

Appendix V1-6.4: Scoping Matrix

Abbreviations

BHS	British Horse Society
ECU	Energy Consents Unit
HES	Historic Environment Scotland
HIAL	Highlands and Islands Airports Limited
IF	Ironside Farrar
IOSF	International Otter Survival Fund
MOD	Ministry of Defence
NATS	National Air Traffic Society
NDSFB	Ness District Salmon Fishery Board
NS	NatureScot
ONR	Office for Nuclear Regulation
RSPB	Royal Society for the Protection of Birds
SEPA	Scottish Environment Protection Agency
SW	Scottish Water
THC	The Highland Council
TS	Transport Scotland
WT	Woodland Trust
IOSF	International Otter Survival Fund

Table 1: Scoping Matrix

No.	Subject	Task	Consultee	Scoping Opinion Page Ref.	EIA Report Reference	Comments
1	Scoping Consultations	Scottish Ministers expect the EIA Report to consider in full all consultation responses included with the Scoping Opinion.	ECU01	6	Volume 1: All Chapters Volume 2: All Chapters	All consultation responses received are summarised within this Scoping Matrix and addressed throughout the EIA Report, where relevant.
2	EIA Scope	Scottish Ministers are broadly content with the EIA set out in Sections 6 to 16 of the EIA Scoping Report.	ECU02	6	Volume 2: All Chapters	This has been noted.
3	Scottish Water Assets	Scottish Water provided information in relation to the presence of any drinking water protected areas or Scottish Water assets on which the Proposed Development could have any significant effect. Scottish Ministers request that the Applicant contact Scottish Water directly to confirm whether there are any Scottish Water assets which may be affected by the development and include details in the EIA Report of any relevant mitigation measures to be provided.	ECU03	6	Volume 2 – Chapter 6: Water Environment	Scottish Water have been contacted directly to obtain information on drinking water protected areas and assets. The noted chapter assesses potential impacts on the water environment, Drinking Water Protected Areas (DWPA) and private water supplies (PWS).and identifies any mitigation measures proposed (see also Volume 5 – Confidential Appendix V2-6.3: Drinking Water Protected Area and Private Water Supply Risk Assessment)
4	Private Water Supplies	Scottish Ministers request that the Applicant investigates the presence of any private water supplies which may be impacted by the Proposed Development, and detail these within the EIA Report along with assessment of likely impacts. Mitigation measures should be proposed,	ECU04	6	Volume 2 – Chapter 6: Water Environment	The presence of any private water supplies along the route have been determined through consultation with The Highland Council and site survey, and likely impacts from the Proposed Development are set out in the noted chapter (see also Volume 5 - Confidential Appendix V2-6.3: Drinking

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		where necessary.				Water Protected Area and Private Water Supply Risk Assessment). Mitigation measures are proposed, where relevant.
5	MSS EIA Guidance	Marine Science Scotland (MSS) provide generic scoping guidelines for OHL development which outline how fish populations can be impacted during construction, operation and decommissioning. The guidelines inform developers as to what should be considered during the EIA Process.	ECU05	7	Volume 2 – Chapter 4: Ecology	The MSS guidance has been used to inform the assessment in the noted chapter.. Fish habitat surveys have been undertaken in Section 2 and 6 of the project where underground cable is proposed (see also Volume 5, Appendix V2-4.5: Watercourse Crossing Fish Habitat Survey Report).
6	Impacts on Fish Populations	In addition to identifying the main watercourses and waterbodies within and downstream of the Proposed Development area, the Applicant should identify and consider any Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) where fish are a qualifying feature. The Applicant should also consider proposed felling operations, particularly in acid sensitive areas.	ECU06	7	Volume 2 – Chapter 4: Ecology Volume 2 – Chapter 6: Water Environment Volume 2 - Chapter 9: Forestry	Watercourses related to the Proposed Development are detailed in Volume 2, Chapter 6: Water Environment . There are no SACs where fish are a qualifying feature connected to the Proposed Development. . Felling requirements are set out within Volume 2, Chapter 9: Forestry and associated appendices. With standard construction mitigation in place, as detailed in Volume 2: Chapter 4: Ecology , significant effects on watercourses due to felling operations have been scoped out of the assessment.
7	MSS Information Requirements	The EIA Report should make use of the checklist in MSS’s standing advice for OHL development to ensure the required	ECU07	7	Volume 2 – Chapter 4: Ecology	This has been noted. The required information has been provided in advance of

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		information is provided. The absence of this information may necessitate a request for additional information which may delay the determination process. The Applicant is required to submit the completed checklist in advance of submission of the application.				submission of the application.
8	Peat Landslide Hazard Risk Assessment Requirement	Where there is a demonstrable requirement for peat landslide hazard risk assessment (PLHRA), the assessment should be undertaken as part of the EIA process.	ECU08	7	Volume 2 - Chapter 7: Geology and Soils Environment	A PLHRA has been carried out as part of the EIA Report and is included in Volume 5, Appendix V2-7.2: Peat Landslide Hazard and Risk Assessment (PLHRA) to the noted chapter.
9	Peat Landslide Hazard Risk Assessment Consultation	The EIA Scoping Report was referred to Ironside Farrar to provide advice regarding PLHRA. Scottish Ministers agree with Ironside Farrar that a PLHRA is required.	ECU09	7	Volume 2 - Chapter 7: Geology and Soils Environment	A PLHRA has been carried out as part of the EIA Report and is included in Volume 5, Appendix V2-7.2: Peat Landslide Hazard and Risk Assessment (PLHRA) to the noted chapter.
10	Landscape and Visual Impact - Viewpoints	The EIA Scoping Report identified viewpoints in Table 6.9 that will be prepared to inform and support the Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment (LVIA). THC's detailed comments and requests in relation to viewpoints and the LVIA should be noted, alongside additional viewpoint requests from NatureScot and HES.	ECU10	7	Volume 2 – Chapter 3: Landscape and Visual Volume 2 – Chapter 8 Cultural Heritage	The noted LVIA chapter identifies and describes the viewpoints used for production of photomontage visualisations to support and inform the LVIA. The noted Cultural Heritage Chapter identifies further viewpoints used to inform the cultural heritage assessment.

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11	Alternatives	Scottish Ministers expect the Applicant to carry out adequate pre-application consultation and demonstrate the alternatives considered for the Proposed Development prior to arriving at the final design. The EIA Report should include a description of the main alternatives and a discussion of the main reasons for selection of the chosen option, including comparison of environmental effects.	ECU11	7	Volume 1 – Chapter 4: The Routeing Process and Alternatives	The noted chapter sets out the alternative options considered and discusses the reasons for identifying a proposed alignment and design solution. Details of pre-application consultation are included in Volume 1, Chapter 6: Scope and Consultation .
12	Schedule of Mitigation	The mitigation measures suggested for any significant environmental impact identified should be presented as a conclusion to each chapter. The Applicant is also asked to provide a consolidated schedule of all mitigation measures presented in the EIA Report in tabular form.	ECU12	8	Volume 2: All Chapters Volume 5 – Appendix V1-3.6: Schedule of Mitigation	Mitigation measures are proposed at the end of each technical chapter. A consolidated Schedule of Mitigation is also presented as an appendix to the EIA Report.
13	Further Consultation	It is acknowledged that the EIA process is iterative and further engagement between relevant parties may be required to refine the design of the Proposed Development. Scottish Ministers request they are kept informed of on-going discussions in relation to this.	ECU13	8	Volume 1 – Chapter 6: Scope and Consultation	This has been noted. The Energy Consents Unit have been kept informed of any further discussions with consultees.
14	ECU Consultation	The Applicant is encouraged to engage with the ECU at the pre-application stage and before proposals reach design freeze.	ECU14	8	Volume 1 – Chapter 6: Scope and Consultation	The Applicant has engaged with the ECU during the pre-application stages, as set out within the noted chapter.

