

## **APPENDIX V2-3.6: LVIA OF SECTION 0 (ARDMORE SUBSTATION TO EDINBANE SUBSTATION)**

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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 0 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, 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*, 3<sup>rd</sup> Edition (GLVIA)<sup>1</sup>. 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 1.5 km from the Proposed Development (132 kV wood pole 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*<sup>2</sup> (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;
- A review against the Special Qualities<sup>3</sup> and Integrity of the North West Skye Special Landscape Area (SLA) (see **Table 2 of Appendix V2-3.1**);
- Cumulative assessment giving consideration to the combined effects with 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 Section 1 of the Proposed Development; and
  - The proposed Edinbane Substation Extension (the subject of a separate application).
- 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:
  - Glen Ullinish Wind Farm (approved).

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

<sup>2</sup> 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>

<sup>3</sup> 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.

### Visualisations

- 1.2.2 Two visualisations have been produced to support the LVIA work for Section 0. 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 0:
- Visualisation Location 0-1: Trumpan (OS Grid Reference NG 23209 61174); and
  - Visualisation Location 0-2: Upper Feorlig (OS Grid Reference NG 29898 44566).
- 1.2.3 The visualisations have been produced to support the LVIA work 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.
- 1.2.4 Two sets of visualisations have been produced to NatureScot 2017<sup>4</sup> and The Highland Council (THC) 2016<sup>5</sup> standards, included within the EIA Report as **Volume 4A** (see **Figures V4A-0.1a to d** and **V4A-0.2a to d**) and **Volume 4B** (see **Figures V4B-0.1a to e** and **V4B-0.2a to e**) respectively. Further detail on the preparation of visualisations is included in **Appendix V2-3.3**.

### *Methodology*

- 1.2.5 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**.
- 1.2.6 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.
- 1.2.7 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.
- 1.2.8 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.
- 1.2.9 The potential to mitigate adverse effects should also be considered for both landscape and visual assessment.
- 1.2.10 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 effects (see **Part 1.7 of Appendix V2-3.2**).

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<sup>4</sup> 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]

<sup>5</sup> 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](https://www.highland.gov.uk/downloads/file/12880/visualisation_standards_for_wind_energy_developments) [accessed June 2022]

- 1.2.11 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), providing a robust and consistent approach.
- 1.2.12 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.
- 1.2.13 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 to Moderate) For the purposes of the EIA Regulations<sup>6</sup>, in this assessment an effect rating of Moderate or greater is considered to be significant.
- 1.2.14 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 (if proposed) has established).
- 1.2.15 A list of limitations and assumptions of relevance to the Proposed Development are detailed in paragraph 1.8.1 of **Appendix V2-3.2**.

### 1.3 Baseline Conditions: Landscape

#### *Overview*

- 1.3.1 The landscape of Section 0 is heavily influenced by the coast with an intricate coastline of bays and rocky promontories backed by croft lands and strung-out settlements. Inland areas are characterised by stepped moorland, rising into relatively low (typically up to 300 m) rounded or flat topped, craggy hills, with occasional patches of forest plantation. Shallow, open glens leading into the hills, are populated by linear crofting settlements which contrast in their bright green colouring, with the more muted tones of the surrounding moorland and hills. The two distinctive steep-sided and flat topped hills of the Macleod's Tables (Healabhal Mhòr and Healabhal Bheag) form a notable visual landmark in the south-westerly context.

#### *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-S0 (a and b)**):
- National Context:
    - None.
  - Regional / Local Context:
    - North West SLA.

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<sup>6</sup> The Electricity Works (Environmental Impact Assessment) (Scotland) Regulations 2017

- 1.3.4 The above areas are described below and their Special Qualities<sup>7</sup> are listed in **Table V2-S0-1**, with those of particular relevance to the Proposed Development highlighted in bold.

North West Skye SLA

- 1.3.5 SLA is a non-statutory designation applied by The Highland Council (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)<sup>3</sup>.
- 1.3.6 Within the study area this SLA covers the western shoreline of the Waternish Peninsula and the coastline around Bracadale Bay. The Special Qualities of the North West Skye SLA are detailed in **Table V2-S0-1**.

**Table V2-S0-1: Special Qualities of Designated and Protected Landscapes (those of 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)
North West Skye SLA	<p><i>“Dynamic Coastline</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b><i>The dominant and defining influence is the relationship between land and sea which can be experienced from commanding coastal viewpoints such as Biod an Athair, Idrigill Point, or Oronsay Island, or in intimate corners such as Loch Bharcasaig or the inner reaches of Loch Dunvegan. The dynamic composition between land, sea and sky creates an ever-changing sequence of dramatic coastal panoramas.</i></b></li> <li>• <i>Extensive, unbroken stretches of coastline are accessible only by boat (in calm weather) or on foot. Access along the shore is only available at low tide in some locations.</i></li> <li>• <b><i>The variety of coastal features creates a diverse seascape character seen as an ever changing sequence from the meandering coastal roads, tracks and footpaths.</i></b></li> <li>• <i>The impressive sea stacks of MacLeod’s Maidens and the small coral beaches at Dunvegan and Glenbrittle are popular attractions.</i></li> </ul> <p><i>Distinctive Terrain</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b><i>Sequence of dramatic peninsulas separated by deep penetrating sea lochs and large scale complex bays.</i></b></li> <li>• <b><i>MacLeod’s Tables form prominent flat-topped landmarks from within and around the SLA, rising above the generally uniform and low lying moorland landscape. These have a close relationship with Dunvegan Castle, the seat of the Clan Macleod which is a popular visitor attraction.</i></b></li> </ul> <p><i>Crofting landscapes</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b><i>The sense of remoteness and tranquillity experienced among the more traditional crofting settlements of Waternish is pronounced by access being obtained via a no through road.</i></b></li> <li>• <i>Unish, the most northerly and one of the best preserved examples of the townships on Waternish, is protected as a Scheduled Monument. The majority of these earlier settlements are now abandoned and stand as ruins in the</i></li> </ul>

<sup>7</sup> 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.

Designated / Protected Area	Special Qualities* (*Special Landscape Qualities (SLQs) of NSAs, WLA Qualities and Special Qualities of SLAs)
	<p><i>landscape. Interspersed amongst the township ruins are the remains of still older settlement from the Bronze and Iron Ages.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>The cleared settlement bordering Galtrigill to the north is notable in the completeness of its survival.</i></li> <li>• <i>Crofting townships are clustered around Glen Dale which with no distinct boundaries between individual settlements forms an almost continuous ring of crofts around the Glen.</i></li> <li>• <b><i>Harlosh to Bracadale is an almost continuous patchwork of sub-rectangular field systems and small townships.</i></b> <i>On the peripheries are a number of interesting prehistoric remains, most notably Dun Beag, the well preserved remains of a broch with a burial cairn to the south, and a hillfort to the north.</i></li> <li>• <i>At Minginish there are sporadic remains of shielings and the occasional prehistoric roundhouse dotted throughout the hills with a notable concentration along Sleadale Burn, south of Talisker”.</i></li> </ul> <p style="text-align: right;">(Horner + MacIennan et al., 2011)<sup>3</sup></p>

*Landscape Character*

1.3.7 NatureScot has undertaken detailed review and classification of various landscape areas and types of Scotland (SNH, 2019 [online]<sup>2</sup>). Four individual Landscape Character Types (LCTs) are identified within the study area for Section 0 as follows (see **Figure V2-3.3-S0 (a and b)**):

- LCT 357 – Farmed and Settled Lowlands – Skye and Lochalsh;
- LCT 358 – Low, Smooth Moorland;
- LCT 359 – Upland Sloping Moorland; and
- LCT 360 – Stepped Moorland.

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

Local Character Zones

1.3.9 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.

1.3.10 The study area for Section 0 has been divided into four LCZs as shown on **Figure V2-3.3-S0 (a and b)**. These are described in detail in **Appendix V2-3.6: Annex 1** and summarised below as follows:

*LCZ 0-1 Waternish Peninsula*

1.3.11 Covering the Proposed Development between Ardmore and Loch Bay, this LCZ comprises a narrow peninsula featuring a settled coastal strip of linear crofts backed by a spine of rocky hills and occasional forest which gives a rugged uneven skyline. The LCZ is strongly influenced by the coast with a variable coastline of high cliffs, rocky promontories and bays, and expansive coastal vistas experienced, featuring cliffs and islands of Loch Dunvegan to the south and the more distant Outer Isles to the west.

- 1.3.12 Loch Bay to the south end of the LCZ provides a distinctive and dramatic fjord-like local feature, enclosed to the west by the steep slopes and cliffs of Sgurr a' Bhagh below the Beinn Bhreac ridge (just outwith the study area) and to the east by lower cliff edges of Druim a'Chairn and the contrastingly more gentle and settled slopes below Lusta. At the north end of the LCZ lies another unusual landscape composition; Ardmore Bay, with its shingle beach sheltered from the Atlantic by the Ard Mor peninsula; overlooked by Ardmore House and its Pier. The Ardmore Substation lies on the isthmus which connects the peninsula to the headland.

*LCZ 0-2 Loch Bay to Dunvegan*

- 1.3.13 Covering the Proposed Development between Loch Bay and Dunvegan Substation, this LCZ comprises a shallow, moorland valley, enclosed by low, stepped hills with some rocky outcrops near their peaks. Blocks of conifer plantation and some areas of rough grazing characterise the valley slopes towards the north of the LCZ. The valley opens out to a wider expanse of open moorland at its southern end, featuring expansive views to the south-west where MacLeod's Tables (two distinctive flat-topped hills) form a notable visual focus. A few scattered properties which form the outskirts of Dunvegan are present in this area. The valley forms a transportation route for main and minor roads, and existing wood pole OHLs radiating from the small Dunvegan Substation which is a noticeable local feature within the open, southern part of the LCZ.

*LCZ 0-3 Loch Bracadale Coastal Hills and Glens*

- 1.3.14 Covering the Proposed Development between Dunvegan Substation and Glen Colbost, this LCZ comprises moorland across a series of low, coastal hills, with a characteristic stepped appearance and some rocky outcrops near their peaks. This is a remote landscape with an exposed, upland character where settlement is confined to linear crofting settlements within inland glens which penetrate from the coast: Glen Heysdale and Balmeanach. The bright green of the managed crofting and grazing landscape on the floors and slopes of these glens, contrasts with the more muted colours of the surrounding moorland hills. Due to the deeply indented nature of the glens the influence of the sea, largely outwith the LCZ, does not penetrate far inland at lower levels but is more evident from higher locations where expansive vistas towards the coastal islands and headlands around Loch Bracadale are experienced. Elsewhere, outwith the LCZ, the turbines of Ben Aketil and Edinbane Wind Farms form noticeable features within the setting to the north, and the two flat-topped hills of Macleod's Tables (Healabhal Mhòr and Healabhal Bheag) form a striking landmark to the west. Because of the open moorland character, Dunvegan Substation to the northwest and wood-pole OHLs throughout, form noticeable local features within the lower parts of the LCZ especially where sky-lined as they pass over low, localised ridgelines.

