

## **VOLUME 2: CHAPTER 1 - INTRODUCTION**

### **1. INTRODUCTION**

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#### **Appendices (Volume 5 of this EIA Report)**

There are no appendices associated with this Chapter.

#### **Figures (Volume 3 of this EIA Report)**

There are no figures associated with this Chapter.



# 1. INTRODUCTION

## 1.1 Overview

- 1.1.1 This Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Report has been prepared to accompany an application for consent under section 37 of the Electricity Act 1989 to construct and operate approximately 110 kilometres (km) of new double circuit steel structure 132 kV overhead transmission line (OHL) between Fort Augustus Substation and Edinbane Substation, and approximately 27 km of new single circuit trident H wood pole (H pole) OHL between Edinbane Substation and Ardmore Substation. The project would also comprise approximately 24 km of underground cable, proposed to mitigate likely significant landscape and visual effects, or as a means of rationalising the OHL network. In total, the transmission connection extends for approximately 160 km. A full description of the project and its ancillary works is set out within **Volume 1, Chapter 3: Project Description** of this EIA Report.
- 1.1.2 The Proposed Development described and assessed within this Volume of the EIA Report comprises the Proposed Alignment (see **Figures V1-1.1a to 1c: Overview of the Proposed Development**). As outlined in **Volume 1, Chapter 1 (Part 1.2)**, the Applicant is also presenting an Alternative Alignment as part of the consent application in Section 3 of the project between Broadford and Kyle Rhea, via Glen Arroch. The Alternative Alignment is discussed and assessed within **Volume 6** of this EIA Report.
- 1.1.3 The electricity transmission project is referred to as the Skye Reinforcement Project (and hereafter also referred to interchangeably as the “the Proposed Development”). The project is required to replace existing assets that are approaching the end of their operational life and provide additional capacity on the transmission network for new renewable generation. Following completion of the Proposed Development, the existing 132 kV OHL between Fort Augustus Substation and Ardmore Substation would be dismantled and removed. An overview of the Proposed Development is shown on **Figures V1-1.1a to 1c: Overview of the Proposed Development**.
- 1.1.4 An EIA has been undertaken for the Proposed Development in accordance with the Electricity Works (Environmental Impact Assessment) (Scotland) Regulations 2017 to determine the likely significant effects of the Proposed Development. The findings of the EIA are presented in this EIA Report, including the measures which would be taken to prevent, reduce and, where possible, offset predicted likely significant adverse effects.
- 1.1.5 As stated in paragraph 1.6.1 of **Volume 1, Chapter 1** of this EIA Report, given the length of the route for the Proposed Development, for the purposes of this EIA Report the route for the new 132 kV transmission connection has been split into seven geographically defined ‘Sections’ to describe more easily the Proposed Development and the baseline environmental factors. These ‘Sections’ are broadly defined as follows:
- Section 0 – Ardmore to Edinbane;
  - Section 1 – Edinbane to North of Sligachan;
  - Section 2 – North of Sligachan to Broadford;
  - Section 3 – Broadford to Kyle Rhea;
  - Section 4 – Kyle Rhea to Loch Cuaich;
  - Section 5 – Loch Cuaich to Invergarry; and
  - Section 6 – Invergarry to Fort Augustus.

## 1.2 Purpose of this Volume of the EIA Report

- 1.2.1 This volume of the EIA Report (i.e. **Volume 2**) comprises a series of technical topic based reports that each include an assessment of the likely significant effects of the Proposed Development, comprising the Proposed Alignment (see **Figures V1-1.1a to 1c: Overview of the Proposed Development**), on the particular receptors of relevance to each of the topic based assessments, a description of the proposed mitigation measures

relevant to those assessments, and, confirmation of the predicted residual effects. The consideration of cumulative effects, and those effects that may cross 'section' boundaries' is also discussed where relevant in each specialist topic within this Volume. **Chapter 2 of Volume 2** provides an overview of each section, together with a description of the elements of the Proposed Development, ancillary development and associated works relevant to each section.

1.2.2 This volume supplements **Volume 1** of the EIA Report (referred to as the 'Main Report'), which provides an introduction to the project and sets out the project need and the strategic system planning considerations for delivering the project. Volume 1 also provides a description of the key components of the Proposed Development, including construction and operational access requirements, and the main alternatives considered during the development of the project, together with the approach to the EIA Report, and the consultations that have been undertaken to define the scope of the EIA. Volume 1 concludes with a summary of the likely significant effects of the Proposed Development, with reference to the detailed assessments reported in **Volume 2** (for the Proposed Alignment) and **Volume 6** (for the Alternative Alignment) of the EIA Report.

1.2.3 A description of the Alternative Alignment, and the results of an EIA undertaken for the Alternative Alignment, are included within **Volume 6** of this EIA Report.

### 1.3 Structure of this Volume of the EIA Report

1.3.1 This volume of the EIA Report is structured as per Table V2-1.1 below:

**Table V2-1.1: Structure of Volume 2 of the EIA Report**

Chapter Number	Chapter Name	Purpose
1	Introduction	A brief overview of the project and the purpose and structure of Volume 2 of the EIA Report
2	Section by Section Overview	Providing an overview of each of the seven geographical sections within which the Proposed Development is sited.
3	Landscape and Visual	An assessment of the Proposed Development on landscape and visual receptors.
4	Ecology	An assessment of the Proposed Development on terrestrial ecology, including habitats and protected species.
5	Ornithology	An assessment of the Proposed Development on ornithological sensitivities.
6	Water Environment	An assessment of the Proposed Development on the water environment.
7	Geology and Soils Environment	An assessment of the Proposed Development on geology and soils, including peat.
8	Cultural Heritage	An assessment of the Proposed Development on cultural heritage.
9	Forestry	An assessment of the Proposed Development on forestry.
10	Transport	An assessment of the Proposed Development on traffic and transport related effects.
11	Socio-Economics, Recreation and Tourism	An assessment of the Proposed Development on socio-economics, recreation and tourism receptors.

1.3.2 The scope of each assessment is set out in the relevant chapter, and has been informed by a scoping exercise to determine the scope of the EIA Report, further details of which are contained in **Volume 1, Chapter 6: Scope and Consultation**.