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15	Scoping Matrix	When finalising the EIA Report, the Applicant is asked to provide a summary in tabular form of where within the EIA Report each of the specific matters raised in the Scoping Opinion have been addressed.	ECU15	9	Volume 5 – Appendix V1-6.4: Scoping Matrix	This Scoping Matrix addresses the noted request.
16	OHL EIA Report	<p>THC require that the EIA Report must include:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a description of the physical characteristics of the whole development and the full land-use requirements during the operational, construction and decommissioning of the existing OHL and associated infrastructure to be replaced; a plan with eight figure OS Grid co-ordinates for all main elements of the proposal should be supplied. A horizontal and vertical Limit of Deviation should also be set out for each section of the line.; a description of the main characteristics of the construction process, for instance, nature and quantity of the materials used; the risk of accidents, having regard in particular to ground conditions, substances or technologies used; an estimate, by type and quantity, of 	THC01	13	<p>Volume 1: Chapter 3: Project Description</p> <p>Volume 2: All Chapters</p>	<p>Volume 1 - Chapter 3: Project Description details the specific elements of the Proposed Development. The following confirms where each point listed in THC's response has been addressed:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> See Volume 1 - Chapter 3: Project Description; Volume 3, Figure V1.3.1a to V1.3.1qq illustrates all main elements of the Proposed Development, including horizontal Limit of Deviations (LoDs). The vertical LoD is discussed within Volume 1 - Chapter 3: Project Description; See Volume 1 - Chapter 3: Project Description; The potential for accidents and disasters is discussed in Volume 1 - Chapter 6: Scope and Consultation, confirming that crisis management and continuity plans are in place across the SSE Group to respond to such events;

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		<p>expected residues and emissions (water, air and soil pollution, noise, vibration, light, heat, radiation, etc.) resulting from the construction and operation of the development; and</p> <p>f. the estimated cumulative impact of the project with other consented or operational major developments, including those to be connected and served by the proposed development, as well as the upgrading of connecting substation infrastructure irrespective of these projects undergoing a separate consenting regime.</p>				<p>e. This is discussed in relevant chapters of the EIA Report (e.g. Volume 1 – Chapter 3: Project Description and Chapter 6: Scope and Consultation, and Volume 2 - Chapter 6: Water Environment); and</p> <p>f. The potential for cumulative impacts are considered within each technical chapter within Volume 2 of the EIA Report, where relevant. Volume 1 - Chapter 5: EIA Process and Methodology sets out the main cumulative developments that have been considered in the EIA Report.</p>
17	Consideration of Alternatives	<p>THC require a statement outlining the alternatives studied by the Applicant, and indication of the reasons for the final choice. This should highlight the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> range of technologies considered; route alignment process, criteria and economic parameters; options for construction and operational access, means of transportation and ground disturbance; design and locational options for all 	THC02	14	Volume 1 – Chapter 4: The Routeing Process and Alternatives	A description of the route and alignment selection stage of the project, together with other alternatives considered during the EIA process, can be found in Volume 1 – Chapter 4 of the EIA Report.

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		<p>elements of the development; and</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> environmental effects of the different options considered. 				
18	Assessment	The EIA Report must provide a description of the aspects of the environment likely to be significantly affected.	THC03	14	Volume 1 – Chapter 8: Summary of Effects Volume 2 - All Chapters	The assessment of the Proposed Development is undertaken throughout Volume 2 of the EIA Report. A summary of environmental effects is provided in Volume 1 - Chapter 8: Summary of Effects.
19	Land Use and Policy	THC require that the EIA Report should recognise the existing land uses affected by the development having particular regard for THC's Development Plan inclusive of all statutorily adopted Supplementary Guidance (SG). This is in addition to the expectation of receiving a Planning Statement in support of the application itself which, should comply with the Development Plan, should look at Scottish Planning Policy and Planning Advice Notes.	THC04	14	Volume 1 - Chapter 7: Planning and Energy Policy Context; and Planning Statement	These policy documents are referenced within the noted Chapter and the Planning Statement which accompanies the EIA Report.
20	Sustainability	THC require a Sustainable Design Statement. The application should include a statement on how the development is likely to contribute to the Scottish Government Energy Efficient Scotland roadmap and provide the Highlands with	THC05	14, 15	Volume 1 - Chapter 2: Project Need and Strategy	Volume 1 - Chapter 2: Project Need and Strategy explains the requirements and drivers for the Proposed Development. It is not proposed to submit a separate Sustainable Design Statement given such documents are targeted at housing

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		<p>secure and clean electricity supplies.</p> <p>There should be assessment of future energy storage solutions and Hydrogen production in informing project need, as well as explanation of the electricity network benefits of the proposals.</p> <p>A strategy for the provision of electric vehicle charging points at certain points on the network should also be considered.</p>				<p>developments. However, sustainable design principles will be discussed in the EIA Report and Planning Statement, where relevant.</p>
21	Landscape and Visual	<p>THC expect the EIA report to consider the landscape and visual impact of the development by:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> The LVIA should show distinction between landscape and visual effects and assess these separately. Separate volumes of visualisations should be prepared to THC and NatureScot Guidance and provided in hard copy, lever-arch files. THC advise that the use of monochrome for specific viewpoints is useful where there are a number of different intervening features in the view, or where the proposals will be viewed alongside other visible structures including wind turbines and overhead lines. The assessment should include consideration of impact of on-site borrow pits and access roads. 	THC06	15, 16	Volume 2 – Chapter 3: Landscape and Visual	<p>The findings of the LVIA for the OHL can be found in the noted chapter. The following confirms where each point listed in THC’s response has been addressed:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Landscape and visual effects have been considered separately throughout the LVIA; Two separate volumes of visualisations have been prepared and are presented separately in Volumes 4A and 4B of the EIA Report. Potential use of monochrome visualisations has been considered, but these have not been prepared at this stage as there are no situations where other similar infrastructure would feature within any of the montages and therefore, it is considered that the Proposed Development can clearly be identified within the standard wirelines and

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> e. Visualisations should include all aspects of the Proposed Development. f. The final list of visualisations should be agreed with THC and NatureScot and the purposes of the selected viewpoints clearly stated on supporting documentation. g. Pre-application discussions with the local community, and associated reporting on consultation undertaken should take into account potential visualisation requests by community councils. h. The assessment of recreational routes should include all core paths, the national cycle network, and long distance trails. It should be noted that these routes are used by a range of receptors. i. Cumulative assessment should consider all energy related development within the surrounding landscape. j. The Council requests that when measuring the positive and negative effects of the development a four point scale is used advising any effect to be either strong positive, positive, negative or strong negative. 				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> photomontages. d. The LVIA considers the impacts of all temporary and permanent tracks. Onsite borrow pits have not been included as the location of these features are not yet fixed and they would be the subject of a separate application. e. Visualisations include tracks and other features where relevant. f. Visualisation locations have been agreed with THC and NatureScot through Scoping and subsequent consultation (Letter dated 12 April 2022, and 14 June 2022) g. No additional viewpoint locations were suggested by Community Council's. h. The referenced route types have been considered within the visual assessment of routes where relevant. i. The scope of the cumulative assessment for each Section has been agreed with NatureScot and THC through consultation (Letter dated 12 April 2022) j. The LVIA has been carried out in accordance with best practice guidance: The Guidelines for Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment (GLVIA3) and criteria used are in accordance with this guidance in terms of identification and presentation of significant effects.
22	Geology,	THC require that the EIA Report include;	THC07	16, 17, 18	Volume 2 –	Details on the geology and soils, and the

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	Hydrology and Hydrogeology	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. a full assessment on the impact of the development on peat, including peat probing for all areas where development is proposed; b. carbon balance calculations should be undertaken and included within the EIA Report; c. a full description of the likely significant effects of the development on the local geology including aspects such as borrow pits, earthworks, site restoration and the soil generally including direct effects and any indirect; d. where borrow pits are proposed, details including location, size, nature and the final reinstated profile should be provided; e. assessment of impacts on watercourses, lochs, groundwater, other water features and sensitive receptors, such as water supplies; f. a systematic table of all watercourse crossings or channelising, with detailed justification for any such elements and design to minimise impact accompanied by photography; g. The EIA Report should provide information on, and the need for, abstractions of water supplies for concrete works or other operations; 			<p>Chapter 6: Water Environment</p> <p>Volume 2 – Chapter 7: Geology and Soils Environment</p>	<p>water environment (including hydrology and hydrogeology) of the area associated with the Proposed Development, and any expected effects, can be found in the noted chapters.</p> <p>The following confirms where each point listed in THC's response has been addressed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. A peat probing campaign has been carried out across the project to establish peat depth and appropriate mitigation (see Volume 5 - Appendix 7.3: Peat and Carbon Management Plan); b. The potential loss of carbon associated with the Proposed Development is discussed in Volume 2 - Chapter 7: Geology and Soils Environment, and associated appendix Volume 5 – Appendix V2-7.3: Peat and Carbon Management Plan; c. This is included in Volume 2 - Chapter 7: Geology and Soils Environment; d. Borrow pits are not included within the section 37 consent application, and therefore not considered in detail within this EIA Report. However, indicative locations are provided in Volume 5 – Appendix V1-3.3, and a preliminary appraisal of anticipated volume, and potential environmental effects at each location is provided; e. This is provided in Volume 2 - Chapter

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		<p>and</p> <p>h. details of onsite survey to identify any private water supplies or private drainage schemes (septic tanks) and details of the measures proposed to prevent contamination or physical disruption of them.</p> <p>i.</p>				<p>6: Water Environment;</p> <p>f. A watercourse crossing schedule for permanent watercourse crossings is provided in Volume 5 - Appendix V2-6.2: Schedule of Permanent Watercourse Crossings and measures to minimise their impact are given in Volume 2 – Chapter 6: Water Environment and Volume 2 -Chapter 4: Ecology;</p> <p>g. This is discussed in Volume 2 - Chapter 6: Water Environment; and</p> <p>h. A Private Water Supply survey has been undertaken, the results of which are included in Volume 5 – Confidential Appendix V2--6.3.</p>
23	Ecology and Ornithology	<p>THC outlined that the EIA Report should include;</p> <p>a. a baseline survey of the bird and animals (mammals, reptiles, amphibians, etc) interest on site. Detail on rare and threatened habitats, and those protected by European or UK legislation, or identified in national or local Biodiversity Action Plans should be presented;</p> <p>b. habitat enhancement and mitigation measures should be detailed, particularly in respect to blanket bog, in the context of both biodiversity</p>	THC08	18, 19	<p>Volume 2 – Chapter 4: Ecology</p> <p>Volume 2 – Chapter 5: Ornithology</p>	<p>The relevant ecological and ornithological survey results and associated assessments can be found in the respective noted chapters. The following confirms where each point listed in THC's response has been addressed:</p> <p>a. Relevant survey work is presented in the noted chapters and associated appendices;</p> <p>b. The Applicant is committed to incorporating Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) into their projects and a BNG assessment will be provided and agreed</p>

