the northern extents of the VRA. The scale of change resulting from the construction activity would be Medium, experienced from across the west of the VRA from the minor road network and scattered residential properties, with smaller changes experienced from the east and north of the VRA. The magnitude of change during construction is judged to be no more than Medium.	The Proposed Development would be visible at distances of approximately 0.8 km and over from the east, northeast, and southeast from this VRA. From the minor road and small settlements and farmsteads along the B977 including Burnside and Fornetsyde, road users and residents would experience middle distance views of the tops of steel lattice towers visible on the skyline. The realignment of an existing OHL would also be visible from this part of the VRA although this would not be a noticeable change from the existing OHL currently visible. Further east, at higher elevations, more expansive views would have intervisibility with the Proposed Development, which would be visible in direct and oblique views the middle and far distance to the west and southwest. The Proposed Development would be viewed in the context of existing OHLs and vertical features, although would be of a larger scale. In the north, views north would take in the sealing end compound associated with additional undergrounding of an existing OHL. From Burnside, this would be viewed at a distance of approximately 0.3 km, although would be seen in the context of existing steel lattice towers associated with existing OHLs. The scale of change resulting from the introduction of the Proposed Development would be Medium, experienced from the minor road network, B977 and scattered residential properties in the west of the VRA. The magnitude of change during operation is judged to be no more than Medium.
Significance of Effect during Construction	Significance of Effect during Operation
Taking account of the High sensitivity of residents in the VRA, and the Medium magnitude of change, the visual effect arising from construction is judged to be no more than Moderate (Significant) for any receptor, and for many receptors would be less.	Taking account of the High sensitivity of residents in the VRA, and the Medium magnitude of change, the visual effect arising from operation is judged to be no more than Moderate (Significant) for any receptor, and for many receptors would be less.

Table 9.2.153: VRA F33 - Leylodge and surroundings

VRA F33: Leylodge and surroundings	
Description of Receptor	Representative Viewpoint
Residents in scattered and small clusters of properties along the B977 and road users between Tuach Burn and Park Burn, east of the Proposed Development (refer to Volume 3, Figures 9.3b.6: Visual Receptor Area, Viewpoint Locations and other Visual Receptors with Overhead Line Tower Height Zone of Theoretical Visibility (ZTV), p. 6). The Proposed Development would be located approximately 90 m from the VRA at the closest point.	VP38: North Leylodge (See Volume 4 b, Figure 9.42a-c: VP38: North Leylodge)

VRA F33: Leylodge and surroundings

Nature of Views

Views from the B977 within this VRA are generally open and overlook surrounding undulating agricultural fields, with the exception of the north of VRA, where views are enclosed by the presence of mixed woodland. Properties within this VRA are often single storey, with a variety of outlooks. Occasional small pockets of woodland and shelterbelts around properties obscure residential views in places. In the middle ground, larger blocks of mixed woodland foreshorten and filter views, as well as adding visual interest. Distant views towards surrounding hills are visible in places to the east and west.

A number of existing high voltage OHLs are visible from properties and from the local road network in views to the west in this VRA, often visible along the skyline. A pair of wind turbines are visible in the middle ground to the centre east of the VRA. Kintore Substation, is also visible in views to the west, experienced by people within this VRA, in the northern part of the VRA.

Sensitivity

Residential receptors are considered to be of **High** susceptibility to changes in the view and road users including cyclists are considered to be of **Low** susceptibility to changes in the view.

This VRA is not located within a designated landscape, nor takes in any particularly distinctive viewpoints. However, the undulating landform, frequent woodland blocks and medium scale field pattern add a sense of naturalness, which complements the historic character of some farmsteads and cottages, which are on the Historic Environment Register. As such views are considered to be **Medium** in value.

Taking account of the judgements of susceptibility and value, sensitivity is judged to be **High** for residents and **Medium** for other visual receptors.

