

APPENDIX V2-3.12: LVIA OF SECTION 6 (INVERGARRY TO FORT AUGUSTUS)

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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 6 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.

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 underground cable (UGC));
- 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**); and
- 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 6.

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 west of the Skye Tee OHL crossing (to the south-west of the Proposed Development, near Invergarry), in addition to the recently constructed Quoich to Aberchalder 132 kV 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.

1.2.3 The potential for long term significant adverse effects is anticipated to be limited for this Section of the Proposed Development which is entirely comprised of a UGC connection. Therefore, a proportionate approach is taken for this LVIA, and the assessment is fully contained within this Appendix, and not detailed further within separate Annexes.

Methodology

1.2.4 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 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>

- 1.2.5 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.
- 1.2.6 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.
- 1.2.7 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.
- 1.2.8 The potential to mitigate adverse effects should also be considered for both landscape and visual assessment.
- 1.2.9 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**).
- 1.2.10 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.
- 1.2.11 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.
- 1.2.12 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 Regulations³, an effect rating of Moderate or greater is considered to be significant.
- 1.2.13 The landscape and visual effects of an UGC connection are largely limited to the construction phase. However, consideration has been given to potential longer term effects which may arise due to the construction disturbance. Where relevant effects ratings are therefore 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).
- 1.2.14 A list of limitations and assumptions of relevance to the Proposed Development are detailed in **paragraph 1.8.1 of Appendix V2-3.2**.

³ The Electricity Works (Environmental Impact Assessment) (Scotland) Regulations 2017

1.3 Baseline Conditions: Landscape

Overview

- 1.3.1 The landscape of Section 6 is broadly characterised by a mosaic of upland moorland by Loch Lundie and coniferous forestry on higher ground, and a low-lying pastoral glen floor with rural settlements, including Invergarry, Auchterawe and Fort Augustus. Existing OHLs are a noticeable feature within this landscape, crossing through forestry, across moorland and along valleys and other built features, such as wind turbines and substations, are also present.

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-S6**):

- Regional / Local Context:
 - Loch Lochy and Loch Oich SLA.

- 1.3.4 As detailed in **Appendix V2-3.5**, 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 lack of intervisibility with the Proposed Development.

Landscape Character

- 1.3.5 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 6 as follows (see **Figure V2-3.3-S6**):

- LCT 220 – Rugged Massif – Inverness;
- LCT 225 – Broad Steep-Sided Glen;
- LCT 235 – Broad Forested Strath; and
- LCT 237 – Rocky Moorland – Lochaber.

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

Local Character Zones

- 1.3.7 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.

- 1.3.8 The study area for Section 6 has been divided into two LCZs as shown on **Figure V2-3.3-S6**. These are described below as follows:

LCZ 6-1: Loch Lundie and Invergarry

- 1.3.9 Covering the section of the Proposed Development between Skye Tee (north of Invergarry) and the edge of Inchnacardoch Forest, this LCZ covers an area of undulating rocky moorland around Loch Lundie, mostly falling within LCT 237 (Rocky Moorland – Lochaber) and the wooded valley around Invergarry, falling within LCT 235 (Broad Forested Strath). 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 built development, as well as wind development in nearby areas. Within the southern part of the LCZ, around Invergarry, there is a settled and connected sense of place, 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 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.

LCZ 6-2: Inchnacardoch Forest and Fort Augustus

- 1.3.10 Covering the section of the Proposed Development through Inchnacardoch Forest to Fort Augustus Substation, this LCZ covers the forested hillslopes to the west of the Great Glen, falling partly within LCT 220 (Rugged Massif – Inverness) and partly within LCT 225 (Broad Steep-Sided Glen, as well as the broad valley floor of the Great Glen between Fort Augustus and Culloch which forms the majority of LCT 225). Tree cover dominates this LCZ and comprises commercial conifer forestry as well as areas of native and ancient woodland, and plantations on ancient woodland sites (PAWS), cut through by various wayleaves and OHLs. This is most notable on the hillslopes above Fort Augustus Substation, where the Beauldy Denny OHL wayleave is visible. Built features include OHLs, wind turbines, a substation and built development associated with Fort Augustus, Auchterawe and scattered residential dwellings. Settlement and transport routes through the Great Glen contribute to its settled sense of place, which contrasts with smaller scale, quieter areas to the north-west, including at Auchterawe and along the Caledonian Canal.