*LCZ 0-4: Glen Colbost*

- 1.3.15 Covering the Proposed Development bridging the headwaters of Abhainn Bhaile Mheadhonaich and the headwaters of the River Ose, this LCZ comprises a broad upland glen (Glen Colbolst), enclosed by, stepped moorland hills and characterised by areas of coniferous forestry plantation, moorland and semi-improved rough grazing land. The wind turbines of Edinbane Windfarm on the high ground immediately to the north, and the associated Substation and existing wood-pole OHLs which cross the glen from east to west contribute to the man-made landscape features which predominate in the local landscape. The glen itself forms a wide bowl with open, large scale and simple characteristics, within which the isolated farm and outbuildings of Glen Vic Askill are the focal point. Overall, there is a sense of isolated remoteness to this landscape, but tempered by the overriding presence and influence of electrical infrastructure.
- 1.3.16 Dun Arkaig Broch overlooks the glen to the south, lending some limited but localised value to the landscape in this area.



## 1.4 Baseline Conditions: Visual

### *Interpretation of the ZTV*

- 1.4.1 The ZTV (**Figures V2-3.1-S0 (a and b)**) indicates varying intervisibility with the Proposed Development along the 3 km wide study area as determined by the local topography, which can screen potential views to a greater or lesser extent. The greatest degree of intervisibility with the greater number of poles is largely confined to areas of high ground or open, flatter areas where the most open views are obtained.
- 1.4.2 Theoretical visibility of a greater number of poles is shown for most of the receptors in settlements and on routeways along the south-west side of the Waternish peninsula with the exception of Lower Halistra, the eastern end of Hallin, and lower Camuslusta. Lesser numbers of poles are potentially shown to be visible for receptors on the north-east side of the peninsula including Knockbreck and Gillen.
- 1.4.3 Similarly theoretical visibility of greater numbers of poles is indicated by the ZTV for receptors on other routeways through the remainder of the study area, particularly in the area to the east of Duvegan and for localised areas of settlement around Horneval and Upper Feorlig. However, more limited visibility of fewer numbers of poles is indicated from the majority of the settlement areas through this part of the study area, including Lonmore, Roskill, Caroy and Balmeanach, where the Proposed Development would cross the upper moorland plateau, whilst settlement areas are generally situated on the lower coastal areas or within the valleys

### *Visual Receptors*

- 1.4.4 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 the principal reasons for being at the location.

### Building-based Receptors

- 1.4.5 Building-based receptor locations are described in detail in **Appendix V2-3.6: Annex 2, Table 0.1**, and their locations are shown on **Figure V2-3.4-S0 (a and b)**. These receptor locations within the study area can be broadly subdivided into five areas as detailed below:
- Linear crofting townships on the south-western side of the Waternish Peninsula (Receptor Locations B0-1 to B0-7 and B0-10 to B0-14):
    - Residents and visitors occupying a number of linked crofting townships including Trumpan, Halstra, Hallin, Stein, and Lusta which afford open seaward views across Loch Bay and Loch Duvegan featuring coastal headlands and islands.
  - Linear crofting townships on the north-eastern side of the Waternish Peninsula (Receptor Locations B0-8 and B0-9):
    - Residents and visitors occupying crofting townships of Knockbreck, Geary and Gillen, and, a primary school. These properties have predominant easterly views overlooking Loch Snizort with the exception of the school which is more southerly in orientation.
  - Rural properties on the outskirts of Dunvegan (Receptor Locations B0-15 and B0-16):
    - Residents and visitors occupying a small estate of properties and several outlying properties to the east of Dunvegan with low level views across open moorland.
  - Crofting townships around the head Loch Bracadale (Receptor Locations B0-17, B0-19 and B0-20):
    - Residents and visitors of a number of small, linear townships set around the head of deeply incised sea lochs at the inland edges of Loch Bracadale including Roskill, Feorlig and Caroy, with typically low level coastal views.
  - Glen Heysdal, Bealmeanach and Glen Vic Askill (Receptor Locations B0-18 and B0-21 – B0-23):

- Residents and visitors of a number of rural crofting and residential properties set within coastal glens to the north of Loch Bracadale with views generally contained within the farmed glens by enclosing hills, and forestry plantation.

#### Route-based Receptors

1.4.6 Routes within the study area are described in detail in **Appendix V2-3.6, Annex 2, Table 0.2**, and are shown on **Figure V2-3.4-S0 (a and b)**. These can be classified into two different categories:

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

1.4.7 Public transport routes within the study area are used by local residents and visitors including recreational users. Those which have been included in the visual assessment are as follows:

- A roads:
  - Route R0-1 (A850) is a main, single carriageway route between Portree and Dunvegan, used by local residents and popular with tourists. Views are largely contained by landform although open views south towards MacLeod’s Tables are obtained from the road approaching Dunvegan;
  - Route R0-2 (A863) is a single carriageway road between Sligachan and Dunvegan, around the northern shore of Loch Bracadale. Users of this route obtain typically low-level coastal views with rising ground restricting views inland other than occasional glimpses through glens.
- B roads:
  - Route R0-3 (B886), a single track road between Fairy Bridge and Stein used by local residents and visitors and recreational users. Views are somewhat contained within the Bay River valley but open out towards the north with elevated coastal views of Loch Bay and along the coast;
- Minor Roads:
  - Routes R0-4 (Trumpan Minor Road), R0-5 (Stein to Sgor Beag Minor Road) and R0-6 (Hallin to Knockbreck Minor Road) used by local residents and recreational visitors and all located on the Waternish peninsula, have slightly elevated views of the coastal bays and coastline around Waternish and the wider seascape;
  - Route R0-7 (Dunvegan Substation Minor Road), R0-8 (Minor Roads to Feorlig and Upper Feorlig) and R0-9 (Balmeanach Minor Road) all comprise small single track roads and, with the exception of R0-7 (which connects the two A roads), are dead-end routes leading to properties. These roads offer variable views, typically contained by landform but with more open coastal aspects available from the road to Feorlig.

1.4.8 Recreational routes considered within the visual assessment include Core Paths (The Highland Council, 2011)<sup>8</sup>, Scottish Hill Tacks (Scottish Rights of Way and Access Society, 2011)<sup>9</sup>, and other commonly used recorded walking or cycling routes. These include the following:

- Core Paths:
  - Route R0-10 (Core Path SL10.01: Stein to Gillen) comprises a rough track crossing the Waternish peninsula with elevated views over the Loch Dunvegan to the south-west and Loch Snizort to the north.
  - Route R0-11 (Core Path SL06.02: Healaval Forest) comprises a track through and past conifer plantations below Beinn a’ Chapuill with low level views across moorland and partly contained by forest.

<sup>8</sup> The Highland Council, Core Paths Interactive Map [online]. Available at:

<https://highland.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=2fd3fc9c72d545f7bcf1b43bf5c8445f> [accessed January 2022].

<sup>9</sup> Scottish Rights of Way and Access Society (2011). Scottish Hill Tracks. 5th edition. Scottish Mountaineering Trust.

- Route R0-12 (Core Path SL28.01: Loch Caroy to Glen Vic Askill) comprises a track through forest and a low lying moorland glen with varying views contained by forest and enclosed by surrounding hills, featuring prominent wind turbines to the north.
- Other Routes:
  - Route R0-13 Footpath to Waternish Point comprise a cliff-top footpath used by walkers with elevated seaward views.

#### Receptors at Outdoor Locations

1.4.9 The following Outdoor Viewing Locations have been included where the view is considered to be a principal reason for being at the location<sup>10</sup>:

- Receptor Location O0-1 (Trumpan Vantage Point and Car-Park): Visitors to a small car park and viewpoint with elevated views of coastal scenery;
- O0-2 (Hallin War Memorial): Visitors to a memorial on an elevated mound with 360° views, principally across the coast; and
- O0-3 (Fairy Bridge): Visitors to a historic bridge associated with local myth and legend, with low level views across adjacent moorland, contained by hills and nearby forest.

1.4.10 These locations are described in detail in **Appendix V2-3.6: Annex 2, Table 0.3** and are shown on **Figure V2-3.4-S0 (a and b)**.

#### *Future Baseline*

- 1.4.11 A wind farm proposal has been consented at Glen Ullinish, lying just south of the eastern end of the study area for Section 0. If built, this would alter the characteristics of the area around Glen Vic Askill to some extent. Any potential changes relating to this development are considered within the cumulative assessment (see **Part 3.6**).
- 1.4.12 Elsewhere, 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.

### **1.5 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 (**Appendix V2-3.2, Part 1.7**). The assessment of landscape character is presented first, as this is used to feed into the assessment of effects on designated and protected landscapes.

1.5.2 The detailed assessment of effects for each LCZ or designated / protected landscape is provided in **Appendix 3.5** and **Appendix V2-3.6: Annex 1** with the key points being summarised in paragraphs 1.5.3 to 1.6.12 below.

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

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

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<sup>10</sup> Note: Where outdoor viewing locations comprise cultural heritage features, the visual assessment considers the effect on the visual amenity of the location only, and does not consider the cultural heritage values which are discussed in Chapter 8 Cultural Heritage)

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

- 1.5.4 Effects on all LCZs were identified as not significant during both the construction and operational phases of the Proposed Development.
- 1.5.5 During construction, a **Minor Adverse** (not significant) effect is predicted within LCZ 0-2 (Loch Bay to Dunvegan) and LCZ 0-3 (Loch Bracadale Coastal Hills and Glens) where there are open moorland characteristics, typified by LCT 359 (Upland Sloping Moorland), and the focussed activity of the works is anticipated to be noticeable and temporarily disruptive in the local context. A **Minor Adverse** (not significant) effect is also predicted for LCZ 0-4 (Glen Colbost), also principally focused within LCT 359 (Upland Sloping Moorland), due to the requirement for felling activities which would bring an additional focus of movement and activity to this area. However, the construction period effect on LCZ 0-1 (Waternish Peninsula) is predicted to be **Negligible** because localised works at pole locations, although locally perceptible, are anticipated to appear not-dissimilar to crofting and land management activities which already take place in this landscape and are therefore considered unlikely to alter the key characteristics of the landscape.
- 1.5.6 During operation of the Proposed Development, after 10 years, the landscape effect is predicted to reduce to **Negligible** (not significant) for all four LCZs within this Section because the Proposed Development, although slightly more robust and following a slightly different alignment in some areas, is anticipated to appear very similar to the existing 132 kV wood pole OHL it would replace. Any localised areas where the Proposed Development may appear more prominent would be balanced out by the beneficial effects of the removal of the existing OHL and the key local characteristics of the landscape would be unchanged.

*Assessment of Effects on Designated and Protected Landscapes*

- 1.5.7 The detailed assessment of designated and protected landscapes, including relevant Special Qualities is included in **Appendix V2-3.5**. The identified effects are summarised below:

North West Skye SLA

- 1.5.8 Within the study area, the SLA covers the western shoreline of the Waternish Peninsula within LCZ 0-1 (Waternish Peninsula) and a very small part of LCZ 0-2 (Loch Bay to Dunvegan), and the coastline around Bracadale Bay within LCZ 0-3 (Loch Bracadale Coastal Hills and Glen).
- 1.5.9 The landscape character assessment has identified that the magnitude of effect during construction and operation would be Negligible within LCZ 0-1 (Waternish Peninsula) which contains the majority of the SLA within the study area as described in paragraph 1.5.5 above. The Proposed Development would follow a similar alignment to the existing OHL which it would replace, with only minor deviations at Trumpan (see Visualisation Location 0-1 (**Figures V4-0.1a to d**)), and to the rear of Dun Hallin Broch which are unlikely to lead to any change in landscape characteristics as they would be offset by the removal of the existing OHL from other parts of the LCZ. In addition, the realignment to the rear of Dun Hallin Broch would remove a section of OHL from the coastal and crofting landscape which would be partly realigned outside the SLA boundary. Although, erection of the new OHL and removal of the existing OHL may form perceptible areas of activity during construction, this would be within a settled and managed landscape where such activity is not anticipated to appear out of place.
- 1.5.10 This magnitude rating for landscape character is therefore considered to be representative of the likely effect on the SLA within LCZ 0-1 and also to the small area of the SLA within LCZ 0-2 (Loch Bay to Dunvegan). As the Proposed Development would be outwith the SLA in LCZ 0-3, with very little likely intervisibility, there would be no perceptible change on this part of the SLA.

