

Netherton Hub 400 kV OHL Connection to New Deer and Peterhead Tie-In

Environmental Appraisal Report

Volume 3 Appendix 7.4: Biodiversity Net Gain

Assessment Report

July 2026



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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report details the Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) assessment undertaken for the construction and installation of a permanent diversion, referred to as a 'Tie-In', of the existing New Deer to Peterhead 400 kilovolt (kV) overhead line (OHL), hereafter referred to as the 'Proposed Development'. The Proposed Development covers a length of approximately 5.3 km.

This report sets out the results of the BNG calculations and the approach to delivering on Scottish and Southern Electricity Networks (SSEN) Transmission's BNG commitments for the Proposed Development.

This report includes:

- A calculation of baseline area Biodiversity Units (BU) and Hedgerow Linear Units (LU (H)) for the Proposed Development following the guidance outlined within SSEN Transmission's Biodiversity Net Gain Toolkit User Guide.
- A prediction of the post development on-site BU following successful implementation of a habitat management plan.
- A qualitative assessment against the Biodiversity Net Gain Good Practice Principles; and
- Details of the habitat creation or enhancements required to achieve biodiversity enhancements.

At the time of reporting, and in the absence of further information, it is understood that any temporarily removed vegetation, with the exception of woodland and hedgerows, would be reinstated to baseline type and condition. Therefore, off-site offsetting would be required to compensate for any remaining losses as well as for the removal of woodland and hedgerows.

The report found that the baseline BNG was 42.78 area biodiversity units (BU) and 2.21 linear (hedgerows) units (LU (H)), while the post development BNG was 36.32 BU and 0.00 LU (H). Overall, this Proposed Development has a -15% decrease in BU and -100% decrease in LU (H) on the on-site biodiversity.

Off-site compensation is needed to ensure the Proposed Development has an overall 10% net gain in biodiversity. The estimated amount of biodiversity units required to achieve +10% BNG from habitat creation is 10.74 BU and 2.43 LU (H).

Irreplaceable Habitats are habitats which are technically very difficult or impossible to restore, recreate, or replace once destroyed. SSEN Transmission consider Irreplaceable Habitats within their network are to be ancient woodland (categories 1a & 2a of the Ancient Woodland Inventory (AWI)), individual ancient or veteran trees, and blanket bog or raised bog in good or moderate condition. This project does not cause a loss or a deterioration of Irreplaceable Habitats, which are therefore not considered further.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of the Project

- 1.1.1 Scottish and Southern Electricity Networks Transmission (SSEN Transmission), operating under licence held by Scottish Hydro Electric Transmission plc, to operate and develop the high voltage electricity transmission system in the North of Scotland and remote islands, commissioned WSP to undertake a Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) assessment for the new Netherton Hub overhead line (OHL) Connection using the SSEN Transmission Biodiversity Project Toolkit Version 3.0 ('the Toolkit').
- 1.1.2 SSEN Transmission (also referred to as 'the Applicant') proposes a permanent diversion, referred to as a 'Tie-In', of the existing New Deer to Peterhead 400 kilovolt (kV) OHL into a new 400 kV Alternating Current (AC) substation, which has been consented separately. The OHL will hereafter be referred to as 'the Proposed Development'. Other components of the Proposed Development are detailed below.
- 1.1.3 The purpose of this report is to interpret the impact of the Proposed Development on the biodiversity value of the Site, in terms of losses and forecast gains in biodiversity units measured using the Toolkit.
- 1.1.4 The Applicant is seeking a Section 37 consent under the Electricity Act 1989 from the Energy Consents Unit of the Scottish Government for the Proposed Development. The application is supported by an Environmental Assessment (EA).
- 1.1.5 The Proposed Development sits adjacent to a second proposed connection considered in parallel to this one, comprising a connection continuation from the Tie-In exiting from the Netherton Hub directly to the existing Peterhead Substation, referred to as the Netherton Hub 400kV OHL Connection to New Deer and Peterhead: Rebuild (hereafter referred to as 'the Rebuild'). The Rebuild does not form part of this BNG assessment and will be delivered via a separate section 37 application.

1.2 Site Description

- 1.2.1 The Proposed Development would be located in Aberdeenshire; the midpoint of the 'In' leg is located at National Grid Reference NK 04044 44606; the midpoint of the 'Out' leg is located at National Grid Reference NK 06867 43865, hereafter referred to as 'the Site'.
- 1.2.2 The majority of the Site, comprises cropland, modified grassland and urban/developed land (e.g. roads, residential properties, farmyards) – all low distinctiveness habitats. There are small areas mapped as other broadleaved woodland and coniferous woodland (likely of plantation origin) – which are located towards the outer edge of the Site. High distinctiveness habitat present includes small areas of other neutral grassland, an area of marginal aquatic vegetation, and a small pond located in the north western edge of the Site. Hedgerows were recorded along field boundaries throughout the Site.
- 1.2.3 There are no sites designated for nature conservation interest or Irreplaceable Habitats within the Site.
- 1.2.4 The baseline habitats of the Site are shown in **Appendix A – Figure 1**.

1.3 Proposed Development Description

- 1.3.1 The Tie-In is split into an 'In' leg, stemming from the existing New Deer – Peterhead OHL to the Netherton Hub substation, and an 'Out' leg, connecting the substation back out to the existing OHL.
- 1.3.2 The Tie-In OHL is required to integrate the new Netherton Hub site into the existing network and maximise the transfer capability between the new Netherton Hub substation and the wider transmission network to increase network security.
- 1.3.3 The Proposed Development will comprise:

- The 'In' leg: Diversion of the existing 400kV overhead line (OHL) from a point approximately 8.6 kilometres (km) west of the Peterhead Substation into Netherton Hub via a new 400kV OHL approximately 3.3 km in length;
- The 'Out' leg: Connection from Netherton Hub back out to a point on the existing OHL approximately 5.0 km west of Peterhead Substation via a new 400kV OHL approximately 2.0 km in length;
- 20 new steel lattice towers between 40 m and 70 m of height;
- Associated access tracks, bellmouths, tower compounds and laydown areas (including crane pads, piling pad, tele pads); and
- Removal of approximately 3.7 km of existing OHL between the diversion points into and out of Netherton Hub and 12 redundant towers;
- Installation of a temporary OHL circuit to facilitate the transfer of the connection between the existing OHL and Netherton Hub; and
- Removal of temporary works and site reinstatement.

2 SCOPE OF STUDY

- 2.1.1 This report sets out the results of the BNG assessment and the approach to delivering on SSEN Transmission's BNG commitments for the Project. This report identifies the baseline biodiversity measured in Biodiversity Units (BU) and Linear Units (Hedgerows) (LU (H)), as well as the predicted losses due to the Proposed Development, to determine the extent of habitat creation and enhancement required to achieve positive effects for biodiversity.

2.2 SSEN Transmission BNG Commitments

- 2.2.1 SSEN Transmission is committed to protecting and enhancing the environment by minimising the potential impacts from their construction and operational activities. As part of this approach, SSEN Transmission has made commitments within its Sustainability Strategy¹ to deliver 10% biodiversity net gain and leave a positive legacy for nature on all projects gaining consent. Further information can be reviewed in **Appendix C - Good Practice Principles for Biodiversity Net Gain**.

2.3 Legislation and Planning Policy

- 2.3.1 Section 1 of the Nature Conservation (Scotland) Act 2004² (as amended) places a duty on all public bodies and officeholders in Scotland to further the conservation of biodiversity when carrying out their functions in so far as is consistent with the proper exercise of those functions. This duty applies to the Energy Consents Unit and planning authorities in their functions as competent authorities, and to SSEN Transmission as a statutory undertaker. Section 3A of the Town & Country Planning (Scotland) Act 1997³ (as amended) requires that an outcome of the National Planning Framework is securing positive effects for biodiversity.
- 2.3.2 National Planning Framework 4 (NPF4)⁴ requires biodiversity enhancements be provided in addition to any proposed mitigation.
- 2.3.3 The mitigation hierarchy, as presented in NPF4, has been applied to avoid impacts to biodiversity, where avoidance is not possible, these impacts have been minimised. This is aligned to the Scottish Government's NPF4 Policy 3 for proposed developments to contribute to biodiversity enhancement
- 1) Avoid – by removing the impact at the outset;
 - 2) Minimise – by reducing the impact;
 - 3) Restore – by repairing damaged habitats; and
 - 4) Offset – by compensating for the residual impact that remains, with preference to on-site over off-site measure.

