

APPENDIX V2-3.11: LVIA OF SECTION 5 (LOCH CUAICH TO INVERGARRY)

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1. LANDSCAPE AND VISUAL

1.1 Introduction

1.1.1 This Appendix presents the findings of the Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment (LVIA) for Section 5 of the Proposed Development. The purpose of the LVIA is to identify and describe potential significant effects which may occur as a result of the Proposed Development to views obtained by those living, working and visiting in the area, and to the wider landscape resource, and, the residual predicted significance of effects after mitigation.

1.1.2 The LVIA has been undertaken by Chartered Landscape Architects at ASH design + assessment Ltd (ASH), a registered practice with the Landscape Institute, in accordance with best practice guidance, the *Guidelines for Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment, 3rd Edition* (GLVIA3)¹. A table presenting relevant qualifications and experience of key staff involved in the preparation of this Chapter is included in **Appendix V1.5.1: EIA Team**, contained within Volume 5 of this EIA Report.

1.2 Scope of Assessment and Methodology

Scope of Assessment

1.2.1 Detailed explanation of the process and rationale for scoping the LVIA is contained within **Appendix V2-3.1**. In summary, the following scope has been agreed for this Section through Scoping and subsequent consultation with NatureScot and the Highland Council (THC):

- A study area of 2.5 km from the Proposed Development (132 kV steel lattice tower overhead line (OHL));
- Landscape character assessment identifying the potential for the Proposed Development to influence the key characteristics of identified Local Character Zones (LCZs) within the study area whilst taking cognisance of Landscape Character Types (LCTs) from the NatureScot *National Landscape Character Assessment*² (c.f. **Table 3 of Appendix V2-3.1**);
- Visual assessment giving consideration to views obtained by those living, working and travelling and undertaking recreation within the study area including settlement areas, transport and recreational routes and other identified valued viewing locations. **Tables 4 to 6 of Appendix V2-3.1** identify Building, Route and Outdoor based receptors included in the detailed assessment for Section 0;
- An assessment of potential effects on the Special Qualities³ of the Moidart, Morar and Glen Shiel Special Landscape Area (SLA) (see **Table 2 of Appendix V2-3.1**);
- A review of the Proposed Development with respect to the Key Qualities⁴ of Wild Land Area (WLA) 18. Kinlochhourn – Knoydart – Morar (see **Table 2 of Appendix V2-3.1**);
- Cumulative assessment giving consideration to the combined effects with all other proposed OHL infrastructure works related to the Proposed Development, within the study area, as summarised in **Table 7 of Appendix V2-3.1**. Within this Section, this includes:
 - Effects associated with Sections 4 and 6 of the Proposed Development.
- Cumulative assessment giving consideration to other proposed OHL or electricity infrastructure works, unrelated to the Proposed Development, within the study area, as summarised in **Table 7 of Appendix V2-3.1**. Within this Section, this includes:

¹ Landscape Institute and Institute of Environmental Management and Assessment. (2013). *Guidelines for Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment*, Third Edition.

² NatureScot (2019) *Scottish Landscape Character Types – Map and Descriptions* [online]. Available at: <https://www.nature.scot/professional-advice/landscape/landscape-character-assessment/scottish-landscape-character-types-map-and-descriptions>

³ Horner + MacLennan and Wood, M. (2011). *Assessment of Highland Special Landscape Areas*. Commissioned by The Highland Council in partnership with Scottish Natural Heritage. June 2011.

⁴ Scottish Natural Heritage (2017). *18. Kinlochhourne-Knoydart-Morar Wild Land Area. Description of Wild Land Area*.

- Quoich Tee Switching Station upgrade (pre-application);
- Loch Lundie Substation (Scoping); and
- Coire Glas Pumped Storage Grid Connection - 400kV steel lattice OHL (Scoping).

1.2.2 When site work was conducted in January 2022, steel lattice towers due to be dismantled as part of the 2019 Quoich to Aberchalder 132 kV Woodpole Overhead Line project were still in place to the east of Kingie Switching Station, in addition to the recently constructed wood pole OHL. These steel lattice towers are due to be dismantled and have therefore not been considered present within the baseline for the Proposed Development.

Visualisations

1.2.3 Two visualisations have been produced to support the LVIA work for Section 5. These show the predicted appearance of the Proposed Development during operation, once landscape reinstatement of disturbed areas has been assumed to be fully established. Visualisations have been included from the following locations within Section 5:

- Visualisation Location 5-1: Quoich Dam (OS Grid Reference NH 07083 02467); and
- Visualisation Location 5-2: Loch Lundie Core Path (OS Grid Reference NH 29540 02780).

1.2.4 The visualisations have been produced to support the LVIA and are intended to show the appearance of the Proposed Development within the landscape setting. Visualisation Locations do not comprise representative viewpoints for visual assessment and have therefore not been assessed as viewpoints, because the visual assessment is a receptor based assessment (giving consideration to all potential visual receptors) rather than a viewpoint based assessment..

1.2.5 Two sets of visualisations have been produced to NatureScot 2017⁵ and The Highland Council (THC) 2016⁶ standards, included within the EIA Report Volume 4A (see **Figures V4A-5.1a to d** and **V4A-5.2a to d**) and Volume 4B (see **Figures V4B-5.1a to e** and **V4B-5.2a to e**) respectively.

Methodology

1.2.6 The detailed methodology for the LVIA is included in **Appendix V2-3.2**. The methodology has been developed using GLVIA3 and other best practice guidance as detailed in **Appendix V2-3.2**.

1.2.7 GLVIA3 advises that landscape and visual effects should be assessed from a clear understanding of the development proposed and any mitigation measures which are being adopted.

1.2.8 The GLVIA3 methodology for landscape assessment involves an appreciation of the existing landscape resource, the susceptibility of its key components to accept the change proposed, and an understanding of the potential effects which could occur and how these could affect these key components.

1.2.9 Familiarity with the site and the extent, nature and expectation of existing views by visual receptors is a key factor in establishing the visual sensitivity in terms of the development proposed. The guidelines require evaluation of magnitude of change to views experienced by sensitive receptors, comprising individuals living, working, travelling and carrying out other activities within the landscape, and the subsequent evaluation of the significance of effects.

1.2.10 The potential to mitigate adverse effects should also be considered for both landscape and visual assessment.

⁵ Scottish Natural Heritage (2017) Visual Representation of Wind Farms. Version 2.2. Available at: <https://www.nature.scot/doc/visual-representation-wind-farms-guidance> [accessed June 2022]

⁶ The Highland Council (2016) Visualisation Standards for Wind Energy Developments. Available at: https://www.highland.gov.uk/downloads/file/12880/visualisation_standards_for_wind_energy_developments [accessed June 2022]

1.2.11 There are five key stages to the assessment:

- Establishment of the baseline (see **Part 1.3 of Appendix V2-3.2**);
- Appreciation of the development proposed (see **Part 1.4 of Appendix V2-3.2**);
- Identification of key landscape and visual receptors (see **Part 1.5 of Appendix V2-3.2**);
- Identification of potential effects (see **Part 1.6 of Appendix V2-3.2**); and
- Assessment of significance of effect (see **Part 1.7 of Appendix V2-3.2**).

1.2.12 GLVIA3 places a strong emphasis on the importance of professional judgement in identifying and defining the significance of landscape and visual effects. As part of this assessment, professional judgement has been used in combination with structured methods and criteria to evaluate landscape value and landscape and visual sensitivity, magnitude and significance of effect. The assessment has been undertaken and verified by two Landscape Professionals (Chartered Landscape Architects) to provide a robust and consistent approach.

1.2.13 Given the nature of the Proposed Development which involves the replacement of existing infrastructure, the methodology gives consideration to the potential for effects to be both adverse and beneficial.

1.2.14 Significance of effect is presented on a seven point scale ranging from Negligible through Minor (Adverse / Beneficial), Moderate (Adverse / Beneficial) to Major (Adverse / Beneficial). Details on the criteria for these ratings are provided in **Table 4 of Appendix V2-3.2**. These ratings represent points on a continuum and therefore where relevant, interim ratings may be applied (i.e. Minor-Moderate) For the purposes of the EIA Regulations⁷, an effect rating of Moderate or greater is considered to be significant.

1.2.15 Where relevant, effects ratings are provided for two stages of the Proposed Development:

- During construction; and
- During operation (assumed to be approximately 10 years after completion when landscape / habitat reinstatement and any mitigation planting has established).

1.2.16 A list of limitations and assumptions of relevance to the Proposed Development are detailed in **paragraph 1.8.1 of Appendix V2-3.2**.

1.2.17 As detailed in paragraph 1.2.2, existing steel lattice towers through this Section, which are yet to be dismantled as part of the Quoich to Aberchalder 132 kV Woodpole Overhead Line project, have been considered to be not present within the baseline for the Proposed Development.

1.3 Baseline Conditions: Landscape

Overview

1.3.1 The landscape of Section 5 is characterised by large expanses of coniferous forest plantation which cloth the slopes to the east and west of the large open waterbodies of Loch Garry and Loch Poulary. At the western end of the Section, open, moorland slopes with small clumps of native woodland characterise a steep-sided valley which contains the Quoich Dam with panoramic views towards the western mountains. A greater sense of enclosure is experienced as the Section progresses eastwards and forest plantation and native woodland surrounding the lochs become more dominant. Dispersed, rural properties are scattered throughout this Section, alongside the lochs and within the edges of the forest, reached by narrow single track roads and tracks leading from the A87 and rural road alongside Loch Garry.

⁷ The Electricity Works (Environmental Impact Assessment) (Scotland) Regulations 2017

Designated Landscapes

- 1.3.2 Landscapes can be ascribed an international, national, regional or local designation that recognises the importance of the landscape for its scenic interest or attractiveness. Areas of landscape may also be protected by planning policy at either a national or regional level.
- 1.3.3 The following designated or protected landscapes fall within the study area (see **Figure V2-3.2-S5**):
- National Context:
 - WLA 18. Kinlochhourn – Knoydart – Morar.
 - Regional / Local Context:
 - Loch Lochy and Loch Oich SLA; and
 - Moidart, Morar and Glen Shiel SLA.
- 1.3.4 As detailed in **Appendix V2-3.1**, Loch Lochy and Loch Oich SLA has been scoped out of this assessment as it is considered very unlikely that this area would be significantly affected due to limited intervisibility. Those areas identified for inclusion are described below and their Special Qualities⁸ are listed in **Table V2-S5-1**, with those of particular relevance to the Proposed Development highlighted in bold.

WLA 18. Kinlochhourn – Knoydart - Morar

- 1.3.5 Wild Land Areas (WLA) have been defined by NatureScot as those areas comprising the greatest and most extensive areas of wild characteristics within Scotland. Although not a designation, these areas are given protection within the Planning System through *Scottish Planning Policy* (SPP) (Scottish Government, 2014)⁹.
- 1.3.6 The presence of wildness is based on the presence and strength of four perceptual attributes identified in NatureScot Policy Statement *Wildness in Scotland's Countryside* (SNH², 2002)¹⁰ as follows:
- A sense of sanctuary or solitude;
 - Risk or, for some visitors, a sense of awe or anxiety, depending on the individual's emotional response to the setting;
 - Perceptions that the landscape has arresting or inspiring qualities; and
 - Fulfilment from the physical challenge required to penetrate into these places.
- 1.3.7 Because these responses are very much dependant on an individual's perceptions, five physical attributes are identified as considered likely to lead to these perceptual responses being present. These are:
- A high degree of perceived naturalness in the setting, especially in its vegetation cover and wildlife, and in the natural processes affecting the land;
 - The lack of any modern artefacts or structures;
 - Little evidence of contemporary human uses of the land;
 - Landform which is rugged, or otherwise physically challenging; and
 - Remoteness and/or inaccessibility.
- 1.3.8 Within the study area, this WLA covers the hill slopes north of Quoich Dam, including the summit at Spidean Mialach (977m), Loch Fearnna and extending east towards Màm na Seilg (497m).

⁸ The name of the various highlighted qualities of designated and protected landscapes varies. For this assessment, the term Special Qualities has been used as a general term to reference any of the following: Special Landscape Qualities (SLQs) of NSAs, Wild Land Area Qualities (WLAQs), Special Qualities of SLAs, and highlighted levels of interest for GDLs.

⁹ Scottish Government (2014). *Scottish Planning Policy*.

¹⁰ Scottish Natural Heritage (2002). *Wildness in Scotland's Countryside – Policy Statement No. 02/03*.

1.3.9 NatureScot has identified WLA Key Qualities for each of the WLAs. Those for WLA 18⁴ are listed in **Table V2-S5-1**

Moidart, Morar and Glen Shiel SLA

1.3.10 SLA is a non-statutory designation applied by THC through the development planning process to landscapes identified as being of regional or local importance. The Special Qualities of Highland SLAs are identified in the publication, *Assessment of Highland Special Landscape Areas* (Horner + MacLennan and Wood, 2011)³.

1.3.11 Within the study area this SLA covers Quoich Dam and the surrounding area, including the summits of Beinn Bheag (339m) and Spidean Mialach (977m), and Loch Fearn. It extends approximately 2 km east of Quoich Dam, towards Tom an Doir Dhuinn, near Kingie. The Special Qualities of the Moidart, Morar and Glen Shiel SLA are detailed in **Table V2-S5-1**.