1.5.11 The review of Special Landscape Qualities (see **Appendix V2-3.5**) identified in **Table V2-S0-1** as being potentially sensitive to the Proposed Development has concluded that the Proposed Development would result in a Negligible magnitude of effect for all Special Qualities.

1.5.12 The effect on the North West Skye SLA is therefore predicted to be **Negligible**, and the integrity of the designation would not be affected by the Proposed Development.

*Summary of Landscape Effects*

1.5.13 A summary of the effects on LCZs and designated and protected landscapes is provided in **Table V2-S0-2** during construction and

1.5.15 Table V2-S0-3 during operation.

**Table V2-S0-2: Summary of Landscape Effects During Construction**

LCZ or Designated / Protected Landscape	Beneficial Effect					Adverse Effect					
	Major	Moderate – Major	Moderate	Minor – Moderate	Minor	Negligible	Minor	Minor – Moderate	Moderate	Moderate – Major	Major
LCZ 0-1 Waternish Peninsula						•					
LCZ 0-2 Loch Bay to Dunvegan							•				
LCZ 0-3 Loch Bracadale Coastal Hills and Glens							•				
LCZ 0-4 Glen Colbost							•				
North West Skye SLA						•					

L indicates that the effect would occur in a localised area only.

**Table V2-S0-3: Summary of Landscape Effects During Operation**

LCZ or Designated / Protected Landscape	Beneficial Effect					Adverse Effect					
	Major	Moderate – Major	Moderate	Minor – Moderate	Minor	Negligible	Minor	Minor – Moderate	Moderate	Moderate – Major	Major
LCZ 0-1 Waternish Peninsula						•					
LCZ 0-2 Loch Bay to Dunvegan						•					
LCZ 0-3 Loch Bracadale Coastal Hills and Glens						•					
LCZ 0-4 Glen Colbost						•					
North West Skye SLA						•					

L indicates that the effect would occur in a localised area only.

## 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 V2-3.6: Annex 2**. Predicted effects are summarised below with an emphasis on predicted significant effects.

### *Building-based Receptors*

1.6.2 Twenty-three building-based receptor locations were included in the visual assessment (see **Figure V2-3.4-S0 (a and b)**), 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 visual effects for all receptors would be not significant, as summarised below.

### Linear crofting townships on the south-western side of the Waternish Peninsula (Receptor Locations B0-1 to B0-7 and B0-10 to B0-14)

1.6.3 No significant effects were identified for any of the visual receptor locations within this group. However, a **Minor – Moderate Adverse** (not significant) effect was identified for visual receptors occupying one group of properties, Receptor Location B0-4 (Trumpan (Central)). In this location the existing 132 kV would be removed from the rear of properties and replaced by the Proposed Development which would cross the main view at between approximately 250 – 500 m distance. Visualisation Location 0-1 provides a representative view from this area (see **Figures V4-0.1a to d**). This would form a new, somewhat detracting feature within the midground of the main view, anticipated to result in a perceptible to noticeable deterioration to the visual amenity.

1.6.4 **Minor Adverse** (not significant) effects during both construction and operation were identified for Receptor Locations B0-1 (Ardmore House), B0-2 (Trumpan (South)), B0-12 (Brae Stein/ Lusta) and B0-14 (Camuslusta) where the Proposed Development is anticipated to form a perceptible change in comparison to the existing wood pole OHL which would be removed, within side or oblique views. In addition, a **Minor Adverse** (not significant) effect is predicted during construction at Receptor Locations B0-3 (Trumpan (North)), B0-7 (Hallin) during construction. However, the operational effect for receptors at these locations is predicted to be **Minor Beneficial** (not significant), as the Proposed Development would be located further away than the existing OHL to be removed, in the case of Hallin moving completely outwith the view to the rear of the broch at the back of the crofts.

1.6.5 The visual effect for all other Receptor Locations within this grouping would be **Negligible**, during construction and operation, because the Proposed Development is not anticipated to appear perceptibly different in the view than the existing OHL to be removed.

Linear crofting townships on the north-eastern side of the Waternish Peninsula (Receptor Locations B0-8 and B0-9)

1.6.6 No significant effects were identified for either visual receptor locations within this group. A **Minor Adverse** (not significant) effect was identified for Receptor Location B0-8 (Knockbreck Primary School and Car Park) during construction and operation where the Proposed Development would form a new feature along the mid-ground ridge to the south-east but where the receptors are of lower sensitivity due to their likely activities. The effect on B-09 (Knockbreck, Gillen and Geary) would be **Negligible** during construction and operation.

Rural properties on the outskirts of Dunvegan (Receptor Locations B0-15 and B0-16)

1.6.7 Visual effects for receptors occupying both these property groups have been assessed as **Negligible** during both construction and operation as the Proposed Development would be outwith the main focus of the view and unlikely to appear perceptibly different to the existing wood pole OHL which it would replace.

Crofting townships around the head Loch Bracadale (Receptor Locations B0-17, B0-19 and B0-20)

1.6.8 No significant effects have been identified for any of the Receptor Locations within this group. A **Minor Adverse** (not significant) effect was identified during construction and operation for Receptor Location B0-20 (Caroy) where the Proposed Development is anticipated to form a perceptible change within rear or side views. However, the visual effect at Receptor Locations B0-17 (Roskill Bridge) and B0-19 (Feorlig) is predicted to be **Negligible** as the Proposed Development is anticipated to be imperceptible from these locations.

Glen Heysdal, Balmeanach and Glen Vic Askill (Receptor Locations B0-18 and B0-21 – B0-23)

1.6.9 No significant effects were identified for any of the visual receptor locations within this group. A **Minor Adverse** (not significant) effect is anticipated during construction and operation for Receptor Location B0-22 (Balmeanach (Upper), where the replacement of the existing wood pole OHL with the Proposed Development is anticipated to form a perceptible change to the existing view. A **Minor Adverse** (not significant) effect is also anticipated during construction for Receptor Location B0-18 (Upper Feorlig) where construction works would feature within the main view. However, this effect is anticipated to be **Negligible** during operation because the slightly increased prominence of wood pole in some views (as indicated by Visualisation Location 0-2 (see **Figures V4-0.2a to d**)) is predicted to be offset by the beneficial effects of the removal of existing poles from other views.

1.6.10 The visual effects for receptors at Receptor Locations B0-21 (Balmeanach (Lower)) and B0-22 (Glen Vic Askill) would be **Negligible** during both construction and operation, because the replacement of the existing wood pole OHL with the Proposed Development is anticipated to form a barely perceptible change to the view.



### *Route-based Receptors*

- 1.6.11 Thirteen Routes were included in the visual assessment (see **Figure V2-3.4-S0 (a and b)**), including nine public roads and four recreational routes. No significant visual effects were identified for any of these routes. Predicted sequential effects for visual receptors using routes are summarised below:

#### Public Roads

- 1.6.12 No significant effects were identified for visual receptors using public roads. This is due largely to the presence of the existing OHL to be replaced, which reduces sensitivity, and the positioning of the Proposed Development on the side of the road away from the main focus of the view, typically the inland side, where the more valued view tends to be coastal.
- 1.6.13 A **Minor Adverse** (not significant) effect was identified during construction for visual receptors travelling on four public roads: R0-1 (A830, Fairy Bridge to Dunvegan); R0-5 (Stein to Sgor Beag Minor Road); R0-6 (Hallin to Knockbreck Minor Road); and R0-7 (Dunvegan Substation Minor Road). For Routes R0-5 and R0-6 on the Waternish Peninsula, the Proposed Development would cross these routes and minor realignments may be slightly more prominent than the existing OHL to be removed, including within the coastal views from R0-5. However, the removal of the existing OHL from the view from other parts of the route would offset these effects to some extent. The Proposed Development would also cross Route R0-1 at a similar location to the existing OHL to be replaced and would run alongside Routes R0-1 and R0-7, being slightly further away, but at higher elevation and slightly more robust than the existing OHL, therefore anticipated to lead to greater potential skylining and potentially slightly greater prominence for the viewer.
- 1.6.14 A **Minor Adverse** (not significant) effect is also predicted during construction for Routes R-04 (Trumpan Minor Road), R-08 (Minor Roads to Feorlig and Upper Feorlig) and R0-9 (Balmeanach Minor Road) where construction works, including those to dismantle the existing OHL, are anticipated to form a perceptible change within the view. However, effects on Routes R0-8 and R0-9 would be **Negligible** during operation, where the Proposed Development would appear similar to the existing OHL to be removed, or where potential negative effects of the Proposed Development would be offset by the beneficial effects resulting from the removal of the existing OHL. For Route R-04 (Trumpan Minor Road), these beneficial effects are anticipated to outweigh the negative effects of the Proposed Development, and the longer term effect is predicted to be **Minor Beneficial** (not significant).
- 1.6.15 The construction and operational effects for users of the remaining two routes, Route 0-2 (A863, Lonmore to Caroy) and Route 0-3 (B886, Fairy Bridge to Stein) are predicted to be **Negligible**, because the Proposed Development is not anticipated to appear perceptibly different to the existing OHL to be removed.

#### Recreational Routes

- 1.6.16 No significant effects were identified for visual receptors using recreational routes within the study area.
- 1.6.17 Receptors on Route R0-10 (Core Path SL10.01 (Stein to Gillen)) were identified as receiving a **Minor-Moderate Adverse** (not significant) visual effect during construction and operation on account of the realignment of the Proposed Development in contrast to the existing OHL to be removed. Although the new route would run alongside the path for around 900 m in the central section adjacent to the forestry, views across Loch Bay and Loch Snizort would be largely unaffected and in particular, the existing OHL would be removed from the view across Loch Bay.

- 1.6.18 **Minor Adverse** (not significant) effects were identified for two further footpaths; during operation and construction for users of Route R0-12 (Core Path SL28.01 (Loch Caroy to Glen Vic Askill)), where some forest felling would be required for the Proposed Development, but existing OHLs and wind turbines reduce the sensitivity of the existing view; and during the construction phase only, for Route F0-13 (Footpath to Waternish Point) where the dismantling of the existing OHL would be perceptible in the view. For this route, the Proposed Development would be situated further from the route and than the existing OHL, away from the main, coastal focus of the view, and the longer term visual effect is anticipated to be **Negligible**.
- 1.6.19 For users of one remaining footpath, Route R0-11 (Core Path SL06.02 (Healaval Forest)), the effect would be **Negligible** during construction and operation because the Proposed Development is not anticipated to appear perceptibly different to the existing OHL to be removed.

*Outdoor Location Receptors*

- 1.6.20 No significant effects have been identified for any of the three Outdoor Viewing Locations Receptor Locations considered in the assessment. A **Minor Adverse** (not significant) effect has been identified for visual receptors at all these locations during the construction of the Proposed Development: O0-1 (Trumpan Vantage Point and Car-Park), O0-2 (Hallin War Memorial) and O0-3 (Fairy Bridge), where construction works and works to dismantle the existing wood pole OHL would be perceptible in the view. These effects would be temporary. During the operational phase, the realignment of the Proposed Development further from the viewer and away from the main view, would lead to a **Minor Beneficial** (not significant) effect for viewers at Outdoor Locations O0-1 and O0-2, whilst the operational effect at Location O0-3 would be **Negligible**.