1.4 Baseline Conditions: Visual

Visual Receptors

- 1.4.1 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 principle reasons for being at the location. Visual receptors where potential for significant effects is considered very unlikely have been scoped out of the assessment, as detailed in **Appendix V2-3-1** (Tables 4 to 6).

Building-based Receptors

- 1.4.2 Building-based receptor locations included in the assessment are shown on **Figure V2-3.4-S6**. These receptor locations within the study area can be broadly subdivided into two areas as detailed below:
- Receptor Location B6-1 (Achadh-nan-darach Bothy):
 - Visitors to bothy situated on the edge of Inchnacardoch Forest, where main views are generally south-east across undulating plateau moorland.
 - Receptor Location B6-2 (Properties in Invergarry near the Aldernaig Burn):
 - Residents and visitors to group of properties near the A87 and Aldernaig Burn, where main views are generally oriented towards the A-road, or nearby properties, and are partially enclosed by nearby trees.

Route-based Receptors

- 1.4.3 Routes included in the assessment within the study area are shown on **Figure V2-3.4-S6**. These can be classified into two different categories:
- Public transport routes (including public roads);
 - Recreational routes.
- 1.4.4 Public transport routes included in the assessment within the study area which have been included in the visual assessment include the following:
- Minor Roads:
 - Route R6-1 (Minor road between Auchterawe and Fort Augustus, which is also part of Scottish Hill Track 259: Fort Augustus to Invergarry, by Loch Lundie) comprises a single-track tarmac road, with passing places, from Jenkins Park to Auchterawe, passing Fort Augustus Substation. Views are varied, but are largely enclosed by forestry, with some more open views across fields at Auchterawe, and intermittent views of the Substation and OHLs.
- 1.4.5 Recreational routes considered within the visual assessment include Core Paths (The Highland Council, 2011)⁴, Scottish Hill Tacks (Scottish Rights of Way and Access Society, 2011)⁵, and other commonly used recorded walking or cycling routes. These include the following:
- Core Paths:
 - Route R6-2 (Core Path LO11.02: Aldernaig Burn to Loch Lundie, which is also part of Scottish Hill Track 259: Fort Augustus to Invergarry, by Loch Lundie) comprises a footpath and track past Loch Lundie, that runs between Invergarry and a track junction south of Achadh-nan-darach. It is used by recreational users and estate workers, where receptors experience varied views, including open, extensive views across Loch Lundie, and undulating moorland. Elevated views across Glen Garry and towards Ben Tee are also experienced from the southern section of the route, as well as more enclosed views by Aldernaig Burn. OHLs are visible in close proximity, along sections of this route.
 - Route R6-3 (Core Path IN 16.10: Bridge of Oich to Torr Dhuin, part of which is also part of Scottish Hill Track 259: Fort Augustus to Invergarry, by Loch Lundie)) comprises a track through Inchnacardoch Forest, which passes Achadh-nan-darach and crosses various OHL wayleave corridors. It is used recreationally and by estate / forestry workers. Views are largely enclosed by forestry, but some open, elevated views are experienced near Achadh-nan-darach over open moorland, or from areas of clear fell, including along OHL corridors. OHLs are visible in close proximity crossing sections of this route.
 - Route R6-4 (Core Path IN 16.14: Auchteraw Woods Paths) comprises a track through Inchnacardoch Forest to the west of Auchterawe. It is used recreationally and by estate / forestry workers. Views range between those enclosed by forestry and some elevated open views over Auchterawe and Fort Augustus Substation. OHLs are visible in close proximity crossing the northern section of this route.
 - Route R6-5 (Core Path IN 16.02: Jenkins Park Forest Walks) comprises a track through Inchnacardoch Forest across the slopes of Creag an Iarlain, west of Jenkins Park, crossing the Beauty-Denny OHL wayleave corridor. It is used recreationally and by estate / forestry workers, and views are largely enclosed by forestry, with some elevated open views from areas of clear fell, or within OHL corridors, over the Great Glen and Fort Augustus Substation. OHLs are visible in close proximity crossing sections of this route.
 - Scottish Hill Tracks:

⁴ The Highland Council (2011). *Map: 1 Fort Augustus & Inchnacardoch. Inverness and Nairn Core Paths Plan*. Available at:

https://www.highland.gov.uk/downloads/file/1162/map_1_-_fort_augustus_and_inchnacardoch

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

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

- Scottish Hill Track 259: Fort Augustus to Invergarry, by Loch Lundie overlaps with several other routes (core paths and a minor road), and has therefore been assessed as parts of Route R6-1, R6-2, R6-3 and R6-4.