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		<p>conservation and net gain, along with details of any agreements with landowners;</p> <p>c. an address to whether or not the development could assist or impede delivery of elements of relevant Biodiversity Action Plans;</p> <p>d. analysis of the presence of protected species such as Schedule 1 Birds or European Protected Species;</p> <p>e. an address of the likely impacts on the nature conservation interests of all the designated sites in the vicinity of the proposed development and proposed mitigation;</p> <p>f. assessment of the potential impact on wild deer;</p> <p>g. an assessment of the aquatic interests within local watercourses;</p> <p>h. assessment of the effects on Ground Water Dependent Terrestrial Ecosystems (GWDTE).</p>				<p>upon with relevant consultees post submission of the application and prior to determination, secured by a condition of consent;</p> <p>c. The Proposed Development falls within the Highland BAP and is discussed in Volume 2 - Chapter 4: Ecology</p> <p>d. This is discussed in the noted chapters;</p> <p>e. This is discussed in the noted chapters;</p> <p>f. This is discussed in Volume 2 - Chapter 4: Ecology; and</p> <p>g. This is discussed in Volume 2 - Chapter 4: Ecology.</p> <p>This is discussed in Volume 2 - Chapter 4: Ecology and Volume 2 - Chapter 6: Water Environment. An assessment of the effects on GWDTE is presented in Volume 5 - Appendix V2-6.4: Groundwater Dependent Terrestrial Ecosystems (GWDTE) Assessment</p>
24	Forestry	THC advise that a specific chapter on forestry is included in the EIA Report. The Chapter should provide a baseline survey of the plants (including fungi, lichens and bryophytes) and trees present on the site to determine the presence of any rare or threatened species and indicate areas of	THC09	19	Volume 2 – Chapter 9: Forestry	Volume 2 - Chapter 9: Forestry is included as part of the EIA Report, providing a specific assessment on forestry interests, Including commercial forestry plantations, areas of native woodland, areas of Ancient Woodland, and woodland within the Kinloch and Kyleakin Hills SAC and SSSI.

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		woodland / forestry plantation which may be felled. THC outline that full details of commercial forest management, including intended felling and replanting cycles, should be provided with the application. The EIA Report must consider the need for compensatory planting in line with the Scottish Government's Control of Woodland Removal policy and associated windthrow risk and identification of windfirm boundaries.				<p>A baseline survey of habitats and species is included in Volume 5 – Appendix V2-4.3: National Vegetation Classification and Habitats Survey Report. There is also a survey report in relation to fungi, lichen and bryophytes within the Kinloch and Kyleakin Hills SAC and SSSI in Volume 5 – Appendix V2-4.6: Bryophyte and Lichen Survey Report.</p> <p>Compensatory planting requirements and potential windthrow effects form part of the noted chapter and associated appendices.</p>
25	Cultural Heritage	<p>THC require the EIA report to identify all designated cultural heritage sites which may be affected by the development either directly or indirectly.</p> <p>THC also expect any assessment to contain a full appreciation of the setting of these historic environment assets and the likely impact on their settings, supported by visualisations (as stated in the Scoping Report).</p>	THC10	19, 20	Volume 2 – Chapter 8: Cultural Heritage	<p>Details of the EIA Report's findings on Cultural Heritage can be found in the noted chapter.</p> <p>Visualisations have been produced to assist with assessment of impacts on sites and their settings, and these are included in Volume 3, Figure V2-8.3-S0a-d, Figure V2-8.4-S0a-d, Figure V2-8.3-S1a-d and Figure V2-8.3-S3a-b of this EIA Report</p>
26	Noise – Operational Noise	EIA Scoping Report Para 15.5.1 (page 97) states that it is not anticipated that an assessment of operational noise would be required given the remoteness of the project (in places) and distance from properties. However, a review of noise	THC11	20, 21	Volume 1 – Chapter 6: Scope and Consultation	<p>Further consideration of the potential operational noise effects of the Proposed Development is set out in the noted chapter. No detailed assessment was deemed necessary.</p>

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		sensitive receptors within 100m of the overhead line would be undertaken to determine whether detailed assessment is required at these receptors. Where this is determined to be required, consultation with the Council would be sought to establish an appropriate and proportionate approach.				
27	Noise – Construction Noise	<p>A construction noise assessment will be required:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Where it is proposed to undertake work, which is audible at the curtilage of any noise sensitive receptor, out with the hours Mon-Fri 8am to 7pm; Sat 8am to 1pm; or • Where noise levels during the above periods are likely to exceed 75 dB(A) for short term works or 55 dB(A) for long term works. Both measurements to be taken as a 1hr LAeq at the curtilage of any noise sensitive receptor. (Generally, long term work is taken to be more than 6 months). <p>Regardless of whether an assessment is required, it is expected that the Applicant will employ the best practicable means to reduce the impact of noise from construction activities with a scheme demonstrating how this will be implemented.</p>	THC12	21	Volume 1 – Chapter 6: Scope and Consultation	<p>Construction noise and vibration would be short term and intermittent and can be controlled through the implementation of a Noise Management Plan, which would be developed as part of the Construction Environment Management Plan (CEMP) prepared by the Principal Contractor. The Noise Management Plan would be agreed with The Highland Council as Local Authority, and all construction activities would be undertaken in accordance with good practice guidelines set out in BS 5228-1 and BS 5228-2.</p> <p>As such, and given the remoteness of construction activity for much of the project, no detailed assessment of construction noise and vibration associated with plant noise or traffic is included as part of the EIA. This is confirmed in the noted chapter.</p>
28	Traffic and	A Transport Assessment (TA),	THC13	21	Volume 2 –	The noted chapter includes an assessment of

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	Transport – General	Construction Traffic Management Plan (CTMP) and an Abnormal Load Assessment will be required within the EIA Report. The scope of the TA should be agreed with THC and Transport Scotland prior to commencing.			Chapter 10: Transport	<p>the transport requirements of the project. This has been informed through further discussion with the Council on the appropriate scope for the assessment.</p> <p>A TA is provided in Volume 5 - Appendix V2-10.1.</p> <p>A CTMP for Section 0 and Sections 1 – 6 will be provided post consent and is anticipated to form a condition. Examples of information which is contained within the CTMP is provided in the Mitigation part of the noted chapter.</p> <p>It is not anticipated that abnormal loads will be required for component delivery to the Site although it may be that plant such as cranes may be abnormal due to their width. This would be confirmed post consent with appropriate reviews and BE16 applications made at the time.</p>
29	Traffic and Transport – Assessment Methodology	A Transport Assessment is required and shall be carried out in accordance with National Guidance issued by Transport Scotland for Transport Assessment, THC's Guidance on the Preparation of Transport	THC14	22	Volume 2 – Chapter 10: Transport Volume 5 – Appendix V2-	A Transport Assessment is included as an Appendix to the Transport chapter (see Volume 5 - Appendix V2-10.1). The scope of this has been discussed and agreed with THC.

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		Statements. The scope should be agreed with THC.			10.1: Transport Assessment	
30	Traffic and Transport – Transport Assessment Methodology	It is requested by THC that the TA be presented with subsections covering the three operational areas of Highland: 1) Ross and Cromarty; 2) Skye; and 3) Nairn, Lochaber, Badenoch and Strathspey	THC15	23	Volume 2 – Chapter 10: Transport	It is not possible to present the TA in the separate requested subsections because some of the Section’s study areas are located in more than one of the operation areas.
31	Traffic and Transport – HGVs	In relation to construction traffic, the TA must provide information related to how the roads can support the HGV traffic associated with construction. The TA must provide: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Estimated volumes of material to be transported; • Details of likely routes for HGVs; • Receptors sensitive to HGV traffic; • Assessment of significance of the increase in HGV traffic along the identified routes, allowing for seasonal variations in traffic; and • Assessment of likely impacts on 	THC16	24	Volume 2 – Chapter 10: Transport Volume 5 – Appendix 10.1: Transport Assessment	This information is provided within the noted chapter and associated appendices.