¹ SSEN Transmission. 2024. *Sustainability Strategy*. [Online] Available at: <https://www.ssen-transmission.co.uk/about-us/sustainability/sustainability-strategy/>

² Scottish Government. Nature Conservation (Scotland) Act 2004. [Online] Available at: <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/asp/2004/6/contents>

³ Scottish Government. Town & Country Planning (Scotland) Act 1997. [Online] Available at: <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1997/8/contents>

⁴ Scottish Government. 2023. National Planning Framework 4. [Online] Available at: <https://www.gov.scot/publications/national-planning-framework-4/>
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3 METHODOLOGY

3.1 Area and Surveys

Desk Based Assessment

- 3.1.1 Searches for designated European Sites were completed as part of **Appendix 7.1: Habitats Baseline (Volume 3)** and **Appendix 8.1: Habitats Regulations Appraisal (Volume 3)** of the Environmental Appraisal Report (EAR)⁵. In addition, checks for other designated sites were carried out using SiteLink, and data sets analysed as part of the desk-based assessment to understand presence of Irreplaceable Habitats including the AWI⁶ and Ancient Tree Inventory⁷.
- 3.1.2 The North East Scotland Biodiversity Partnership (NesBiP): Habitat Statements⁸ has been consulted with respect to Strategic Significance.
- 3.1.3 No designated sites or Irreplaceable Habitats are within or directly adjacent to the Site and therefore are not considered further.

Field Assessment

- 3.1.4 This BNG Assessment and the associated recommendations are based on findings of the 21-23 July, 29 September – 1 October, and 17-18 November 2025, UKHab surveys and Biodiversity Metric 3.1 Habitat Condition Assessment (HCA)⁹. All habitats were assigned a UKHab Primary Habitat in line with UKHab Classification User Manual (Version 2.0)¹⁰. Full UKHab methodology and survey data are reported separately in the Habitats Baseline report¹¹. HCA surveys were conducted following the system presented in Natural England Biodiversity Metric V3.1¹². All habitat mapping was undertaken using ArcGIS Pro version 3.4.0.

Evidence of Technical Competence

- 3.1.5 The field surveys were led by ecologists who are experienced at a 'capable' and 'proficient' level of surveying similar habitat types according to the Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management (CIEEM) competency framework¹³. The lead surveyors managing all survey results were accredited with the Botanical Society of Britain and Ireland (BSBI) Field Identification Skills Certificate¹⁴ (FISC) Level 3. This report has been completed and quality assured by a team of ecologists with 10 years' collective experience in undertaking BNG assessments. The report has been authorised by an ecologist with a full CIEEM membership.

3.2 Limitations and Assumptions

- 3.2.1 To produce this assessment, certain assumptions have been made, which are provided in the sections below. In addition, any limitations to the assessment are outlined.

⁵ SSEN Transmission (2026). New Deer to Peterhead Overhead Line (OHL) Environmental Appraisal Report.

⁶ NatureScot (2025). Ancient Woodland Inventory, Available at: <https://opendata.nature.scot/datasets/snh::ancient-woodland-inventory/explore> [Accessed March 2026]

⁷ Woodland Trust (2025). Ancient Tree Inventory. Available at: https://ati.woodlandtrust.org.uk/?gclid=aw.ds&gad_source=1&gad_campaignid=923099488&gclid=Cj0KCQIAxJXJBhD_ARIsAH_JGjjNDypeVAJb-L3LwLL4ZCRqYmpmg8PNitDEy6udvdjXBNmEs0BpcasaAsAdEALw_wcB [Accessed March 2026]

⁸ North East Scotland Biodiversity Partnership (2022). North East Scotland Biodiversity Partnership: Important Habitats for Biodiversity – our Local Biodiversity Action Plan. Available at: <https://www.nesbiodiversity.org.uk/biodiversity-information-for-developers/important-habitats-for-biodiversity-in-the-north-east-of-scotland/> [Accessed March 2026]

⁹ Natural England (2023). Biodiversity Metric 3.1 (JP039). Habitat Condition Assessment Methodology. Available at: <https://publications.naturalengland.org.uk/publication/5850908674228224> [March 2026].

¹⁰ UKHab Ltd. (2023). UK Habitat Classification, Version 2.0. Available : <https://www.ukhab.org> . [Accessed March 2026].

¹¹ SSEN (2026). Netherton Hub 400 kV OHL Connection to New Deer and Peterhead: Tie-In Environmental Appraisal Report: Volume 3 Appendix 7.1: Habitats Baseline.

¹² Natural England (2023). Biodiversity Metric 3.1 (JP039). Available at: <https://publications.naturalengland.org.uk/publication/5850908674228224> [Accessed December 2025].

¹³ CIEEM (2025) Competency Framework, Available at: <https://cieem.net/resource/competency-framework/> [Accessed March 2026]

¹⁴ Field Studies Council (2024). Field Identification Skills Certificate. Available from: <https://bsbi.org/learn/field-identification-skills-certificate>
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Desk-based:

- The boundary for the BNG assessment encompasses all habitats within the Proposed Development which would be lost for more than two years;
- For the calculations, each row of the toolkit represents a sum of data with the same habitat type and condition. The calculation of the extent of each habitat type (either in hectares (ha) for area habitats or km of linear habitats), are based on areas/lengths being rounded to two decimal places before being entered into the Toolkit. Therefore, there may be a difference of 0.01 ha /km for each habitat row within the toolkit based on rounding up or down of values prior to entry within the toolkit. In addition, where habitat areas are smaller than 0.01 ha they will appear as 0.00 ha in the toolkit;
- A review of the areas differences is undertaken to ensure differences are minimal (i.e. the total difference across all habitats recorded in the toolkit are smaller than the minimal mappable unit used in the UKHab survey method). During the review, differences were confirmed to be minimal, the Site having a difference of less than 0.01 ha. Therefore, the BU that could be achieved from these small area differences is negligible, and this rounding exercise does not affect the overall BNG calculations;
- Current programme development indicates that the construction period would be two years. The Time to Target Condition (TTTC) for all habitats has been calculated using the Natural England Biodiversity Metric 3.1 Technical Supplement¹⁵ standard TTTC plus adding two years to account for construction delay to habitat regeneration;
- TTTC has not been adapted within the wooded sections of the Operational Corridor (90 m wide corridor to be managed for safe line operation), where habitat is expected to recover naturally. Woodland cannot be permitted to regenerate here for operational reasons therefore it is assumed that a bracken / grassland / scrub mosaic would develop after woodland clearance, in line with assumptions applied to the BBNP project; and
- The habitat f2d aquatic marginal vegetation is not listed within the Natural England Biodiversity Metric 3.1 Technical Supplement and therefore the TTTC and Difficulty score¹⁶ applied to reinstate this habitat was taken from Wetland – Reedbeds – i.e. 7 years (plus 2 years delay = 9 years) and difficulty = Medium. Reedbeds are most similar to the rush and reed dominated Wetland – aquatic marginal vegetation as their complexity and species diversity better aligns with the less species diverse aquatic marginal vegetation recorded at the Site, when compared to the higher distinctiveness wetland categories.

Fieldwork:

- 3.2.2 Due to design changes, additional habitat surveys were required which were undertaken outside of the optimal botanical survey season (completed 17 November to 2 December 2025). The habitat present in these areas was primarily species-poor and homogenous i.e. g4 modified grassland and c1 cropland, therefore the survey data is considered to be broadly representative and sufficiently accurate for the purpose of undertaking this BNG assessment and does not represent a limitation.
- 3.2.3 Two linear (hedgerow) woodland features were recorded during the field survey (w1g other broadleaved woodland and w2c other coniferous woodland). These features have been entered in the toolkit as 'Line of Trees'.
- 3.2.5 One area of g3c could not be fully accessed for survey in 2025 and was therefore classified by reviewing the type and condition of adjacent similar grassland that could be fully accessed. This is not considered to represent a significant limitation since these areas were relatively small, and the grassland would be reinstated post development.

Project:

- 3.2.6 The Proposed Development design is fully described in **Chapter 2: Description of Proposed Development (Volume 1)** of the EAR. The elements of design assessed in the BNG assessment encompasses areas likely to be directly affected by the footprint of the Proposed Development.

¹⁵ Natural England. (2022). Biodiversity Metric 3.1: Auditing and Accounting for Biodiversity – Technical Supplement. Joint Publication JP039. Available at: <https://n-somerset.gov.uk/sites/default/files/2022-11/CD14.07%20Biodiversity%20Metric%203.1%20-%20Technical%20Supplement.pdf> [Accessed February 2026].

¹⁶ Difficulty refers to the risk factor applied to the calculations that represent how difficult it is for a habitat to establish during the enhancement/creation process. More details are provided in Annex B.