Receptors at Outdoor Locations

- 1.4.6 No outdoor viewing locations have been identified for individual inclusion within this Section.

Future Baseline

- 1.4.7 The baseline landscape and visual resource 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.
- 1.4.8 As detailed in paragraph 1.2.2, existing steel lattice towers to the south of Loch Lundie, which are yet to be dismantled as part of the Quoich to Aberchalder 132 kV wood pole OHL, 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 during the construction and operational phases, in accordance with the significance of effects criteria outlined in the methodology (**Appendix V2-3.2, Table 4**).

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

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

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

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

LCZ 6-1 – Loch Lundie and Invergarry

- 1.5.4 Landscape sensitivity within LCZ 6-1, is considered to be Medium, as this LCZ is considered to have some value due to its scenic qualities and recreational popularity, although existing steel lattice towers, forestry areas and surrounding wind turbines on the skyline reduce the sensitivity to change. Construction activities within this LCZ, including Horizontal Direction Drilling (HDD), dismantling and removal of an existing wood pole OHL and installation of the UGC connection, and, use of existing tracks for access, would be perceptible across this more open landscape, and may distract in scenic vistas, leading to a Low – Medium magnitude of change during construction. However, following the reinstatement of the UGC construction corridor, the removal of an existing wood pole OHL would lead to a Low magnitude of change during operation which would result in a small scale beneficial effect to this LCZ overall. Occasional above-ground junction boxes along the UGC alignment would be present in the longer term. However, these would be unlikely to outweigh the beneficial effects of the removal of the existing OHL and, with mitigation, would appear fairly unexceptional in the context.
- 1.5.5 The overall effect for this LCZ is predicted to be **Minor Adverse** (not significant) during construction. Whilst vegetation may take some years to fully recover across disturbed areas, this is predicted to become **Minor Beneficial** (not significant) during operation, after 10 years due to the removal of the existing wood pole OHL.

LCZ 6-2 – Inchnacardoch Forest and Fort Augustus

- 1.5.6 Landscape sensitivity within LCZ 6-2, is considered to be Low – Medium due to a combination of the more valued small scale residential landscapes around Auchterawe and in the Great Glen, where susceptibility to change is also greater, and the more managed forested hill slopes which, although of some value for recreation, are considered less susceptible to change. Construction works through this LCZ would be mostly contained within forest areas and may appear similar to forestry operations, but may locally increase the perception of development and activity in the area, particularly within the Beauly-Denny wayleave corridor, near the Fort Augustus Substation. A Low magnitude of change is therefore predicted within this localised area during construction, but elsewhere, magnitude would be Negligible. During operation, a wood pole OHL would be removed from this LCZ, but this would occur within a densely forested area, where other OHLs would remain, and therefore this change is anticipated to be relatively imperceptible within this LCZ. Occasional jointing bays or junction boxes would appear unexceptional within the forested context. Magnitude of change during operation would therefore be Negligible.
- 1.5.7 A *localised* **Minor Adverse** effect is therefore predicted within this LCZ during construction, occurring within a small area within the Beauly – Denny wayleave corridor, near the Fort Augustus Substation with the effect on the wider LCZ being **Negligible**. The effect during operation would be **Negligible**.

Summary of Landscape Effects

- 1.5.8 A summary of the effects on LCZs is outlined in **Table V2-S6-1** during construction and **Table V2-S6-2** during operation.

Table V2-S6-1: 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 6-1: Loch Lundie and Invergarry							•				
LCZ 6-2: Inchnacardoch Forest and Fort Augustus						•	L				

Table V2-S6-2: 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 6-1: Loch Lundie and Invergarry					•						

	Beneficial Effect					Adverse Effect					
	Major	Moderate - Major	Moderate	Minor – Moderate	Minor	Negligible	Minor	Minor – Moderate	Moderate	Moderate - Major	Major
LCZ 6-2: Inchnacardoch Forest and Fort Augustus						•					

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 described below with an emphasis on predicted significant effects.