Magnitude of Change during Construction

Construction activity would be seen in near and middle distance views to the west from residents and road users in this VRA, at distances of approximately 0.2 km or more. Use of machinery, vehicle movements, upgrades to access tracks, erection of steel lattice towers and lighting in hours of darkness would be visible across the VRA above and between the tree lines. Additional construction work includes the dismantling of the Kintore to Tealing OHL and erection of new steel lattice towers to form the realigned OHL (which is part of the Proposed Development). This would be visible at distances of approximately 0.1 km and over. In the south of the VRA, upgrades to access tracks could further intrude in views, including an increase in construction traffic. From some residential properties and stretches of the road network, views would be partially obscured by deciduous tree belts. Ground level activity in particular is likely to be obscured by vegetation and the gently rising topography in many places.

The scale of change resulting from construction activity is judged to be **Large**, focused across the west and south of the VRA from the minor road network, scattered residential properties and the B977.

The magnitude of change during construction is judged to be up to **High**.

Magnitude of Change during Operation

The Proposed Development would be seen in near and middle distance views from residential properties and along the road network in view to the west, northwest and southwest, at a distance of approximately 0.2 km from the closest properties. The realignment of the existing Kintore to Tealing OHL (which is part of the Proposed Development) also brings this closer to this VRA, at a distance of 0.1 km from some properties. Both OHLs would be viewed at distances of approximately 0.4 km and 0.3 km from the B977. In views to the southwest, the Proposed Development would be visible at oblique angles in the middle and far distance. In addition, the cable sealing end compound associated with undergrounding of an existing OHL would be visible to the southeast, at distance of less than 0.1 km and over.

Due to the proposed size and scale of the steel lattice towers, the Proposed Development would form a large feature in views from this VRA. The visible extent of the Proposed Development would be viewed along the skyline.

The Proposed Development would be seen in the context of existing vertical and commercial infrastructure, including existing high voltage OHLs, wood pole lines and wind turbines. In comparison to the existing vertical infrastructure, the Proposed Development would be notably higher and larger scale than the existing elements and would result in an increase in the influence of vertical infrastructure in views from residents and road users in this VRA.

The scale of change resulting from the introduction of the Proposed Development is judged to be **Large**, focused along the west and south of the VRA.

VRA F33: Leylodge and surroundings	
	The magnitude of change during operation is judged to be no more than High .
Significance of Effect during Construction	Significance of Effect during Operation
Taking account of the High sensitivity of residents in the VRA, and the High magnitude of change, the visual effect arising from construction is judged to be up to Major (Significant) for any receptor, and for some receptors would be less.	Taking account of the High sensitivity of residents in the VRA, and the High magnitude of change, the visual effect arising from operation is judged to be up to Major (Significant) for any receptor and for some receptors would be less.

Table 9.2.154: VRA F34 - Craigearn, Leschangie and Harthills

VRA F34: Craigearn, Leschangie and Harthills	
Description of Receptor	Representative Viewpoint
Residents in isolated farms and properties along the minor road network northeast of the Proposed Development, as well as employees within industrial estates south of the B994 (refer to Volume 3, Figures 9.3b.6: Visual Receptor Area, Viewpoint Locations and other Visual Receptors with Overhead Line Tower Height Zone of Theoretical Visibility (ZTV), p. 6). The Proposed Development would be located approximately 600 m from the VRA at the closest point.	N/A
Nature of Views	
Views from the minor road network within this VRA are generally enclosed by woodland and plantations and rolling topography to the north. Views open up in some locations, where the absence of nearby woodland offer distant views across the rolling, wooded landscape. Large-scale agricultural buildings and industrial estates in the east of the VRA are mostly screened by vegetation; except in views from some elevated locations in the north of the VRA between woodland blocks. Where there are gaps in the woodland, existing high voltage OHLs are visible from properties and from the local road network in views to the east and south in this VRA. A single wind turbine is partially visible above the treeline in some views east within the VRA. A pair of wind turbines are visible from open views in the south towards the southeast.	
Sensitivity	
Residential receptors are considered to be of High susceptibility to changes in the view and road users including cyclists are considered to be of Low susceptibility to changes in the view. This VRA does not takes in any particularly distinctive viewpoints; although, the southwestern extents contain a small area of the GDL associated with Castle Fraser. Furthermore, the frequent large woodland blocks, rolling landform and medium scale field pattern add a sense of naturalness. Views to the southeast incorporate some moorland views which further add to a sense of naturalness. As such views are considered to be Medium in value. Taking account of the judgements of susceptibility and value, sensitivity is judged to be High for residents and Medium for other visual receptors.	
Magnitude of Change during Construction	Magnitude of Change during Operation
Construction activity would likely be screened from views throughout most of the VRA due to intervening blocks of coniferous and mixed woodland in the south and east between residents and road users along Whitestones Lane and the Proposed Development. In more	The Proposed Development would be viewed above the forest treelines in far distance views from residential properties and along the minor road network in the elevated north of the VRA in views to the south and southeast, at a distance of around 1.5 km. In other parts