3.2.7 The BNG assessment makes the following assumptions around permanent works and temporary works with respect to habitat changes:

Permanent Habitat Change

3.2.8 The following design elements are considered to result in permanent habitat change:

- The permanent elements of the tower construction, four 1.5 x 1.5 m concrete base around each tower foot, have been entered for the post development calculations as u1b developed land, sealed surface;
- Any access tracks, bellmouths, and concrete tower bases, which would remain in place post construction for longer than two years, are classified as UKHab Primary Habitat 'u1b developed land; sealed surface'. This applies to two existing access tracks which will be upgraded to service the project;
- Crane pads¹⁷ are only included within the calculation where they would coincide with an existing habitat that will not recover to the same habitat type and condition within two years, namely woodland habitats;
- A 2 m buffer around the towers is to be permanently maintained as clear from any woody vegetation such as trees and scrub for maintenance access. This zone is described as Zone A within SSSEN's Vegetation Management in Transmission Operations Guidance Document¹⁸. g4 modified grassland (in poor condition) is expected to be permitted to establish within the 2 m buffer following completion of works and has been entered as the post development habitat type for the toolkit calculations;
- Where woodland coincides with works this is assumed to be lost permanently since it could not be reinstated to the same habitat type or condition, within a two-year timescale. New habitat would be created in their place, based on the following principles established during the Beaulieu to Blackhillock to New Deer to Peterhead (BBNP¹⁹) assessment:
 - The Operational Corridor would have a width of 70 m (35 m either side of proposed OHL alignment) within broadleaved woodland and hedgerows, and 90 m (45 m either side of proposed OHL alignment) within areas of coniferous woodland;
 - Rather than apply a suitable delay in time to target condition (TTTC) to re-create such habitat, it has been assumed that it would not be practical to reinstate these habitats. The creation of woodland is not likely given the constraints relating to land ownership and limitations in securing the necessary planting, vegetation establishment, monitoring and management practices; and
 - Tree removal plans have not been provided at the time of reporting; therefore, no additional permanent losses of trees are included within these interim calculations.

3.2.9 At the time of reporting, it is not possible to confirm if all other reinstated habitats can be created as the same type and condition as the baseline. Therefore, it is assumed that it would not be possible to create species-rich examples of these habitats, nor to secure the management required to ensure these are maintained in either moderate or good condition. Only species-poor examples, in poor condition have been considered, as follows:

- Woodland areas within the Operational Corridor and around the access tracks will be felled in order to enable the works to take place. These are expected to naturally vegetate after clearance, into a habitat mosaic that, for the purpose of this report, is assumed to follow those estimates that were applied for BBNP. Therefore, the vegetation that could occupy such areas has been estimated to comprise of 50% bracken, 25% modified grassland, and 25% mixed scrub; and
- For hedgerows and lines of trees that are to be lost temporarily as a result of works, the intention is to reinstate these within a two year timescale. However, for operational reasons it has been assumed that it would not be possible to reinstate i.e. create new hedgerows and lines of trees

¹⁷ A crane pad is a prepared, levelled area designed to support the weight and operation of a mobile crane. It is used during tower erection to safely lift and position heavy components like steel lattice sections and conductors.

¹⁸ SSSEN Transmission (2024). Vegetation management near Transmission Electrical System. PR-NET-OPS-504

¹⁹ BBNP refers to the consent application (ECU00005165) for the installation of a new 400kV OHL connection from Beaulieu to Peterhead, via New Deer.

that would be of the same type and habitat condition as recorded in the baseline. These temporary hedgerow losses have therefore been included within the BNG calculations.

Temporary Works: Proposed Development

- 3.2.10 Where works can be categorised as temporary in duration (i.e. two years in duration), *and* where the habitat that is to be impacted can reinstate/recover within a two year timescale of the initial impact, to the same habitat type and condition, these works can be considered temporary from a BNG perspective in accordance with SSEN Transmission methodology²⁰. These would therefore be excluded from the BNG calculations. However, at the time of writing the two-year construction period will push habitat reinstatement beyond the two-year temporary exclusion period.
- 3.2.11 The following project elements for the tower working areas associated with the installation of a temporary OHL circuit have been included as temporary in duration: crane pads¹⁷, piling pads²¹, and tele pads²². Further to this the construction compounds, temporary access tracks and bellmouths are also considered to be temporary in duration.
- 3.2.12 The habitats of relevance to this project with respect to temporary works comprise of g4 modified grassland, and c1 cropland.
- 3.2.13 For each the following is assumed:
- Construction compounds size of 80 x 80m for line towers and 100x100m for angle and terminal towers has been assumed around each tower. These were all located within g4 modified grassland or c1 cropland;
 - All access tracks, including adjacent drainage ditches, were assumed to be 7 m wide. These were all located within g4 modified grassland or c1; and
 - Bellmouth designs were provided as point data only, therefore an example bellmouth design from the Blackhillock - Peterhead project (Drawing no. 165007-LT359-25504) was digitised to represent bellmouth impact and to calculate extent of habitat change. Bellmouths were calculated to be approximately 200 m² (0.02 ha) in size, being 50 m wide on the roadside narrowing to the 7 m track width. These were all located within g4 modified grassland or c1 cropland.

Temporary Works: Dismantling Works

- 3.2.14 This includes habitats impacted by the dismantling works, and all-terrain vehicles (ATV) access and trackways.
- 3.2.15 Due to the limited programme information available at the time of reporting, the temporary dismantling works (associated access tracks and bellmouth) have been included in the assessment.
- 3.2.16 For the BBNP project, assumptions concluded that the project-specific dismantling structures would only be in place momentarily – i.e. for less than two years (they specified the use of ATV tracks and trackways exclusively) and they consequently were excluded from the BBNP BNG assessment and were not part of those calculations.
- 3.2.17 However, at the time of reporting, the construction programme and staging for the New Deer project was not available. Therefore, we operate under the approach that habitats cannot be reinstated during the two year construction period and have included them in this assessment.

Exceptions

- 3.2.18 A portion of the access tracks located within the New Deer project boundary will be shared with the wider BBNP project. As project programming and staging has not yet been confirmed, it is not possible to assume that these tracks would be temporary in nature i.e. removed within a 2-year timescale. Therefore, habitat change as a result of the installation of these access tracks has been considered in full for both this assessment and the wider BBNP consent application.
- 3.2.19 Watercourses have been excluded from the BNG calculations as no permanent infrastructure will be situated within 20 m of a watercourse. Access tracks will use temporary bridge or culvert structures

²⁰ SSEN Transmission. 2023. TG-NET-ENV-526 Rev 2 - Biodiversity Net Gain Toolkit User Guide.

²¹ A piling pad is the working platform for piling rigs that install deep foundations — typically steel or concrete piles — to support the tower base.

²² A tele pad refers to the access and working area for a telehandler — a versatile lifting machine used for moving materials around the OHL tower working area.

to cross watercourses where it is not possible to avoid them. It is assumed that these temporary structures would generate no permanent impacts to the watercourse type or condition, and that they will be removed and the watercourse reinstated to its baseline condition when construction works are completed, i.e. within two years.

Retained Habitats

- 3.2.20 A small drainage pond is located on the southern corner of the 100 x 100m compound for tower NDL1/NDL2-7. It is assumed that the pond is unsuitable for use as a compound and therefore it is assumed that this will be avoided i.e. is retained and therefore has been excluded from BNG calculations.

4 RESULTS

4.1 Biodiversity Baseline

4.1.1 The baseline habitats impacted by the Proposed Development are shown in the baseline habitat map (see Appendix E) and are summarised here:

- The total baseline area units are 42.78 BU;
- The total baseline linear (hedgerows) units are 2.21 LU (H); and
- No watercourse units (LU (W)) are included within the baseline calculations.