Table V2-S5-1: Special Qualities of Designated and Protected Landscapes (Special Qualities considered of particular relevance to the Proposed Development are highlighted in bold)

Designated / Protected Area	Special Qualities* (*Special Landscape Qualities (SLQs) of NSAs, WLA Qualities and Special Qualities of SLAs)
WLA 18. Kinlochhourn – Knoydart – Morar	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “High, remote, rugged and rocky mountains with a strong sense of naturalness and awe – some angular in profile with sweeping peaks, and some more massive in form” • “A very remote interior drawing adventurous and experienced hillwalkers” • “Spectacular deep glens and lochs cut through the high mountains and hills, strongly influencing visibility, remoteness and access through the landscape” • “A strong influence of the sea around the north and western edges of the WLA, providing open views and contributing to perceived awe, remoteness and naturalness” • “Secluded and elevated rocky cnochan and plateaux, containing hidden depressions and lochs with a strong sense of sanctuary” <p style="text-align: right;">(SNH, 2017⁴)</p>
Moidart, Morar and Glen Shiel SLA	<p><i>“Distinctive West Highland Composition</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The pattern of east-west-aligned mountain ridges, deep glens and lochs typifies the West Highland landscape. This is popular with visitors worldwide, and images of the landscape are often used to represent and promote some of the distinctive qualities of Scotland. The opportunity to reach many high peaks and to sustain height over long distances makes this area particularly popular for hill walking and climbing. • Much of the area represents the “back door” into Knoydart, Glenshiel and Kintail. At Kinlochhourn and the junction of Glen Dessary and Glen Pean at Strathan, long distance walking routes proceed west. Apart from the sporting estates and a limited number of forestry and hydro workers, the main users of this area are hillwalkers and wilderness enthusiasts who typically engage in multi-day treks. • <i>Loch Morar is something of a hidden gem, a very large, deep freshwater loch, with attractive wooded islands at its eastern end, and a shoreline with many small bays and headlands which is almost completely undeveloped.</i> • The area is very sparsely populated, particularly in the central and northern areas, with most communities lying close to the A830 road from Glenfinnan to Mallaig and around the southern end of Loch Shiel.

Designated / Protected Area	Special Qualities* (*Special Landscape Qualities (SLQs) of NSAs, WLA Qualities and Special Qualities of SLAs)
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Quiet, uninhabited glens and isolated peaks create a landscape experience where the sense of wildness, and tranquillity are key qualities.</i> • <i>Appreciation of the landscape is strongly influenced by the weather with the pattern of systems strongly affected by the Atlantic to the west and able to change rapidly. Spectacular sunsets are often obtained from areas of high ground and coastal locations looking west.</i> • <i>Within the landscape there is a rich local heritage of battle sites, places of refuge, and historical associations with the Jacobite uprisings and their aftermath, this creates a strong sense of historic connection between the past and present landscape.</i> • <i>The A830 (Fort William – Mallaig) ‘Road to the Isles’ follows a well-defined glen which forms a major dividing line through the West Highlands - between the higher mountains to the north and the lower, yet still rugged, peaks of Moidart to the south. Running approximately parallel is the West Highland Railway line which crosses Glen Finnan on an iconic viaduct. In the north, the A87 (Invergarry – Kyle of Lochalsh) road hugs the shore of Loch Cluanie before winding through the remote Glen Shiel.</i> • <i>There is an intricate coastline both diverse, and intimate with rocky promontories containing white sandy beaches, impressive dunes and machair habitats, interspersed with scattered crofting and fishing settlements and fringed by rich native woodlands. Popular for its sand beaches and superb vistas, an integral feature of these views is the foreground detail provided by large numbers of skerries. Loch nan Ceall is particularly notable in this regard. This provides a stimulating sense of place and strong contrast of scale with the mountains. It also offers expansive views to the sea and distinctive profiles of the mountainous islands to the west.”</i> <p style="text-align: right;">(Horner + MacIennan et al., 2011³).</p>

Landscape Character

1.3.12 NatureScot has undertaken detailed review and classification of various landscape areas and types of Scotland (SNH, 2019 [online]²). Four individual Landscape Character Types (LCTs) are identified within the study area for Section 5 as follows (see **Figure V2-3.2-S5a-b**):

- LCT 220 – Rugged Massif – Inverness;
- LCT 235 – Broad Forested Strath;
- LCT 237 – Rocky Moorland – Lochaber; and
- LCT 239 – Interlocking Sweeping Peaks – Lochaber.

1.3.13 Descriptions of these LCTs, including their key characteristics are included in **Appendix V2-3.4**.

Local Character Zones

1.3.14 In order to more closely reflect the local characteristics and qualities of the study area, Local Character Zones (LCZs) have been identified which linearly divide the study area into segments where it is considered that an over-riding uniformity of character is present. These LCZs form the basis of the landscape character assessment.

1.3.15 The study area for Section 5 has been divided into three LCZs as shown on **Figure V2-3.2-S5a-b**. These are described in detail in **Appendix V2-3.11, Annex 1** and summarised below as follows:

LCZ 5-1: Eastern Loch Cuaich to Poulary

1.3.16 Covering the section of alignment between eastern Loch Cuaich and Poulary, this LCZ comprises a transitional area where large interlocking sweeping peaks and masses around Loch Cuaich and northern slopes of Glen Garry transition into the undulating, rugged, moorland around small settlements of Kingie and Poulary. Areas of ancient and native woodland are scattered on lower ground, while commercial conifer forestry is situated in the south of the LCZ. Built features near the minor road, include Quoich Dam and Power Station, Kingie Switching Station, OHLs (NeSTs, steel lattice and wood pole) and residential properties. This development contributes to the sense that this is an active and connected landscape, but there is nevertheless an overriding sense of relative remoteness in this large-scale landscape, recognised by its inclusion in part of WLA 18. Kinlochhourn – Knoydart and part of the Morar and Moidart, Morar and Glen Shiel SLA. This landscape is also valued recreationally, and there are long-distance scenic views, particularly from higher ground.

LCZ 5-2: Poulary to Munerigie Wood

1.3.17 Covering the section of alignment between Poulary and Munerigie Wood, this LCZ comprises the broad forested Glen Garry, rocky moorland to its north and rolling forested hills to its south. Tree cover dominates this landscape and includes commercial conifer forestry, as well as smaller areas of ancient and native woodland and Caledonian Pinewood. Built features near the minor roads, tracks and A87 include OHLs (wood pole), residential properties and hotel development (under construction), as well as fish farms on Glen Garry. There is a sense of separation and relative remoteness that increases with distance from the A87, and sense of enclosure created by the wooded landscape. The changing commercial forestry landscape and built development also contribute to an awareness of change and activity. This landscape is valued recreationally and there are long-distance scenic views channelled along the glen, particularly from higher ground.

LCZ 5-3: Around Invergarry and Loch Lundie

1.3.18 Covering the section of alignment between Munerigie Wood and the eastern end of the Section 5 alignment, this LCZ covers an area of undulating rocky moorland around Loch Lundie and the wooded valley around Invergarry. Tree cover dominates the southern and eastern parts of this LCZ, comprising commercial conifer forestry, native and ancient woodland, cut through by various wayleaves and OHLs. Built features include OHLs, residential properties and other development in /around Invergarry, as well as wind development in nearby areas. This is a connected area with a settled sense of place within and around Invergarry, and experience of enclosure from landform and tree cover. This differs from the openness of the rocky upland moorland around Loch Lundie where there are expansive and scenic views directed across the loch. Here, the presence of tracks, fences, gates, existing OHL development and nearby wind turbines contribute to an awareness of development in adjacent areas, and activity within the LCZ, but there is nevertheless a sense of separation from the busier Great Glen below. This area is valued recreationally, and a small part is found in the Loch Lochy and Loch Oich SLA.

1.4 Baseline Conditions: Visual

Interpretation of the ZTV

- 1.4.1 The Zone of Theoretical Visibility (ZTV) is illustrated on **Figure V2-3.1-S5**. This shows that within the 5 km study area from the Proposed Development, there would be theoretical visibility of the Proposed Development across large parts of the study area. However, this is mostly focussed within Glen Garry and Glen Kingie, where extensive forestry cover would be likely to limit the actual extent of visibility. The ridge of hills along the northern edge of the study area, containing Glen Garry, would screen potential intervisibility of the Proposed Development with Glen Loyne. Similarly, the ZTV shows that the Proposed Development would be screened by landform in views from Invergarry, and that relatively few towers would theoretically be visible from areas around Invergarry, including areas near Loch Lundie. Conversely, the greatest number of towers would be theoretically visible from Loch Garry and along its southern shore, and small areas north-west and south-west of Poulary.

Visual Receptors

- 1.4.2 Visual receptors within the study area comprise residents or others present in and around buildings and settlement areas, those using routes (including transport and recreational routes) through the study area, and those obtaining views from outdoor locations where enjoyment of the view is one of principal reasons for being at the location.

Building-based Receptors

- 1.4.3 Building-based receptor locations are described in detail in **Appendix V2-3.11, Annex 2** and their locations are shown on **Figure V2-3.4-S5**. These receptor locations within the study area can be broadly subdivided into four types of receptor locations as detailed below:
- Small settlements and rural properties along / near the Loch Garry / Loch Cuaich minor road, east of Quoich Dam (Receptor Locations B5-1 to B5-7):
 - Residents and visitors to group of properties, Power Station, church and other buildings, including at Kingie, Poulary, Tomdoun, Lochantoss, Inchlaggan and Ardochy. The majority of views from these receptor locations are directed generally southward across a nearby loch / river (Loch Garry, River Garry, Loch Poulary and Kingie Pool) and across / along the glen towards wooded (or felled) slopes. Some views are enclosed within woodland (for example at Tomdoun) or are filtered to varying degrees by trees.
 - Rural properties to the south of Loch Garry (Receptor Locations B5-8 to B5-10):
 - Residents and visitors to group of properties, Power Station, hotel development (under construction), and farm buildings at Garrygualach, Torr na Carraidh and Greenfield. The majority of views from these receptors' locations are open, extending across Loch Garry and across / along the glen towards wooded slopes.
 - Rural properties at the eastern end of Glen Garry, north of the A87 (Receptor Locations B5-11 to B5-12):
 - Residents and visitors to group of properties and farm buildings at Achadh-luachrach, Leacan Dubha and Munergie. The majority of views from these receptor locations are to the south or west, along / across wooded Glen Garry.
 - Village of Invergarry and nearby properties (Receptor Location B5-13):
 - Residents and visitors to residential properties, camping / caravan site, hotel, school, community centre, sports pitch and other buildings at Faichem, White Bridge, Glenluie and Mandally. The majority of views from these receptor locations are contained by landform and woodland, with some semi-open views from a few elevated locals.

Route-based Receptors

1.4.4 Routes within the study area are described in detail in **Appendix V2-3.112 Annex 2** and shown on **Figure V2-3.3-S5**. These can be classified into two different categories:

- Public transport routes (including public roads); and
- Recreational routes.

1.4.5 Public transport routes within the study area which have been included in the visual assessment include the following:

- A roads:
 - Route R5-1 (A87) comprises a main single carriageway trunk road used by recreational travellers, local residents and popular with tourists. Views from this route through the study area are typically contained by trees, with some elevated and open views towards Loch Garry and Loch Loyne obtained from stopping points.
 - Although a small part of the A82 also falls within the study area, the ZTV indicates no visibility and therefore this is not included in the LVIA.
- Minor Roads:
 - Route R5-2 (Loch Garry / Loch Cuaich minor road) comprises a single track road along the northern shore of Loch Garry to and beyond Quoich Dam used by local residents and popular with recreational users and other travellers. Views are enclosed by forest and woodland along its eastern part with glimpsed views across the loch, becoming more open when further east across the valley.
 - Route R5-3 (minor roads at Faichem and Mandally) comprises single track roads near Faichem and Mandally used by local residents and visitors. Views are largely enclosed, with some open, elevated views from Mandally, across the wooded glen.

1.4.6 Recreational routes considered within the visual assessment include Core Paths (The Highland Council, 2011)¹¹, Scottish Hill Tacks (Scottish Rights of Way and Access Society, 2011)¹², and other commonly used recorded walking or cycling routes. These include the following:

- Core Paths:
 - Route R5-4 (Core Path LO11.02: Aldernaig Burn to Loch Lundie (also Scottish Hill Track 259: Fort Augustus to Invergarry, by Loch Lundie)) comprises a footpath and track used by recreational users and estate workers with mixed elevated views across Glen Garry and towards Ben Tee, and across Loch Lundie, filtered by scrub and native woodland.
 - Route R5-5 (Core Paths and other walking routes around Invergarry) includes a group of Core Paths and other formal and informal woodland walking routes around the floor of Invergarry, used recreationally, including by walkers and cyclists. These paths include Core Paths: LO11.01: Glenfinnan Estate Road, LO11.05: Black Bridge to Mandally Road, LO11.08: Access to Whitebridge waymarked trails from Mandally, LO11.09: River Garry access for watersports, and LO11.03: Cycle Track – Bridge of Oich. This group of routes also includes a small portion of the Great Glen Way (Invergarry Link). These routes all offer mostly semi-enclosed views within Glen Garry, limited by surrounding woodland and trees.
- Scottish Hill Tracks:
 - Routes R5-6 (Scottish Hill Track 257a: Glen Garry to Glen Shiel); R5-7 (Scottish Hill Track 247: Strathan (Loch Arkaig) to Tomdoun (Glen Garry); and Route R5-8 (Scottish Hill Track 238: The Dark Mile (Loch Arkaig) to Laggan Loch and Track 239: Loch Garry to Laggan Locks) are longer distance

¹¹ The Highland Council (2011). *Map: 5a-b Glenfinnan & Invergarry. Lochaber Core Paths Plan*. Available at: https://www.highland.gov.uk/downloads/file/1235/map_5_-_glenfinnan_and_invergarry

¹² Scottish Rights of Way and Access Society (2011). *Scottish Hill Tracks. 5th edition*.

tracks all leading from Glen Garry into the wider hills to north and south used primarily by recreational users or estate workers. Within the study area, views from these routes are largely contained by trees

- Scottish Hill Track 259: Fort Augustus to Invergarry, by Loch Lundie is the same as Core Path LO11.09: Aldernaig Burn to Loch Lundie and therefore included as part of Route R5-4;
- Other Routes:
 - Other paths and woodland walks around Invergarry and Whitebridge, including a small part of the Great Glen Way (Invergarry Link) are included in Route R5-5;
 - Route R5-9 (Gairich Mountain Route) near Quoich Dam, used by recreational users between Quoich Dam and Gairich with open views across the loch and surrounding landscape.