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		bridges, culverts and retaining walls.				
32	Traffic and Transport – Road Safety and Mitigation	<p>An assessment of the impact of the increase in all traffic (but particularly HGV traffic) on road safety shall be made in particular the impact on the safety of more vulnerable road users (those walking, wheeling and cycling).</p> <p>In order to support the increase in HGV traffic as well as the abnormal loads, it is likely that Prior Road Improvement (PRI) mitigation works will be required.</p> <p>The extent of the works must be clearly established for THC to provide their consultation response to the Scottish Government’s Energy Consents Unit (ECU). The three routes of particular concern are Glenelg, Struan Hill Road and Kinloch Hourn, however others will be affected. The Applicant must initially progress a feasibility design for road mitigation on these three routes, prioritising Kinloch Hourn.</p>	THC17	24, 25	<p>Volume 2 – Chapter 10: Transport</p> <p>Volume 5 – Appendix V2-10.1: Transport Assessment</p>	<p>Assessment of impact of the increase of all traffic, particularly HGV traffic, on road safety is considered within the noted chapter of the EIA Report.</p> <p>Indicative areas and a preliminary appraisal of the potential environmental constraints of public road improvement (PRI) works is included within Volume 5 - Appendix V1-3.4: Preliminary Appraisal of Public Road Improvements.</p> <p>Any improvements along these routes will be agreed with THC Officers at the detailed design stage. All road works would be designed in accordance with THC standards and would be subject to detailed consultation with the Council.</p>
33	Traffic and Transport - CTMP	The application must include a framework Construction Traffic Management Plan (CTMP) aimed at minimising the impact of construction on the public and public road network. It can be updated and finalised once a contractor is in place prior to	THC18	25, 26	Volume 2 – Chapter 10: Transport	Details of measures to be included in the CTMP are presented in the mitigation part of the noted chapter and in Volume 5 - Appendix V2-10.1.

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		construction works commencing.				
34	Traffic and Transport – Other	An appropriate Road Bond or similar security is likely to be required. The proposal for new or upgraded access onto the public road shall be detailed on dimensioned drawings including radii, surfacing and drainage as well as the required visibility splays in accordance with THC's Roads and Transport Guidelines for New Developments	THC19	26	Volume 2 – Chapter 10: Transport	These points have been noted and considered during the project's progression. It is expected that this would form a condition of consent.
35	Socio-Economic, Tourism and Recreation	The EIA report should estimate who may be affected by the development, in all or in part, which may require individual households to be identified, local communities or a wider socio economic groupings such as tourists and tourist related businesses, recreational groups, economically active. Relevant economic information should also be included, such as potential number of jobs, and impact on both local and regional economies.	THC20	26	Volume 2 – Chapter 11: Socio-economic, Recreation and Tourism	Presentations of a socio-economic and tourism baseline position and stated impact in terms of economic (jobs, turnover and Gross Added Value) and social impacts, and the wider community impacts are presented in the noted chapter.
36	Core Paths, Public Rotes, Long Distance Routes	The potential impact on and mitigation for public access should be assessed incorporating core paths, public rights of way, long distance routes, other paths and wider access rights. An Access Management Plan (AMP) is required to be submitted with the application.	THC21	26, 27	Volume 2 – Chapter 11: Socio-economic, Recreation and Tourism	Volume 2 - Chapter 11: Socio-economic, Recreation and Tourism considers the potential impact on, and mitigation for, public access within the vicinity of the Proposed Development. A draft Outdoor Access Plan is also included as an appendix (see Volume 5 - Appendix V2-11.1).

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37	Aviation, Radar and Telecoms	The EIA Report needs to recognise community assets that are currently in operation for example internet coverage, TV, radio, blue light telecommunications, aviation interests including radar, MOD safeguards, etc. The EIA Report will need to demonstrate what interests they have identified and the outcomes of any consultations with relevant authorities.	THC23	28	Volume 1 – Chapter 6: Scope and Consultation	Scoping responses were received from telecommunication and aviation bodies. As a result, further consultation was necessary with British Telecom and Ministry of Defence to resolve queries raised at scoping stage.
38	Construction Management and Health and Safety	The EIA Report needs to address all relevant climatic factors which can greatly influence the impact range of many of the preceding factors on account of seasonal changes affecting, rainfall, sunlight, prevailing wind direction etc. Depending on the proximity of the working area and access route to any houses etc. the applicant may require to submit a scheme for the suppression of dust during construction. THC in principle would request that an Outline CEMD is included with the application.	THC24	28, 29	Throughout the EIA Report	Climate change is considered throughout the EIA Report, where relevant. An Outline CEMP is included in Volume 5 – Appendix V1-3.9 . Measures for the management of dust during construction are set on in a Dust Management GEMP (see Appendix V1-3.5).
39	Significant Effects on the Environment	The EIA needs to describe the likely significant effects of the development on the environment, which should cover the direct effects and any indirect, secondary, cumulative, short, medium and long-term,	THC25	29	Throughout the EIA Report	The assessment of likely significant environmental effects is undertaken within each of the technical chapters of Volume 2 .

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		permanent and temporary, positive and negative effects of the development, resulting from the existence of the development, the use of natural resources, the emission of pollutants, the creation of nuisances, and the elimination of waste.				
40	EIA Methodology	THC requests that, when measuring the positive and negative effects of the development, a four- point scale is used advising any effect to be either strong positive, positive, negative or strong negative.	THC26	29	Volume 1 – Chapter 5: EIA Process and Methodology Volume 2 – All Chapters	The approach to the assessment of effects in this EIA Report is set out in the noted chapter and defined within each of the technical chapters of Volume 2 . Effects are assessed in accordance with best practice and industry standards across the technical topics. As such, the request for consideration of effects across a four point scale is not considered appropriate.
41	Mitigation	A description of the measures envisaged to prevent, reduce, and where possible offset any significant adverse effects on the environment must be set out within the EIA Report. A clear summary table of all mitigation measures associated with the Proposed Development should be provided and entitled draft 'Schedule of Mitigation' and clarify where other groups are involved in its implementation.	THC27	29, 30	Volume 2 – All Chapters Volume 5 – Appendix V1-3.6: Schedule of Mitigation	General mitigation measures are set out within Volume 1 - Chapter 3: Project Description . Mitigation measures specific to a particular topic are identified within each technical chapter in Volume 2 . All mitigation measures are contained within a Schedule of Mitigation Measures, included in Volume 5 – Appendix V1-3.6: Schedule of Mitigation .
42	Outdoor Access	The BHS notes the potential opportunity a project of this scale can bring for off-road	BHS01	66, 67, 68	Volume 2 – Chapter 11:	Volume 2 - Chapter 11: Socio-economic,

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		access improvements, therefore reducing potential for accidents on countryside roads.			Socio-economic, Recreation and Tourism	Recreation and Tourism considers the potential impact on, and mitigation for, public access within the vicinity of the Proposed Development. A draft Outdoor Access Plan is also included as an appendix (see Volume 5 - Appendix V2-11.1).
43	Cultural Heritage	HES are content with the scope of assessment. They welcome that the assessment will include consideration of the potential for direct physical effects on assets within their remit for all elements of the Proposed Development including off-line construction infrastructure, and for the removal of the existing overhead line infrastructure, as well as effects on setting.	HES01	58, 59	Volume 2 – Chapter 8 Cultural Heritage	Potential for direct and indirect effects on cultural heritage assets have been addressed in the noted chapter and associated appendices.
44	Aviation	HIAL has no objections to the proposal, but requests that, when the positions and elevations of each OHL pylon and pole is known, that this information is supplied to the Defence Geographic Centre in order for their UK wide obstacle database to be updated.	HIAL01	72	N/A	This has been noted. The relevant information will be provided to HIAL on submission of the application.
45	Peat Landslide Hazard Risk Assessment	The environmental constraints plans show substantial areas of Class 1 and / or 2 peat along all seven sections of the route.	IF1	132	Volume 2 - Chapter 7: Geology and	A PLHRA has been carried out as part of the EIA Report and is included as Appendix V2-7.2: Peat Landslide Hazard and Risk

No.	Subject	Task	Consultee	Scoping Opinion Page Ref.	EIA Report Reference	Comments
	Requirement	Preliminary probing also identified peat along the route. The 2016 Carbon and Peatland map indicates that the route also passes through areas of Class 3 and 5 Peatland. Whilst these areas are not stated on the mapping to be nationally important, with priority habitat or conservation / potential conservation value, they are noted as potentially comprising areas of deep peat. This means that they could also pose a peat landslide risk and should be considered as part of any PLHRA. British Geological Society mapping also shows substantial areas of peat along the proposed route, especially in the northern part of Skye. OS mapping confirms that slopes of greater than 2 degrees are present along the route. These factors confirm that a PLHRA will be required.			Soils Environment	Assessment (PLHRA) to the noted chapter.
46	Peat Landslide Hazard Risk Assessment Methodology	IF would anticipate that the PLHRA would include fieldworks and probing of towers, tracks, UGC and associated infrastructure. The PLHRA should be submitted as a standalone document closely linked to the geology / soils chapter and any peat management plan.	IF2	132	Volume 2 - Chapter 7: Geology and Soils Environment	A PLHRA has been carried out as part of the EIA Report and is included as Appendix V2-7.2: Peat Landslide Hazard and Risk Assessment (PLHRA) to the noted chapter and informed by desktop data and fieldwork.