*Summary of Visual Effects*

- 1.6.21 A summary of the effects on visual receptors is provided in **Table V2-S0-4** and **Table V2-S0-5** during construction and operation.

**Table V2-S0-4: Summary of Visual Effects During Construction**

Visual Receptor Locations	Beneficial Effect					Adverse Effect					
	Major	Moderate - Major	Moderate	Minor – Moderate	Minor	Negligible	Minor	Minor – Moderate	Moderate	Moderate - Major	Major
Building-based Receptors	-	-	-	-	-	12	10	1	-	-	-
Route-based Receptors	-	-	-	-	-	3	9	1	-	-	-
Receptors at Outdoor Locations	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	-	-	-	-
Totals	-	-	-	-	-	15	22	2	-	-	-

**Table V2-S0-5: Summary of Visual Effects During Operation**

Visual Receptor Locations	Beneficial Effect					Adverse Effect					
	Major	Moderate - Major	Moderate	Minor – Moderate	Minor	Negligible	Minor	Minor – Moderate	Moderate	Moderate - Major	Major
Building-based Receptors	-	-	-	-	2	13	7	1	-	-	-
Route-based Receptors	-	-	-	-	1	6	5	1	-	-	-
Receptors at Outdoor Locations	-	-	-	-	2	1	-	-	-	-	-
Totals	-	-	-	-	5	20	12	2	-	-	-

## 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 combined effects with other Sections of the Proposed Development. In addition, this has also included consideration of other grid infrastructure or other energy projects currently proposed within 1 km of the study area (2.5 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-S0**):

- Scenario 1: Including other parts of the Proposed Development and other related development proposals. For Section 0, this includes:
  - Section 1 of the Proposed Development (steel lattice tower OHL replacing wood pole OHL); and
  - Edinbane Substation Extension (subject of a separate application).
- Scenario 2: Including, in addition, other unrelated development proposals (considered during the operation phase only). For Section 0, this includes:
  - Glen Ullinish Wind Farm (11 turbines at 145 and 149.9 m to tip).

1.7.3 As it is likely that Scenario 1 development would be constructed concurrently with the Proposed Development in Section 0, 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 An LVIA of Section 1 of the Proposed Development has been completed and is included in this EIA Report as Appendix V2-3.7. This identified effects to the following receptors which have been identified within the study area for Section 0.

- Landscape effects:
  - LCZ 0-4 – Glen Colbost.
- Visual effects:
  - Receptor Location B0-23 – Glen Vic Askill; and
  - Route R0-12 – Core Path SL28.01 (Loch Caroy to Glen Vic Askill).

- 1.7.5 Predicted effects identified within the Section 1 LVIA (**Appendix V2-3.7**) and Section 0 LVIA (this Appendix) are detailed in **Table V2-S0-6** below. As it is considered that a Negligible effect for one part of the development alone, could not lead to a significant cumulative effect, receptors where Negligible effects have been identified have not been included further in the cumulative assessment.

**Table V2-S0-6: Individual Effects on Cumulative Receptors**

LCZ / Designated or Protected Areas	Section 0 Effect Rating	Section 1 Effect Rating	Included in Cumulative
LCZ 0-4 – Glen Colbost (Section 1 Reference: LCZ 1-1)	Construction: Minor Adverse (not significant) Operation: Negligible	Construction and Operation: Minor - Moderate Adverse (not significant)	Yes
Visual Receptor	Section 0 Effect Rating	Section 1 Effect Rating	Inclusion in Cumulative
Receptor Location B0-23 – Glen Vic Askill (Section 1 reference: B1-1)	Construction and Operation: Negligible	Construction and Operation: Moderate Adverse (significant)	No
Route R0-12 – Core Path SL28.01 (Loch Caroy to Glen Vic Askill) (Section 1 reference: R1-5)	Construction and Operation: Minor Adverse (not significant)	Construction and Operation: Moderate Adverse (significant)	Yes

- 1.7.6 Given the location of the proposed Edinbane Substation Extension at the transition of Section 0 and Section 1, the above receptors are also considered to comprise those potentially affected by the Substation. As the LVIA for the Edinbane Substation has not yet been undertaken, assumptions have been made regarding the likely effects of this development.

*Cumulative Scope: Scenario 2*

- 1.7.7 The proposed Glen Ullinish Wind Farm is located close to the eastern end of Section 0 and the transition between Section 0 and Section 1. No additional receptors have therefore been identified as likely to receive cumulative effects from the Proposed Development, to those included for Scenario 1. Assumptions have been made regarding the likely visual effects of this development.

*Assessment of Cumulative Effects*

- 1.7.8 The cumulative assessment for the above receptors is presented in **Table V2-S0-7**. 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-S0-7: Assessment of Cumulative Effects**

Landscape Area / Visual Receptor Location	Cumulative Developments	Predicted Cumulative Effects
LCZ 0-4: Glen Colbost	Scenario 1: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Section 1 of the Proposed Development</li> <li>Edinbane Substation Extension</li> </ul>	Both Section 1 of the Proposed Development and the Edinbane Substation would comprise larger scale development than the Proposed Development (Section 0), with a more concentrated and intensive level of construction activities required and more noticeable permanent features which would lead to a greater influence on the landscape character in the longer term. This LCZ is already influenced by existing electrical

Landscape Area / Visual Receptor Location	Cumulative Developments	Predicted Cumulative Effects
		<p>infrastructure features and the addition of these developments would increase this influence. The Section 0 wood pole OHL, replacing an existing similar, though slightly less robust OHL, is anticipated to be barely perceptible within this context.</p> <p>The construction activities would occur within areas likely to already be used and influenced by the cumulative baseline developments, particularly the substation, although felling works may lead to a perceptible increase in activities through the western part of the LCZ.</p> <p>The cumulative effect is therefore predicted to be <b>Minor Adverse</b> (not significant) during construction and <b>Negligible</b> during operation.</p>
	<p>Scenario 2:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Glen Ullinish Wind Farm</li> </ul>	<p>The addition of the Glen Ullinish Wind Farm to the context of this LCZ in addition to the Scenario 1 development described above, would further increase the baseline presence of electrical infrastructure within this LCZ by creating a more surrounding context of wind turbines. The addition of the Proposed Development (Section 0) is not anticipated to lead to any perceptible further change to the landscape character in this scenario. The cumulative effect would therefore still be <b>Negligible</b> during operation.</p>
<p>R0-12: Core Path SL28.01 (Loch Caroy to Glen Vic Askill)</p>	<p>Scenario 1:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Section 1 of the Proposed Development</li> <li>Edinbane Substation Extension</li> </ul>	<p>The Proposed Development would be routed alongside this Core Path. If constructed concurrently, this route would also be used by construction traffic for both Section 1 of the Proposed Development and Edinbane Substation. Construction works at the Substation site would also be close and likely to be very prominent in passing, and from parts of the route outwith forested areas. However, additional tree felling and construction of the Proposed Development (Section 0) would lead to an increased stretch of the route being affected by works at close proximity. This is predicted to lead to a small increase in visual effect during construction and <b>Minor Adverse</b> (not significant) cumulative effect. However, during operation, as the Proposed Development (Section 0) is not anticipated to appear perceptibly different to the existing OHL to be removed, the cumulative effect would be <b>Negligible</b>.</p>
	<p>Scenario 2: Glen Ullinish Wind Farm</p>	<p>The addition of the Glen Ullinish Wind Farm to the cumulative baseline is not anticipated to lead to any change to the operational cumulative effect of Scenario 1, which would therefore continue to be <b>Negligible</b>.</p>

## 1.8 Mitigation

1.8.1 Principal 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. As no significant effects have been identified for the Proposed Development within Section 0, no specific mitigation measures are proposed. However, general mitigation measures in order to ensure landscape and visual effects are minimised would be employed throughout this Section of the Proposed Development where relevant. These measures are discussed in **Appendix V2-3.13**.

## 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 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 identified that no significant effects to landscape character are likely to occur as a result of the Proposed Development. This is primarily due to the similarity of the Proposed Development to the existing 132 kV wood pole OHL which it would replace. Limited, temporary effects may occur during construction within some parts of the open and less obviously managed moorland landscape, typically focussed around LCT 359 (Upland Sloping Moorland) where works would be more noticeable. However, these would be short term and not significant, and the long term landscape effect throughout the study area is predicted to be barely perceptible.

1.10.2 The landscape assessment has also identified that no significant effects would accrue to the character and Special Qualities of the North West Skye SLA.

### *Visual Effects*

1.10.3 The Visual Assessment has identified that there would be no significant effects to visual amenity for building-based and route-based receptors, and those at outdoor locations where the view is considered an important factor to being at the location as the Proposed Development is predicted to form a barely perceptible change in comparison to the existing 132 kV wood pole OHL which would be removed. In most cases, the Proposed Development would replace the existing OHL within the rear or side views of receptors or less notable inland views from routes, thereby further reducing sensitivity to the change in question. Limited adverse effects have been identified for some locations where the Proposed Development would form a more perceptible change to the view, in particular where it would deviate from the alignment of the existing OHL, but this is not anticipated to form a significant detractor to the visual amenity for visual receptors. There would also be some limited beneficial effects where the existing OHL would be removed as a feature within the view.

### *Cumulative Effects*

1.10.4 The LVIA has further identified that there would be no significant cumulative effects occurring as a result of Section 0 of the Proposed Development, in combination with other parts of the Proposed Development, related works or other, unrelated developments.

### *Conclusions*

1.10.5 The LVIA has established that there would be no significant landscape visual or cumulative effects as a result of the Proposed Development within Section 0, and no perceptible effect to the North West Skye SLA. It is therefore concluded that the overall effect of the Proposed Development on the landscape and visual resource of the study area for Section 0 would not be significant.