Receptors at Outdoor Locations

- 1.4.7 No outdoor viewing locations have been identified for individual inclusion within this Section. Whilst various roadside viewpoints are present including a number on the A87, these have been considered as part of the visual experience of the routes concerned.

Future Baseline

- 1.4.8 The baseline landscape and visual resources of the study area is not anticipated to alter noticeably in future years. Whilst there may be some continued development or ongoing changes to forestry or tree cover, this is not anticipated to lead to any very noticeable change to the wider landscape characteristics of the study area or visual amenity.
- 1.4.9 As detailed in paragraph 1.2.2, existing steel lattice towers through this Section, which are yet to be dismantled as part of the Quoich to Aberchalder 132 kV Woodpole Overhead Line, have been considered to be not present within the baseline (or future baseline) for the Proposed Development.

1.5 Assessment of Likely Significant Effects: Landscape

- 1.5.1 This Part provides an assessment of the effects that the Proposed Development would have on landscape character and designated and protected landscapes during the construction and operational phases, in accordance with the significance of effects criteria outlined in the methodology (**Table 4 of Appendix V2-3.2**). The assessment of landscape character is presented first, as this is used to feed into the assessment of the significance of effects on designated and protected landscapes.

- 1.5.2 The detailed assessment of the significance of effects for each LCZ is provided in **Appendix V2-3.11, Annex 1** with the key points being summarised below.

Assessment of Effects on Landscape Character – Effects Likely to be Significant

- 1.5.3 The detailed assessment of landscape character has considered three separate LCZs. No significant landscape effects were identified for any of these areas during either construction or operation.

Assessment of Effects on Landscape Character – Effects Likely to be Not Significant

- 1.5.4 Effects on all LCZs have been identified as not significant during both construction and operation.

- 1.5.5 During construction, **Minor-Moderate Adverse** effects (not significant) are predicted for LCZ 5-1 (Eastern Loch Cuaich to Poulary) where construction activities would temporarily form a new focus and distraction within the local area, likely to disrupt valued views and reduce the emphasis on other rugged and undeveloped parts of the terrain. This would not be significant as it would not noticeably alter the defining landscape characteristics of the LCZ, particularly given the presence of the existing OHL being replaced. During operation, effects would reduce to **Minor Adverse** (not significant) since construction activities would cease and the Proposed Development would appear similar to the existing steel lattice OHL within the landscape (see Visualisation Location 5-1 (**Figures V4A-5.1a to d**)). The OHL to the east of Kingie Switching Station (replacing a smaller wood pole OHL) may be more perceptible and draw more visual attention such that there would be a marginal increase in the perception of development and a slightly reduced perception of scale within the LCZ.
- 1.5.6 During construction, *localised* **Minor – Moderate Adverse** (not significant) effects have been identified for LCZ 5-3 (Around Invergarry and Loch Lundie) where construction activities would result in an increased perception of development in the immediate area. This would not be significant as it would not noticeably alter the defining landscape characteristics of the LCZ, particularly given the existing wood pole OHL being replaced. During operation, would reduce to a *localised* **Minor Adverse** (not significant) effect since construction activities would cease and the Proposed Development would be less perceptible in the local landscape. A **Negligible** effect is predicted for other areas of the LCZ due to screening from landform and tree cover. A representative view of the Proposed Development within this LCZ is provided by Visualisation Location 5-2 (**Figures V4A-5.2a to d**).
- 1.5.7 The effect on LCZ 5-2 (Poulary to Munerigie Wood) is predicted to be **Minor Adverse** (not significant) during construction and operation, where the Proposed Development would form a perceptible new feature within the landscape but would be unlikely to lead to any change to the overriding character of the landscape.

Assessment of Effects on Designated and Protected Landscapes

- 1.5.8 The detailed assessment of designated and protected landscapes, including relevant Special Qualities, for the Proposed Development as a whole is included in **Appendix V2-3.5**. The identified effects in relation to Section 5 of the Proposed Development are summarised below:

WLA 18. Kinlochhourn – Knoydart – Morar

- 1.5.9 Within the study area, the WLA covers the hill slopes north of Quoich Dam, extending east towards Màm na Seilg within LCZ 5-1 (Eastern Loch Cuaich). This is an area already influenced by a number of built artefacts and contemporary land uses within the nearby landscape, including the existing steel lattice OHL which would be replaced, existing NeSTS poles which would be retained, the Quoich Dam and the minor public road. These elements which reduce the strength of baseline wild land attributes in the local area, are considered to reduce the sensitivity to wild land change within the part of the WLA falling within the study area, which is therefore considered to be Low – Medium.
- 1.5.10 Effects on the WLA are described in detail within **Table 7 of Appendix V2-3.5** and are summarised below.
- 1.5.11 The Proposed Development would not fall within the WLA within Section 5 but around 3.5 km of steel lattice OHL would be situated between 160 m and 1.4 km from its boundary. This would follow a similar alignment to the existing steel lattice tower OHL to be removed, but slightly more distant from the WLA. Therefore, whilst the Proposed Development would be perceptible with in the context of the WLA, it would appear very similar to the section of existing steel lattice OHL it would replace (see Visualisation Location 5-1 (**Figures V4A-5.1a to d**)) which shows this part of the Proposed Development) and would therefore have a similar influence on baseline wild land attributes. To the east of Kingie Switching Station, where the Proposed Development would replace a wood pole OHL with steel lattice tower OHL, the Proposed Development would be largely imperceptible, given its distance from the WLA and its context near / within woodland east of Poulary.

1.5.12 The detailed assessment of effects on WLA 18. Kinlochhour – Knoydart – Morar for the Proposed Development as a whole is included in **Table 7 of Appendix V2-3.5**. This assessment concluded that the magnitude of change on all WLQs within Section 5 would be Negligible. As the majority of the WLA within the study area for the Proposed Development affects Section 4, rather than Section 5, a review of likely significant effects on WLQs specifically relating to Section 5, as requested by NatureScot, is summarised in **Table V2-S5-2**, below.

Table V2-S5-2: Summary of Wild Land Qualities (WLQs) Appraisal for WLA 18. Kinlochhour – Knoydart – Morar

Included Wild Land Quality (WLQ)	Predicted Effects
<i>“High, remote, rugged and rocky mountains with a strong sense of naturalness and awe – some angular in profile with sweeping peaks, and some more massive in form”</i>	The part of the WLA within Section 5 is defined by the steep, craggy mountain of Spidean Mialach. However, given the location of the Proposed Development outwith the WLA, and the context of the existing, very similar steel lattice OHL which would be replaced, the Proposed Development is considered very unlikely to lead to any additional change to perceptions of ruggedness, naturalness, and awe experienced within this part of the WLA.
<i>“A very remote interior drawing adventurous and experienced hillwalkers”</i>	The WLA within Section 5 is not considered representative of this WLQ as it is peripheral to the WLA as a whole. This WLA would therefore not be affected by the Proposed Development within Section 5.
<i>“Spectacular deep glens and lochs cut through the high mountains and hills, strongly influencing visibility, remoteness and access through the landscape”</i>	The WLA within Section 5 is influenced by the presence of Loch Quoich, although the dam forms a notable man-made artefact within this context. However, Section 5 of the Proposed Development would be visually isolated within the landscape to the east of the loch, by the dam, and therefore would not affect the relationship between the WLA and the loch.

1.5.13 Given the Negligible magnitude of change on WLQs and likely lack of perceptible change to wild land attributes of the WLA within Section 5, the effect on WLA 18. Kinlochhour – Knoydart – Morar in Section 5 is predicted to be **Negligible** (not significant) and the integrity of the WLA as a whole would not be affected by the Proposed Development.

Moidart, Morar and Glen Shiel SLA

1.5.14 Within the study area, the SLA covers the eastern part of Loch Cuaich and surrounding hill slopes and summits, extending about 2 km east of Quoich Dam, within LCZ 5-1 (Eastern Loch Cuaich). The landscape sensitivity of the SLA within this area is considered to be Medium, reflective of that identified for LCZ 5-1.

1.5.15 Within Section 5, works within the SLA would include replacement of approximately 2 km of existing steel lattice OHL with new, slightly taller steel lattice towers along a similar alignment. There would also be some temporary access tracks.

1.5.16 The Proposed Development would be perceptible within the SLA, but would be likely to appear very similar to the section of existing steel lattice OHL it would replace as it would follow a similar alignment within the SLA (see Visualisation Location 5-1 (Figures V4A-5.1a to d)). Outside the SLA, to the east of Kingie Switching Station, the Proposed Development would comprise the replacement of a wood pole OHL with a steel lattice tower OHL. However, this is considered likely to be largely imperceptible, given the distance of this part of the Proposed Development from the SLA, and its context near / within woodland east of Poulary.

1.5.17 The effect on Moidart, Morar and Glen Shiel SLA is predicted to be **Minor Adverse** (not significant) during construction and **Negligible** (not significant) during operation and the integrity of the designation would not be affected by the Proposed Development.

Summary of Landscape Effects

1.5.18 A summary of the effects on LCZs and designated and protected landscapes is outlined in **Table V2-S5-3** during construction and **Table V2-S5-4** during operation.

Table V2-S5-3: Summary of Landscape Effects During Construction

	Beneficial Effect					Adverse Effect					
	Major	Moderate - Major	Moderate	Minor – Moderate	Minor	Negligible	Minor	Minor – Moderate	Moderate	Moderate - Major	Major
LCZ 5-1: Eastern Loch Cuaich to Poulary								•			
LCZ 5-2: Poulary to Munerigie Wood							•				
LCZ 5-3: Around Invergarry and Loch Lundie						•		L			
WLA 18. Kinlochhourn – Knoydart - Morar						•					
Moidart, Morar and Glen Shiel SLA							•				

Table V2-S5-4: Summary of Landscape Effects During Operation

	Beneficial Effect					Adverse Effect					
	Major	Moderate - Major	Moderate	Minor – Moderate	Minor	Negligible	Minor	Minor – Moderate	Moderate	Moderate - Major	Major
LCZ 5-1: Eastern Loch Cuaich to Poulary							•				
LCZ 5-2: Poulary to Munerigie Wood							•				
LCZ 5-3: Around Invergarry and Loch Lundie						•	L				
WLA 18. Kinlochhourn – Knoydart - Morar						•					

	Beneficial Effect					Adverse Effect					
	Major	Moderate - Major	Moderate	Minor – Moderate	Minor	Negligible	Minor	Minor – Moderate	Moderate	Moderate - Major	Major
Moidart, Morar and Glen Shiel SLA						•					

1.6 Assessment of Likely Significant Effects: Visual

1.6.1 The detailed assessment of effects on the visual amenity of Building-based Receptors, Route-based Receptors and individuals at outdoor viewing locations is presented in **Appendix V2-3.11: Annex 2**. Predicted effects are summarised below with an emphasis on predicted significant effects.

Building-based Receptors

1.6.2 Thirteen building-based receptor locations were included in the visual assessment (see **Figure V2-3.4-S5**), comprising individual buildings or groups of buildings and associated outdoor spaces where a view of the Proposed Development would potentially be obtained. The assessment has identified that the majority of effects to receptors would be not significant. Significant effects were identified for one of these receptor locations during construction and operation.

Small settlements and rural properties along / near the Loch Garry / Loch Cuaich minor road, east of Quoich Dam (B5-1 to B5-7)

1.6.3 No significant effects are predicted for any visual receptors within this group.

1.6.4 For receptors at Receptor Locations B5-4 (Lochantoss) and B5-5 (Inchlaggan), a **Minor – Moderate Adverse** (not significant) effect is predicted during construction due to construction activities visible nearby in filtered views, but unlikely to affect main views. This would reduce to **Minor Adverse** (not significant) during operation because construction works would cease but the new towers would continue to be noticeable, nearby in filtered views, replacing a wood pole OHL, and not affecting the main views.

1.6.5 **Minor Adverse** (not significant) effects are also predicted for receptors at Receptor Location B5-6 (Ardochy) during construction and operation where the Proposed Development would be visible nearby in rear views, replacing a wood pole OHL, and filtered by trees.

1.6.6 For receptors at Locations B5-1 (Kingie), B5-2 (Poulary and Aultnaslat), B5-3 (Tomdoun) and B5-7 (Properties at junction of A87 and Kinloch Hourn road), effects would be **Negligible** during construction and operation due to screening from landform and / or vegetation and limited perceptibility of change between the existing OHL to be removed and the Proposed Development.