VRA F34: Craigeearn, Leschangie and Harthills

open views from the west of the VRA, the intervening topography and a distance of over 2.5 km would obscure construction activity.

The scale of change resulting from construction activity would be **Small**, experienced by receptors in the elevated north of the VRA.

The magnitude of change during construction is judged to be no more than **Low**.

of the VRA, the intervening dense mixed and coniferous woodland blocks and topography would obscure views of the Proposed Development.

Due to the distance between residents and road users along the minor road network in the VRA, the Proposed Development would not form a prominent feature in views from this VRA. In many views the Proposed Development would be completely obscured or seen in distant views along the skyline.

The scale of change resulting from the introduction of the Proposed Development would be **Small**, focused along the elevated northern extents of the VRA.

The magnitude of change during operation is judged to be no more than **Low**.

Significance of Effect during Construction

Taking account of the **High** sensitivity of residents in the VRA, and the **Low** magnitude of change, the visual effect arising from construction is judged to be no more than **Minor (Not Significant)** for any receptor and for many receptors would be less.

Significance of Effect during Operation

Taking account of the **High** sensitivity of residents in the VRA, and the **Low** magnitude of change, the visual effect arising from operation is judged to be no more than **Minor (Not Significant)** for any receptor and for many receptors would be less.

Table 9.2.155: VRA F35 - Cottown

VRA F35: Cottown

Description of Receptor

Residents and employees of in isolated farms, properties and industrial estates off the B994 and B977 and surrounding road network, north of the Proposed Development (refer to **Volume 3, Figures 9.3b.6: Visual Receptor Area, Viewpoint Locations and other Visual Receptors with Overhead Line Tower Height Zone of Theoretical Visibility (ZTV), p. 6**). The Proposed Development would be located approximately 520 m from the VRA at the closest point.

Representative Viewpoint

N/A

Nature of Views

Views from the road network within this VRA are generally open, and overlook gently rolling agricultural fields, interspersed with woodland blocks. The gently rolling topography foreshortens views in places, limiting visibility. Along the B994, west of the roundabout, tree cover at Gauchhill plantation further reduces visibility from this part of the VRA.

Existing high voltage OHLs are visible within views across the VRA, often viewed against the skyline. The Kintore Substation is largely screened in views to the south by coniferous woodland blocks.

Sensitivity

Residential receptors are considered to be of **High** susceptibility to changes in the view and road users including cyclists are considered to be of **Low** susceptibility to changes in the view.

VRA F35: Cottown

This VRA is not located within a designated landscape, nor takes in any particularly distinctive viewpoints. Frequent large woodland blocks, rolling landform and medium scale field pattern add a degree of naturalness. As such views are considered to be **Medium** in value.

Taking account of the judgements of susceptibility and value, sensitivity is judged to be **High** for residents and **Medium** for other visual receptors.