## **APPENDIX V2-3.6: ANNEX 1: LANDSCAPE CHARACTER ASSESSMENT (SECTION 0)**

<b>1.</b>	<b>LANDSCAPE CHARACTER ASSESSMENT</b>	<b>3</b>
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# 1. LANDSCAPE CHARACTER ASSESSMENT

**Table 0.1: LCZ 0-1 – Waternish Peninsula**

Baseline Description	
<b>Description</b>	<p>Covering the Proposed Development between Ardmore and Loch Bay, this LCZ comprises a narrow peninsula featuring a settled coastal strip of linear crofts backed by a spine of rocky hills and occasional forest which gives a rugged uneven skyline. The LCZ is strongly influenced by the coast with a variable coastline of high cliffs, rocky promontories and bays, and expansive coastal vistas experienced featuring cliffs and islands of Loch Dunvegan to the south and the more distant Outer Isles to the west.</p> <p>Loch Bay to the south end of the LCZ provides a distinctive and dramatic fjord-like local feature, enclosed to the west by the steep slopes and cliffs of Sgurr a' Bhagh below the Beinn Bhreac ridge (just outwith the study area) and to the east by lower cliff edges of Druim a'Chairn and the contrastingly more gentle and settled slopes below Lusta. At the north end of the LCZ lies another unusual landscape composition; Ardmore Bay, with its shingle beach sheltered from the Atlantic by the Ard Mor peninsula; overlooked by Ardmore House and its Pier. The Ardmore Substation lies on the isthmus which connects the peninsula to the headland.</p>
<b>Included Landscape Character Types</b>	<b>Designated / Protected Landscapes within LCZ</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>LCT 357 – Farmed and Settled Lowlands – Skye and Lochalsh; and</li> <li>LCT 360 – Stepped Moorland.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>North West Skye SLA</li> </ul>
<b>Key Local Landscape Characteristics</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Cultivated bright green strips of coastal croftland contrast with more muted colourings of the moorland and forest along the peninsular spine;</li> <li>Strung-out lines of croft houses, typically white, reflecting the linear pattern of crofts in the landscape interspersed with mature tree groups gnarled and twisted by the salt laden prevailing winds;</li> <li>Waternish House with its wooded grounds together with the whitewashed houses of Stein, planned as a fishing village by the British Fisheries Society and designed by Thomas Telford in 1790, forms a characterful cluster of settlement within the more traditional linear crofting layout elsewhere;</li> <li>Narrow, single track roads with passing places;</li> <li>Low, craggy moorland hills along the peninsula spine give an uneven skyline;</li> <li>Variable coastline of bays, rocky promontories and high cliffs;</li> <li>Striking coastal views;</li> <li>Dun Hallin Broch forms a distinct landmark on the skyline;</li> <li>Existing wood pole OHLs cross the lower hill slopes and are frequently noticeable against the sky.</li> </ul>
<b>Landscape Value</b>	<p>This LCZ forms an important contributory part of the North West Skye SLA and is valued as a setting for settlements and as a destination for tourists and visitors who wish to experience the scenic qualities of the landscape and coastal views.</p> <p>Landscape Value is High</p>
Assessment of Effects	
<b>Possible Landscape Receptors</b>	<b>Potential Effects</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Uneven skyline of stepped moorland hills forming peninsular spine;</li> <li>Striking coastal views; and</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>New wood poles could interrupt the skyline and distract;</li> <li>Construction activities or new wood poles could interrupt or distract within coastal views</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Pattern of existing wood pole OHLs across the lower hill slopes.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Potential removal of existing distracting features; and</li> <li>Potential increased influence of poles on the landscape or skyline within similar areas or spreading into other areas.</li> </ul>

<p><b>Landscape Sensitivity</b></p>	<p>This is a valued landscape with characteristics having some susceptibility to change of the type proposed. Although it is already influenced by other, similar wood pole OHLs there is some susceptibility to additional OHL development in other areas with potential for this to be distracting on the skyline or in coastal views.</p> <p>Landscape sensitivity to development of the type proposed is <b>Medium-High</b></p>
<p><b>Nature and Magnitude of Change</b></p>	<p>Construction works for wood poles would be likely to appear similar to existing crofting or land management activities taking place periodically though would form a very localised change in the short term at individual pole positions and storage or compound areas.</p> <p>In the longer term, the Proposed Development would largely follow a similar alignment through this LCZ to the existing OHL which it would replace, mostly to the rear of croftland and houses, on the lower slopes of the hills which form the peninsular spine. In most areas, this change would therefore be barely perceptible. Localised more perceptible changes may be present where the proposed alignment deviates from the existing alignment, crossing croftland near Trumpan and passing to the east of Beinn na Moiteich and Dun Hallin Broch. The removal of the existing wood pole OHL from the Trumpan area, and the seaward side of Dun Hallin broch may also lead to a perceptible change in these localised parts of the landscape.</p> <p>Magnitude of change generally would be <b>Negligible</b> during construction and <b>Negligible</b> during operation, and locally <b>Low</b> in both cases in the Trumpan and Dun Hallin areas.</p>
<p><b>Significance of Effect</b></p>	<p>The Proposed Development would interrupt the skyline in some areas but would appear similar to the existing poles and unlikely to create an increased distraction or lead to increased influence of poles on the landscape or skyline. As the Proposed Development would replace an existing, similar alignment, there would be localised changes to the existing distribution and pattern of poles within the landscape but this would not be likely to perceptibly alter the influence of wood poles as a landscape characteristic. The proposed wood poles may feature within some coastal settings within a very localised context at Ardmore, but this would be offset by the removal of existing poles within the same or other settings and would be unlikely to distract from the striking nature of the wider coastal vista. Construction works may be temporarily more disrupting within these localised settings but would be brief in nature, not dissimilar to existing land management activities which already take place periodically and therefore unlikely to alter the overriding landscape character.</p> <p>The effect would be <b>Negligible</b> during construction and during operation.</p>

**Table 0.2: LCZ 0-2 – Loch Bay to Dunvegan**

Baseline Description	
<b>Description</b>	<p>Covering the Proposed Development between Loch Bay and Dunvegan Substation, this LCZ comprises a shallow, moorland valley, enclosed by low, stepped hills with some rocky outcrops near their peaks. Blocks of conifer plantation and some areas of rough grazing characterise the valley slopes towards the north of the LCZ. The valley opens out to a wider expanse of open moorland at its southern end, featuring expansive views to the south-west where MacLeod's Tables (two distinctive flat-topped hills) form a notable visual focus. A few scattered properties which form the outskirts of Dunvegan are present in this area. The valley forms a transportation route for main and minor roads, and existing wood pole OHLs radiating from the small Dunvegan Substation which is a noticeable local feature within the open, southern part of the LCZ.</p> <p>There is a slight overlap with the SLA to the extreme north of this LCZ but although they contribute to each other's settings, as a whole this LCZ does not contribute to the SLA Special Qualities.</p>
<b>Included Landscape Character Types</b>	<b>Designated / Protected Landscapes within/adjacent to LCZ</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>LCT 359 – Upland Sloping Moorland; and</li> <li>LCT 360 – Stepped Moorland</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>North West Skye SLA (mostly setting)</li> </ul>
<b>Key Local Landscape Characteristics</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Shallow moorland valley contained by low stepped hills with rocky outcrops giving an uneven skyline;</li> <li>Stepped moorland peaks contain the eastern edge of the study corridor including; Beinn Chreagach (326m AOD); Beinn na Boinedeide (318m AOD); and Ben Horneval (264m AOD);</li> <li>Expansive open moorland landscapes especially to south and west with distant influence of coastal landscapes outwith the LCZ to south and southwest when experienced from higher ground;</li> <li>MacLeod's Tables (Healabhal Mhòr and Healabhal Bheag) form a notable visual focus to the south-east, seen from open areas in the south of the LCZ;</li> <li>Dark green blocks of commercial forestry on valley sides to north contrasting with generally brown colours of adjacent moorland;</li> <li>Valley floors of the Bay River (running north) and River Horneval (running south) contain major and minor roads;</li> <li>Existing wood pole OHLs running alongside roads and across the valley, converging at the Dunvegan substation forming noticeable features in the local context;</li> <li>Fairy Bridge on the upper reaches of the Bay River; a location steeped in local myth and legend.</li> </ul>
<b>Landscape Value</b>	<p>A small area at the north of this LCZ falls within the North West Skye SLA but has limited contribution to its Special Qualities and the remainder of the LCZ is undesignated in landscape terms. Some areas have local value as a rural setting to Dunvegan and Fairy Bridge, and as a setting for views towards MacLeod's Tables but the landscape character and components are otherwise locally common.</p> <p>Landscape Value is Low</p>
Assessment of Effects	
<b>Possible Landscape Receptors</b>	<b>Potential Effects</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Uneven skyline of stepped moorland hills forming backdrop;</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>New wood poles could interrupt the skyline and distract;</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>MacLeod's Tables which form a notable visual focus from open southern parts of the LCZ; and</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Construction activities or new wood poles could interrupt views towards MacLeod's Tables or disrupt visual connection;</li> </ul>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pattern of existing wood pole OHLs converging at Dunvegan Substation.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Potential removal of existing distracting features; and</li> <li>• Potential increased influence of poles on the landscape or skyline within similar areas or spreading into other areas.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Landscape Sensitivity</b></p>	<p>This is a large-scale, open and simple landscape with locally common characteristics of limited susceptibility to change of the type proposed. It is already influenced by other, similar wood pole OHLs and a substation and there is therefore reduced susceptibility to OHL development of the type proposed.</p> <p>Landscape sensitivity to development of the type proposed is <b>Low</b></p>
<p><b>Nature and Magnitude of Change</b></p>	<p>Construction works for wood poles would form a very localised change in the short term at individual pole positions and storage or compound areas.</p> <p>In the longer term, the Proposed Development would follow a very similar alignment through this LCZ to the existing OHL which it would replace, mostly parallel to existing roads in the lower parts of the valleys. In most areas, this change would therefore be barely perceptible during operation. Magnitude of change therefore would be <b>Low</b> during construction and <b>Negligible</b> during operation.</p>
<p><b>Significance of Effect</b></p>	<p>The Proposed Development would appear similar to the existing OHL poles and unlikely to create an increased distraction in the landscape or lead to increased influence of poles on the landscape or skyline. The Proposed Development would replace an existing, similar alignment within the landscape and this would not be likely to perceptibly alter the influence of wood poles as a landscape characteristic. Construction works may be temporarily disruptive within localised areas but would be brief in nature, and therefore unlikely to alter the overriding landscape character.</p> <p>The effect would therefore be <b>Minor Adverse</b> (not significant) during construction and <b>Negligible</b> during operation</p>

**Table 0.3: LCZ 0-3 – Loch Bracadale Coastal Hills and Glens**

Baseline Description	
<b>Description</b>	<p>Covering the Proposed Development between Dunvegan Substation and Glen Colbost, this LCZ comprises moorland across a series of low, coastal hills, with a characteristic stepped appearance and some rocky outcrops near their peaks. This is a remote landscape with an exposed, upland character where settlement is confined to linear crofting settlements within inland glens which penetrate from the coast: Glen Heysdale and Balmeanach. The bright green of the managed crofting and grazing landscape on the floors and slopes of these glens, contrasts with the more muted colours of the surrounding moorland hills. Due to the deeply indented nature of the glens the influence of the sea, largely outwith the LCZ, does not penetrate far inland at lower levels but is more evident from higher locations where expansive vistas towards the coastal islands and headlands around Loch Bracadale are experienced. Elsewhere, outwith the LCZ, the turbines of Ben Aketil and Edinbane Wind Farms form noticeable features within the setting to the north, and the two flat-topped hills of Macleod's Tables (Healabhal Mhòr and Healabhal Bheag) form a striking landmark to the west. Because of the open moorland character, Dunvegan substation to the northwest and wood-pole OHLs throughout, form noticeable local features within the lower parts of the LCZ especially where sky-lined as they pass over low, localised ridgelines.</p>
<b>Included Landscape Character Types</b>	<b>Designated / Protected Landscapes within/adjacent to LCZ</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• LCT 357 – Farmed and Settled Lowlands – Skye and Lochalsh;</li> <li>• LCT 358 – Low Smooth Moorland;</li> <li>• LCT 359 – Upland Sloping Moorland; and</li> <li>• LCT 360 – Stepped Moorland</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• North West Skye SLA</li> </ul>
<b>Key Local Landscape Characteristics</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Moorland hills with a characteristic stepped appearance which constrain intervisibility to the north, such as Beinn Bheag and An Cleireach (209m AOD) and outwith the study area, Ben Aketil (266mAOD);</li> <li>• Wind turbines of Ben Aketil and Edinbane Wind Farms form an imposing skyline feature within the surrounding context to the north and north east;</li> <li>• Coastal glens penetrating the moorland hills with the brighter green of crofting and grazing land forming a contrast to the more muted colours of the surrounding hills;</li> <li>• Small, linear crofting settlements within the glens, linked by minor roads;</li> <li>• The glens often feature linear groupings of scrub woodland following the rivers and tributaries in the more sheltered valley bottoms and clumps of trees around properties;</li> <li>• Existing wood pole OHLs run across open hillsides above the glens and the Dunvegan substation forms a locally prominent feature within the west of the LCZ;</li> <li>• Deeply indented coastline of small sea-lochs which lead into the much broader Loch Bracadale, with small crofting settlements clustered around their head and with limited influence of the open sea; and</li> <li>• Expansive vistas from elevated areas towards the coastal islands and headlands around Loch Bracadale, and the striking flat-topped hills of Macleod's Tables to the west.</li> </ul>
<b>Landscape Value</b>	<p>This LCZ falls partially within the North West Skye SLA to the south along the coastal fringe and has some value as a background setting for this area, and also as a backdrop to the coastal settlements. The glen areas also have local value as a setting for rural settlement although the main landscape components are otherwise locally common.</p> <p>Landscape Value is Low-Medium</p>