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47	Defence Infrastructure	The MOD request that a requirement/condition is added to any consent issued, requiring the submission of sufficient data to ensure that the overhead power line and pylons can be accurately charted to allow deconfliction.	MOD01	69, 70	Volume 1 – Chapter 3: Project Description	An indicative pole and tower schedule is included in Volume 5 - Appendix V1-3.1 detailing the location and height of structures.
48	Geology, Hydrology and Hydrogeology	<p>NDSFB request that particular attention in Section 5 of the project is paid towards the risk of peat, and land slide risk given landslide near Quoich Dam in 2018.</p> <p>NDSFB recommend that electrofishing surveys are completed at the crossing point at Invervigar Burn, and potentially other crossings in Section 6 of the project, as the area is accessible to migratory salmonids including Atlantic salmon which are a protected species.</p>	NDSFB01	74	<p>Volume 2 – Chapter 4: Ecology</p> <p>Volume 2 – Chapter 7: Geology and Soils Environment</p>	<p>Potential effects on peat, including peat slide risk, and potential for landslides, is discussed within Volume 2 – Chapter 7: Geology and Soils Environment.</p> <p>Fish habitat surveys have been undertaken along the underground cable elements of the project in Sections 2 and 6, to identify potential constraints and appropriate mitigation measures. Detailed methods results are discussed in Volume 2 – Chapter 4: Ecology and Appendix V2-4.5: Watercourse Crossing Fish Habitat Survey Report.</p>
49	Cuillin Special Protection Area (SPA)	At this stage, NS consider there will be a likely significant effect from disturbance and temporary loss of foraging habitat during construction within the SPA (relevant to Sections 1, 2 and 3 of the project). Potential impacts could be mitigated through a breeding bird protection plan and appropriate habitat restoration strategy. It is recommended that this mitigation is included in the EIA	NS01	42	Volume 2 – Chapter 5: Ornithology	The noted chapter includes an assessment of the Proposed Development on ornithology, and suggests appropriate mitigation measures to avoid or reduce adverse effects. Specifically in relation to the Cuillins SPA, and Shadow HRA is provided in Volume 5 - Appendix V2-5.4 .

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		Report.				
50	Cuillin SPA	NS note that it is proposed to scope out barrier effects but recommend the potential for loss of accessible foraging habitat from the operation of a different scale and design of overhead line is given some consideration in the EIA Report.	NS02	42	Volume 2 – Chapter 5: Ornithology	This is considered within the noted chapter.
53	Cuillin SPA	While the preferred solution for Section 2 is undergrounding, there is still potential for a likely significant effect through risk of collision with the remaining areas of OHL close to or within the Cuillin Hills SPA. NS advise that comprehensive desk study, field survey and assessment are used to inform the selection of a route which minimises impacts to SPA golden eagle, and identify any additional mitigation requirements. This should include consideration of all known alternate nest sites, prey concentrations and the latest range-use modelling.	NS03	42	Volume 2 – Chapter 5: Ornithology	A Shadow Habitat Regulations Appraisal (HRA) has been prepared that considers the potential effect of the Proposed Development on the qualifying features of the Cuillins SPA (see Volume 5 - Appendix 5.4). This includes the result of a Golden Eagle Topographical (GET) model that analyses Golden Eagle range use based on topography.
54	Kinloch and Kyleakin Hills SAC and SSSI	With regards to the sensitivity of Section 3 through the Kinloch and Kyleakin Hills SAC, if the appropriate assessment is unable to demonstrate 'no adverse effect on site integrity' NS would object to the	NS04	42	Volume 2 – Chapter 4: Ecology	Potential effects on designated sites are discussed within Volume 2 – Chapter 4: Ecology . Specifically in relation to the Kinloch and Kyleakin Hills SAC, a Shadow HRA has been prepared and is included within Volume

No.	Subject	Task	Consultee	Scoping Opinion Page Ref.	EIA Report Reference	Comments
		proposal.				<p>5 - Appendix V2-4.7.</p> <p>Moreover, the assessment of an Alternative Alignment within Section 3 of the project through the SAC is also included within the Shadow HRA (see Volume 5 - Appendix 4.7).</p>
55	SAC Qualifying Habitats and HRA	<p>NS agree that results of detailed habitat survey and assessment should be used to select a route and design option that minimises impacts to the qualifying interests of the SAC. Their final view of which route would result in the least damage to the SAC qualifying habitats, including priority blanket bog habitat, will depend on the results of the detailed habitat survey and assessment.</p> <p>NS advise that an appropriate assessment would be required to consider both permanent and temporary, direct and indirect impacts to each of the SAC qualifying habitats including the amount of habitat expected to be lost, damaged or modified as a result of the proposals. This should include assessment of peat slide risk and any potential changes to hydrology.</p>	NS05	43	Volume 2 – Chapter 4: Ecology	<p>Potential effects on designated sites are discussed within Volume 2 – Chapter 4: Ecology. Specifically in relation to the Kinloch and Kyleakin Hills SAC, a Shadow HRA has been prepared and is included within Volume 5 - Appendix V2-4.7.</p> <p>Moreover, the assessment of an alternative Alignment within Section 3 of the project through the SAC is also included in the Shadow HRA (see Volume 5 - Appendix V2-4.7).</p> <p>Assessment has been informed by detailed habitat mapping, peat depth data, and construction design and methods provided by the Contractor.</p>

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		Detailed information on the construction process within the SAC should also be provided, including the location, extent and type of infrastructure, and description of methods. Assessment should also consider operational management practices within the SAC (e.g. access and maintenance, include any wayleave maintenance).				
56	Alternative Options	NS advise that all potential alternative route options and design solutions are kept open until further detailed assessment and a shadow HRA have been undertaken.	NS06	43	Volume 2 – Chapter 4: Ecology	The Proposed Development has been informed by the results of the EIA and HRA processes. Specifically in relation to the Kinloch and Kyleakin Hills SAC, a Shadow HRA has been prepared and is included within Volume 5 - Appendix V2-4.7 . Moreover, the assessment of an Alternative Alignment within Section 3 of the project through the SAC is also included in the Shadow HRA (see Volume 5 - Appendix V2-4.7).
57	NVC and Peat Depth	NS advise that the EIA Report includes full details of the habitat survey results to NVC sub-community level supported by peat depth survey where relevant. They recommend that maps of the NVC polygons are included with all infrastructure and access routes overlain.	NS07	43	Volume 2 – Chapter 4: Ecology Volume 2 – Chapter 7: Geology and Soils	Results of habitat surveys and assessment of likely impacts on ecological receptors are set out in the noted ecology chapter. Full results are included in Volume 5 - Appendix V2-4.3: National Vegetation Classification (NVC) and Habitats Survey Report and shown on Figure V-.4.3: National Vegetation

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					Environment	Classification (NVC) Survey Area and Results , with infrastructure and access routes overlain. The noted geology and soils chapter sets out peat depth survey results and assessment of impacts on peat soils.
58	Reinstatement and Restoration	Mitigation measures to minimise impacts should be provided. NS recommend details of proposed reinstatement and restoration works are set out in the EIA Report.	NS08	43	Volume 2 – Chapter 4: Ecology	The noted chapter discusses appropriate, mitigation measures to reduce potential effects on habitats. An Outline SiteRestoration Plan is included in Volume 5 - Appendix V1-3.7 .
59	Dismantling of the existing OHL	The EIA Report should consider the potential for impacts associated with the dismantling and removal of the existing overhead line, including vehicle tracking, ground preparation, etc.	NS09	43	Volume 1 – Chapter 3: Project Description	A dismantling plan is included within Volume 5 - Appendix V1-3.8 . Potential effects of dismantling are discussed throughout the EIA Report, where relevant.
60	Otter	NS advise that the potential for disturbance to otters and impacts to supporting habitats are considered in the EIA Report.	NS10	44	Volume 2 – Chapter 4: Ecology	Potential impacts and effects on otter and their supporting habitat are discussed in the noted chapter.
61	West Inverness-shire Lochs SPA	Sections 5 and 6 would require a HRA in order to consider the potential for a likely significant effect from disturbance, displacement and collision risk to common scoters and black-throated divers which	NS11	44	Volume 2 – Chapter 5: Ornithology Volume 5 –	A Shadow HRA is included within the noted appendix to consider the potential effect of the Proposed Development on the qualifying features of the West Inverness-shire SPA. Based on consideration of collision risk it is

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		are protected by the SPA. The assessment of collision risk will need to be particularly robust in order to demonstrate no adverse effect on site integrity. Cumulative impacts will also require consideration.			Appendix V2-5.5: Shadow HRA	concluded that there is no adverse effect on site integrity predicted as a result of the Proposed Development. There is an assessment of likely significant effects within the noted chapter.
62	Sligachan SAC and SSSI	NS would expect the EIA Report to confirm that impacts to the Sligachan SAC and SSSI in Sections 1 and 2 could be mitigated by appropriate construction methods and effective silt and pollution prevention measures.	NS12	45	Volume 2 – Chapter 4: Ecology	This is discussed and assessed within the noted chapter, and appropriate mitigation measures set out.
63	Mointeach nan Lochain Dubha SAC and SSSI	NS would expect the EIA Report to confirm that impacts to the Mointeach nan Lochain Dubha SAC and SSSI in Section 3 could be mitigated by appropriate construction methods and effective silt and pollution prevention measures.	NS13	45	Volume 2 – Chapter 4: Ecology	This is discussed and assessed within the noted chapter, and appropriate mitigation measures set out.
64	An Cleirach, Druim Losal and Quoich Spillway SSSIs	NS would expect the siting of infrastructure to avoid direct impacts to the features of this SSSI and to ensure that rock faces and outcrops remain accessible and are not damaged or obscured.	NS14	45	Volume 2 – Chapter 7: Geology and Soils Environment	This is discussed and assessed within the noted chapter.
65	Lochs Duich, Long and Alsh Reefs SAC	NS are content that potential impacts on the Lochs Duich, Long and Alsh Reefs SAC are scoped out, unless there is a	NS15	45	Volume 2 – Chapter 4: Ecology	This is discussed and assessed within the noted chapter.

