Scottish & Southern Electricity Networks
TRANSMISSION

Example Focus Area 01
Tower S190-S192
(375,640.5 812,214.1m)

- **Any heathland disturbed during construction to be restored seeding with appropriate species including heather, to restore heathland habitats.**

Key Landscape Objectives:
Areas of heather, bracken, or gorse should be cleared for the installation of towers, Principle 3 to be applied. The vegetation would be removed or cut back. Given the landscape and ecological importance of this landscape, it would be restored post-construction, by sowing the cleared, and surrounding disturbed areas, with heather seed, to encourage natural regeneration. To protect the newly planted heather and ensure successful establishment, all livestock to be carefully managed and excluded from the restored areas for a minimum of two years. During this period, regular monitoring would be conducted to assess plant growth and biodiversity recovery, with additional interventions, such as reseeding or protective fencing being implemented if necessary.

Plate 9.6.5. Heathland

Principles applied-
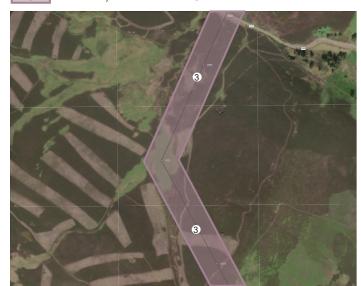
| 3 | Heather, Bracken and Gorse |

Plate 9.6.6. Principles applicable to Focus Area 01

Plate 9.6.7. Proposed Plan- Focus Area 01

Landscape Character Type 384
Broad Valley Lowlands- Tayside- Forfar Unit

Key Characteristics[3]

- Broad straths formed by glacial erosion, loosely enclosed by the foothills and massif to the north, and lower locals hill ridges to the south.

- Overriding southwest to northeast orientation.

- Undersized, misfit rivers which typically from adjacent low elevations do not read as dominant landscape features.

- Complex local topography caused by glacial deposition, including outwash terraces, eskers and dry valleys.

- Distinctive red soils and red building stone, contribute to a colourful mosaic of large fields particularly in the earlier months when crops are immature.

- Influence of large estates, particularly in terms of mature woodland and policies defined field boundaries and enclosed estate houses.

- Dominance of arable and root crops, in large fields typically enclosed by post and wire fencing, which contribute to the overriding horizontal landform and large to medium scale. Some specialist crops

such as fruit orchards and bulb fields are adding diversification, with expansion of highly visible poly-tunnels an increasingly common feature.

- Tree and hedge loss weakening landscape character increasing openness of landscape, and increasingly ineffective in mitigating the dust bowls in dry months.

- Significant network of roads running through landscape, with main trunk roads including the A9 and A90 roads running along the straths linking a number of large towns.

- Well-settled landscape with strong hierarchy of settlement types from large towns, to small villages, located within a well-populated agricultural landscape.

- Rich historic landscapes with features including standing stones, hillforts, Roman camps and medieval castles and tower houses.
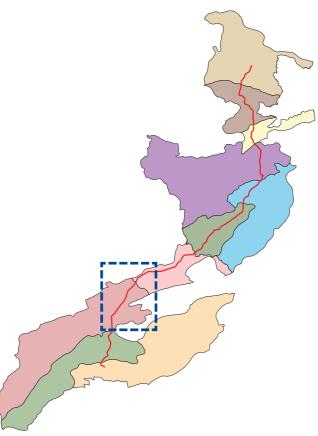
Description

This LCT is centered along the wide strath of the River South Esk and its tributaries, stretching between the foothills of the Mounth Highlands to the north and northwest, and the lower slopes of the Forfar Hills to the southeast. Within this area, the landscape largely comprises fertile river plains in arable use, interspersed with small blocks of forestry, and larger settlements located at the edges of the study area.

KEY

- ⬤ Focus area
- ⬤ Key affected areas
- 🟩 Woodlands and green areas
- 🟦 Waterbodies
- 🟥 Broad Valley Lowlands- Tayside- Forfar Unit

3. NatureScot, 2019. National Landscape Character Assessment. Landscape Character Type 384: Broad Valley Lowlands – Tayside. [Online] Available at: https://www.nature.scot/sites/default/files/LCA/LCT 384 - Broad Valley Lowlands - Tayside - final pdf.pdf

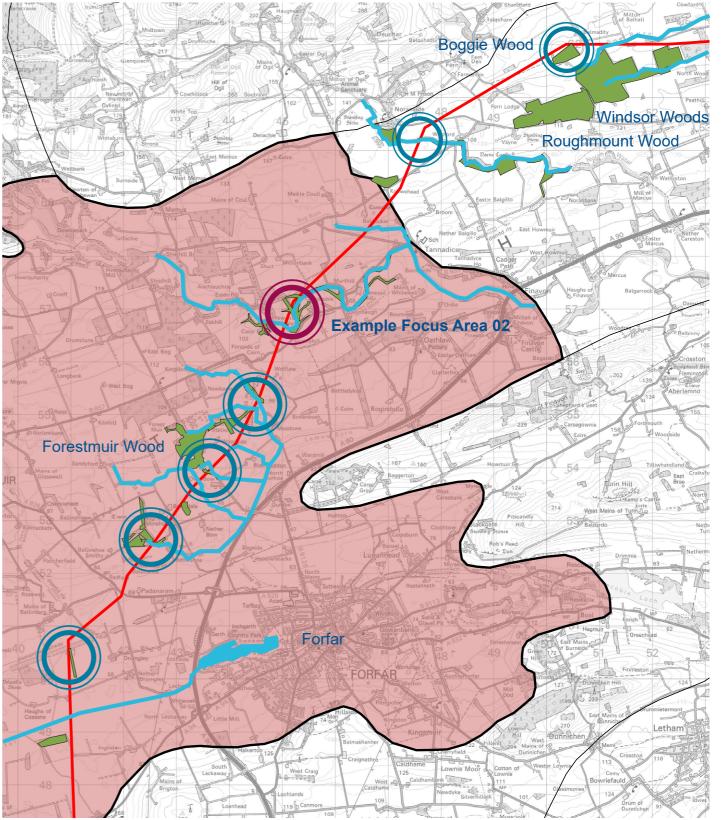Plate 9.6.8. Location Map- Broad Valley Lowlands- Tayside- Forfar Unit

Plate 9.6.9. Key Areas along Proposed Development through Broad Valley Lowlands- Tayside- Frofar Unit Character Area