Magnitude of Change during Construction	Magnitude of Change during Operation
Construction activity would be seen in middle and far distance views to the south from residents and road users of the major and minor road network in the south of the VRA. Woodland blocks and the intervening distance (at least 0.9 km) would reduce the intervisibility. Glimpsed views of the erection of steel lattice towers and lighting in hours of darkness would be experienced in the south of the VRA. From some residential properties and stretches of the minor road network, views would be partially obscured by deciduous trees belts. North of the B994 intervening topography and distance screens views. The scale of change resulting from construction activity would be Small, focused south of the B994. The magnitude of change during construction is judged to be no more than Low.	The Proposed Development would be seen in middle and far distance views from residential properties, and from the minor road network and B977 in views to the south, at a distance of approximately 1 km. Further north, vegetation, intervening gently rolling topography and the distance would limit views to the Proposed Development. Due to the proposed size and scale of the steel lattice towers, the Proposed Development would be visible above the treeline of woodland blocks to the south of the VRA. The tops of the towers above the treeline and skyline would form the visible extent of the Proposed Development. The Proposed Development would be seen in the context of existing vertical infrastructure, including existing high voltage OHLs, wood pole lines and wind turbines. The Proposed Development would be higher and larger scale than the existing elements and would be seen above some woodland blocks which currently screen existing infrastructure including Kintore Substation. This would result in an increase in the influence of vertical infrastructure in views from residents and road users in this VRA. The scale of change resulting from the introduction of the Proposed Development would be Medium with effects focused south of the B994. The magnitude of change during operation is judged to be no more than Medium.
Significance of Effect during Construction	Significance of Effect during Operation
Taking account of the High sensitivity of residents in the VRA, and the Low magnitude of change, the visual effect arising from construction is judged to be no more than Minor (Not Significant).	Taking account of the High sensitivity of residents in the VRA, and the Medium magnitude of change, the visual effect arising from operation is judged to be no more than Moderate (Significant) for any receptor in the VRA and for many receptors would be less.

Table 9.2.156: VRA F36 - Kintore, Waterside and Deystone

VRA F36: Kintore, Waterside and Deystone	
Description of Receptor	Representative Viewpoint
Residents, employees and visitors to Kintore and surroundings, as well as road users, including of the A96 B977 and B987 (refer to Volume 3, Figures 9.3b.6: Visual Receptor Area, Viewpoint Locations and other Visual Receptors with Overhead Line Tower Height Zone of Theoretical Visibility (ZTV), p. 6). The Proposed Development would be located approximately 1.7 km from the VRA at the closest point.	None

VRA F36: Kintore, Waterside and Deystone

Nature of Views

Views from the road network and properties within Kintore are enclosed by the surrounding built development. More open views are experienced from high ground, including at Tuach Hill, and along the A96 on the western edge of the town. Views east from the A96 are long ranging and incorporate farmed and wooded rolling landform, with upland at Benachie forming a distinctive backdrop to the northeast. Occasional shelter belts along the A96 and at field margins restrict visibility.

Existing high voltage OHLs are visible within views across the VRA, often viewed against the skyline. Large scale, industrial development in the south of Kintore is experienced by people within this VRA, particularly in views to the southwest from the A96.

Sensitivity

Residential receptors are considered to be of **High** susceptibility to changes in the view and road users including cyclists are considered to be of **Low** susceptibility to changes in the view.

This VRA is not located within a designated landscape, nor takes in any particularly distinctive viewpoints, although some views do take in the Bennachie SLA to the northeast. Rolling farmed landscape is interrupted by woodland belts, as well as road and industrial infrastructure which reduces the sense of naturalness. As such views are considered to be **Medium** in value.

Taking account of the judgements of susceptibility and value, sensitivity is judged to be **High** for residents and **Medium** for road users.

Magnitude of Change during Construction

Due to the distance and intervening vegetation, there would be limited visibility of construction activity. Glimpsed views of the erection of steel lattice towers and lighting in hours of darkness would be experienced from some parts of the southwestern extents of the VRA, including longer distance views from areas of higher elevation in the east.

The scale of change resulting from construction activity would be **Small**, with effects focused across areas of higher elevations within the VRA, including Tuach Hill.

The magnitude of change during construction is judged to be no more than **Low**.

Magnitude of Change during Operation

There would be glimpsed, distant views of the Proposed Development from a minimum distance of around 1.8 km. Due to the distance and intervening vegetation, the Proposed Development would not form a prominent feature in views from this VRA. Glimpsed views of the Proposed Development would be available from higher elevations including from Tuach Hill and would be seen in the context of existing vertical and commercial infrastructure, including high voltage OHLs set within a farmed and woodland landscape.