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		possibility that access from the coast through this protected area is proposed.				
66	LVIA – Cuillin Hills NSA and Cuillin WLA	The proposed undergrounding within Section 2 is welcomed. NS advise that a Landscape Clerk of Works (LCoW) oversees the restoration of this section to ensure that the special landscape qualities are maintained. NS request a wild land assessment is carried out for Section 2.	NS16	45, 46	Volume 2 – Chapter 3: Landscape and Visual	Landscape mitigation measures have been proposed for the Proposed Development to mitigate potential adverse landscape and visual effects. As part of these measures, a LCoW would be employed to oversee the restoration of Section 2 and other sensitive landscape areas, including NSAs WLAs and SLAs. The LVIA includes assessment of The Cuillin Hills NSA and WLA 23. Cuillin within the noted chapter and in Volume 5 - Appendix V2-3.5 and Appendix V2-3.8 .
67	LVIA – Knoydart NSA and Kinlochhourn – Knoydart – Morar WLA	NS note the potential for parts of Section 4 of the project to result in significant effects on the Knoydart NSA and Kinlochhourn – Knoydart – Morar WLA. In particular, the alignment near Loch Coire Shubh. NS advise that the LVIA should include an assessment of effects on the SLQs of the NSA, in line with the stages outlined in the draft SLQ assessment methods. They also advise that a wild land assessment is carried out (relevant to Sections 4 and 5).	NS17	46	Volume 2 – Chapter 3: Landscape and Visual	The LVIA includes assessment against the SLQ's of the NSA and WLA within the noted chapter and in Volume 5 - Appendix V2-3.5 and Appendix V2-3.10 .
68	SLQ	NS advises that a SLQ Assessment should	NS18	47	Volume 2 –	The LVIA includes assessment against the

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	Assessment	be completed for Section 2 and Section 4 in relation to the Cullin Hills NSA and Knoydart NSA respectively. NS are content with this being embedded in the landscape assessment.			Chapter 3: Landscape and Visual	SLQ's of the NSA within the noted chapter and in Volume 5 - Appendix V2-3.5.
69	Carbon-rich soils, deep peat and priority peatland habitat	Scottish Planning Policy affords 'significant protection' to carbon-rich soils, deep peat and priority peatland habitat. If such areas could be affected, NS would expect the EIA Report to demonstrate how any significant effects can be substantially overcome by siting, design or other mitigation. Site specific surveys should be carried out along to confirm the quality and distribution of peatland habitats. Peatland surveys should be carried out in accordance with the Peatland Survey 2017 "Guidance on Developments on Peatland", and proposed Peat Slide Risk Assessment should follow the latest 2017 guidance "Peat landslide hazard and risk assessments: best practice guide for proposed electricity generation developments".	NS19	47, 48	Volume 2 – Chapter 4: Ecology Volume 2 – Chapter 7: Geology and Soils Environment	The potential effects on carbon rich soils, deep peat and priority peatland habitats is discussed in the noted chapter. The Proposed Development has been informed by a peat probing campaign to establish peat depth and appropriate mitigation (see Volume 5 - Appendix 7.3: Peat and Carbon Management Plan), and a NVC survey to identify priority peatland habitats (see Volume 2 – Chapter 4: Ecology) and associated appendices.
70	Peat Soils and NVC Mapping	NS would expect the EIAR to include mapped information on peatland habitats to NVC level, together with a detailed	NS20	48	Volume 2 – Chapter 4: Ecology	Detailed NVC surveys have been carried out and full results and description of habitat condition are included within the noted ecology chapter and in Volume 5 – V2-4.3:

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		description of current condition.			Volume 2 – Chapter 7: Geology and Soils Environment	National vegetation Classification (NVC) and Habitats Survey Report and shown on Volume 3 – National Vegetation Classification (NVC) Survey Area and Results. . Peat soils are also assessed within the noted geology chapter.
71	NVC Mapping and Construction Detail	NS advise that all infrastructure and access routes are clearly mapped in relation to the NVC data and that the EIA Report includes full details of construction methods, access, any ground preparation and drainage requirements, for both construction of the new line and removal of the existing one. They advise direct and indirect, temporary and permanent impacts from the proposal as a whole (construction and operation of the new line, and removal of the existing one) should be quantified in the EIA Report. Although temporary tracks are mainly proposed, minimising their requirement, careful siting and effective restoration will be key to mitigating impacts to priority peatland and other sensitive upland habitats.	NS21	48	Volume 1 – Chapter 3: Project Description Volume 2 – Chapter 4: Ecology Volume 2 – Chapter 7: Geology and Soils Environment	All infrastructure and access routes, along with details of construction methods, are detailed within Volume 1, Chapter 3: Project Description . Potential effects on peatland habitats are discussed within the noted ecology and geology chapters. Infrastructure is overlain against NVC mapping in Volume 3 – Figure V2-4.3: National Vegetation Classification (NVC) Survey Areas and Results .
72	Underground Cable Methods	For the underground cable sections, NS recommend details of the construction and	NS22	48	Volume 1 – Chapter 3: Project	Details on the construction methods for underground cable, together with associated infrastructure, is provided within the noted

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		installation methods are provided. Information on the locations of any additional infrastructure and / or access tracks and the locations of the joint bays would be useful to provide.			Description	Project Description chapter and Volume 5 – Appendix V1-3.2: Further Engineering Design Information
73	Reinstatement and Restoration	NS advise that the EIA Report includes details of reinstatement and habitat restoration measures (including those associated with removal of the existing line) within a Peatland Management Plan and Habitat Management Plan.	NS23	48	Volume 2 – Chapter 4: Ecology Volume 2 - Chapter 7: Geology and Soils Environment	A reinstatement and restoration plan is included in Volume 5 – Appendix V2-3.7: Site Restoration Plan. A peatmanagement plan is included in Volume 5 - Appendix V2-7.3: Peat and Carbon Management Plan. The Applicant is committed to delivering a HMP for the Proposed Development, details of which will be provided and agreed upon with relevant consultees post-consent and pre-construction, secured by a condition of consent.
73	Ornithology Surveys Coverage	The EIAR should include further information on the extent of survey coverage, including how these detailed survey areas were arrived at and how those areas which were not surveyed will be considered. In the same regard, vantage point survey work should be justified and explained, in terms of the location and extent.	NS24	48, 49	Volume 2 – Chapter 5: Ornithology	Information on the extent of survey coverage and vantage point survey locations can be found in the noted chapter and Volume 5 – Appendix V2-5.1: Ornithology Technical Report April 2016 to March 2019, Appendix V2-5.2: Ornithology Technical Report April 2016 to December 2018 and Appendix V2-5.3: Ornithology Technical Report January to August 2021.
74	Ornithology	NS expect the EIA Report to demonstrate	NS25	49	Volume 2 –	The noted chapter includes information on

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	Survey Methodology	that survey methods and presentation of results comply with the NS recommended guidance. Cumulative effects should also be considered. Sensitive information should be provided in a Confidential Annex as described in Section 5.1 of the guidance.			Chapter 5: Ornithology	ornithology survey methodologies. Where required, sensitive information is provided in a confidential annex.
75	Breeding Raptors	In relation to breeding raptors, NS recommend the most up to date information is requested from the Highland Raptor Study Group. Historical contextual information should also be sought on e.g. alternate nest sites.	NS26	49	Volume 2 – Chapter 5: Ornithology	Up to date information was requested from the Highland Raptor Study Group.
76	Roosting Raptors	NS recommend any roost sites within 2 km of the transmission line are identified so that potential impacts can be assessed.	NS27	49	Volume 2 – Chapter 5: Ornithology	Identified roost sites are detailed within the noted chapter.
77	GET Model	In cases where modelling is necessary to determine impacts, a GET (Golden Eagle Topographical) model assessment should be carried out.	NS28	49	Volume 2 – Chapter 5: Ornithology	GET modelling has been utilised to inform assessment of impacts on golden eagles in Sections 1,2 and 3 of the project, as noted in the ornithology chapter.
78	Removal of Existing Infrastructure	NS are pleased to note that the ornithology assessment will cover all aspects of the project, including removal of the existing line. They advise that potential impacts through habitat change and displacement	NS29	49	Volume 2 – Chapter 5: Ornithology	Information relating to potential impacts on habitat change and displacement are included in the noted chapter.