Assessment of Effects	
Possible Landscape Receptors	Potential Effects
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Moorland hills with a characteristic stepped appearance forming a backdrop to the rural, settled glens; and</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>New wood poles could interrupt the skyline and distract</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Pattern of existing wood pole OHLs across the open hillsides above the glens.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Potential removal of existing distracting features; and</li> <li>Potential increased influence of poles on the landscape or skyline within similar areas or spreading into other areas.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Expansive vistas from elevated areas across coastline and towards the Macleod's Tables</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Potential for new wood poles to interrupt or distract within valued vistas.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Landscape Sensitivity</b></p>	<p>This is a landscape with valued glen and coastal features but otherwise locally common characteristics. The large-scale, simple and open character is considered to have some susceptibility to change of the type proposed. However, it is already influenced by adjoining wind farms to the north, other, similar wood pole OHLs and a substation and therefore has reduced susceptibility to OHL development of the type proposed in the local context.</p> <p>Landscape sensitivity to development of the type proposed is <b>Low-Medium</b></p>
<p><b>Nature and Magnitude of Change</b></p>	<p>Construction works for wood poles would be noticeable across the open hills, though likely to appear similar to existing crofting activities within the glens and other land management activities which may take place periodically within upland areas. This would form a localised change in the short term at individual pole positions and storage or compound areas.</p> <p>In the longer term, the Proposed Development would follow a similar alignment through this LCZ to the existing OHL which it would replace, although would locally alter the location of poles in and around the glens with potential increased or reduced skylining in some areas. However, given the presence of existing poles within these areas which would be removed, the landscape change is anticipated to be barely perceptible during operation. Magnitude of change therefore would be <b>Low</b> during construction and <b>Negligible</b> during operation.</p>
<p><b>Significance of Effect</b></p>	<p>The Proposed Development would appear similar to the existing OHL poles which it would replace through this landscape and therefore unlikely to create an increased distraction within the open landscape and vistas obtained from elevated areas. The slightly higher alignment across the glen slopes may lead to locally increased areas of skylining around these settled landscapes, but this would be offset by the removal of existing locally detracting poles from other areas. Given the presence of existing features which already interrupt the skyline such as wind turbines and existing wood poles, this is considered unlikely to perceptibly alter the influence of poles as a landscape characteristic.</p> <p>Construction works may be temporarily disruptive within localised areas but would be brief in nature and localised, often similar to existing land management activities which already take place periodically. These activities are unlikely to noticeably alter the overriding landscape character.</p> <p>The effect would therefore be <b>Minor Adverse</b> (not significant) during construction and <b>Negligible</b> during operation.</p>

**Table 0.4: LCZ 0-4 – Glen Colbost**

Baseline Description	
<b>Description</b>	<p>Covering the Proposed Development bridging the headwaters of Abhainn Bhaile Mheadhonaich and the headwaters of the River Ose, this LCZ comprises a broad upland glen (Glen Colbost), enclosed by, stepped moorland hills and characterised by areas of coniferous forestry plantation, moorland and semi-improved rough grazing land. The wind turbines of Edinbane Windfarm on the high ground immediately to the north, and the associated sub-station and existing wood-pole OHLs which cross the glen from east to west contribute to the man-made landscape features which predominate in the local landscape. The glen itself forms a wide bowl with open, large scale and simple characteristics, within which the isolated farm and outbuildings of Glen Vic Askill are the focal point. Overall, there is a sense of isolated remoteness to this landscape, but tempered by the overriding presence and influence of electrical infrastructure.</p> <p>Dun Arkaig Broch overlooks the glen to the south, lending some limited but localised value to the landscape in this area.</p>
<b>Included Landscape Character Types</b>	<b>Designated / Protected Landscapes within/adjacent to LCZ</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• LCT 359 – Upland Sloping Moorland; and</li> <li>• LCT 360 – Stepped Moorland.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• None</li> </ul>
<b>Key Local Landscape Characteristics</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Wide, bowl-shaped glen with open, large scale and simple characteristics;</li> <li>• Enclosing moorland hills with stepped profile to north, east and west of the glen constrain intervisibility in these directions;</li> <li>• Turbines of Edinbane Wind Farm are prominent on the hill and skyline within the northern part of the LCZ and the existing Edinbane Substation, surrounding wood pole OHLs and constructed tracks contribute to a sense of a landscape influenced by infrastructure;</li> <li>• The isolated farmstead of Glen Vic Askill forms a focal point within the upper glen;</li> <li>• Patchy land cover of moorland and semi-improved rough grazing, with some enclosed fields around Glen Vic Askill;</li> <li>• A large area of coniferous forestry plantation occupies the high ground at the headwaters of the Abhainn Bhaile Mheadhonaich cut through by a wayleave for the existing 132 kV wood pole OHL; and</li> <li>• The remains of Dun Arkaig Broch overlook the glen to the south provide some localised interest and impression of ancient heritage.</li> </ul>
<b>Landscape Value</b>	<p>This LCZ is undesignated in landscape terms, with the man-made interventions of a wind-farm, sub-station, OHL poles and commercial forestry predominating. It has limited localised value as a setting to some features such as Glen Vic Askill Farm and cultural heritage features such as Dun Arkaig Broch, but the main landscape components are common and largely unexceptional within the local context.</p> <p>Overall, Landscape Value is Low</p>
Assessment of Effects	
<b>Possible Landscape Receptors</b>	<b>Potential Effects</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Enclosing moorland hills with stepped profile to north east and west;</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• New wood poles could interrupt the skyline and distract;</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Wide, bowl-shaped glen with open, large scale and simple characteristics;</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Construction works or new wood pole OHL could dissect open areas and disrupt simple characteristics;</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Existing pattern of infrastructure including wind turbines and wood pole OHLs; and.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Potential removal of existing distracting features; and</li> <li>• Potential increased influence of poles on the landscape or skyline within similar areas or spreading into other areas.</li> </ul>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Large area of coniferous forestry plantation with existing OHL wayleave.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Felling to form a new wayleave could alter the composition of the forest or create scarring.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Landscape Sensitivity</b></p>	<p>This is a large-scale, open and simple landscape with locally common characteristics, heavily influenced by existing electrical infrastructure, including similar wood pole OHLs. These features reduce its susceptibility to further change of the type proposed.</p> <p>Landscape sensitivity is <b>Low</b></p>
<p><b>Nature and Magnitude of Change</b></p>	<p>Construction works for wood poles would form a very localised change in the short term at individual pole positions and storage or compound areas. In addition, some forestry felling would be required in order to broaden the wayleave as it passes through approximately 1.3 km of commercial forestry plantation west of Edinbane sub-station. This activity would be likely to form a perceptible change within this landscape where infrastructure and management is already evident.</p> <p>In the longer term, the Proposed Development would follow a very similar alignment through this LCZ to the existing OHL which it would replace. This would be likely to form a barely perceptible change as the proposed wood poles would be very similar to those which would be removed. The broader wayleave would form a small physical change to the landscape fabric but being enclosed within the existing forest area would be barely perceptible outwith the forest.</p> <p>Magnitude of change overall therefore is considered to be <b>Low</b> during construction and <b>Negligible</b> during operation.</p>
<p><b>Significance of Effect</b></p>	<p>The Proposed Development would appear similar to the existing OHL poles which it would replace and would reflect the existing context of infrastructure within the landscape which reduces the sensitivity to new, similar development. As it would follow a very similar alignment, the Proposed Development is unlikely to create an increased distraction or lead to increased influence of poles on the simple characteristics of the landscape or the skyline. Whilst the increased wayleave may be perceptible within the local context, the felling works and relatively small felled area would reflect the existing managed character of the commercial forest plantation and would be mostly contained by the remaining forest, therefore unlikely to be intervisible with most other parts of the LCZ. Elsewhere, construction works would be temporarily disruptive within localised areas but would be brief in nature, and not strongly out of context within this managed landscape where infrastructure is already prominent. These activities are therefore considered unlikely to alter the overriding landscape character.</p> <p>The effect would therefore be <b>Minor Adverse</b> (not significant) during construction and <b>Negligible</b> during operation.</p>



## **APPENDIX V2-3.6: ANNEX 2: VISUAL RECEPTOR ASSESSMENT (SECTION 0)**

<b>1.</b>	<b>VISUAL RECEPTOR ASSESSMENT (SECTION 0)</b>	<b>1</b>
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## 1. VISUAL RECEPTOR ASSESSMENT (SECTION 0)

**Table 0.1: Building-based Receptors**

Reference	Location / Type / Context	Nature of Main View	Sensitivity	Angle and Nature of Change	Approximate Closest Distance	Magnitude		Effect	
						Construction	Operation (after 10 years)	Construction	Operation (after 10 years)
B0-1	<b>Ardmore House</b> Residents of 2-storey listed building located by Ardmore Point, just above sea level.	Open foreground main views across Ardmore Bay to the east and more long-distance views to the south along the Waternish Peninsula coastline towards Loch Bay. Views also feature Ardmore substation in the mid-ground on the isthmus which links the Ardmore peninsula to the mainland; with the existing OHL climbing up the slope opposite to Trumpan.	Medium	The Proposed Development would result in the removal of the existing wood pole OHL and its substitution with a new OHL with more robust wood poles than existing; following a more angled route up the slope opposite from the substation before disappearing from sight over the lip of the slope due to topographic screening. However, it would be slightly more perceptible due to sky-lining at this point.	0.8km	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 Closest Distance	Magnitude		Effect	
						Construction	Operation (after 10 years)	Construction	Operation (after 10 years)
B0-2	<b>Trumpan (South)</b> Residents in and around croft houses located at the top of a very steep slope down to the sea.	Elevated south-east facing main views across Ardmore Bay in the foreground, with islands, Rubha Maol head and Dunvegan Head in the background. Views to Ardmore substation are screened by topography and rear views of the existing OHL which runs behind the receptor locations are partially screened by foreground topography.	Low	The Proposed Development would result in removal of the existing wood pole OHL and its substitution with a new OHL with more robust wood poles than existing; following a more angled route up the slope opposite from the substation before running behind the receptor locations in much closer proximity than the current OHL; however, these would be rear views, and partly screened by topography, which would be perceptible but not detracting within the main identified views.	80m	Low- Medium	Low- Medium	Minor Adverse (not significant)	Minor Adverse (not significant)