Building-based Receptors

1.6.2 Two building-based receptor locations were included in the visual assessment (see **Figure V2-3.4-S6**), 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 there would be no significant effects to building-based receptors resulting from the Proposed Development during construction or operation, as described below.

Receptor Location B6-1 (Achadh-nan-darach Bothy)

1.6.3 During construction, works would feature within the main view from this property, comprising installation of the UGC connection, including HDD, dismantling of an existing wood pole OHL and use of existing tracks. This would be experienced in the context of an existing steel lattice OHL nearby. Undulating landform and nearby trees would be likely to screen some construction work, particularly in views to the east. Sensitivity for receptors at this location is considered to be Low – Medium, due to the influence of the existing steel lattice towers and woodland and landform which limits the view. Magnitude of change would be Medium during construction, reducing to Negligible in the longer term, as the removal of the existing wood pole OHL would comprise a barely perceptible change to the view due to the screening effects of landform and trees. The visual effect would therefore be **Minor Adverse** (not significant) during construction and **Negligible** during operation.

Receptor Location B6-2 (Properties in Invergarry near the Aldernaig Burn)

1.6.4 Effects for visual receptors occupying these properties are predicted to be **Negligible** during both construction and operation. A track routed between houses up the side of the Aldernaig Burn would be used during construction and operation for light vehicle use only. However, this would be filtered or partially screened by vegetation and therefore barely perceptible in occasional side views.

Route-based Receptors

1.6.5 Five routes were included in the visual assessment (see **Figure V2-3.4-S6**). The assessment has identified that there would be no significant effects to route-based receptors resulting from the Proposed Development during construction or operation, as described below:

Minor Roads

- 1.6.6 Construction traffic and activity would be noticeable from a very short section of Route R6-1 (Minor road between Auchterawe and Fort Augustus (which is also part of Scottish Hill Track 259)). This would be concentrated to a short stretch near Fort Augustus Substation (within the Beaully-Denny OHL wayleave), where installation of the UGC connection may be noticeable on both sides of the road, but would be seen in the context of other OHLs and Substation development. Construction activity and traffic on a temporary access track along the UGC route would also be visible nearby, partially screened by existing roadside planting. The prominence of existing OHLs and Substation infrastructure is considered to lead to a Low sensitivity for users of the route. Magnitude of change would be Medium during construction, but Negligible during operation, assuming effective reinstatement of disturbed areas.
- 1.6.7 To mitigate construction effects, existing vegetation and earthworks along the road should be protected and retained as far as possible, and reinstated if disturbed, to comply with the existing and proposed landscape design of the Fort Augustus Substation Woodland Management Plan. It is important that planting and earthworks along the road near the Substation (within the Beaully-Denny OHL corridor), particularly on the south-eastern side, is retained or reinstated to continue screening views of the Substation.
- 1.6.8 The effect on users of this route is predicted to be **Minor Adverse** (not significant) during construction, reducing to **Negligible** during operation, as the Proposed Development would not be visible, assuming effective reinstatement of disturbed areas.