The scale of change resulting from the introduction of the Proposed Development would be **Small**, with effects experienced across areas of higher elevation within the VRA.

The magnitude of change during operation is judged to be no more than **Low**.

Significance of Effect during Construction

Taking account of the **High** sensitivity of residents in the VRA, and the **Low** magnitude of change, the visual effect arising from construction is judged to be no more than **Minor (Not Significant)**.

Significance of Effect during Operation

Taking account of the **High** sensitivity of residents in the VRA, and the **Low** magnitude of change, the visual effect arising from operation is judged to be no more than **Minor (Not Significant)**.

Table 9.2.157: VRA F37 - Brownhill, Kemnay, Burgh Muir and Clovenstone

VRA F37: Brownhill, Kemnay, Burgh Muir and Clovenstone	
Description of Receptor	Representative Viewpoint
Residents in scattered groups of properties forming linear development along the road network, as well as farmsteads. Additional visitor receptors at Hillhead caravan park in the east and Ben View Lodge homes in the west (refer to Volume 3, Figures 9.3b.6: Visual Receptor Area, Viewpoint Locations and other Visual Receptors with Overhead Line Tower Height Zone of Theoretical Visibility (ZTV), p. 6). The VRA is located approximately 1.4 km north from the Proposed Development.	N/A
Nature of Views	
Views across the VRA are generally enclosed by woodland, including large coniferous and mixed woodland such as Blairs Wood, as well as shelter belts along roads and field margins. In places tree belts contain views to short distances for residents and road users. Elsewhere, elevated views over the rolling farmland are foreshortened by woodland and topography (often forming treed skylines). Gaps in the woodland and topography offer glimpsed views to higher ground to the east, including Mither Tap summit above Bennachie Forest, which forms a distinctive backdrop. Views are generally more open in the centre of the VRA. A number of existing high voltage OHLs and wood pole lines are visible from properties and from the minor road network within this VRA, forming vertical intrusions into the views. Large agricultural barns associated with farmsteads are also visible. Infrastructure associated with the granite quarry in the north of the VRA is generally obscured from views.	
Sensitivity	
Residential receptors are considered to be of High susceptibility to changes in the view and road users including cyclists are considered to be of Low susceptibility to changes in the view. Visitors and residents at holiday caravan parks within the VRA are considered to be of High susceptibility. The VRA is not located within a designated landscape, although it has intervisibility with the Bennachie SLA, including the distinctive Mither Tap summit. The number of views is likely to be higher due to the presence of caravan parks within the VRA. As such, views are considered to be Medium in value. Taking account of the judgements of susceptibility and value, sensitivity is judged to be High for residents and recreational receptors, and Medium for other visual receptors.	
Magnitude of Change during Construction	Magnitude of Change during Operation
Due to the distance and intervening vegetation and topography to the south of the VRA, there would be limited visibility of construction activity throughout the VRA. The scale of change resulting from construction activity would be Barely Perceptible from across the VRA. The magnitude of change during construction is judged to be no more than Barely Perceptible.	There would be glimpsed, distant views of the Proposed Development from a minimum distance of around 1.5 km. Due to the distance and intervening vegetation and topography, the Proposed Development would not form a prominent feature in views from this VRA. Glimpsed views of the Proposed Development would be visible along the skyline in views to the southeast. These would be within the context of existing vertical and commercial infrastructure, including high voltage OHLs set within a farmed and woodland landscape. The Proposed Development would not be visible in views to the west towards Mither Tap and Bennachie. The scale of change resulting from the introduction of the Proposed Development would be Barely Perceptible, with little to no intervisibility across the VRA. The magnitude of change during operation is judged to be no more than Barely Perceptible.

VRA F37: Brownhill, Kemnay, Burgh Muir and Clovenstone

Significance of Effect during Construction	Significance of Effect during Operation
Taking account of the High sensitivity of residents and visuals receptors in the VRA, and the Low magnitude of change, the visual effect arising from construction is judged to be no more than Negligible (Not Significant) .	Taking account of the High sensitivity of residents and visual receptors in the VRA, and the Low magnitude of change, the visual effect arising from operation is judged to be no more than Negligible (Not Significant) .