4.1.2 Baseline habitats have been summarised in Table 4.1 below (Baseline Habitat Map - Appendix E).

Table 4.1: Summary of Baseline Habitats

Habitat Type	Total Habitat Area (ha) / Length (km)	Condition	Biodiversity Units: area BU or linear LU (H)
Area Habitats			
c1c cereal crops (Cropland - cereal crops)	7.01	N/A - Agriculture	14.02
c1d – non-cereal crops (Cropland - Non cereal crops)	2.13	N/A - Agriculture	4.26
f2d – aquatic marginal vegetation	0.03	Moderate	0.26
g3c other neutral grassland (Grassland - other neutral grassland)	0.31	Poor	2.25
g4 modified grassland (Grassland - modified grassland)	0.03	Moderate	0.12
g4 modified grassland (Grassland - modified grassland)	9.04	Poor	18.08
u1b developed land, sealed surface (Urban - developed land, sealed surface) u1b5 buildings (Urban - developed land, sealed surface)	0.02	N/A – No biodiversity value	0.00
u1e built linear feature (Urban - Built linear feature)	0.69	N/A – No biodiversity value	0.00
w1d – wet woodland	0.12	Poor	0.83
w1g other woodland, broadleaved (Woodland and forest -Other woodland, broadleaved)	0.05	Moderate	0.37

Habitat Type	Total Habitat Area (ha) / Length (km)	Condition	Biodiversity Units: area BU or linear LU (H)
w1h – other woodland mixed	0.12	Moderate	1.10
w2c other coniferous woodland (Woodland and forest - Other coniferous woodland)	0.43	Poor	0.88
Linear Habitats			
h2a native hedgerows (Native Hedgerows)	0.02	Good	0.14
h2a native hedgerows (Native Hedgerows)	0.24	Moderate	1.10
h2a native hedgerows (Native Hedgerows)	0.20	Poor	0.46
w1g other woodland: line of trees (Line of Trees)	0.08	Poor	0.18
w2c other coniferous woodland (Woodland and forest - Other coniferous woodland): line of trees (Line of trees)	0.07	Moderate	0.32

4.2 Temporary Impacts

- 4.2.1 Where a habitat is disturbed for a short period of time, it may be considered temporary loss and is treated as 'retained' in terms of the SSEN Transmission Biodiversity Toolkit²⁰. To meet the criteria to be considered as a temporary loss, the habitat must be restored in full to its baseline type and condition (or better) within two years of the initial impact. As such, temporary impacts are only expected to be associated with habitats of lower biodiversity value which can be more easily replaced within a short timeframe.
- 4.2.2 Where the habitat cannot be fully restored to its baseline type and condition within two years from the date of impact this is treated as a loss of the baseline habitat within the Toolkit. In this instance the reinstatement of the baseline habitat is treated as a creation of that habitat.
- 4.2.3 The following temporary impacts relating to the Proposed Development have been identified:

Table 4.2: Summary of Temporary Habitat Loss

Habitat Type	Total Habitat Area (ha)	Condition
c1c cereal crops (Cropland - cereal crops)	0.02 ha	N/A - Agriculture
g4 modified grassland (Grassland - modified grassland)	0.02 ha	Poor

- 4.2.4 The losses to arable and modified grassland habitats are proposed as a result of the temporary creation of access tracks and crane pads. Following completion of the construction, all of these structures would be removed and the original habitat reinstated, within a two-year timescale.

4.3 Post-development Biodiversity Units

- 4.3.1 The post-development BU have been summarised here:

- The total post-development area units are 36.32 BU.
- The total post-development linear (hedgerows) units are 0.00 LU (H).
- No watercourse units (LU (W)) are included within the post development calculations.
- The Proposed Development has not achieved an area BU BNG of 10% onsite, instead there is a -15% loss, therefore, additional BU are required either on-site (where this could be accommodated e.g. via woodland planting) or off-site to meet SSEN Transmission requirements. Further to this the Proposed Development has not achieved a linear LU (H) of 10% onsite, therefore, additional LU (H) are required either on-site (where this could be accommodated e.g. via tree and hedgerow planting) or off-site to meet SSEN Transmission requirements.
- Proposed habitats have been summarised in the table below (Proposed Habitat Map - Appendix F)

Table 4.3: Summary of the Post-Development Habitats

Habitat Type	Total Habitat Area (ha) / Length (km)	Condition	Biodiversity Units (BU)
c1c cereal crops (Cropland - Cereal Crops)	7.00	N/A - Agriculture	12.59
c1d non-cereal crops (Cropland - Non-cereal crops)	2.05	N/A - Agriculture	3.69
f2d aquatic marginal vegetation (Wetland - Aquatic marginal vegetation)	0.03	Moderate	0.13
g1c bracken (Grassland – Bracken)	0.36	Poor	1.39
g3c other neutral grassland (Grassland - Other neutral grassland)	0.31	Poor	1.95
g4 modified grassland (Grassland – modified grassland)	0.03	Moderate	0.09
g4 modified grassland (Grassland – modified grassland)	9.21	Poor	16.58
h3h mixed scrub (Heathland and shrub - Mixed scrub)	0.18	Poor	0.38
u1b – developed land; sealed surface (Urban - Developed land; sealed surface)	0.03	N/A – No biodiversity value	0.00
u1e built linear feature (Urban - Built linear features)	0.76	N/A – No biodiversity value	0.00

4.3.2 High Distinctiveness habitats are recorded in the table below outlining the net change.

4.4 Forecasted Changes in High Distinctiveness Habitats

Table 4.4: Summary of High Distinctness Habitats

High Distinctiveness Habitats	Baseline Area (ha) / Length (km)	Post-development Area (ha) / Length (km)	Biodiversity Unit Net Change (BU)	% Net Change
g3c Other neutral grassland (Grassland – other neutral grassland)	0.3	0.31	-0.25	-13.44%
w1d – Wet woodland (Woodland – wet woodland)	0.12	0	-0.12	-100%

4.5 Off-Site BNG

- 4.5.1 Off-site habitat creation and enhancement is only required when all options for on-site BNG requirements have been considered. If no on-site opportunities can be implemented, off-site habitat creation and enhancement will be undertaken but kept, wherever possible, within the locale of the Proposed Development. Compensation is targeted at delivering biodiversity net gains that are ecologically equivalent in type and condition to the habitats lost, following the 'like for like or better' principle. The off-site habitat has been assessed/will be assessed using the Toolkit to take into consideration the existing biodiversity present and aims to maximise benefits for biodiversity in accordance with local and national strategies.
- 4.5.2 The estimated amount of biodiversity units required to achieve +10% BNG from habitat creation is 10.74 BU and 2.43 LU (H).
- 4.5.3 At the time of writing this interim report, no off-site location has been secured for the purposes of compensatory habitat creation.

5 SUMMARY

5.1.1 The results of the onsite BNG assessment are summarised in [Table 5.1](#).

Table 5.1: Summary of the Onsite Biodiversity Units

	Baseline Biodiversity Units	Post-Development Biodiversity Units	Difference Change in Biodiversity Units	Difference Change in Biodiversity Units (%)	Biodiversity Units Required Off-site
Area Units	42.78 BU	36.32 BU	-6.46 BU	-15	10.74 BU
Linear Units (Hedgerows and line of trees)	2.21 LU (H)	0 LU (H)	-2.21 LU (H)	-100	2.43 LU (H)

5.1.2 The habitat creations and enhancements will be designed to be achieved within a reasonable timeframe and with reasonable certainty as the outcomes from the Toolkit have been informed by the Natural England Biodiversity Metric 3.1. The measures will be appropriate to the nature and scale of the Proposed Development.

5.1.3 No Irreplaceable Habitat will be affected by the Proposed Development.

Annex A: Approach to Biodiversity Net Gain

A full BNG Assessment was undertaken for the Proposed Development to quantify the change in biodiversity. The BNG assessment was completed within the Toolkit following the SSEN Transmission Biodiversity Net Gain Toolkit User Guide²⁰. This method has been revised to align with Natural England Biodiversity Metric 3.1²³, adapted to reflect the requirements of Scottish habitats.

A habitat survey of the proposed site was undertaken between July 2025 and December 2025. The survey was based on the methods described within the UK Habitat Classification User Manual²⁴.

The baseline multiplication uses the following characteristics of the habitats:

- Habitat area (hectares) or length (kilometres)
- Distinctiveness
- Condition
- Connectivity
- Strategic significance

Figure A.1: Pre-intervention Biodiversity Calculation



Habitat Distinctiveness for the habitats relevant to the project were assigned as per Appendix C, and scored as:

High = 6

Medium = 4

Low = 2

Very low = 0

Each habitat parcel recorded was assigned a condition score (Good, Moderate, Poor, or N/A) determined by the Natural England Biodiversity Metric 3.1 Habitat Condition Assessment sheets²⁵ which have been adopted into the Toolkit's methodology.

The following scores were assigned to conditions:

Good = 3

Moderate = 2

Poor = 1

N/A – Agriculture = 1

N/A - No biodiversity value = 0

²³ Natural England. 2022. Biodiversity Metric 3.1. [Online] Available at: [Archive Site for Legacy Biodiversity Metrics](#)

²⁴ UKHab Ltd. 2023. UK Habitat Classification Version 2.0. [Online] Available at: [ukhab – UK Habitat Classification](#)

²⁵ Natural England. 2022. Biodiversity Metric 3.1 Habitat Condition Sheets with Instructions. [Online] Available at: [Archive Site for Legacy Biodiversity Metrics](#)

The SSEN Transmission User Guide has adopted the Natural England Beta Biodiversity Metric 2.0 method of assigning connectivity. The connectivity of a habitat parcel is determined based on the distinctiveness of the habitat. High distinctiveness habitats are assigned with a Moderate connectivity multiplier, whereas Moderate and Low distinctiveness habitats are assigned a Low connectivity.