Rural properties to the south of Loch Garry (B5-8 to B5-10)

1.6.7 No significant effects are predicted for any visual receptors within this group.

- 1.6.8 For receptors at Location B5-9 (Tom na Carraidh), effects would be **Minor – Moderate Adverse** (not significant) during construction, whereby construction of the Proposed Development would be seen in main views crossing the hillside, through areas of felled forestry, replacing a wood pole OHL. During operations, effects would reduce for these receptors who, like those at Location B5-8 (Garrygualach), would experience **Minor Adverse** (not significant) effects since the Proposed Development would be perceptible in main views, replacing a wood pole OHL, but seen at a distance, in a woodland context.
- 1.6.9 For receptors at Location B5-10 (Greenfield), effects would be **Negligible** (not significant) during both construction and operation, due to screening from woodland and effects of distance.

Rural properties at the eastern end of Glen Garry, north of the A87 (B5-11 to B5-12)

- 1.6.10 A significant visual effect has been identified for receptors in Location B5-12 (Leacan Dubha and Munerigie). For these receptors, effects would be **Major Adverse** (significant) during construction, reducing to **Moderate – Major Adverse** (significant) during operation, due to nearby main views of the Proposed Development, which would replace a wood pole OHL to be removed from rear views. Although not assessed as part of this project (because they are assumed to be removed in Spring 2022), steel lattice towers are currently (at time of assessment) located in the main view for these receptors, and would therefore essentially be replaced by the taller Proposed Development steel lattice towers¹³.
- 1.6.11 For receptors at B5-11 (Achadh Louchrach), effects would be **Minor – Moderate Adverse** (not significant) during construction, reducing to **Minor Adverse** (not significant) during operation. The Proposed Development would be visible in nearby main views (approximately 300 m away) and side views, replacing the existing wood pole OHL within rear and side views, but would be likely to be filtered by intervening vegetation.

Village of Invergarry and nearby properties (B5-13)

- 1.6.12 No significant effects are predicted for any visual receptors within this group.
- 1.6.13 For receptors at Location B5-13 (Invergarry and nearby properties), **Negligible** (not significant) effects would be experienced during construction and operation since the Proposed Development would be screened or barely perceptible due to woodland, landform and distance.

Route-based Receptors

- 1.6.14 Nine route-based receptor groups were included in the visual assessment (see **Figure V2-3.4-S5**). No significant effects were identified for route-based receptors during construction or operation of the Proposed Development, as summarised below:

A Roads

- 1.6.15 One A road was included in the assessment for Section 5: Route R5-1 (A87). The visual effect of the Proposed Development on users of this route as a whole has been identified as **Minor Adverse** (not significant) during construction and operation. The Proposed Development would be perceptible in some more open views, a replacement to the existing wood pole OHL to be removed. However, views would be brief and passing, and usually filtered by trees.

Minor Roads

- 1.6.16 No significant effects have been identified for visual receptors using minor roads within the study area.

¹³ The steel lattice OHL which features in main southerly views (as observed in January 2022) – and which continues along Glen Garry to Kingie – is being removed this year and therefore is not assessed as part of this project.

- 1.6.17 A **Minor Adverse** (not significant) effect has been identified for visual receptors using Route R5-2 (Loch Garry / Loch Cuaich minor road) during construction and operation, where views would be largely limited by trees or landform. The Proposed Development would be more evident from open sections of this route to the west of Poulary, but in this area would be similar to the existing steel lattice towers which would be replaced, although slightly larger in scale (see Visualisation Location 5-1 (**Figures V4A-5.1a to d**)).
- 1.6.18 For receptors using Route R5-3 (minor roads at Faichem and Mandally), effects would be **Negligible** (not significant) during construction and operation due to screening from trees and landform.

Recreational Routes

- 1.6.19 A **localised Minor – Moderate Adverse** (not significant) effect during construction has been identified for receptors using Route R5-4 (Core Path LO11.02: Aldernaig Burn to Loch Lundie), affecting a very short section of this route near the OHL crossing which would be used for construction access. Here, users of this walking route would cross immediately under the Proposed Development and construction activities would be visible very nearby, in open views. This would reduce to a **localised Minor Adverse** (not significant) effect during operation due to locally obtained, passing views of the Proposed towers, sealing end compound, and new access track seen within a context of existing steel lattice and wood pole OHLs. Effects for receptors on the majority of the track would be **Negligible** (not significant) due to screening. However, this should be considered with respect to the cumulative effects described in Part 3.7 of this chapter. Visualisation Location 5-2 provides a representative view from this route (see **Figure V4A-5.2a to d**).
- 1.6.20 For receptors on Route R5-6 (Scottish Hill Track 257a: Glen Garry to Glen Shiel), effects would be **Minor – Moderate Adverse** (not significant) during construction. Users of this walking route would cross immediately under the Proposed Development and construction activities would be visible very nearby, in open views from a short section of the Route,. These effects would reduce to **Minor Adverse** (not significant) during operation as steel lattice towers would be more visible features than existing wood poles to the east of this route, although would be reflecting of existing steel lattice towers to be replaced in westerly views and therefore unlikely to lead to a very noticeable reduction in visual amenity.
- 1.6.21 For receptors on Routes R5-7 (Scottish Hill Track 247) and R5-8 (Scottish Hill Track 238 and 239), effects would be **Minor Adverse** (not significant) during construction and operation since the Proposed Development would be perceptible in the distance in main views but would be unlikely to lead to a noticeable reduction in visual amenity.
- 1.6.22 For receptors on Routes R5-5 (core paths and other walking routes around Invergarry), and R5-9 (Gairich Mountain Route) effects would be **Negligible** (not significant) due to screening from trees and landform or imperceptible replacement of the existing OHL.

Summary of Visual Effects

- 1.6.23 A summary of the effects on visual receptors is outlined in **Table V2-S5-5** and **Table V2-S5-6** during construction and operation. 'L' is used to denote localised effects (where an effect is predicted for a localised part of the location).

Table V2-S5-5: Summary of Visual Effects During Construction

Visual Receptor Group	Beneficial Effect					Adverse Effect					
	Major	Moderate - Major	Moderate	Minor - Moderate	Minor	Negligible	Minor	Minor - Moderate	Moderate	Moderate - Major	Major
Building-based Receptors						6	2	4			1
Route-based Receptors						4	4	1+ 1L			
Totals						10	6	5+ 1L			1

L indicates that the effect would occur to users of only a localised part of a route.

Table V2-S5-6: Summary of Visual Effects During Operation

Visual Receptor Group	Beneficial Effect					Adverse Effect					
	Major	Moderate - Major	Moderate	Minor - Moderate	Minor	Negligible	Minor	Minor - Moderate	Moderate	Moderate - Major	Major
Building-based Receptors						6	6			1	
Route-based Receptors						4	5+ 1L				
Totals						10	11+ 1L			1	

L indicates that the effect would occur to users of only a localised part of a route.

1.7 Cumulative Effects

1.7.1 As this LVIA covers only a short Section of the Proposed Development, consideration has also been given to potential cumulative effects with other Sections of the Proposed Development. In addition, this has also included consideration of any other grid infrastructure or other energy projects currently proposed within 1 km of the study area (3.5 km from the Proposed Development) as agreed with THC and NatureScot.

1.7.2 The cumulative assessment has been set out considering two different scenarios (see **Figure V2-3.5-S5**):

- Scenario 1: Including other parts of the Proposed Development and other related development proposals. For Section 5, this includes:
 - Section 4 of the Proposed Development (steel lattice tower OHL replacing steel lattice tower OHL);
 - and

- Section 6 of the Proposed Development (underground cable (UGC) connection replacing wood pole OHL).
- Scenario 2: Including, in addition, other unrelated development proposals (considered during the operation phase only). For Section 4, this includes:
 - Quoich Tee Switching Station upgrades (pre-planning at the time of assessment);
 - Loch Lundie Substation (Scoping at time of assessment) and
 - Coire Glas Pumped Storage Grid Connection (steel lattice tower OHL) (Scoping at time of assessment).

1.7.3 As it is likely that Scenario 1 development would be constructed concurrently with the Proposed Development in Section 5, this scenario considers cumulative effects during both construction and operation. However, as it is difficult to predict the timing and nature of construction works for other unrelated developments within Scenario 2, this Scenario considers operational effects only.

Cumulative Scope: Scenario 1

1.7.4 LVIA for Sections 4 and 6 of the Proposed Development have been completed and are included in this EIA Report as **Appendix V2-3.10** and **Appendix V2-3.12**, respectively. These LVIA identified effects for the following receptors which have been identified within the study area for Section 5.

- Landscape effects:
 - LCZ 5-1 – Eastern Loch Cuaich to Poulary;
 - LCZ 5-2 – Poulary to Munerigie Wood;
 - LCZ 5-3 – Around Invergarry and Loch Lundie;
 - WLA 18. Kinlochhourn – Knoydart – Morar;
 - Moidart, Morar and Glen Shiel SLA.
- Visual effects:
 - Receptor Location B5-13 – Invergarry and nearby properties;
 - Route R5-2 – Loch Garry / Loch Cuaich Minor road;
 - Route R5-3 – Minor roads at Faichem and Mandally;
 - Route R5-4 – Core Path LO11.02 and Scottish Hill Track 259;
 - Route 5-5 – Core Paths and other walking routes around Invergarry; and
 - Route R5-9 – Gairich Mountain Route.

1.7.5 Predicted effects identified within the Section 4 LVIA (Appendix V2-3.10) or Section 6 LVIA (Appendix V2-3.12) and Section 5 LVIA (this Appendix) are detailed in **Table V2-S5-7** below. As it is considered that a Negligible or Beneficial effect for one part of the development alone, could not lead to a significant adverse cumulative effect, receptors where Negligible or Beneficial effects have been identified have not been included further in the cumulative assessment unless it is predicted that the effects of one of the unrelated developments would be greater than Negligible.

Table V2-S5-7 Individual Effects on Cumulative Receptors

LCZ / Designated or Protected Areas	Section 5 Effect Rating	Section 4 or 6 Effect Rating	Included in Cumulative
LCZ 5-1 – Eastern Loch Cuaich to Poulary (Section 4 Reference: LCZ 4-4 (Alongside Loch Cuaich):	Construction: Minor – Moderate Adverse (not significant)	Construction: Minor – Moderate Adverse (not significant) Operation: Minor Adverse (not significant)	Yes

LCZ 5-2 – Poulary to Munerigie Wood (Section 6 Reference: LCZ 6-1 (Loch Lundie and Invergarry))	Construction and Operation: Minor Adverse (not significant)	Construction: Minor Adverse (not significant) Operation: Minor Beneficial (not significant)	Yes (due effects of other unrelated developments)
LCZ 5-3 – Around Invergarry and Loch Lundie (Section 6 Reference: LCZ 6-1 (Loch Lundie and Invergarry))	Construction: <i>Localised</i> Minor – Moderate Adverse (not significant) Operation: <i>Localised</i> Minor Adverse (not significant)	Construction: Minor Adverse (not significant) Operation: Minor Beneficial (not significant)	Yes (due potential cumulative effects with other unrelated developments)
WLA 18. Kinlochhourn – Knoydart – Morar:	Construction and Operation: Negligible	Minor Adverse (not significant) during construction and Negligible during operation (within the Section 5 study area)	No
Moidart, Morar and Glen Shiel SLA.	Construction: Minor Adverse (not significant) Operation: Negligible	Construction: Minor Adverse (not significant) Operation: Negligible	Yes
Visual Receptor	Section 5 Effect Rating	Section 4 or 6 Effect Rating	Inclusion in Cumulative
Receptor Location B5-13 – Invergarry and nearby properties (Section 6 Reference B6-2)	Construction and Operation: Negligible	Construction and Operation: Negligible	No
Route R5-2 – Loch Garry / Loch Cuaich Minor road (Section 4 Reference: R4-19)	Construction and Operation: Minor Adverse (not significant)	Construction: Moderate Adverse (significant) Operation: Minor-Moderate Adverse (not significant)	Yes
Route R5-4 – Core Path LO11.02 (Aldernaig Burn to Loch Lundie) (Section 6 Reference: R6-1):	Construction: <i>Localised</i> Minor – Moderate Adverse (not significant) Operation: <i>Localised</i> Minor Adverse (not significant)	Construction: Minor – Moderate Adverse (not significant) Operation: Minor Beneficial (not significant)	Yes
Route R5-9 – Gairich Mountain Route (Section 4 Reference: R4-21)	Construction and Operation: Negligible	Construction and Operation: Negligible (not significant)	No

1.7.6 Routes R5-3 and R5-5 were scoped out of the LVIA for Section 6 as no likely significant effects were predicted. Therefore, these receptor locations are not considered in this cumulative assessment as no significant cumulative effect is likely to occur.

Cumulative Scope: Scenario 2

1.7.7 For the Scenario 2 developments, most of these developments would be situated at the eastern end of Section 5 and would therefore potentially affect the same receptors as Section 6 of the Proposed Development. However, the following additional receptors have been identified where there is potential for cumulative effects with the Quoich Tee Switching Station:

- Receptor Location B5-1 (Kingie);
- Receptor Location B5-2 (Poulary and Aulnaslat);
- Route R5-6 (Scottish Hill Track 257a); and
- Route R5-7 (Scottish Hill Track 247).