Recreational Routes

- 1.6.9 Sensitivity for visual receptors using Route R6-2 (Core Path LO11.02: Aldernaig Burn to Loch Lundie (also part of Scottish Hill Track 259)) is considered to be Medium, because, as a recreational route, the visual amenity is valued, but the presence of existing steel lattice tower and wood pole OHLs reduces susceptibility to further development to some degree. A large part of this route (north of the Skye Tee crossing) would be used for construction access and, from some sections of route (such as south of Achadh-nan-darach), construction activity associated with the dismantling of the wood pole OHL and installation of the UGC connection would be visible in close proximity, immediately alongside the route. However, this would be seen in the context of the existing lattice tower OHL and would not disrupt scenic views towards Loch Lundie. Undulating landform alongside the route may also conceal the works from some parts. Due to the varying views along the route, magnitude of change would range between Low and Medium during construction leading to a temporary **Minor – Moderate Adverse** (not-significant) visual effect. In the longer term, an existing wood pole OHL would be removed from the view, predicted to lead to Low Magnitude of change and a **Minor Beneficial** (not significant) visual effect. Although there would be occasional jointing bays or junction boxes along the alignment of the UGC connection, the localised effect of these small features is not predicted to outweigh this beneficial effect.
- 1.6.10 For receptors using Routes R6-3 (Core Path IN 16.10: Bridge of Oich to Torr Dhuin (also part of Scottish Hill Track 259)), R6-4 (Core Path IN16.14: Auchteraw Woods Paths) and R6-5 (Core Path IN16.02: Jenkins Park Forest Walks) a **Minor Adverse** (not significant) effects are predicted during construction, reducing to **Negligible** during operation. Parts of these routes would be used for construction access, likely to result in intermittent visibility of construction vehicles and plant, particularly along the majority of Route R6-3 and all of R6-4). Construction activity would also be visible in close proximity where the UGC construction corridor would cross these routes (such as in the Beaully-Denny OHL corridor and at Achadh nan Darach Beag). Sensitivity to change for these routes is considered to be Low, because they are already likely influenced by existing forestry works and occasional OHLs, and the availability of views is somewhat limited by the surrounding forest. Magnitude of change during construction is predicted to be Low-Medium but would be Negligible during operation.

Summary of Visual Effects

- 1.6.11 A summary of the effects on visual receptors is outlined in **Table V2-S6-3** and **Table V2-S5-4** during construction and operation.

Table V2-S6-3: 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						1	1				
Route-based Receptors							4	1			
Totals						1	5	1			

Table V2-S6-4: 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						2					
Route-based Receptors					1	4					
Totals					1	6					

1.7 Cumulative Effects

- 1.7.1 As described in **Appendix V2-3.1**, the requirement for cumulative assessment has been scoped out of the LVIA for this Section, as all long term effects of the Proposed Development are predicted to be either Negligible or Beneficial.

1.8 Mitigation

- 1.8.1 Mitigation measures for this Section relate specifically to the design process, and in particular the choice of a UGC connection for the entirety of Section 6, which effectively eliminates the potential for longer term significant effects. However, general mitigation measures, and in particular, a high standard of reinstatement would be employed in order to ensure landscape and visual effects are minimised. These measures are discussed in **Appendix V2-3.13**.

1.8.2 Further specific mitigation measures are also proposed to limit potential indirect effects of the Proposed Development that could be caused by the construction works leading to the loss of existing mitigation measures for the existing Fort Augustus Substation as follows:

- Route R6-1 (Minor road between Auchterawe and Fort Augustus): Protection and reinstatement of planting, earthworks and disturbed ground between the minor road and Fort Augustus Substation (to comply with the existing and proposed landscape design of the Fort Augustus Substation Woodland Management Plan). In particular, screening along the south-east of the road to prevent secondary effects resulting from views opening up of the existing substation.

1.9 Residual Effects

1.9.1 The assessment of operational effects takes into account the likely benefits of the embedded and implementation stage mitigation measures which are proposed and the specific measures detailed in **paragraph 1.8.2**, and therefore the operational effects identified should be considered representative of residual effects.

1.10 Summary and Conclusions

Landscape Effects

1.10.1 The landscape assessment has found that there would be no significant effects to landscape character as a result of the Proposed Development. Construction of the Proposed Development would be associated with a locally perceptible increase of development and activity in the short term affecting relatively small parts of LCT 225 (Broad Steep-Sided Glen) and LCT 237 Rocky Moorland Lochaber. However, in the long term, the Proposed Development would lead to small scale, localised, beneficial landscape effects, due to the removal of an existing wood pole OHL through the landscape.

Visual Effects

1.10.2 The visual assessment has found that there would be no significant effects on visual receptors, due to screening from trees and landform and the presence of other OHL infrastructure and the existing Fort Augustus Substation in views, which reduce sensitivity to change. Construction of the Proposed Development may lead to visual effects for some receptors near construction access routes and installation works for the UGC connection, but effects would be temporary and not significant, and would reduce in the long term to be either barely perceptible, or would represent a perceptible improvement within some views, due to the removal of an existing wood pole OHL.

Conclusions

1.10.3 The LVIA has concluded that there would be no significant effects to landscape character or visual amenity within Section 6 as a result of the construction and operation of the Proposed Development and there would be no effects to any designated or protected landscapes.