The following scores were assigned for connectivity:

High = 1.15

Moderate = 1.1

Low = 1

Strategic significance scores are measured using relevant local policies, these have been assigned as follows, based on habitats identified to be of local importance:

High = Formally identified in local strategy, plan or policy = 1.15

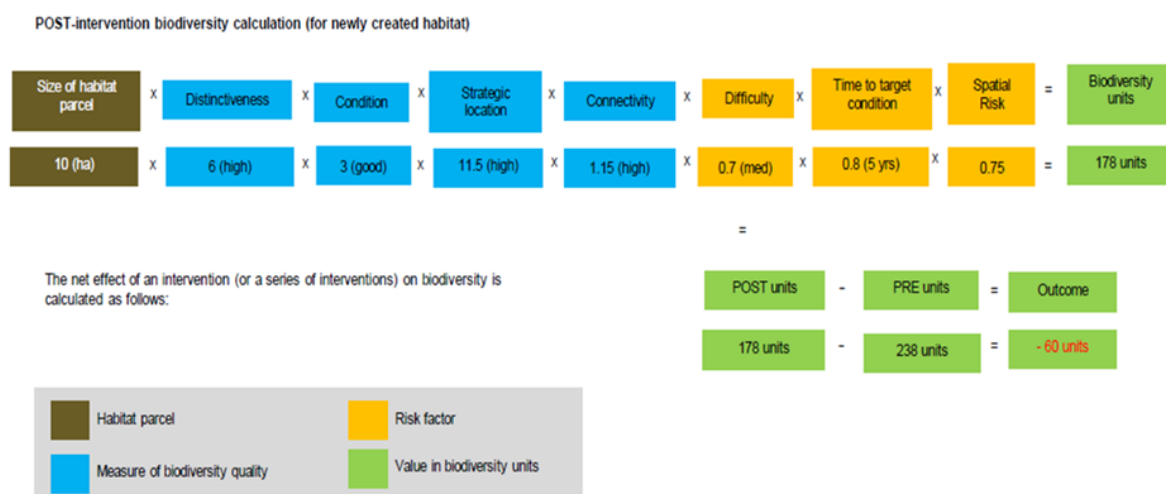
Medium = Location ecologically desirable but not identified in a local strategy, plan or policy = 1.1

Low = Not identified in a local strategy, plan or policy or no strategy or plan is in place in the area = 1

Data for strategic significance was obtained through a desk-based review of local nature policies:

- Information from the Aberdeenshire Council's website on nature conservation²⁶, The Aberdeenshire council's Forestry and Woodland Strategy²⁷ and the North East Scotland Biodiversity Partnership: 3 Year Strategic Plan⁸ covering Aberdeenshire were obtained to assess the Strategic Significance (SS) scores.
- Aberdeenshire Council does not have its own Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP). Instead, they have formed the North East Scotland Biodiversity Partnership (NESBiP) with Moray Council. Based on the available information within NESBiP's Habitat Statement; line of trees, hedgerows, broadleaved woodlands were assigned high SS. Although scrub, neutral grassland and aquatic marginal vegetation are not mentioned within the above Habitat Statement professional judgement on the complexity and frequency of presence of the habitat within the local landscape was used to reduce their SS to medium.
- All habitats which are neither formally identified nor ecologically desirable such as urban, cropland, non-native plantations, bracken and modified grassland were assigned low strategic significance.

Figure A.2: Post-intervention Biodiversity Calculation



²⁶ Aberdeenshire Council (online). Nature Conservation – Habitats. Available: <https://www.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/environment/natural-heritage/biodiversity/> [accessed: December 2025].

²⁷ Aberdeenshire Council (2023). Aberdeenshire Forestry and Woodland Strategy: Planning Advice PA2023-01. Available: <http://publications.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/dataset/0ceb7c55-b43d-45c4-a311-798f4bc9fa75/resource/0dc09e1e-a83c-4bfb-bd10-72b7128dbd29/download/pa2023-01---planning-advice---aberdeenshire-forest-and-woodland-strategy-2021.pdf> [Accessed: December 2025]

The creation and enhancement of habitats have a delivery risk multiplier assigned to each habitat to represent the difficulty in creating or restoring that habitat. The delivery risk multipliers are taken from the Biodiversity Metric 3.1 Technical Supplement:

Very High = 0.1

High = 0.33

Medium = 0.67

Low = 1

Time to target condition scores were assigned based on the Biodiversity Metric 3.1 Technical Supplement²⁸, which provides tables with estimated time to target for habitat creating and enhancement and uses the same multipliers. The delay to creation and/or enhancement is added on to the time to target found in the Technical Supplement to account for the Proposed Development timeline.

Current programme development indicates that the construction period would be two years. The Time to Target Condition (TTTC) for all habitats has been calculated using the Natural England Biodiversity Metric 3.1 Technical Supplement standard TTTC plus adding two years to account for construction delay to habitat regeneration. TTTC has not been adapted within the wooded sections of the Operational Corridor, where habitat is expected to recover naturally into a bracken / grassland / scrub mosaic after woodland clearance outwith the permanent and temporary development footprint.

Table A.3: Time To Target Condition Multiplier

Time to Target Condition			
Time (years)	Multiplier	Time (years)	Multiplier
0	1	17	0.546
1	0.965	18	0.527
2	0.931	19	0.508
3	0.899	20	0.490
4	0.867	21	0.473
5	0.837	22	0.457
6	0.808	23	0.441
7	0.779	24	0.425
8	0.752	25	0.410
9	0.726	26	0.396
10	0.700	27	0.382
11	0.676	28	0.369
12	0.652	29	0.356
13	0.629	30	0.343
14	0.607	31	0.331
15	0.586	32+	0.320
16	0.566		

Off-site habitat creation and enhancement is only required when all options for on-site BNG requirements have been considered. If no on-site opportunities can be identified, off-site habitat creation and enhancement will be undertaken. The Toolkit has a spatial risk multiplier to encourage

²⁸ Natural England. 2022. Biodiversity Metric 3.1 Technical Supplement. [Online] Available at: [Archive Site for Legacy Biodiversity Metrics](#)
Netherpton Hub 400 kV OHL Connection to New Deer and Peterhead - Tie-In Environmental Appraisal Report

off-site compensation work to occur in the locale of the Proposed Development, with reference to Local Planning Authority (LPA) or National Park Authority boundary. The Spatial Risk Categories are displayed below:

Habitat provides compensation within the local LPA area = 1

Habitat provides compensation outwith the local LPA but within neighbouring LPA = 0.75

Habitat provides compensation outwith the local LPA and neighbouring LPAs = 0.5

The same Toolkit was used to calculate the net biodiversity change between the baseline habitats and the post-development habitats.

An impact to a habitat which is reversible and can return to same extent and ecological condition or better within two years of the initial impact, can be considered a temporary impact. Temporary impacts have not been included in the Toolkit calculations as there are no permanent adverse impacts.

Retained habitat are also excluded from the Toolkit as there is no recordable impact.

The Toolkit assesses both the area and linear habitat separately within the same Toolkit. The Toolkit produces a Biodiversity Unit value for the three categories of habitat type: Area Biodiversity Units (BU) and Linear Hedgerow Biodiversity Units (H BU). These units are not interchangeable.