1.7.8 However, given the predicted Negligible effects resulting from Section 5 of the Proposed Development for Receptor Locations B5-1 (Kingie) and B5-2 (Poulary and Aulnaslat), these are not included in the cumulative assessment

1.7.9 Assumptions have been made regarding the likely visual effects of these developments, based on available information from July 2022.

Assessment of Cumulative Effects

1.7.10 The cumulative assessment for the above receptors is presented below in **Table V2-S5-8**. The description of effects should be read in conjunction with the baseline descriptions for these receptors in **Parts 1.3 and 1.4**.

Table V2-S5-8: Cumulative Effects

Landscape Area / Visual Receptor Location	Cumulative Developments	Predicted Cumulative Effects
LCZ 5-1: Eastern Loch Cuaich to Poulary	Scenario 1: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Section 4 of the Proposed Development. 	<p>The Proposed Development (Section 5) would be introduced to this LCZ, where Section 4 would be experienced as a western continuation of Section 5, along the minor road and lower hill slopes. This would be in the context of existing dam infrastructure and NeSTs towers, replacing an existing OHL. The Proposed Development (Section 5) would therefore be consistent with the pattern of OHL development in the cumulative baseline, but may slightly increase the prominence of OHL development in the LCZ, particularly during construction.</p> <p>The cumulative effect is therefore predicted to be the same as the effect identified for this Section alone, at Minor – Moderate Adverse (not significant) during construction and Minor Adverse (not significant) during operation.</p>
	Scenario 2: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Quoich Tee Switching Station. 	<p>The Proposed Development (Section 5) would be introduced to this LCZ where Quoich Tee Switching Station would be experienced in its immediate vicinity, near the minor road. This would be in the context of an OHL to Quoich Power Station, replacing an existing OHL. The Proposed Development (Section 5) would therefore be consistent with the pattern of OHL and switching station development of the cumulative baseline, but may slightly increase the prominence of this type of development in the LCZ.</p> <p>The cumulative effect is therefore predicted to remain Minor Adverse (not significant) during operation with the addition of this development to the cumulative baseline.</p>

Landscape Area / Visual Receptor Location	Cumulative Developments	Predicted Cumulative Effects
LCZ 5-2: Poulary to Munerigie Wood	Scenario 1: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Section 6 of the Proposed Development. Scenario 2: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Coire Glas Pumped Storage Grid Connection. 	Neither of the cumulative baseline developments are predicted to have a notable presence within this LCZ, due to the wooded context, although they are located nearby/on the periphery of the LCZ. Taking this into account, it is not considered that there would be any cumulative effect.
LCZ 5-3: Around Invergarry and Loch Lundie	Scenario 1: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Section 6 of the Proposed Development. 	During construction the addition of the Proposed Development (Section 5) to the works associated with Section 6 would add further construction through the LCZ within the south-westerly context of Loch Lundie. This would increase the presence of construction works through the LCZ and lead to a perceptible additional change in this area although the effect would be relatively localised in extent. However, during operation, as Section 6 of the Proposed Development would comprise underground cabling, and would therefore have little perceptible continual presence within the LCZ, no noticeable cumulative effect would occur. The cumulative effect would be Minor Adverse (not significant) during construction and Negligible during operation.
	Scenario 2: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Coire Glas Pumped Storage Grid Connection; and Loch Lundie Substation. 	The addition of the Coire Glas Pumped Storage Grid Connection and Loch Lundie Substation to the cumulative baseline context would lead to an increase in the establishment of steel lattice tower grid infrastructure within this LCZ, assumed to be to the south and east of Loch Lundie. The addition of the Proposed Development to this scenario, would increase the presence of OHL development within a similar area to the south of Loch Lundie, but would not noticeably change the characteristics, because this type of development would already be anticipated to be common. The cumulative effect is predicted to be Minor Adverse (not significant) during operation.
Moidart, Morar and Glen Shiel SLA	Scenario 1: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Section 4 of the Proposed Development. 	The assessment of the Moidart, Morar and Glen Shiel SLA included within Appendix V2-3.5 , considers both Section 4 and Section 5 of the Proposed Development. The cumulative effect is therefore considered to reflect the effect identified and would be Minor Adverse (not significant) during construction and Negligible during operation.
R5-2:	Scenario 1:	The Proposed Development (Section 5) form a continuation of Section 4 along this route, through the study area, leading to greater perceptibility of steel lattice

Landscape Area / Visual Receptor Location	Cumulative Developments	Predicted Cumulative Effects
Loch Garry / Loch Cuaich Minor Road	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Section 4 of the Proposed Development. 	<p>towers along a greater section of the route. It would replace similar towers as far as Kingie, but would be more noticeable replacing wood poles to the east of Kingie as far as Poulary. The additional visibility of Section 5 would extend the length of the route within which construction activity would be noticeable although viewers would only fleetingly see both at the same time, near Quoich Dam, along with the NeSTS towers and dam infrastructure. The addition of the Proposed Development (Section 5) would therefore form a perceptible addition.</p> <p>The cumulative effect is therefore predicted to be Minor Adverse (not significant) during construction and operation.</p>
	<p>Scenario 2:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Quoich Tee Switching Station. 	<p>The addition of Quoich Tee Switching Station to the baseline would lead to a greater baseline presence of existing infrastructure in the context of existing steel lattice towers and wood pole OHLs. The addition of the Proposed Development would result in greater numbers of slightly taller steel lattice towers to either side of the switching station. However, the addition of the switching station to the Scenario 1 baseline is not predicted to change the level of the operational cumulative effect, which would be Minor Adverse (not significant) during operation.</p>
R5-4: Core Path LO11.02 and Scottish Hill Track 259	<p>Scenario 1:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Section 6 of the Proposed Development. 	<p>Construction for Section 6 would be very visible from this route which would also be used for construction and operational traffic. The Proposed Development (Section 5) including steel lattice towers and a sealing end compound, would be visible from a short section of this route, near the route crossing, replacing an existing wood pole OHL with a steel lattice OHL. This would comprise a small extent of additional construction activity in comparison with the existing activities already taking place for Section 6, but is predicted to form a perceptible increase in visible construction works. However, during operation, as Section 6 would be underground cabling with no perceptible effect likely, there would be no cumulative effect between the two developments.</p> <p>The cumulative effect of the Proposed Development in addition to Section 6 is therefore predicted to be Minor Adverse (not significant) during construction and Negligible during operation.</p>
	<p>Scenario 2:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Coire Glas Pumped Storage Grid Connection; and 	<p>The Proposed Development (Section 5) would be visible from a short section of this route, near the route crossing, replacing an existing wood pole OHL with a steel lattice OHL. Here (and along other sections of this route), Coire Glas Pumped Storage Grid Connection and Loch Lundie Substation may be visible, seen in the context of other</p>

Landscape Area / Visual Receptor Location	Cumulative Developments	Predicted Cumulative Effects
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Loch Lundie Substation. 	<p>existing steel lattice OHLs. As the Proposed Development (Section 5) would affect only a short section of this route during construction, it is likely to be less perceptible, relative to these other developments.</p> <p>The cumulative effect is therefore predicted to be Minor Adverse (not significant) during operation.</p>

1.8 Mitigation

1.8.1 Principle mitigation measures throughout this Section have been embedded in the design process and relate to the identification of a preferred alignment to reduce as far as possible, landscape and visual effects. General mitigation measures would also be employed, in order to ensure landscape and visual effects are minimised throughout this Section of the Proposed Development where relevant. These measures are discussed in **Appendix V2-3.13**.

1.8.2 Further specific mitigation measures to minimise individual effects where possible are recommended for consideration and implementation where possible, as detailed in **Appendix V2-3.13**. These comprise the following within Section 5:

- Receptor Location B5-12 (Leacan Dubha and Munerigie) strategic native woodland / scrub planting and micro-siting of towers where possible to help soften longer term appearance of towers; and
- Route R5-2 (Loch Garry / Loch Cuaich Minor Road): Strategic planting alongside the public road on the approach to Quoich Dam, to soften the visual transition between NeSTS towers and steel lattice towers.

1.9 Residual Effects

1.9.1 The assessment of operational effects takes into account the likely benefits of the embedded and implementation phase mitigation measures which are proposed and therefore the operational effects identified should be considered representative of residual effects.

1.9.2 Specific mitigation recommendations as outlined in **Appendix V2-3.13** and paragraph 1.8.2 above, lead to further small reductions in landscape and visual effects if applied, but have not been taken into account within the assessment as the implementation of these measures would be dependent upon other external factors including landowner agreements.

1.10 Summary and Conclusions

Landscape Effects

1.10.1 The landscape assessment has found that there would be no likely significant effects on landscape character as a result of the Proposed Development. The Proposed Development would locally increase the perception of development and form a new focus in local character zones, to varying degrees, but effects would not be significant due to the presence of an existing OHL to be removed, wooded character of the landscape, and presence of other built features reducing sensitivity to change.

1.10.2 The landscape assessment has also identified that no significant effects would result to the value and Wild Land Qualities of WLA 18. Kinlochhourn – Knoydart – Morar and character and Special Qualities of the Moidart, Morar and Glen Shiel SLA. The integrity of these areas would therefore remain intact.

Visual Effects

- 1.10.3 The visual assessment has found that the majority of effects on visual receptors would not be significant, due to screening from trees and landform, the effects of distance, and the similarities between the Proposed Development OHL and the OHL to be removed.
- 1.10.4 Significant effects have been identified for receptors at two properties north of the A87 (Leacan Dubha and Munerigie) during construction and operation, where the Proposed Development would be visible in very close proximity in open main views. Effects would reduce in the long term, following completion of construction, although would remain significant, depending on agreement for mitigation planting to further reduce the effect.

Cumulative Effects

- 1.10.5 The LVIA has further identified that there would be no significant cumulative effects occurring as a result of Section 5 of the Proposed Development, in combination with other parts of the Proposed Development and other unrelated, proposed electricity infrastructure developments..

Conclusions

- 1.10.6 The LVIA has concluded that there would be no significant effects to landscape character or to designated / protected landscapes within Section 5 as a result of the Proposed Development. Localised significant visual effects would occur for residents two properties at Leacan Dubha and Munerigie where long term significant effects are predicted due to the location of towers within the main aspect of the view, although these would reduce slightly following completion of construction and could be further reduced with mitigation.

APPENDIX V2-3.11: ANNEX 1: LANDSCAPE CHARACTER ASSESSMENT (SECTION 5)

1.	LANDSCAPE CHARACTER ASSESSMENT (SECTION 5)	3
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1. LANDSCAPE CHARACTER ASSESSMENT (SECTION 5)

Table 5.1: LCZ 5-1 – Eastern Loch Cuaich to Poulary

Baseline Description	
Description	<p>Covering the Proposed Development between eastern Loch Cuaich and Poulary, this LCZ comprises a transitional area where large interlocking sweeping peaks and masses around Loch Cuaich and northern slopes of Glen Garry transition into the undulating, rugged, moorland around Kingie and Poulary. The array of peaks including Spidean Mialach (977m) east to Druim na h-Achlaise (540m) are particularly influential in providing a sense of scale and a rugged backdrop to the expansive moorland on lower ground. Small areas of woodland are situated on lower ground, including areas of native broadleaf woodland, scattered birch and ancient woodland, while commercial conifer forestry is present towards the south. Watercourses are central features within this LCZ, including Gearr Garry and River Garry, which connect Loch Cuaich, Kingie Pool and Loch Poulary.</p> <p>The character of the LCZ is influenced by built features near the minor road, including Quoich Dam and Power Station, Kingie Switching Station, OHLs and local distribution lines which run along lower hill slopes and through the small settlements of Kingie and Poulary. To the west of Kingie Switching Station, the existing OHL to be replaced comprises steel lattice towers and three NeSTs towers near Quoich Dam. To the east of Kingie Switching Station, this comprises an existing wood pole line¹.</p> <p>Various recreational routes are present in this LCZ, including mountain routes near Quoich Dam and up to the Munro Spidean Mialach, and Scottish Hill Tracks connecting this glen to others to the north and south, while the minor single-track road runs through the glen.</p> <p>There is a sense of relative remoteness in this large scale landscape, where there are long-distance scenic views (particularly from higher ground). However, the various forms of development that are notable within the LCZ, give a sense of an active and connected landscape and limit the perception of wildness.</p>
Included Landscape Character Types	Designated / Protected Landscapes within LCZ or Setting
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • LCT 235 – Broad Forested Strath; • LCT 237 – Rocky Moorland – Lochaber; and • LCT 239 – Interlocking Sweeping Peaks – Lochaber. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • WLA 18. Kinlochhourn – Knoydart – Morar; and • Moidart, Morar and Glen Shiel SLA.
Key Local Landscape Characteristics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Long-distance scenic views, particularly from areas of higher ground; • Small areas of ancient woodland, native broadleaf woodland on lower ground and larger areas of conifer forest plantation to the south; • Sense of relative remoteness; • Various forms of development (such as OHLs, dam infrastructure, residential dwellings, power station) contributing to the sense of an active and connected landscape; • Pattern of existing OHLs along the lower hill slopes; • Recreational opportunities including mountain routes and hill tracks; • Narrow, single track road with passing places; and • Sense of scale influenced by expansive moorland to the east and large sweeping peaks to the west.

¹ When site work was conducted (January 2022), a steel lattice OHL was also present to the east of Kingie Switching Station, but it is assumed that this is being removed this year, and it is therefore not included in this assessment. The baseline assumes it has already been removed.