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		should also be considered.				
79	Ornithology Mitigation	NS advise that mitigation options are considered as part of the assessment process and that full details are provided in the EIA Report. A well-designed and implemented breeding bird protection plan is likely to be required and NS advise that an outline plan is included in the EIA Report.	NS30	49	Volume 2 – Chapter 5: Ornithology	Full details of mitigation measures related to ornithology are represented in the noted chapter.
80	Ecology Survey Methodology	NS recommend that survey work for protected species follows the methods published on their website. If protected species could be affected mitigation details / Species Protection Plans should also be included in the EIA Report.	NS31	50	Volume 2 – Chapter 4: Ecology Volume 1 - Appendix 3.5: General Environmental Management Plans (GEMPs) and Species Protection Plans (SPPs)	NatureScot's published methods have been considered in all survey work regarding protected species. The noted chapter contains mitigation suggestions for relevant protected species that may be impacted by the development. General Environmental Management Plan (GEMPS) and Species Protection Plans (SSPS) are set out within the noted Appendix.
81	Aquatic Ecology	NS advise that potential impacts on sensitive water species, including freshwater pearl mussels, be factored into route selection and access arrangements.	NS32	50	Volume 2 – Chapter 4: Ecology	Potential impacts on aquatic habitat and species, including freshwater pearl mussel are discussed in the the noted chapter.

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		It is noted that specific surveys are scoped out.				
82	Annex 1 Habitats	Successful reinstatement of some Annex 1 habitats, including fragile upland habitats and peatland, may be difficult to achieve and NS advise that survey results are used to inform the design and layout process, so that the development avoids, where possible, avoid sensitive Annex 1 habitats. Where this is not possible, habitat loss and damage, both direct and indirect, should be determined and suitable mitigation and / or restoration measures presented in a Habitat Management Plan.	NS33	50	Volume 2 – Chapter 4: Ecology	<p>The potential effects on Annex 1 habitats are discussed in the noted chapter. The Proposed Development has been informed by NVC surveys to identify sensitive habitats and minimise effects where possible.</p> <p>The Applicant is committed to delivering a HMP for the Proposed Development, details of which will be provided and agreed upon with relevant consultees post-consent and pre-construction, secured by a condition of consent.</p>
83	Deer Management	If there is potential for deer displacement during construction, NS recommend that the EIA Report includes an assessment of the potential impacts of the development on deer welfare, habitats, road safety, neighbouring and other interests such as nearby protected areas.	NS34	50	Volume 2 – Chapter 4: Ecology	The potential effects on deer are discussed in the noted chapter.
84	Aviation	NATS stated that the Proposed Development was examined from a technical safeguarding aspect and found	NSTS01	73	Volume 2 – Chapter 12: Other Issues	This has been noted.

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		that it does not conflict with their safeguarding criteria. Accordingly, NATS has no safeguarding objection to the proposal.				
85	Nuclear Regulation	ONR makes no comment on this Proposed Development as it does not lie within a consultation zone around a GB nuclear site.	ONR1	75	N/A	This has been noted.
86	Ornithology – Existing Data	RSPB welcome that new ornithological surveys will be taken, as some of the existing surveys are now over 5 years old.	RSPB01	76	Volume 2 – Chapter 5: Ornithology	New survey data is presented in the noted chapter and related appendices.
89	Ornithology – Existing Infrastructure	RSPB disagree that dismantling the existing OHL poses no ornithological risk, and so argue that it should be scoped in.	RSPB02	76	Volume 2 – Chapter 5: Ornithology	This has been considered in the noted chapter and has been scoped out of detailed assessment
90	Ornithology – Cumulative Impacts	It is essential that the impacts of this proposal are assessed in combination with other proposed and consented developments within the area, and RSPB are pleased this is proposed. Any identified impacts should be assessed against the relevant SPA and NHZ populations.	RSPB03	76	Volume 2 – Chapter 5: Ornithology	The likely cumulative impacts of the Proposed Development on ornithology are assessed in the noted chapter.
91	Ornithology – Mitigation Measures	The EIA report should fully discuss mitigation measures required to reduce	RSPB04	76	Volume 2 – Chapter 5: Ornithology	Mitigation measures specific to ornithology are discussed in the noted chapter.

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		impacts of displacement, disturbance and direct mortality on priority species and deterioration of habitats present along the line, during both construction and ongoing future maintenance. Evidence should be provided for the assumed effectiveness of proposed mitigation measures based on experience from other projects.				
92	Ornithology – Flight Activity Data	Flight activity data from vantage point surveys should be used to inform design to best avoid impacts on birds. Undergrounding or HDD should not be ruled out in some areas if field surveys reveal a high potential bird collision risk or presence of sensitive bog habitats. Line markers may also be required in some areas.	RSPB05	76	Volume 2 – Chapter 5: Ornithology	Flight activity from VP data has been included in the noted chapter, along with proposed mitigation measures.
93	Habitat Management Plans (HMP)	A detailed HMP should be prepared and submitted as part of the proposals. RSPB welcome the Applicant’s commitment to achieve an overall ‘No Net Loss’ and to achieve Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) where possible. Relevant proposals should be included in the HMP.	RSPB06	76	Volume 2 – Chapter 4: Ecology Volume 2 – Chapter 5: Ornithology	The Applicant is committed to delivering a HMP for the Proposed Development, details of which will be provided and agreed upon with relevant consultees post submission of the application and prior to construction commencing, secured by a condition of consent. In addition, the Applicant is committed to incorporating BNG into their projects and a BNG assessment will be provided and agreed

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						upon with relevant consultees post submission of the application prior to determination.
94	Scope of Assessment	<p>SEPA considers the following to be key issues which must be addressed in the EIA Process:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Minimising impacts on peat and peatland; Avoiding good quality or rare GWDTE habitats and minimising impacts on other GWDTE habitats; and Avoiding impacts on watercourses and other water features. <p>SEPA are generally content with the proposed scope of the assessment.</p>	SEPA01	51	<p>Volume 2 – Chapter 4: Ecology</p> <p>Volume 2 - Chapter 7: Geology and Soils Environment</p> <p>Volume 2 – Chapter 6: Water Environment</p>	These points are noted and the key issues addressed within the noted chapters.
95	Watercourse Impacts	<p>In Section 2 of the route, further consideration will need to be given to the exact location of the UGC route in relation to the Abhainn Torra-mhichaig. Except when a direct crossing is required, all works should be a suitable buffer outside the banks of the watercourse. SEPA would not consider a layout which included the cable running along the watercourse or within the banks acceptable.</p>	SEPA02	51, 52	<p>Volume 2 – Chapter 6: Water Environment</p>	The potential effects on watercourses and waterbodies, and suitable buffers to be maintained, are discussed within the noted chapter.

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96	Development Construction Methods	Information on the different phases of the project and how they will be developed would be useful and should be shown on clear plans. This should include supporting infrastructure, construction compounds and laydown areas, and whether access is temporary or permanent.	SEPA03	52	Volume 1: Chapter 3: Project Description	Information on the Proposed Development, construction process and ancillary development is included in the noted chapter.
97	GWDTE Survey Methodology	SEPA highlight the requirement in their GWDTE guidance for surveys to extend to at least 250 m from all excavations deeper than 1 m.	SEPA04	52	Volume 2 – Chapter 6: Water Environment	GWDTE survey methodology and results are set out within the noted chapter and associated Appendix in Volume 5 – Appendix V2-6.4: GWDTE Assessments.
98	Freshwater Habitats and Crossings	SEPA are content with the proposal to scope out freshwater habitat surveys and fisheries but only if the final design includes suitable buffers between infrastructure and watercourses, and any temporary or permanent watercourse crossings follow best practice design.	SEPA05	52	Volume 2 – Chapter 4: Ecology Volume 2 – Chapter 6: Water Environment	This has been noted. Surveys carried out as part of the EIA process and information on any watercourse crossings are set out within the noted chapters. A watercourse crossing schedule for permanent watercourse crossings is provided in Appendix V2-6.2: Schedule of Permanent Watercourse Crossings.
99	Peat Soils and Habitats	The project is identified as having an impact on Class 1 peatland. In addition to peat depth information, an assessment of peat habitat quality is also required. It should be demonstrated that impacts on good quality peatland habitats have been avoided. A peat management plan should	SEPA06	52	Volume 2 - Chapter 7: Geology and Soils Environment	Details of peat survey and assessment are set out in the noted chapter. Management of peat is considered within the noted chapter also (see Volume 5 - Appendix V2-7.3: Peat and Carbon Management Plan).