Annex B: Assigned UKHAB Habitat Distinctiveness

Cropland - Cereal Crops	Low	Urban - Built linear features	Very Low
Cropland - Non-cereal crops	Low	Urban - Developed land; sealed surface	Very Low
Grassland - Bracken	Low	Urban - Suburban/mosaic of developed/natural surface	Low
Grassland - Modified grassland	Low	Wetland - Aquatic marginal vegetation	Moderate
Grassland - Other neutral grassland	High	Woodland and forest - Other coniferous woodland	Low
Heathland and shrub - Mixed scrub	Low	Woodland and forest - Other woodland; mixed	Medium
Line of Trees	Low	Woodland and forest - Wet woodland	High
Native hedgerow	Low		

Annex C: Good Practice Principles for Biodiversity Net Gain

The Proposed Development has applied the UK good practice principles for BNG²⁹ below:

Table C.1: Good Practice Principles for Biodiversity Net Gain

Principle	Summary of Proposed Development actions
Apply the mitigation hierarchy	The mitigation hierarchy has been integrated into the planning and design phases of the Proposed Development, ensuring avoidance, minimisation, and mitigation of impacts on biodiversity through construction and operational planning and Environmental Assessment undertaken as part of the application.
Avoid losing biodiversity that cannot be offset elsewhere	Losses to habitats cannot be prevented but shall be suitably mitigated through off-site habitat enhancement and creation as part of the Proposed Development.
Be inclusive and equitable	Through the EA process, discussions have been held with statutory bodies and stakeholders to explore and agree approaches for biodiversity. Stakeholder feedback regarding biodiversity is discussed in the EA Report.
Address risk	On site and / or off-site compensation areas shall be explored and secured to address the remaining Net Loss.
Make a measurable net gain contribution	On site and / or off-site compensation areas shall be explored to meet the requirements for Net Gain. SSEN is expected to identify suitable areas for habitat restoration where habitat losses across the Proposed Development can be addressed. Once restoration areas are secured, and their management is agreed with landowners, a habitat management / restoration plan should be drafted outlining methodology and monitoring of the identified management/ restoration areas.
Achieve the best outcomes for biodiversity	Habitats shall be designed to provide benefits to the local wildlife population such as breeding and foraging birds, mammals, and invertebrates and contribute positively to the overall ecological value of the surrounding landscape.
Be additional	The BNG Assessment demonstrates that additional positive outcomes are required for biodiversity in order to achieve the requirement of a 10 % Net Gain for area-based habitats through further habitat compensation, either on site or offsite.
Create a net gain legacy	Once secured and confirmed, offsite habitat creation would provide long-term benefits by adaptive management planning and dedicated funding for long-term management. This would provide suitable foraging, resting, breeding habitats for notable or protected species within the wider landscape via the provision of woodland, heathland and grassland.
Optimise sustainability	BNG has been integrated from the start of the initial development design stages with input across multiple disciplines to optimise the sustainability of the final Proposed Development.
Be transparent	The Applicant is keen to ensure that approaches following on from this Proposed Development are shared to ensure that any lessons learnt through BNG assessment, habitat enhancement / creation and habitat management can be factored into future Proposed Developments. Opportunities to share information on the Proposed Development and its approach would be sought.

²⁹ CIEEM, CIRIA, IEMA. 2020. C776a. Biodiversity Net Gain: Good Practice Principles for Development, A Practical Guide. [Online] Available at: [Biodiversity Net Gain: Good Practice Principles for Development, A Practical Guide. | CIEEM](#)

Annex D: References

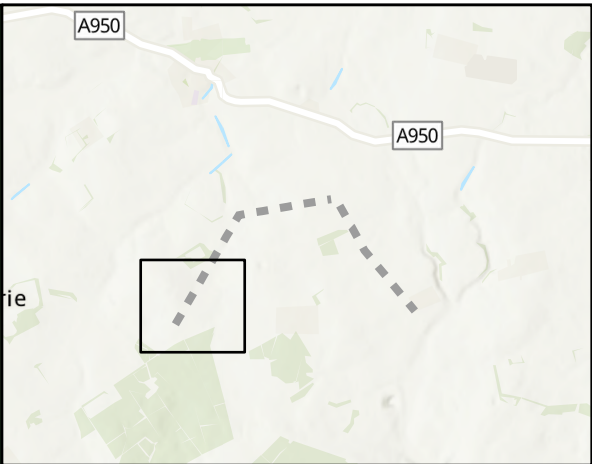
Table D.1: Scottish and Southern Electricity Networks Documents

Reference	Title
TG-NET-ENV-526	Biodiversity Net Gain Toolkit User Guide (2023)
	Sustainability Strategy (2024)

Table D.2: Miscellaneous Documents

Title
CIEEM, CIRIA, IEMA. 2020. C776a. Biodiversity Net Gain: Good Practice Principles for Development, A Practical Guide. [Online] Available at: Biodiversity Net Gain: Good Practice Principles for Development, A Practical Guide. CIEEM
Natural England. 2022. Biodiversity Metric 3.1 Habitat Condition Sheets with Instructions. [Online] Available at: Archive Site for Legacy Biodiversity Metrics
Natural England. 2022. Biodiversity Metric 3.1. [Online] Available at: Archive Site for Legacy Biodiversity Metrics
Natural England. 2022. Biodiversity Metric 3.1 Technical Supplement. [Online] Available at: Archive Site for Legacy Biodiversity Metrics
Scottish Government. 2023. National Planning Framework 4. [Online] Available at: National Planning Framework 4 - gov.scot
Scottish Government. Nature Conservation (Scotland) Act 2004. [Online] Available at: Nature Conservation (Scotland) Act 2004
Scottish Government. Town & Country Planning (Scotland) Act 1997. [Online] Available at: Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Act 1997
SSE Renewables. 2024. SSER Biodiversity Net Gain Toolkit User Guide V2.2 [Online] Available at: sser-bng-toolkit-user-guide_v2-2.pdf
UKHab Ltd. 2023. UK Habitat Classification Version 2.0. [Online] Available at: ukhab – UK Habitat Classification

Annex E: Baseline BNG Habitat Map



Legend

UKHab Classification

h2a - native hedgerow

c1c - cereal crops

Client:

Project:

New Deer to Peterhead OHL
Diversion and Rebuild

Title

Figure 1-1
Baseline Habitat Map

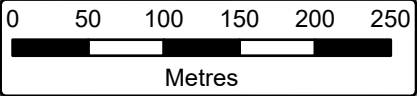
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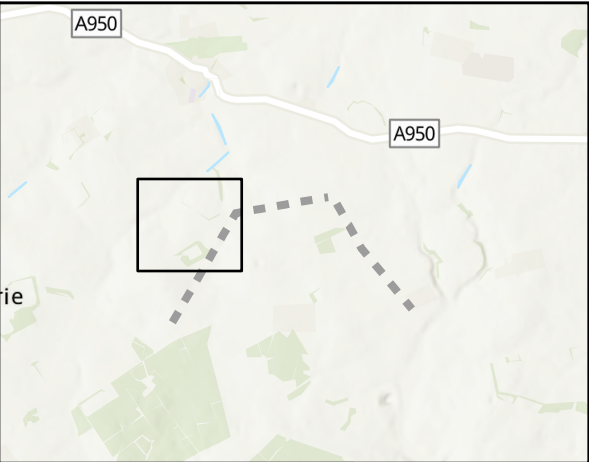
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Drawn: DB

Checked: SB

Approved: SB





Legend

UKHab Classification

h2a - native hedgerow

r2b - other rivers and streams

w1g - other broadleaved woodland

c1c - cereal crops

c1d - non-cereal crops

f2d - aquatic marginal vegetation

g4 - modified grassland

r1g - other standing water

u1e - built linear features

w1d - wet woodland

w2c - other coniferous woodland

Client:



Project:

New Deer to Peterhead OHL
Diversion and Rebuild

Title

Figure 1-2
Baseline Habitat Map

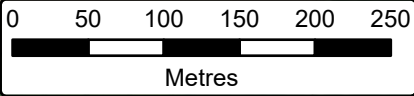
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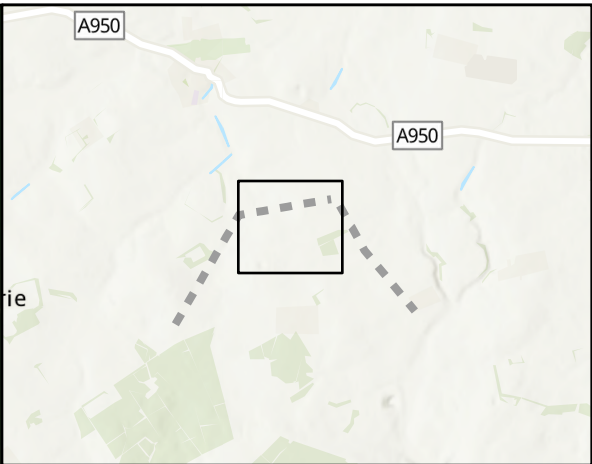
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Checked: SB

Approved: SB





Legend

UKHab Classification

h2a - native hedgerow

r2b - other rivers and streams

w1g - other broadleaved woodland

c1c - cereal crops

g3c - other neutral grassland

g4 - modified grassland

r1g - other standing water

u1b - developed land, sealed surface

u1b5 - buildings

u1e - built linear features

w1d - wet woodland

w1h - other woodland, mixed

Client:



Project:

New Deer to Peterhead OHL
Diversion and Rebuild

Title

Figure 1-3
Baseline Habitat Map

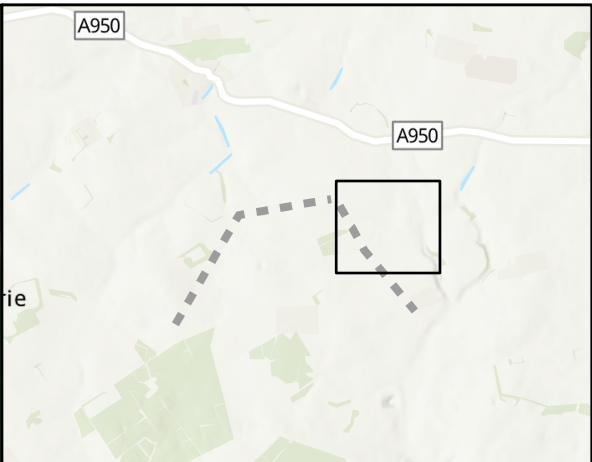
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Checked: SB

Approved: SB



Legend

UKHab Classification

h2a - native hedgerow

r2b - other rivers and streams

c1 - arable and horticulture

c1c - cereal crops

g4 - modified grassland

u1e - built linear features

Client:



Project:

New Deer to Peterhead OHL
Diversion and Rebuild

Title

Figure 1-4
Baseline Habitat Map

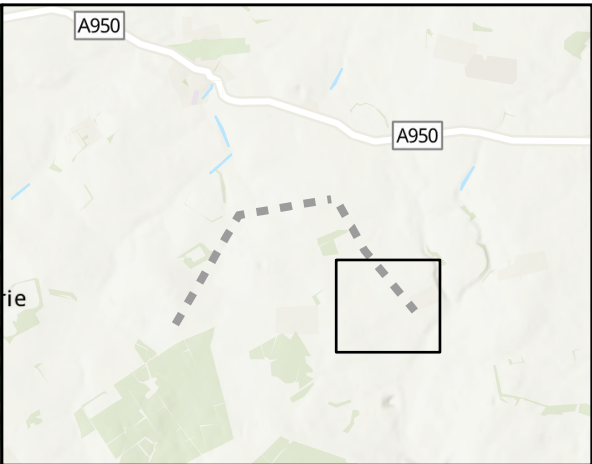
Date: 12/03/2026

Scale: 1:5,000 @ A3

Drawn: DB

Checked: SB

Approved: SB



Legend

UKHab Classification

- h2a - native hedgerow
- w2c - other coniferous forest
- c1 - arable and horticulture
- c1c - cereal crops
- g3c - other neutral grassland
- g4 - modified grassland
- u1e - built linear features

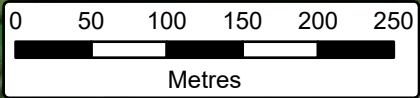
Client:  **Scottish & Southern**
Electricity Networks

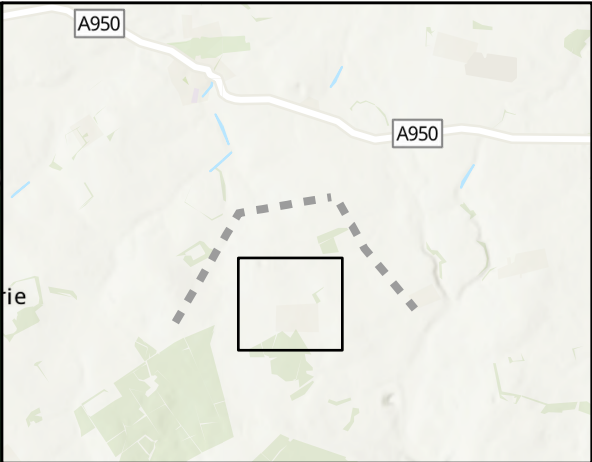
Project: **New Deer to Peterhead OHL
Diversion and Rebuild**

Title: **Figure 1-5
Baseline Habitat Map**

Date: 12/03/2026
Drawn: DB

Scale: 1:5,000 @ A3
Checked: SB
Approved: SB





Legend

UKHab Classification

w2c - other coniferous forest

c1c - cereal crops

c1d - non-cereal crops

g3c - other neutral grassland

g3c8 - Holcus-Juncus neutral grassland

g4 - modified grassland

u1b5 - buildings

u1e - built linear features

w1g - other woodland, broadleaved

Client:



Project:

New Deer to Peterhead OHL
Diversion and Rebuild

Title

Figure 1-6
Baseline Habitat Map

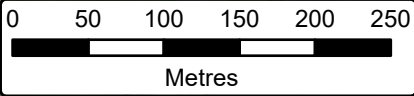
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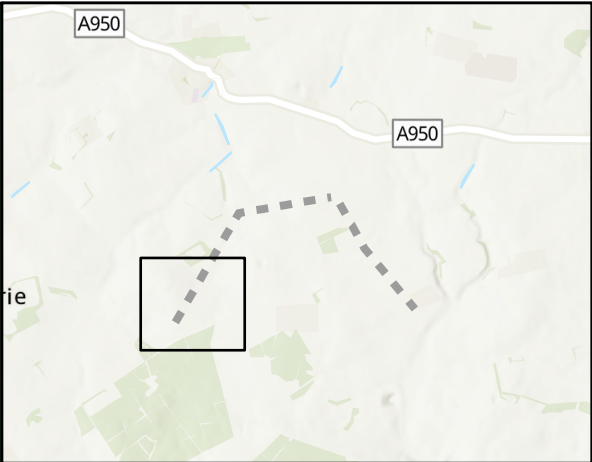
Drawn: DB

Checked: SB

Approved: SB



Annex F: Post-Development BNG Habitat Map



Legend

UKHab Class

- c1c - cereal crops
- c1d - non-cereal crops
- g3c - other neutral grassland
- g4 - modified grassland
- u1b - developed land, sealed surface
- u1e - built linear features

Client:

Project:

New Deer to Peterhead OHL
Diversion and Rebuild

Title

Figure 1-1
Proposed Habitat Map

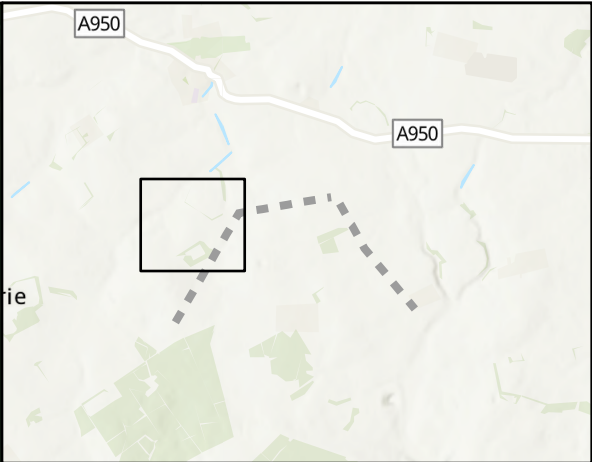
Date: 12/03/2026

Scale: 1:5,000 @ A3

Drawn: DB

Checked: SB

Approved: SB



Legend

UKHab Class

- c1c - cereal crops
- c1d - non-cereal crops
- f2d - aquatic marginal vegetation
- g4 - modified grassland
- h3h - mixed scrub
- r1g - other standing water
- u1b - developed land, sealed surface
- u1e - built linear features
- w1d - wet woodland
- w2c - other coniferous woodland

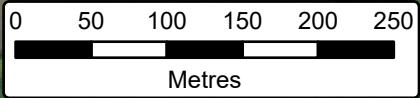
Client: Scottish & Southern Electricity Networks

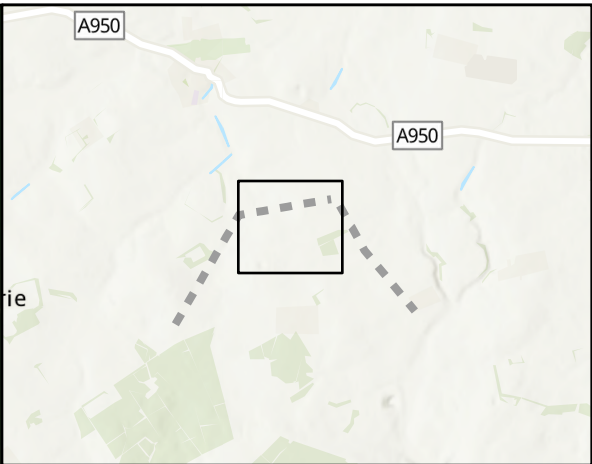
Project: New Deer to Peterhead OHL Diversion and Rebuild

Title: Figure 1-2 Proposed Habitat Map

Date: 12/03/2026
Drawn: DB
Checked: SB
Approved: SB

Scale: 1:5,000 @ A3





Legend

UKHab Class

c1c - cereal crops

g3c - other neutral grassland

Client:

Project:

New Deer to Peterhead OHL
Diversion and Rebuild

Title

Figure 1-3
Proposed Habitat Map

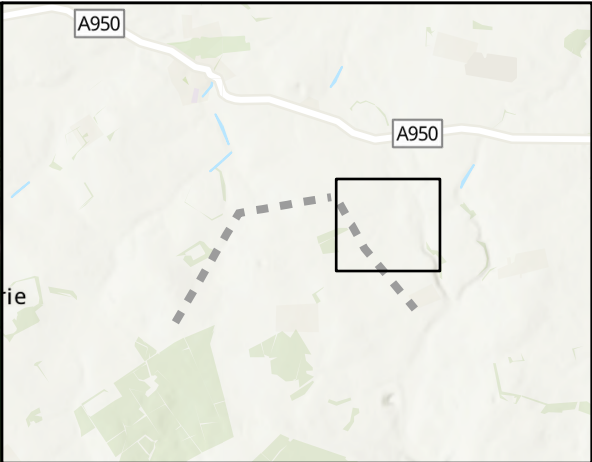
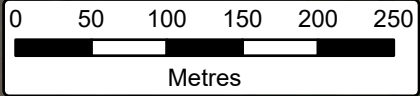
Date: 12/03/2026

Scale: 1:5,000 @ A3

Drawn: DB

Checked: SB

Approved: SB



Legend

UKHab Class

-  c1 - arable and horticulture
-  c1c - cereal crops
-  g4 - modified grassland
-  u1b - developed land, sealed surface
-  u1e - built linear features

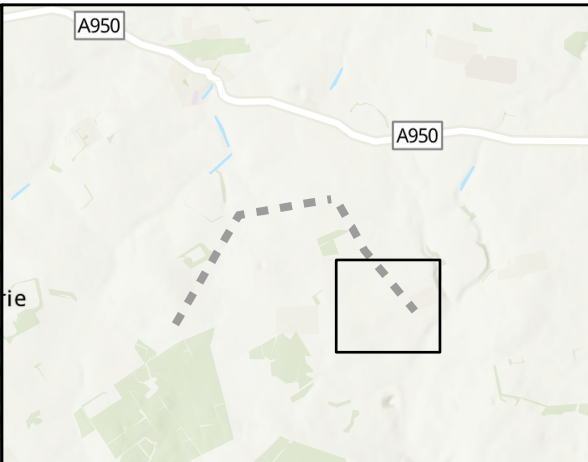
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Electricity Networks

Project: **New Deer to Peterhead OHL
Diversion and Rebuild**

Title: **Figure 1-4
Proposed Habitat Map**

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Checked: SB
Approved: SB

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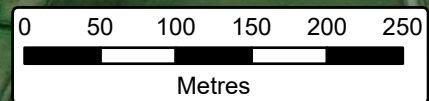


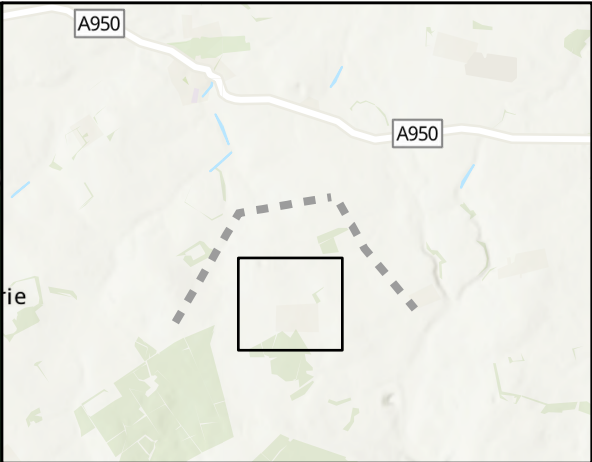
Legend

UKHab Class

-  c1 - arable and horticulture
-  c1c - cereal crops
-  g3c - other neutral grassland
-  g4 - modified grassland
-  u1b - developed land, sealed surface
-  u1e - built linear features

Client:	 Scottish & Southern Electricity Networks
Project:	New Deer to Peterhead OHL Diversion and Rebuild
Title	Figure 1-5 Proposed Habitat Map
Date: 12/03/2026	Scale: 1:5,000 @ A3
Drawn: DB	Checked: SB
	Approved: SB





Legend

UKHab Class

 c1c - cereal crops

 c1d - non-cereal crops

 g3c - other neutral grassland

 g4 - modified grassland

 u1b5 - buildings

 u1e - built linear features

 w1g - other woodland, broadleaved

Client:



Project:

New Deer to Peterhead OHL
Diversion and Rebuild

Title

Figure 1-6
Proposed Habitat Map

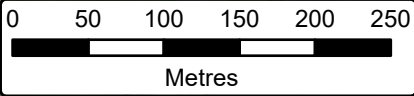
Date: 12/03/2026

Scale: 1:5,000 @ A3

Drawn: DB

Checked: SB

Approved: SB



Annex G: Target Condition Justifications

Table G-1 below provides justification for why the proposed habitat conditions were assigned per habitat parcel in line with Biodiversity Metric 3.1 - Technical Supplement.

Table G.1: Target Condition Justifications

Habitat Type	Total Habitat Area (ha) / Length (km)	Proposed Condition	Brief Justification of Proposed Condition
c1c cereal crops (Cropland - Cereal Crops)	7.00	N/A - Agriculture	No condition assessment applies as habitat has no biodiversity value.
c1d non-cereal crops (Cropland - Non-cereal crops)	2.05	N/A - Agriculture	No condition assessment applies as habitat has no biodiversity value.
f2d aquatic marginal vegetation (Wetland - Aquatic marginal vegetation)	0.03	Moderate	The condition assessment will likely result in passing three of six core criteria: 1) Water table will likely not be near the surface throughout the year = Pass 2) The appearance may not closely match the characteristics of the specific habitat type = Fail 3) The water supply is of good water quality = Fail 4) There will be a lower scrub/tree cover = Pass 5) Cover of bare ground may or may not be less than 5% depending on the success of the recovery rate = Fail 6) There will likely be an absence of invasive non-native species. = Pass
g1c bracken (Grassland - Bracken)	0.36	N/A - Agriculture	No condition assessment applies as habitat has no biodiversity value.
g4 modified grassland (Grassland - modified grassland)	0.03	Moderate (Arable field margins)	The condition assessment will likely result in meeting two out of six criteria: 1) More than 6 species per m2 present = Pass (essential for achieving moderate) 2) Sward height will likely be varied = Fail 3) Cover of scrub less than 20% = Pass 4) Physical damage is evident in less than 5% of grassland = Pass 5) Cover of bare ground is between 1-10% = Pass 6) Cover of bracken will likely be less than 20% = Pass
g3c other neutral grassland (Grassland -)	0.31	Poor	The condition assessment will likely result in meeting two out of six criteria:

Habitat Type	Total Habitat Area (ha) / Length (km)	Proposed Condition	Brief Justification of Proposed Condition
Other neutral grassland)			1) The appearance will likely match characteristics of the specific grassland type = Fail 2) Sward height will likely be varied = Pass 3) Cover of bare ground may be larger than 5% = Fail 4) Cover of bracken will likely be less than 20% = Fail 5) There will likely be no invasive non-native species present = Pass 6) More than 9 species per m2 cannot be guaranteed = Fail
g4 modified grassland (Grassland – modified grassland)	9.52	Poor	The condition assessment will likely fail essential condition criteria one, resulting in poor condition: 1) More than 6 species per m ² cannot be guaranteed = Fail (essential for achieving moderate) 2) Sward height will likely be varied = Fail 3) Cover of scrub less than 20% = Pass 4) Physical damage is evident in less than 5% of grassland = Fail (grazing) 5) Cover of bare ground is between 1-10% = Pass 6) Cover of bracken will likely be less than 20% = Pass 7) There will likely be no invasive non-native species present = Pass
h3h mixed scrub (Heathland and shrub - Mixed scrub)	0.18	Poor	The condition assessment will likely result in meeting two out of five criteria: 1) The appearance may closely match the characteristics of the habitat type = Pass 2) There is a good age range = Fail 3) There is an absence of invasive species = Pass 4) The scrub has a well-developed edge = Fail 5) There are clearings, glades or rides present within the scrub = Fail
u1b – developed land; sealed surface (Urban - Developed land; sealed surface)	0.03	N/A – No biodiversity value	No condition assessment applies as habitat has no biodiversity value.

Habitat Type	Total Habitat Area (ha) / Length (km)	Proposed Condition	Brief Justification of Proposed Condition
u1e built linear feature (Urban - Built linear features)	0.76	N/A – No biodiversity value	No condition assessment applies as habitat has no biodiversity value.

Annex H: Template Revision History

No	Overview of Amendments	Previous Document	Revision	Authorisation
01	New document	n/a	1.00	Richard Baldwin
02				