Landscape Value	<p>This LCZ forms a peripheral part of the Moidart, Morar and Glen Shiel SLA and WLA 18. Kinlochhourn – Knoydart – Morar and is valued for its recreational opportunities and scenic qualities although these features are relatively common within the local area and more intensively experienced in landscapes further to the west where fewer existing built features are present.</p> <p>Landscape Value is Medium</p>
Assessment of Effects	
Possible Landscape Receptors	Potential Effects
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Long-distance scenic views, particularly from areas of higher ground; 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> New steel lattice OHL and permanent tracks, and construction activities, may interrupt or distract within long-distance scenic views, particularly where they replace a wood pole OHL;
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Various forms of development (such as OHLs, dam infrastructure, residential dwellings, power station) contributing to the sense of an active and connected landscape; 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> New steel lattice OHL and permanent tracks, and construction activities, may increase perception of development within the landscape, particularly where they replace a wood pole OHL;
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sense of scale influenced by expansive moorland to the east and large sweeping peaks to the west. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> New steel lattice OHL may reduce the perceived scale within the landscape, particularly where they replace a smaller wood pole OHL.
Landscape Sensitivity	<p>This is a reasonably valued landscape a composition and characteristics tolerant of some degree of change of the type proposed. It is already influenced by other, similar steel lattice OHLs, as well as NeSTS towers, wood poles, Quoich Dam and Power Station and Kingie Switching Station and other built development, so there is some tolerance for this type of development. However, the open landscape and sense of remoteness may be sensitive to additional OHL development, dependant on its form and location.</p> <p>Landscape sensitivity is Medium.</p>
Nature and Magnitude of Change	<p>Construction works would lead to activity and movement in this LCZ, including the dismantling of existing towers and construction and use of temporary and upgraded access tracks and spurs.</p> <p>In the longer term, between Quoich Dam and Kingie Switching Station, the Proposed Development would largely follow a similar alignment to the existing steel lattice OHL which it would replace, along lower hill slopes. This change would therefore be barely perceptible, given the similar style of OHL being replaced here.</p> <p>To the east of Kingie Switching Station, the replacement of the wood pole OHL with a steel lattice OHL may be locally perceptible. Here the proposed alignment also deviates slightly from the existing alignment, running further north than the existing OHL near Poulary, but still along the lower hill slopes. There may therefore be a perceptible change in these localised parts of the landscape.</p> <p>Magnitude of change would be Low-Medium during construction and Low during operation.</p>

Significance of Effect	<p>Construction works within this generally quiet and still LCZ would temporarily form a new focus and distraction within the local area, likely to disrupt valued views and reduce the emphasis on other rugged and undeveloped parts of the terrain.</p> <p>During operation, the new OHL west of Kingie Switching Station would appear similar to the OHL it would replace and would therefore have very little additional influence on the landscape character (see Visualisation Location 5-1 (Figures V4A-5.1a to d)). The OHL to the east of Kingie Switching Station (replacing a smaller wood pole OHL) may be more perceptible and draw more visual attention and distract slightly within valued views, particularly from higher ground. There would therefore be a marginal increase in the perception of development and a slightly reduced perception of scale within the LCZ, but only marginally so, given that steel lattice towers are present in other parts of this LCZ and would remain dwarfed by the height of the landform.</p> <p>The effect would be Minor – Moderate Adverse (<u>not-significant</u>) during construction and Minor Adverse (not significant) during operation.</p>
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Table 5.2: LCZ 5-2 – Poulary to Munerigie Wood

Baseline Description	
Description	<p>Covering the Proposed Development between Poulary and Munerigie Wood, this LCZ comprises the broad forested Glen Garry, rocky moorland to its north and rolling forested hills to its south. Large areas of commercial conifer forestry and felled forestry are characteristic within this LCZ, and transition to more open, upland moorland with rocky outcrops, to the north. Ancient woodland, native woodland and Caledonian Pinewood are found in this area, particularly south of Loch Garry.</p> <p>Various built features are present in the landscape, such as fish farms on Loch Garry, properties (including a hotel development under construction), OHLs and local distribution lines which run along lower, wooded hill slopes, near the minor road. Within this LCZ, there is an existing wood pole OHL² that runs along the minor road, on lower hill slopes and through some areas of forestry. Small settlements and scattered properties are largely dispersed in a linear pattern along the northern or southern shores of Loch Garry, with most properties situated on the minor road to Kinlochhourn or near the A87.</p> <p>The A87 connects this LCZ east to the Great Glen, and north to Glen Loyne, while a minor single-track road runs through the glen. Various recreational routes are also present, including Scottish Hill Tracks connecting this glen to others to the south and east.</p> <p>There is a sense of separation and relative remoteness in comparison with the busier landscape of the Great Glen and Invergarry, that increases with distance from the A87. The wooded landscape also contributes to a sense of enclosure and separation from surrounding areas, and the changing commercial forestry landscape and built development evokes a sense of change and activity. There are long-distance scenic views channelled along the glen and across the loch and some more elevated views from higher ground in the north, including from viewpoints on the A87.</p>
Included Landscape Character Types	Designated / Protected Landscapes within LCZ or Setting
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • LCT 220 – Rugged Massif – Inverness; • LCT 235 – Broad Forested Strath; and • LCT 237 – Rocky Moorland – Lochaber. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • None

² When site work was conducted (January 2022), a steel lattice OHL was also present to the east of Kingie Switching Station, but it is assumed that this is being removed this year, and it is therefore not included in this assessment. The baseline assumes it has already been removed.

Key Local Landscape Characteristics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Broad forested strath with rocky moorland to north and rolling wooded hills to south; • Long-distance scenic views channelled along the glen, particularly from areas of higher ground; • Mix of ancient woodland, native woodland, Caledonian Pinewood and conifer forest plantation within forested broad glen; • Various forms of development (such as fish farms, OHLs, residential dwellings, under construction hotel) and changing commercial forestry landscape contributing to sense of change and activity; • Settlement distributed in linear pattern along northern shores of Loch Garry, with some scattered properties on the southern shore; • Pattern of existing OHLs along the lower hill slopes to rear of properties and through some areas of forestry; • Recreational opportunities including hill tracks and fishing; • Narrow, single track road with passing places along Loch Garry and single carriageway A87; • Sense of separation and relative remoteness in comparison with the Great Glen, that increases with distance from the A87; and • Wooded landscape creating sense of enclosure and separation from surrounding areas.
Landscape Value	<p>This LCZ is not part of any designated or protected landscapes but is valued locally for its recreational opportunities and scenic qualities. In the local context, it is valued for its small scale relationships of scattered residential development, woodland, lochs and surrounding mountains.</p> <p>Landscape Value is Low-Medium</p>
Assessment of Effects	
Possible Landscape Receptors	Potential Effects
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Long-distance scenic views channelled along the glen, particularly from areas of higher ground; 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New steel lattice OHL replacing a wood pole OHL, and construction activities, may interrupt or distract within long-distance scenic views channelled along the glen;
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Various forms of development (such as fish farms, OHLs, residential dwellings, under construction hotel) and commercial forestry landscape contributing to the sense of change and activity; 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New steel lattice OHL replacing a wood pole OHL, and construction activities, may increase perception of development within the landscape;
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pattern of existing OHLs along the lower hill slopes to rear of properties and through some areas of forestry; 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New steel lattice OHL replacing a wood pole OHL, and construction activities, may locally encroach on some residential areas (to the front of properties rather than to the rear) and locally alter the pattern of OHL development;
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wooded landscape creating sense of enclosure and separation from surrounding areas. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New or altered wayleaves, may reduce and fragment tree cover and decrease sense of enclosure within the landscape.
Landscape Sensitivity	<p>This landscape has a composition and characteristics potentially tolerant of a degree of change of the type proposed, given the presence of existing OHL infrastructure and wayleave corridors. Woodland and commercial forest cover may be able to accommodate this type of development although localised areas may be more susceptible to change.</p> <p>Landscape sensitivity is Low-Medium</p>

<p>Nature and Magnitude of Change</p>	<p>Construction works would be likely to appear relatively similar to existing forestry activities taking place periodically, though would form a very localised changes in the short term at individual tower positions, largely on existing forestry tracks, some new temporary tracks and occasional permanent tracks. The majority of construction works would be concealed within woodland but experienced in more open contexts south of Glengarry Viewpoint East (by the A87), Ardochy and Munerigie.</p> <p>In the longer term, the Proposed Development would largely follow a similar alignment through this LCZ to the existing wood pole OHL which it would replace, mostly to the rear of properties, along lower wooded hill slopes. In most areas, this change would be barely perceptible due to tree cover, but may be perceptible in more open areas where the larger steel lattice towers may be seen. Localised more perceptible changes may be present where the proposed alignment deviates slightly from the existing alignment, near Inchlaggan and Creag-an Torra Loisgte; and more notably around Achadh-luachrach, Leacan Dubha and Munerigie. Permanent access tracks would mostly be concealed by trees but may be perceptible south of Glengarry Viewpoint East, by the A87, and by Ardochy.</p> <p>There would also be some localised removal of trees although the Proposed Development would largely follow existing wayleaves. This may be perceptible within localised areas, such as to the south of Achadh-luachrach.</p> <p>Magnitude of change would be Low-Medium during construction and Low during operation.</p>
<p>Significance of Effect</p>	<p>Construction works in a few localised open areas may temporarily increase perceived development and form a new focus and distraction within the immediate area. However, overall, within this largely wooded LCZ it would be unlikely to alter landscape characteristics, given the existing forested character of the landscape which would limit intervisibility, and the similarity to existing forestry activities.</p> <p>During operation, the new OHL would have limited perceptibility, being either concealed by woodland or experienced in the broader landscape context often at a distance. In some more open areas, the larger steel lattice towers may draw slightly more attention within valued views, although the transparency of the structures within the wooded context would limit this effect. The larger scale of the towers compared to the existing wood poles, and the addition of some new permanent access tracks, may lead to a marginal increase in the perception of development, which would encroach on some localised farmed and settled pockets within the broader wooded context (such as at Achadh-luachrach, Leacan Dubha and Munerigie), locally altering the pattern of OHL development by passing to the front of properties rather than to their rear. Localised tree removal would not generally affect the overall wooded landscape characteristic of the LCZ.</p> <p>The effect would be Minor Adverse (not significant) during construction and operation.</p>

Table 5.3: LCZ 5-3 – Around Invergarry and Loch Lundie

Baseline Description	
Description	<p>Covering the Proposed Development between Munerigie Wood and the eastern end of the Section 5 alignment, this LCZ covers the wooded valley around Invergarry, where the River Garry meets Loch Oich in the Great Glen and an area of undulating rocky moorland plateau to the north, above the enclosing glen slopes, around Loch Lundie. Tree cover within the glens in the east and south of the LCZ comprises commercial conifer forestry, native woodland and ancient woodland, which are cut through by various wayleaves and OHLs whilst pockets of native and ancient woodland populate the undulating plateau around Loch Lundie.</p> <p>Various built features are present in the landscape, such as dams, properties and other buildings in and around Invergarry, OHLs and local distribution lines. Wind development is also present within the north-westerly context to the Loch Lundie area. Within this LCZ, there is an existing wood pole OHL³ that runs across open ground to a convergence ('Tee point') of OHLs on the Loch Lundie plateau, where other steel lattice and wood pole OHLs continue to the north, east and south.</p> <p>The A87 connects this LCZ east to the A82 and the Great Glen, and west to Glen Loyne. Various recreational routes also provide connections to adjacent areas, such as the Great Glen Way (Invergarry Link), and core paths, Scottish Hill Tracks and other walking routes around Invergarry and White Bridge, and north past Loch Lundie.</p> <p>There is a settled sense of place within the glen floor, around Invergarry, along with an experience of enclosure from landform and tree cover. This differs from the openness of the rocky upland moorland plateau around Loch Lundie where there are expansive and scenic views directed across the loch. Here, the presence of tracks, fences, gates and nearby wind turbines contribute to an awareness of development in adjacent areas, and activity within the LCZ, but there is nevertheless a sense of separation from the busier Great Glen below.</p>
Included Landscape Character Types	Designated / Protected Landscapes within LCZ or Setting
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • LCT 235 – Broad Forested Strath; and • LCT 237 – Rocky Moorland – Lochaber. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Loch Lochy and Loch Oich SLA.
Key Local Landscape Characteristics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wooded valley around Invergarry with settled sense of place and experience of enclosure by landform and tree cover; • Open, undulating, rocky moorland around Loch Lundie with sense of separation from busier Great Glen but awareness of activity and development in adjacent areas; • Expansive and scenic views around Loch Lundie, particularly directed towards the loch; • Mix of ancient woodland, native woodland and conifer forest plantation; • Various forms of development (such as OHLs, settlement of Invergarry and nearby properties, nearby wind turbines) and changing commercial forestry landscape contributing to sense of activity; • Settlement concentrated in and around Invergarry; • Pattern of existing OHLs situated within forestry, along forest edge, or crossing semi-open area near Allt a' Bhainne; • Recreational opportunities including hill tracks, core paths, woodland paths, Great Glen Way and fishing; and • Single carriageways of A87 and A82 connecting to minor road within the glen.

³ When site work was conducted (January 2022), a steel lattice OHL was also present to the east of Kingie Switching Station, but it is assumed that this is being removed this year, and it is therefore not included in this assessment. The baseline assumes it has already been removed.