Reference	Location / Type / Context	Nature of Main View	Sensitivity	Angle and Nature of Change	Approximate Closest Distance	Magnitude		Effect	
						Construction	Operation (after 10 years)	Construction	Operation (after 10 years)
B0-3	<b>Trumpan (North)</b> Residents in and around 1-1.5 storey houses.	Side-on/oblique views to coastal clifftops to the immediate west with main elevated south-east facing main views across foreground pasture to Ardmore Bay with islands and Rubha Maol head and Dunvegan Head in the background. Views of Ardmore substation are screened by topography. However, there are front views of the existing OHL which runs prominently across the foreground.	Medium-High	The Proposed Development would result in the removal of the existing wood pole OHL and its substitution with a new OHL with more robust wood poles than existing; receptors would obtain a more angled and distant view of the OHL, further downslope, which would be perceptible but not detracting within the main identified views during construction. During operation, there would be a small improvement to the view due to the realignment of the route further away from receptors.	0.5km	Low	Low	Minor Adverse (not significant)	Minor Beneficial (not significant)

Reference	Location / Type / Context	Nature of Main View	Sensitivity	Angle and Nature of Change	Approximate Closest Distance	Magnitude		Effect	
						Construction	Operation (after 10 years)	Construction	Operation (after 10 years)
B0-4	<b>Trumpan (Central)</b> Residents in and around 1-1.5 storey houses. (Visualisation Location 0-1 provides a representative view for these receptors (see <b>Figures V4A-0.1a to d</b> ))	Elevated south-east facing main views across foreground pasture to Ardmore Bay, with islands and Rubha Maol head and Dunvegan Head in the background. Views of Ardmore substation are screened by topography. There are peripheral, oblique views of the existing OHL as it passes up the slope before running to the rear of the properties.	Medium-High	The Proposed Development would result in the removal of the existing wood pole OHL to the rear of these properties and its substitution with a new OHL with more robust wood poles than existing; along a new, more angled alignment which would run across the main field of view in the midground. This would introduce a new detracting feature to the main view but would be seen in the context of existing distribution poles, predicted to lead to a small but perceptible reduction in visual amenity.	0.2km	Low-Medium	Low-Medium	Minor - Moderate Adverse (not significant)	Minor - Moderate Adverse (not significant)
B0-5	<b>Upper Halistra</b> Residents in and around 1/1.5/ 2 storey houses.	The main views are elevated, south-east facing over the sea. The houses are set amongst groups of gnarled, windswept mature trees. The existing OHL lies upslope to the rear and a smaller distribution line also runs upslope to the rear between the houses and the OHL, reducing sensitivity to the changed aspect of the view. Both run roughly parallel to the houses/ road.	Low	The Proposed Development would result in the removal of the existing wood pole OHL in the rear view and its substitution with a new OHL with more robust wood poles than existing; along a similar alignment. which would be perceptible but not detracting within the rear views.	0.3km	Negligible	Negligible	Negligible	Negligible

Reference	Location / Type / Context	Nature of Main View	Sensitivity	Angle and Nature of Change	Approximate Closest Distance	Magnitude		Effect	
						Construction	Operation (after 10 years)	Construction	Operation (after 10 years)
B0-6	<b>Lower Halistra</b> Residents in and around 1/ 1.5/ 2 storey houses on low, shelving pastures running down to the sea. Visitors to pottery when open.	Low-level main views, south-facing, over low pasture and the sea. Although sky-lined, the existing OHL lies a distance upslope to the rear of the houses of Upper Halistra, roughly parallel to the houses/ road, rear or oblique to the direction of main views.	Low	The Proposed Development would result in the removal of the existing wood pole OHL and its substitution with a new OHL with more robust wood poles than existing; along a similar alignment; appearing in rear or oblique views and relatively distant and barely perceptible to receptors as a consequence.	0.6km	Negligible	Negligible	Negligible	Negligible

Reference	Location / Type / Context	Nature of Main View	Sensitivity	Angle and Nature of Change	Approximate Closest Distance	Magnitude		Effect	
						Construction	Operation (after 10 years)	Construction	Operation (after 10 years)
B0-7	<b>Hallin</b> Residents in and around 1/1.5 storey houses.	The main views are elevated, south-east facing over the sea. The houses are set amongst groups of gnarled, windswept mature trees. The existing OHL lies upslope to the rear and a smaller distribution line also runs upslope to the rear between the houses and the OHL, reducing sensitivity within the rear view. Both run roughly parallel to the houses/ road.	Low	The Proposed Development would result in the removal of the existing wood pole OHL and its substitution with a new OHL with more robust wood poles than existing; along a new alignment, further away from the houses in rear views and behind, rather than in front, of Dun Hallin Broch; partially or fully obscured by topography towards the south end of the settlement. This would be perceptible but not detracting within the rear views during construction. During operation, there would be a small improvement in the attractiveness, composition and value of these same rear views due to the realignment of the route further away and in places screened from receptors.	0.7km	Low	Low	Minor Adverse (not significant)	Minor Beneficial (not significant)



Reference	Location / Type / Context	Nature of Main View	Sensitivity	Angle and Nature of Change	Approximate Closest Distance	Magnitude		Effect	
						Construction	Operation (after 10 years)	Construction	Operation (after 10 years)
B0-8	<b>Knockbreck Primary School &amp; Car Park</b> School teachers, pupils and school visitors in and around small 1-storey building	Southerly, front-facing open moorland main views to a mid-ground ridge and the Dun Hallin Broch. A small distribution line runs across the view in the foreground but is not sky-lined. Receptors are generally involved in school business and are not primarily at the location to appreciate the views; reducing the level of sensitivity.	Low	Along its new alignment, the new wood pole OHL would be sky-lined along the mid-ground ridge in front views but would not impinge upon the sky-lined views of the broch. The Proposed Development would therefore introduce a noticeable feature within a less valued view, resulting in a small deterioration in visual amenity.	0.7km	Low-Medium	Low-Medium	Minor Adverse (not significant)	Minor Adverse (not significant)
B0-9	<b>Knockbreck, Gillen and Geary</b> Residents and Visitors in and around adjacent linear settlements comprising 1/ 1.5 storey cottages and houses.	Main views are front-facing, elevated, coastal views eastwards across Loch Snizort. Rear views upslope contain foreground existing distribution OHLs	Low	In rear, less important views, limited views may be obtained of the Proposed Development from some locations at the south end of Gillen; Knockbreck; and the south end of Geary.	0.5km	Negligible	Negligible	Negligible	Negligible

Reference	Location / Type / Context	Nature of Main View	Sensitivity	Angle and Nature of Change	Approximate Closest Distance	Magnitude		Effect	
						Construction	Operation (after 10 years)	Construction	Operation (after 10 years)
B0-10	<b>Loch Bay House</b> Residents in and around 2-Storey House in wooded grounds.	Elevated north-east facing framed main views up Macleods Terrace past the tannery towards relatively distant sky-lined views of the existing wood pole OHL partly filtered by scrub and woodland.	Low-Medium	The Proposed Development would result in the removal of the existing wood pole OHL and its substitution with a new OHL with more robust wood poles than existing; along a new alignment, slightly further away from the house in front views at this location; sky-lined but distant and partly filtered by scrub and woodland. which would be perceptible but not detracting within the main view.	0.8km	Negligible	Negligible	Negligible	Negligible
B0-11	<b>Stein</b> Residents and visitors in and around 1.5-2 storey terraced and detached houses in this planned village; Inn; Restaurant; with lochside garden frontages and trees.	Low-level southwest facing lochside main views across Loch Bay to Beinn Bhreac. Minimal or no views of the existing OHL to the rear and considerably upslope.	Low	Minimal rear views or no views of Proposed Development due to foreground screening by trees, localised topography and buildings resulting in a barely perceptible change within these views.	0.8km	Negligible	Negligible	Negligible	Negligible

Reference	Location / Type / Context	Nature of Main View	Sensitivity	Angle and Nature of Change	Approximate Closest Distance	Magnitude		Effect	
						Construction	Operation (after 10 years)	Construction	Operation (after 10 years)
B0-12	<b>Brae Stein/ Lusta</b> Residents and visitors and around 1-1.5 storey, cottages and detached houses; visitors to tannery.	The main views are elevated, south-east facing over Loch Bay. The existing OHL lies upslope to the rear at a distance and a smaller distribution line also runs upslope to the rear between the houses and the OHL, reducing sensitivity within the rear view. Both run roughly parallel to the houses/ road.	Low	The Proposed Development would result in the removal of the existing wood pole OHL and its substitution with a new OHL with more robust wood poles than existing; along a similar alignment and which would be perceptible but not detracting within the rear views.	0.4km	Low	Low	Minor Adverse (not significant)	Minor Adverse (not significant)
B0-13 A/B	<b>Camuslusta (lower) &amp; Bay</b> Residents in and around loch-side houses and cottages.	Main views are low-level west and northwest facing across Loch Bay. There are minimal or no views of the existing OHL which lies to the rear and considerably upslope.	Low	Minimal rear views or no views of Proposed Development resulting in a barely perceptible change within these views.	0.4km	Negligible	Negligible	Negligible	Negligible

Reference	Location / Type / Context	Nature of Main View	Sensitivity	Angle and Nature of Change	Approximate Closest Distance	Magnitude		Effect	
						Construction	Operation (after 10 years)	Construction	Operation (after 10 years)
B0-14	<b>Camuslusta</b> Residents in and around 1-1.5 storey cottages and detached houses.	The main views are elevated, west-facing over Loch Bay. The existing OHL lies upslope to the rear and a smaller distribution line also runs upslope to the rear between the houses and the OHL, reducing sensitivity within the rear view. Both run roughly parallel to the houses/road.	Low	The Proposed Development would result in the removal of the existing wood pole OHL and its substitution with a new OHL with more robust wood poles than existing; along a similar alignment which runs near to the rear facades of the existing buildings albeit slightly further back. This would constitute a prominent feature in a view of limited value and would therefore result in a small deterioration in the quality of rear views.	0.1km	Low	Low	Minor Adverse (not significant)	Minor Adverse (not significant)
B0-15	<b>Horneval</b> Residents in and around a 1.5-storey house and outbuildings located on a lay-by just off the A850 on the outskirts of Dunvegan. A clump of conifers grows adjacent to it.	Northerly views over open moorland towards low hills with secondary views to south across open moorland. An OHL distribution line is in the foreground together with the main road. In rear/ side views is the River Horneval in the foreground and in the background, the existing OHL is skylined and appears relatively distant.	Low	The Proposed Development would result in the removal of the existing wood pole OHL and its substitution with a new OHL with more robust wood poles than existing; along a similar alignment resulting in a barely perceptible change within the views, especially in the context of existing OHLs.	0.4km	Negligible	Negligible	Negligible	Negligible

Reference	Location / Type / Context	Nature of Main View	Sensitivity	Angle and Nature of Change	Approximate Closest Distance	Magnitude		Effect	
						Construction	Operation (after 10 years)	Construction	Operation (after 10 years)
B0-16	<b>Lonmore</b> Residents of linear settlement on the southwest outskirts of Dunvegan on the main road into Dunvegan; by church/ junction with the B884 road to Glendale and other outlying properties	South-east/ east facing main views over open moorland. The River Horneval and an OHL distribution line are in the foreground. In the background of the north-easterly view, a ridge is punctuated by the existing OHL, although this is oblique to the main view and distant with Ben Aketil wind turbines in the background.	Low	The Proposed Development would result in the removal of the existing wood pole OHL and its substitution with a new OHL with more robust wood poles than existing; along a similar alignment resulting in a barely perceptible change within the views, especially in the context of existing OHLs and wind turbines.	1.0km	Negligible	Negligible	Negligible	Negligible
B0-17	<b>Roskhill Bridge</b> Residents in and around 1.5-storey houses in a more elevated part of a small crofting settlement at the head of Pool Roag, which opens off the sea loch, Loch Bracadale. The remainder of the settlement is screened by topography from the Proposed Development.	South-east/south-west facing slightly elevated main views over open moorland in the foreground and towards Loch Bracadale and MacLeod's Tables in the background. Rear views are towards the existing OHL, a closer distribution OHL and the wind farm on the hills behind.	Low	In rear views, the Proposed Development would result in the removal of the existing wood pole OHL and its substitution with a new OHL with more robust wood poles than existing; along a similar alignment; resulting in a barely perceptible change especially in the context of existing OHLs and wind turbines.	0.9km	Negligible	Negligible	Negligible	Negligible