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		be provided for the project. There may be areas where peat probing will be required to demonstrate the extent of deep peat and the options for avoidance.				
100	Habitat and Peatland Restoration	SEPA encourage the Applicant to outline any opportunities for habitat restoration or enhancement, particularly peatland restoration or improvements to riparian habitats.	SEPA07	52	Volume 2 – Chapter 4: Ecology	The Applicant is committed to delivering a HMP for the Proposed Development, details of which will be provided and agreed upon with relevant consultees post submission of the application and prior to-construction, secured by a condition of consent. With the Applicant's commitment to BNG, opportunities for restoration and enhancement of habitats, to have an overall positive impact, will also be detailed in a BNG Report.
101	Development Design and Infrastructure	All maps must be based on an adequate scale with which to assess the information. Each of the maps must detail all proposed upgraded, temporary and permanent site infrastructure. Existing built infrastructure must be re-used or upgraded wherever possible. The layout should be designed to minimise the extent of new works on previously undisturbed ground.	SEPA08	54	Volume 1 - Chapter 3: Project Description	The noted chapter includes all of the salient development information, and is supported by plans indicating layout of infrastructure required for the Proposed Development.
102	Infrastructure and the Water Environment	The site layout must be designed to avoid impacts upon the water environment. Where activities such as watercourse crossings, watercourse diversions or other	SEPA09	54	Volume 2 – Chapter 6: Water Environment	The following confirms where each point listed in SEPA's response has been addressed: Figures that accompany the noted chapter

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		<p>engineering activities in or impacting on the water environment cannot be avoided then the submission must include justification of this and a map showing:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> all proposed temporary or permanent infrastructure overlain with all lochs and watercourses; a minimum buffer of 50 m around each loch or watercourse. If this minimum buffer cannot be achieved each breach must be numbered on a plan with an associated photograph of the location, dimensions of the loch or watercourse and drawings of what is proposed in terms of engineering works; and detailed layout of all proposed mitigation including all cut off drains, location, number and size of settlement ponds. 				<p>show all proposed temporary and permanent infrastructure overlain with all lochs and watercourses. A watercourse crossing schedule for permanent watercourse crossings is provided in Volume 5 - Appendix V2-6.2: Schedule of Permanent Watercourse Crossings.</p> <p>The potential effects on watercourses and waterbodies, and suitable buffers to be maintained, are discussed within the noted chapter. A 20m buffer has been applied for wood poles, towers and underground cable wherever possible. Locations where this is not possible are set out in the noted chapter and required safeguards are detailed.</p> <p>Appropriate mitigation is discussed within the noted chapter.</p>
103	Groundwater Abstraction	If water abstractions are proposed, a table of volumes and timings of abstractions and related mitigation measures must be provided.	SEPA10	54	Volume 2 – Chapter 6: Water Environment	It is not currently anticipated that any groundwater abstractions would be required for the Proposed Development.
104	Flood Risk	Watercourse crossings must be designed to accommodate the 0.5 % Annual Exceedance Probability (AEP) flows, or	SEPA11	54	Volume 2 – Chapter 6: Water	The noted chapter includes information on any permanent watercourse crossings proposed. A watercourse crossing schedule

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		information provided to justify smaller structures. If it is thought that the development could result in an increased risk of flooding to a nearby receptor then a Flood Risk Assessment must be submitted in support of the planning application, inline with SEPA's technical flood risk guidance.			Environment	for permanent watercourse crossings is provided in Volume 5 - Appendix V2-6.2: Schedule of Permanent Watercourse Crossings. Flood risk is also considered in the noted chapter.
105	Peat Disturbance and Storage	The planning submission must a) demonstrate how the layout has been designed to minimise disturbance of peat and consequential release of CO ₂ and b) outline the preventative / mitigation measures to avoid significant drying or oxidation of peat through, for example, the construction of access tracks, drainage channels, cable trenches, or the storage and re-use of excavated peat.	SEPA12	55	Volume 2 - Chapter 7: Geology and Soils Environment	The noted chapter details the likely impacts from the Proposed Development on peat and an overview of peat management measures during construction.
106	Peat Depths and Re-use	The submission must include: a. a detailed map of peat depths, to full depth, with all the built elements (including peat storage areas) overlain to demonstrate how the Proposed Development avoids areas of deep peat and other sensitive receptors such as GWDTEs; and b. a table which details the quantities of	SEPA13	55	Volume 2 - Chapter 7: Geology and Soils Environment	The noted chapter containinformation on peat depth and reuse (see also Volume 5 – Appendix V2-7.3: Peat and Carbon Management Plan..

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		acrotelmic, catotelmic and amorphous peat which will be excavated for each element and where it will be re-used during reinstatement. Details of the proposed widths and depths of peat to be re-used and how it will be kept wet permanently must be included.				
107	Peat Assessment Methodology	To avoid delay and potential objection proposals must be in accordance with Guidance on the Assessment of Peat Volumes, Reuse of Excavated Peat and Minimisation of Waste and SEPA's Developments on Peat and Off-Site uses of Waste Peat.	SEPA14	55	Volume 2 - Chapter 7: Geology and Soils Environment	Assessment of likely impacts from the Proposed Development on peat in accordance with recognised guidance is included in the noted chapter.
108	Peat Management Plan	The Applicant must consider whether a full Peat Management Plan is required or whether the above information would be best submitted as part of the schedule of mitigation.	SEPA15	55	Volume 2 - Chapter 7: Geology and Soils Environment	Management of peat is considered within the noted chapter (see also Volume 5 - Appendix V2-7.a3: Peat and Carbon Management Plan).
109	GWDTE	The following information must be included in the submission: a. a map demonstrating that all GWDTE are outwith a 100 m radius of all excavations shallower than 1 m and outwith 250 m of all excavations deeper than 1 m and proposed	SEPA16	55, 56	Volume 2 – Chapter 4: Ecology Volume 2 – Chapter 6: Water Environment	Information relating to GWDTEs within the vicinity of the Proposed Development and assessment of likely impact on these is included within the noted chapters. An assessment of the effects on GWDTE is presented in Volume 5 - Appendix V-;6.4: Groundwater Dependent Terrestrial Ecosystems (GWDTE) Assessment

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		<p>groundwater abstractions. If micro-siting is to be considered as a mitigation measure the distance of survey needs to be extended by the proposed maximum extent of micro-siting. The survey needs to extend beyond the site boundary where the distances require it; and</p> <p>b. if the minimum buffers above cannot be achieved, a detailed site specific qualitative and / or quantitative risk assessment will be required. SEPA are likely to seek conditions securing appropriate mitigation for all GWDTE affected.</p>				
110	Forestry Removal	Proposals for felled forest material must be shown to comply with SEPA's Use of Trees Cleared to Facilitate Development on Afforested Land – Joint Guidance from SEPA, SNH and FCS.	SEPA17	56	Volume 2- Chapter 9: Forestry	Information relating to removal of woodland is included within the noted chapter and associated Appendix and Annexes (see Volume 5 – Appendix V2-9.1: Woodland Report).
111	Borrow Pits	<p>If borrow pits are proposed the following information should be submitted:</p> <p>a. a map showing the location, size, depths and dimensions of each pit;</p> <p>b. justification for the proposed location of each borrow pit and evidence of the suitability of the material to be</p>	SEPA18	56, 57	Volume 1 - Chapter 3: Project Description	Borrow pits are not included within the section 37 consent application, and therefore not considered in detail within this EIA Report. However, indicative locations are provided, together with a preliminary appraisal of anticipated volume, and potential environmental effects at each location (see Volume 5 – Appendix V1-3.3: Preliminary

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		<p>excavated for the proposed use, including any risk of pollution caused by degradation of the rock.; and</p> <p>c. a map showing any stocks of rock, overburden, soils and temporary and permanent infrastructure including tracks, buildings, oil storage, pipes and drainage, overlain with all lochs and watercourses to a distance of 250 m. The Applicant must demonstrate that a site-specific proportionate buffer can be achieved. On this map, a site-specific buffer must be drawn around each loch or watercourse proportionate to the depth of excavations and at least 10 m from access tracks. If this minimum buffer cannot be achieved each breach must be numbered on a plan with an associated photograph of the location, dimensions of the loch or watercourse, drawings of what is proposed in terms of engineering works.</p>				Appraisal of Borrow Pits, Quarries and Site Compounds).
112	Pollution Prevention	A schedule of mitigation supported by site specific maps and plans must be submitted. These must include reference to best practice pollution prevention and construction techniques (for example,	SEPA19	57	Volume 5 – Appendix V1-3.6: Schedule of Mitigation	A Schedule of Mitigation is included with the EIA Report as the noted appendix.

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		limiting the maximum area to be stripped of soils at any one time) and regulatory requirements. They should set out the daily responsibilities of ECoWs, how site inspections will be recorded and acted upon and proposals for a planning monitoring enforcement officer.				
113	Water Infrastructure – DWPA and SW Assets	<p>The Proposed Development falls within several drinking water catchments where SW abstractions are located. These are designated as Drinking Water Protection Areas (DWPA) under Article 7 of the Water Framework Directive.</p> <p>All Scottish Water assets potentially affected by the activity should be identified, with particular consideration given to access roads and pipe crossings.</p>	SW01	115, 116	Volume 2 – Chapter 6: Water Environment	<p>The likely impacts of the Proposed Development on DWPAs have been assessed within the noted chapter, with mitigation measures identified, where required. The presence of the drinking water catchment will be noted in future documentation and communicated to all persons working on the site.</p> <p>All identified SW assets are detailed in the noted chapter and on accompanying plans.</p>
114	Traffic and Transport	TS are satisfied the scope of works set out in the Scoping Report is in accordance with recognised guidelines and methodology.	TS01	121	Volume 2 – Chapter 10: Transport	Noted. Assessment of traffic and transport impacts likely to result from the Proposed Development are set out within the noted chapter.
115	Forestry	WT recommends that an Arboricultural Impact Assessment (AIA) is undertaken for the entire route to help inform the EIA Report and ensure protection of ancient	WT01	120	Volume 2 – Chapter 9: Forestry	The noted chapter and associated appendices identify potential effects on forestry and native woodland throughout the route, and confirms compensatory measures

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		and veteran trees. They also recommend that the Applicant reviews the Ancient Tree Inventory (ATI).				where woodland loss is anticipated.