<p>Landscape Value</p>	<p>A small part of this LCZ within the Great Glen forms a peripheral part of the Loch Lochy and Loch Oich SLA. This LCZ is also valued locally for its recreational opportunities and scenic qualities, particularly around Loch Lundie, and cultural heritage associations within Invergarry.</p> <p>Landscape Value is Medium</p>
<p>Assessment of Effects</p>	
<p>Possible Landscape Receptors</p>	<p>Potential Effects</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Expansive and scenic views around Loch Lundie, particularly directed towards the loch; and 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New steel lattice OHL replacing a wood pole OHL, and construction activities, may interrupt or distract within expansive and scenic views around Loch Lundie; and
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • From Loch Lundie area, sense of separation from busier Great Glen and awareness of activity and development in adjacent areas. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New steel lattice OHL replacing a wood pole OHL, and construction activities, may increase perception of development within the landscape.
<p>Landscape Sensitivity</p>	<p>This landscape has a composition and characteristics potentially tolerant of a degree of change of the type proposed, given the presence of existing OHL infrastructure and woodland cover. However, the open and scenic landscape characteristics near Loch Lundie may be susceptible to change.</p> <p>Landscape sensitivity is Medium</p>
<p>Nature and Magnitude of Change</p>	<p>Construction works would lead to activity and movement in a small part of this LCZ, including the dismantling of existing poles, construction of new steel lattice towers across the glen-side and upper plateau to the south of Loch Lundie, use and some upgrading of existing access tracks, and construction of approximately 1.2 km of new access track following the alignment across the Loch Lundie plateau. This activity would form a perceptible change within the local area, but the majority of construction works would be concealed from the wider LCZ by woodland or landform.</p> <p>In the longer term, the Proposed Development would largely follow a similar alignment through this LCZ to the existing wood pole OHL which it would replace. Although it would deviate at Munergie Wood, passing through woodland rather than along the northern woodland edge, this alignment would be more hidden and would use an existing wayleave corridor. The new OHL and permanent track would be perceptible in the localised area crossing the glen-side and plateau, but would have limited intervisibility within the lower glen areas due to landform, forest and woodland. Local landform and trees to the south of Loch Lundie would also limit intervisibility across the wider plateau area and around the loch.</p> <p>Magnitude of change would be Locally Medium during construction and Locally Low during operation, confined to the plateau area above the glen around Loch Lundie.</p>
<p>Significance of Effect</p>	<p>Construction works along the glen slope and on the upper plateau may temporarily increase perceived development in the immediate area. However, due to the wooded character of the LCZ, landform and experience of the works in the broader landscape context, often at a distance, this would be localised and would not alter landscape characteristics of the wider LCZ. The localised landform and woodland also limit the appearance of construction works in the scenic views available around Loch Lundie.</p> <p>During operation, the new OHL would have limited perceptibility across the wider LCZ, being either concealed locally by woodland and landform or forming only a small and distant feature in the landscape context of other areas. This is illustrated by Visualisation Location 5-2 (see Figures V4A-5.2a to d). The slightly larger steel lattice towers and new permanent access track may draw slightly more visual attention in the local area, although the transparency of the structures would limit this effect. There would be minimal influence on the expansive and scenic views obtained around Loch Lundie.</p> <p>The effect would be <i>locally Minor – Moderate Adverse</i> (not significant) during construction and <i>locally Minor Adverse</i> (not significant) during operation, and elsewhere Negligible during both stages.</p>

APPENDIX V2-3.11: ANNEX 2: VISUAL RECEPTOR ASSESSMENT (SECTION 5)

1.	VISUAL RECEPTOR ASSESSMENT (SECTION 5)	3
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1. VISUAL RECEPTOR ASSESSMENT (SECTION 5)

Table 5.1: Building-based Receptors

Reference	Location / Type / Context	Nature of Main View	Sensitivity	Angle and Nature of Change	Approximate Distance	Magnitude		Effect	
						Construction	Operation (after 10 years)	Construction	Operation (after 10 years)
B5-1	Kingie Residents and visitors to group of properties to west of Loch Poulary and workers at Power Station.	Mixed orientation to properties but generally views are southerly over Kingie Pool with backdrop of forest. For the majority of properties, landform contains rear views to the north.	Low	The Proposed Development would cross the hill side to the rear of these properties (approximately 530-650 m away) and would replace the existing wood pole OHL. Towers would be likely to be hidden by intervening landform and filtered by trees if partially visible. Some construction activity associated with an existing track upgrade would occur nearby but likely to be barely perceptible in rear views, filtered/screening by roadside trees.	0.5km	Negligible	Negligible	Negligible	Negligible

Reference	Location / Type / Context	Nature of Main View	Sensitivity	Angle and Nature of Change	Approximate Distance	Magnitude		Effect	
						Construction	Operation (after 10 years)	Construction	Operation (after 10 years)
B5-2	Poulary and Aultnaslat Residents and visitors to a group of properties / buildings situated to north-east of Loch Poulary.	Southerly or westerly views over Loch Poulary, filtered by woodland towards forested slopes on opposite side of valley.	Low	The Proposed Development would be located on the hillside to the rear of these properties, approximately 250-500 m away and approximately 70-350 m further away than the existing wood pole OHL it would replace. Views of towers would be mostly filtered by trees and partially concealed by landform although there may be more open views from an industrial building at Aultnaslat.	0.5km	Negligible	Negligible	Negligible	Negligible
B5-3	Tomdoun Residents and visitors to a group of properties and small church set in the edge of forestry.	Views largely enclosed by trees, with some open southerly views across the valley towards forested slopes beyond on opposite side.	Low	The Proposed Development is likely to be hidden from these properties by forest and woodland to the rear of the properties. There may be short term intermittent visibility of construction traffic using an existing access track through this area but this would be likely to be largely similar to existing forest access.	0.4km	Negligible	Negligible	Negligible	Negligible

Reference	Location / Type / Context	Nature of Main View	Sensitivity	Angle and Nature of Change	Approximate Distance	Magnitude		Effect	
						Construction	Operation (after 10 years)	Construction	Operation (after 10 years)
B5-4	Lochantoss Residents and visitors to a small group of buildings in a wooded situation next to a small loch.	Views largely enclosed by trees, with some partial views of the wood pole OHL very nearby to the south.	Low	The Proposed Development may be visible nearby in filtered southerly views including construction and operational towers at a minimum distance of c. 200 m. These towers would be c. 30 m further away than the existing wood pole OHL it would replace. Construction vehicles would use an existing track to this property.	0.2km	Medium-High	Low-Medium	Minor – Moderate Adverse (not significant)	Minor Adverse (not significant)
B5-5	Inchlaggan Residents and visitors to small settlement and large single lodge property set into the edge of woodland and forest to the north of Loch Garry.	Predominant orientation of views to the south towards Loch Garry, filtered by woodland and trees. Some properties are slightly elevated. The existing wood pole OHL passes to the north of this settlement, therefore featuring in rear views from some properties. <i>(NB. This assessment assumes that the existing Quoich to Aberchalder steel lattice towers have been removed (see paragraph 3.2.2 of Appendix V2-3.11).</i>	Medium	The Proposed Development would be situated to the rear of these properties within around 150 m, in place of the existing wood pole OHL. Tops of towers may appear in views from some properties above or through trees in close proximity but generally out of the main focus of the view. During construction, activity would be perceptible in rear views, including the installation of a temporary 132kV diversion and tree felling.	0.2km	Low-Medium	Low-Medium	Minor – Moderate Adverse (not significant)	Minor Adverse (not significant)

Reference	Location / Type / Context	Nature of Main View	Sensitivity	Angle and Nature of Change	Approximate Distance	Magnitude		Effect	
						Construction	Operation (after 10 years)	Construction	Operation (after 10 years)
B5-6	Ardochy Residents and visitors to a group of properties in a semi-wooded spot on the northern shore of Loch Garry.	Main southerly aspect to views across minor road and Loch Garry towards forested slopes across the loch, filtered by loch shore woodland.	Low	Tops of towers would be likely to be perceptible in rear views from these properties at c. 150 m with the lower parts of towers generally screened or filtered by woodland. A new permanent access track may be perceptible in side views, branching from the minor road. The track would also run alongside the OHL in rear views, but would likely be hidden by trees. The main views towards Loch Garry would not be affected. Construction traffic activity may be perceptible nearby in side and rear views.	0.2km	Low-Medium	Low	Minor Adverse (not significant)	Minor Adverse (not significant)
B5-7	Properties at junction of A87 and Kinloch Hourn road Residents and visitors to a small group of properties in a wooded situation beside Loch Garry.	Views are largely enclosed by woodland with filtered views across Loch Garry.	Low	Views towards the Proposed Development would be to the rear and likely to be screened or heavily filtered by existing woodland.	0.2km	Negligible	Negligible	Negligible	Negligible

Reference	Location / Type / Context	Nature of Main View	Sensitivity	Angle and Nature of Change	Approximate Distance	Magnitude		Effect	
						Construction	Operation (after 10 years)	Construction	Operation (after 10 years)
B5-8	Garrygualach Residents and visitors to small group of properties situated on the south-western shore of Loch Garry, partially enclosed by trees, and Power Station to the south.	Main views are largely to the north and north-east across Loch Garry with some views filtered / screened by trees.	Medium	The Proposed Development would be seen at a distance of around 1.0 km (at its closest) to the north within the main view across Loch Garry, crossing through forest plantation and woodland. Foreground trees would partially screen / filter views. At this distance there would be limited perceptibility of towers due to their transparent, lattice structure, which would replace the existing wood pole OHL.	1.0km	Low	Low	Minor Adverse (not significant)	Minor Adverse (not significant)
B5-9	Tom na Carraidh Residents and visitors to a group of residential properties and hotel development (under construction) on the southern shore of Loch Garry.	The main orientation of views is north-westerly, across Loch Garry featuring the wooded slopes and hills on its far side, with some properties oriented to the north and west.	Medium-High	The Proposed Development would feature in main views crossing the hillside to the north and north-west through felled forestry and woodland at a distance of around 900 m, replacing the existing wood pole OHL. Towers would be backclothed and perceptible in the view, particularly during construction.	0.6km	Medium	Low	Minor – Moderate Adverse (not significant)	Minor Adverse (not significant)

Reference	Location / Type / Context	Nature of Main View	Sensitivity	Angle and Nature of Change	Approximate Distance	Magnitude		Effect	
						Construction	Operation (after 10 years)	Construction	Operation (after 10 years)
B5-10	Greenfield Residents and visitors to a group of residential / farm properties on the southern side of Loch Garry.	Views are somewhat contained by surrounding woodland with filtered views to surrounding hills, moorland areas and fields.	Low	Views towards the Proposed Development are likely to be limited by surrounding woodland and would be distant at around 2 km unlikely to be very perceptible in views.	2.0km	Negligible	Negligible	Negligible	Negligible
B5-11	Achadh Louchrach Residents and visitors to farm property in an elevated position above Loch Garry.	Main views are elevated looking to the west and south along and across the wooded Glen Garry. Existing wood pole OHL in rear and side views. <i>(NB. This assessment assumes that the existing Quoich to Aberchaldar steel lattice towers have been removed (see paragraph 3.2.2 of Appendix V2-3.11).</i>	Medium	The Proposed Development would cross to the front of the main view from this property at approximately 300 m distance and may be also seen in side-on views to the west. There would be some filtering from existing garden and other intervening trees which would reduce visibility (although some tree felling would occur near the OHL). The existing wood pole OHL would be removed from rear views and side views. Construction activity associated with wood pole OHL removal and Proposed Development installation would be experienced in main, side and rear views, including an existing track upgrade in main views.	0.3km	Medium	Low-Medium	Minor – Moderate Adverse (not significant)	Minor Adverse (not significant)

Reference	Location / Type / Context	Nature of Main View	Sensitivity	Angle and Nature of Change	Approximate Distance	Magnitude		Effect	
						Construction	Operation (after 10 years)	Construction	Operation (after 10 years)
B5-12	Leacan Dubha and Munerigie Residents and visitors of two residential properties on north side of A86.	Main southerly orientation of views across Loch Garry to forested slopes on the far shore but filtered by trees. Existing wood pole OHL in rear views. <i>(NB. This assessment assumes that the existing Quoich to Aberchaldar steel lattice towers have been removed (see paragraph 3.2.2 of Appendix V2-3.11).</i>	High	The Proposed Development would be very noticeable nearby within main southerly views, appearing above trees from Leacan Dubha and directly in the view from Munerigie. Temporary construction activity and access (including tree felling) would appear nearby within views, and the existing 132kV wood pole OHL would be removed from rear views. Micro-siting of individual towers would help to minimise the long term effect in this area.	50m	High	High	Major Adverse (significant)	Moderate – Major Adverse (significant)

Reference	Location / Type / Context	Nature of Main View	Sensitivity	Angle and Nature of Change	Approximate Distance	Magnitude		Effect	
						Construction	Operation (after 10 years)	Construction	Operation (after 10 years)
B5-13	Invergarry and nearby properties Residents and visitors to residential properties, camping / caravan site, hotel, school, community centre, sports pitch and other buildings in the Invergarry area, including at Faichem, White Bridge, Glenluie and Mandally.	Variety of orientations and views, with majority largely contained by landform and woodland within Glen Garry, with some views of OHLs cutting through woodland. Some more open and elevated views are experienced from locations such as Faichem, Glenluie and Mandally. From Faichem, main southerly views are slightly elevated and towards Ben Tee, with some filtered views from trees. From Glenluie, some more open and elevated views may be experienced to the east over the forested valley. From Easter and Wester Mandally, some elevated views over the forested valley are found to the north.	Low	The Proposed Development would be screened or barely perceptible due to woodland, landform and distance. From some elevated open locations, an occasional glimpse of a tower may be possible but this would be barely perceptible due to distance and context. Occasional construction activity may be present turning off the A87 immediately east of Aldernaig Burn, but this would be limited to light vehicles and emergency access only so would be a barely perceptible change for receptors.	0.5km	Negligible	Negligible	Negligible	Negligible

Table 5.2: Route-based Receptors

Reference	Location / Type / Context	Nature of Main View	Sensitivity	Angle and Nature of Change	Approximate Distance	Magnitude		Effect	
						Construction	Operation (after 10 years)	Construction	Operation (after 10 years)
R5-1	<p>A87 Road users, including recreational travellers / tourists on main route from Invergarry to Skye. Tourists and visitors stopped at various parking laybys and viewpoints along the route, including Glengarry Viewpoint East and West. Within the study area, this runs north-west from Invergarry to the north of Loch Garry.</p>	<p>Through the study area the view is mostly enclosed by trees but when travelling east, some elevated views are obtained on the descent towards Loch Garry. When travelling west, elevated views to the west over Loch Garry and Loch Loyne and the mountainous landscape beyond are experienced and there are a number of stopping points taking advantage of these views. A wood pole OHL is visible crossing this route, near Glengarry Viewpoint East.</p> <p><i>(NB. It is assumed for the purpose of this assessment, that the steel lattice OHL observed crossing this route (in January 2022) is being removed this year and therefore is not assessed as part of this project. See paragraph 3.2.2 of Appendix V2-3.11 for further information.</i></p>	Medium	<p>From the majority of the route, the Proposed Development would not be visible or perceptible, due to screening from woodland and landform. From some more open sections near the alignment, the Proposed Development may be experienced to varying degrees in filtered, fleeting views. This includes where it would be more perceptible crossing the A87 near Achadh-luachrach and Glengarry Viewpoint East, where it would replace the existing wood pole OHL. It would also be potentially seen in glimpsed, filtered views through trees as it runs parallel to the road between Achadh-luachrach and Munerigie between approximately 100 m to 300 m away, where would be situated closer to the road than the existing wood pole OHL it is replacing. Some tree felling to accommodate a wayleave may also be evident in this area.</p>	30m	Low	Low	Minor Adverse (not significant)	Minor Adverse (not significant),)

Reference	Location / Type / Context	Nature of Main View	Sensitivity	Angle and Nature of Change	Approximate Distance	Magnitude		Effect	
						Construction	Operation (after 10 years)	Construction	Operation (after 10 years)
R5-2	Loch Garry / Loch Cuaich Minor Road Residents and recreational travellers / tourists on minor road between Loch Garry and Kinloch Hourn. Within the study area, this runs east-west from the A87 to Loch Cuaich, along the northern shores of Lochs Garry and Poulary, which are connected by River Garry, Glan Garry and Kingie Pool.	Views are typically contained by woodland and forest alongside Loch Garry with glimpsed views between trees across the loch towards the forested slopes on the opposite shore. More open views are obtained at times where forest has been felled. To the west of Poulary, views open across Loch Poulary and surrounding moorland with more distant westerly mountains seen beyond Quoich Dam. Existing OHL infrastructure is a noticeable feature of views at this western end of the study area.	Low-Medium	Through the majority of the route within the study area, views of the Proposed Development would be limited by woodland and forest alongside the road, or partially concealed by intervening landform, though construction entrances and vehicles may be seen in passing. The Proposed Development would be more evident at the western end of the route, to the west of Poulary and near Quoich Dam. The replacement of the wood pole with steel lattice towers may be perceptible between Poulary and Kingie, but west of Kingie, the Proposed Development would appear similar to the steel lattice tower OHL it would replace, although slightly larger in scale (see Visualisation Location 5-1 (Figures V4A-5.1a to d)).	30m	Low-Medium	Low	Minor Adverse (not significant)	Minor Adverse (not significant)

Reference	Location / Type / Context	Nature of Main View	Sensitivity	Angle and Nature of Change	Approximate Distance	Magnitude		Effect	
						Construction	Operation (after 10 years)	Construction	Operation (after 10 years)
R5-3	Minor roads at Faichem and Mandally Residents and visitors on minor roads at Mandally and Faichem.	Varying views largely restricted by woodland with occasional open views through gaps in trees across the glen floor, featuring properties, and towards the forested and wooded hills beyond. For example, some open elevated views from Mandally, across wooded glen.	Medium	The Proposed Development would be largely hidden from users of these routes by surrounding woodland, trees and intervening landform. There may be occasional glimpsed views of towers or construction works but these would be unlikely to be very perceptible and would not alter the visual amenity of these routes.	0.9km	Negligible	Negligible	Negligible	Negligible

Reference	Location / Type / Context	Nature of Main View	Sensitivity	Angle and Nature of Change	Approximate Distance	Magnitude		Effect	
						Construction	Operation (after 10 years)	Construction	Operation (after 10 years)
R5-4	<p>Core Path LO11.02 (Aldernaig Burn to Loch Lundy) and Scottish Hill Track 259</p> <p>Recreational users, members of the local community and potential estate workers on sections track and path, along Aldernaig Burn and to the east of Loch Lundy, continuing to the north. Also Scottish Hill Track 259 (Fort Augustus to Invergarry, by Loch Lundy)</p>	<p>Views from southern, lower sections nearer Invergarry are largely contained within woodland. Some open views are experienced from higher slopes across Glen Garry towards Ben Tee. From the northern upper portion of the route, views across Loch Lundy feature the Millennium Wind Farm whilst existing steel lattice and wood pole OHLs are present along this route, seen in views towards forested areas to the east.</p> <p><i>(NB. This assessment assumes that the existing Quoich to Aberchaldar steel lattice towers have been removed (see paragraph 3.2.2 Appendix V2-3.11) and that Section 6 of the Proposed Development has not been constructed.</i></p>	Low-Medium	<p>A small part of this route near the OHL crossing, south of Loch Lundy, would be used for access during construction, where a new permanent access track would also be added crossing the route and running alongside the new OHL. The Proposed Development steel lattice towers would also cross this route and be visible from a localised section of the route, in westerly / south-westerly views from areas around Loch Lundy replacing the existing wood pole OHL and seen in the context of a steel lattice OHL and wood pole OHL along this route. From other sections of the route, the Proposed Development would be screened by landform and trees or seen in the distance. Visualisation Location 5-2 provides a representative view from this route (see Figures V4A-5.2a to d).</p>	40m	Locally Medium near route crossing, Negligible elsewhere	Locally Low near route crossing, Negligible elsewhere	Locally Minor – Moderate Adverse (not significant) near route crossing, Negligible elsewhere	Locally Minor Adverse (not significant) near route crossing, Negligible elsewhere

Reference	Location / Type / Context	Nature of Main View	Sensitivity	Angle and Nature of Change	Approximate Distance	Magnitude		Effect	
						Construction	Operation (after 10 years)	Construction	Operation (after 10 years)
R5-5	<p>Core Paths and other walking routes around Invergarry</p> <p>Recreational users of formal and informal woodland routes, including walkers and cyclists. Routes include Core Paths LO11.01 (<i>Glenfinnan Estate Road</i>), LO11.05 (<i>Black Bridge to Mandally Road</i>), LO11.08 (<i>Access to Whitebridge waymarked trails from Mandally</i>), LO11.09 (<i>River Garry access for watersports</i>) and parts of LO11.03 (<i>Cycle Track – Bridge of Oich</i>) and LO11.04 (<i>Cycle Track – North Laggan</i>). Part of the Great Glen Way (Invergarry Link) forms parts of these paths. <i>[NB. excludes Core Path LO11.02 and SHT 259, which are assessed under R5-4.]</i></p>	<p>Varying views largely restricted by woodland with occasional open views through gaps in trees across the glen floor, featuring properties, and towards the forested and wooded hills beyond, with some views of steel lattice tower OHLs and wood pole OHLs.</p>	Medium	<p>The Proposed Development would be largely hidden from users of these routes by surrounding woodland, trees and intervening landform. There may be occasional glimpsed views of towers or construction works but these would be unlikely to be very perceptible and would not alter the visual amenity of these routes.</p>	0.7km	Negligible	Negligible	Negligible	Negligible

Reference	Location / Type / Context	Nature of Main View	Sensitivity	Angle and Nature of Change	Approximate Distance	Magnitude		Effect	
						Construction	Operation (after 10 years)	Construction	Operation (after 10 years)
R5-6	Scottish Hill Track 257a (Glen Garry to Glen Shiel) Walkers, other recreational users and estate workers following section of route between Glen Garry and Glen Shiel, commencing near Kingie. This Scottish Hill Track leaves the study area near Màm na Seilg.	Open views across Glen Garry, increasing in elevation when further north including southern views towards Loch Poulary and along Glen Garry and north towards peaks of Spidean Mialach. Existing steel lattice tower OHL crosses this route close to its southern end. Existing wood pole OHL also visible to the east.	Medium	The Proposed Development would replace existing steel lattice towers crossing the southern end of this route and may be evident replacing a wood pole OHL to the east. This replacement of wood pole towers with steel lattice towers of the Proposed Development would be noticeable to the east but barely distinguishable to the west, where the existing steel lattice towers would be replaced.	60m	Locally Medium near route crossing, Low elsewhere	Low	Minor – Moderate Adverse (not significant)	Minor Adverse (not significant)

Reference	Location / Type / Context	Nature of Main View	Sensitivity	Angle and Nature of Change	Approximate Distance	Magnitude		Effect	
						Construction	Operation (after 10 years)	Construction	Operation (after 10 years)
R5-7	Scottish Hill Track 247 Walkers, other recreational users and estate workers following section of Scottish Hill Track 247 (<i>Strathan (Loch Arkaig) to Tomdoun (Glen Garry)</i>) to south of Loch Garry through mostly felled forest.	Views across or along Glen Garry with River Garry and Loch Poulary forming focal interest from the most northerly 1km. Felled forestry dominates the foreground view for much of the route. More contained by landform and occasional forest as the route continues to the south-west.	Low-Medium	From the most northerly section of this route, filtered views of the Proposed Development crossing the hillside to the north would be obtained at distances from around 400 m to over 1 km replacing existing wood pole OHL. Towers would reduce in perceptibility with distance. From more westerly parts of the route, the Proposed Development would be barely perceptible as a replacement of the existing steel lattice OHL west of Kingie Switching Station.	0.4km	Low-Medium	Low	Minor Adverse (not significant)	Minor Adverse (not significant)

Reference	Location / Type / Context	Nature of Main View	Sensitivity	Angle and Nature of Change	Approximate Distance	Magnitude		Effect	
						Construction	Operation (after 10 years)	Construction	Operation (after 10 years)
R5-8	<p>Scottish Hill Tracks 238 and 239</p> <p>Walkers, other recreational users and estate workers following route from Inchlaggan and through forest and felled areas on southern side of Loch Garry. Scottish Hill Track 239 (<i>Loch Garry to Laggan Locks</i>) comprises the section from the minor road near Inchlaggan to Àlt Ladaidh, and then continues south along the watercourse outside the study area. Scottish Hill Track 238 (<i>The Dark Mile (Loch Arkaig) to Laggan Loch</i>) joins the study area from the south at Àlt Ladaidh and travels east to Invergarry.</p>	Views in multiple directions but most notably open across Loch Garry and along Glen Garry. As the route continues along the south of Loch Garry, views are more contained by woodland, forest and landform with only occasional views to the north where landform and tree cover permits. There are some more open views where forestry has been felled, and where the existing wood pole OHL is perceptible at a distance across the Loch. Some views of the loch include fish farms near the loch shores.	Medium	From the more westerly sections of this route, near areas of clear fell, there may be filtered views of the Proposed Development crossing the hillside to the north, sometimes contained within the existing forest wayleave. Views would be obtained at distances from around 1km (on the bridge crossing Loch Garry) to over 2 km replacing the existing wood pole OHL, reducing in perceptibility with distance. A few new access tracks may be perceptible along the OHL, connecting to the minor road and the A87.	0.2km	Low-Medium	Low	Minor Adverse (not significant)	Minor Adverse (not significant)

Reference	Location / Type / Context	Nature of Main View	Sensitivity	Angle and Nature of Change	Approximate Distance	Magnitude		Effect	
						Construction	Operation (after 10 years)	Construction	Operation (after 10 years)
R5-9	Gairich Mountain Route Walkers and other recreational users following route between Quoich Dam and Gairich on elevated slopes above Loch Cuaich and partially along the eastern edge of the loch.	Open views across Loch Cuaich to the north and west. Views south are somewhat restricted by steep landform. At Quoich Dam, on the northerly section of the route, the existing steel lattice OHL, NeSTS towers and dam buildings are visible to the north where the mountain route begins by the dam.	Low	From the northerly sections of this route, at Quoich Dam, there would be views of the Proposed Development in a general easterly direction. The Proposed Development would be barely perceptible as a replacement of the existing steel lattice OHL in the long term. From the majority of this route the Proposed Development would not be visible, or visible at a distance and seen in the context of Quoich Dam structures and NeSTS towers.	0.1km	Negligible	Negligible	Negligible	Negligible