Reference	Location / Type / Context	Nature of Main View	Sensitivity	Angle and Nature of Change	Approximate Closest Distance	Magnitude		Effect	
						Construction	Operation (after 10 years)	Construction	Operation (after 10 years)
B0-18	<b>Upper Feorlig</b> Residents of crofting township along the edge of Glen Heysdal. (Visualisation Location 0-2 provides a representative worse case view of the operational development for receptors in this group (see <b>Figures V4A-1.1a to d</b> ))	Slightly elevated, east-facing main views across the Glen. A distribution OHL is in the foreground, with the existing OHL in mid-ground crossing the glen and the slope opposite; back-clothed by moorland except where it crosses a ridge in the background. The turbines of Ben Aketil wind farm are sky-lined and prominent along the ridge to the north.	Medium	The Proposed Development would result in the removal of the existing wood pole OHL and its substitution with a new OHL with more robust wood poles than existing; albeit along an alignment which is slightly more distant. This would be perceptible but not detracting within the identified main views during construction; but during operation, the slightly increased prominence of wood pole in some views is predicted to be offset by the beneficial effects of the removal of existing poles from other views.	0.5km	Low	Negligible	Minor Adverse (not significant)	Negligible
B0-19	<b>Feorlig</b> Residents in isolated 1-1.5-storey cottages and crofts	The main views are slightly elevated, east-facing, overlooking Loch Caroy and Caroy. Oblique northerly views contain low moorland hills featuring the Ben Aketil wind turbines in the background and the existing wood-pole OHL in the mid-ground running across the moorland hillsides above Caroy.	Low	The Proposed Development would result in the removal of the existing wood pole OHL and its substitution with a new OHL with more robust wood poles than existing; albeit along an alignment which is slightly more distant. This change would be barely perceptible both in construction and operation.	0.7km	Negligible	Negligible	Negligible	Negligible

Reference	Location / Type / Context	Nature of Main View	Sensitivity	Angle and Nature of Change	Approximate Closest Distance	Magnitude		Effect	
						Construction	Operation (after 10 years)	Construction	Operation (after 10 years)
B0-20	<b>Caroy</b> Residents in and around detached houses at the head of Loch Caroy. A majority of the remainder of the settlement is largely screened from the Proposed Development by foreground topography and trees.	The focus of the main views are to south-east over loch, moorland and improved pasture. Uphill but relatively close rear/side views are obtained of the existing OHL in some limited locations especially at the very north end of the settlement. Edinbane wind farm also can be seen in the background in these locations.	Low	In rear/side views, where visible, in some limited locations especially at the very north end of the settlement, the Proposed Development would result in the removal of the existing wood pole OHL and its substitution with a new OHL with more robust wood poles than existing; along a similar alignment, which would be perceptible but not detracting within the rear/side views.	0.3km	Low	Low	Minor Adverse (not significant)	Minor Adverse (not significant)
B0-21	<b>Balmeanach (Lower)</b> Residents in and around 1-1.5 storey houses, some with adjacent clumps of trees on the side of the valley.	Main views are elevated, to the south-west, towards Loch Caroy. The existing OHL is to the rear, uphill, in the middle distance and mostly back-clothed, but some are sky-lined to the west. An existing OHL distribution line is in the foreground.	Low	In rear views, the Proposed Development would result in the removal of the existing wood pole OHL and its substitution with a new OHL with more robust wood poles than existing; along a similar alignment which would result in a barely perceptible change within the rear views.	0.6km	Negligible	Negligible	Negligible	Negligible

Reference	Location / Type / Context	Nature of Main View	Sensitivity	Angle and Nature of Change	Approximate Closest Distance	Magnitude		Effect	
						Construction	Operation (after 10 years)	Construction	Operation (after 10 years)
B0-22	<b>Balmeanach (Upper)</b> Residents in and around 1/ 1.5/ 2- storey houses.	Views are elevated, to the south, south-west and south-east over Loch Caroy and the adjacent valley. The existing OHL is to the rear/side, uphill, relatively close and sky-lined. An existing OHL distribution line is in the foreground and Edinbane wind farm turbines are prominent in the background above the coniferous forestry, which characterises the upper parts of the valley.	Low	In rear/side views, the Proposed Development would result in the removal of the existing wood pole OHL and its substitution with a new OHL with more robust wood poles than existing; along a similar alignment. which would be perceptible but not detracting within these views.	0.2km	Low	Low	Minor Adverse (not significant)	Minor Adverse (not significant)
B0-23	<b>Glen Vic Askill</b> Residents in and around isolated farmhouse with outbuildings.	Mostly low-level enclosed views of Glen Colbost with forestry blocks on hillsides to the west and east, with moorland hills above. Featuring in side and rear views, the existing OHL runs into the Edinbane Substation from forestry to the west and to the north lie the close and prominent turbines of the Edinbane Wind Farm. Both these man-made features at close quarters reduce the sensitivity of change.	Low	The Proposed Development would result in the removal of the existing wood pole OHL and its substitution with a new OHL with more robust wood poles than existing; along a similar alignment and in the context of the existing Edinbane substation and nearby windfarm. The presence of these existing man-made features at close quarters reduces the perceived magnitude of change which would result in a barely perceptible change within the view.	1km	Negligible	Negligible	Negligible	Negligible



**Table 0.2: 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)
R0-1	<b>A850, Fairy Bridge-Dunvegan</b> Visitors, residents and recreational users on main, single carriageway road from Portree to Dunvegan.	From the more northerly part of the route, low level open moorland views, constrained on all sides by hills, notably Ben Horneval to the south-east of Fairy Bridge, and to the west by blocks of forestry. From the more southerly part of the route, views are more open, particularly to the south where MacLeaod's Tables form a focus. The existing OHL crosses this road around 500m to the west of Fairy Bridge and then runs roughly parallel in close proximity to the east for around 3 km before the road turns west towards Dunvegan where it forms a more distant feature of the direct view when travelling east.	Low	The Proposed Development would cross this route at a similar location to the existing OHL which would be removed, and would be briefly prominent though very similar to the existing. Elsewhere it would follow a similar alignment to the east of the road, slightly further away. However, it would be composed of slightly more robust poles and would be situated at higher elevation on the enclosing slopes with consequently greater potential to skyline on the enclosing ridge. Overall this is anticipated to form a perceptible change to the view but would not be noticeably more detracting than the existing OHL.	0.1km	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)
R0-2	<b>A863, Lonmore to Caroy</b> Visitors and residents on road.	This section of the A863 affords open low-level main views, with a typically coastal, southerly aspect over the small sea-lochs and bays which form part of the larger Loch Bracadale. Views are mostly restricted by rising ground to the north but open views up Glen Heysdal frame the Ben Aketil Wind Farm on the skyline. The existing OHL is visible in some inland views, typically glimpsed on the skyline and seen in a context of other closer, distribution lines.	Low	The Proposed Development would result in the removal of the existing wood pole OHL and its substitution with a new, OHL along a similar alignment, albeit slightly further away, and with more robust wood poles than existing. This would constitute a barely perceptible change within the main views.	1 km	Negligible	Negligible	Negligible (not significant)	Negligible (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)
R0-3	<p><b>B886, Fairy Bridge to Stein</b></p> <p>Visitors and residents and recreational users of single track road along the Bay River valley and western side of Waternish Peninsula.</p>	<p>Between the A850 junction and Bay, views are focussed to north and south, somewhat enclosed by the valley sides. Travelling northwards, elevated views over Loch Bay are revealed with northerly views continuing to open up along the coast and across to the headland of Sgurr a' Bhagh as the viewer travels further north. Along the most northerly 2 km of the route, properties, trees and scrub form foreground features and occasionally filter the elevated coastal and seaward views. The existing 132 kV wood pole OHL forms a feature of the inland view along with a smaller distribution OHL, and is sometimes close and prominent in views along the coast, reducing sensitivity to change of the type proposed to some degree.</p>	Low	<p>The Proposed Development would replace the existing 132 kV wood pole OHL on the inland side of the road although the existing distribution OHL would remain. It would comprise slightly more robust poles than the existing OHL but would be slightly further from the viewer and therefore slightly further from the main, coastal focus of the view. Whilst it would be likely to be a similar feature in the view, the new alignment would be at slightly higher elevation than the existing OHL and may appear slightly more prominent from some localised parts of the route: for example, near Camuslusta. However, on balance, this is anticipated to lead to a barely perceptible change to the visual amenity of the route.</p>	0.4km	Negligible	Negligible	Negligible (not significant)	Negligible (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)
R0-4	<b>Trumpan Minor Road</b> Residents, visitors and recreational users on minor road around the coastal edge of Trumpan, serving local properties and leading to coastal viewpoint.	Main views are typically coastal in orientation: from the route along the western coast, featuring cliffs and coastal scenery to the north-west, and in clear weather, westwards to the Outer Isles; and from the section along the southern coast, south towards the Ardmere Peninsula and the wider seascape of Dunvegan Head beyond, or eastwards along the coast towards Loch Bay. Also in the view are Trumpan church and graveyard featuring in south and easterly views from the western coastal section. The existing OHL crosses the route, then is seen in the background of the church before running inland past, and to the rear, of Trumpan.	Medium	The Proposed Development would result in the removal of the existing wood pole which crosses this route and runs roughly parallel to the westerly coastal section with a new OHL of slightly more robust wood poles than existing along a new alignment to the north of the southerly section. The crossing point would be in a similar location and appear very similar to the existing OHL, but the altered alignment would mean that the new OHL would be less prominent in the existing view than at present.	8m	Low	Low	Minor Adverse (not significant)	Minor Beneficial (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)
R0-5	<b>Stein to Sgor Beag Minor Road</b> Visitors, residents and recreational users of single track road.	The main views are typically elevated, south-west facing over the sea towards offshore islands and Dunvegan Head, with local properties and croftland providing foreground interest. The Dun Hallin broch provides a particular feature of interest on the skyline in landward views. The existing OHL lies upslope on the landward side of the road, reducing sensitivity to change of the type proposed in these view somewhat. Approaching Sgor Beag, westerly views are revealed across the Minch, where the Outer Isles can be seen in clear conditions.	Low	The Proposed Development would mostly be situated within inland views, outwith the main coastal views and, although slightly more robust than the existing OHL would generally be further away or concealed by landform which would result in its appearing very similar. The alignment to the rear of Dun Hallin broch, would form a localised improvement, as the existing OHL would be removed from these views. However, the Proposed Development would cross the route at Cnoc a' Chatha, where it would be briefly prominent and to the north-east of this point would form a new perceptible feature and interruption to seaward views. Although the existing OHL crossing would be removed from the more westerly view towards Sgor Beag, on balance, the Proposed Development is anticipated to lead to a small reduction in the visual amenity for users of this route.	0.3km	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)
R0-6	<b>Hallin to Knockbreck Minor Road</b> Visitors, residents and recreational users on single track road, rising over the hill connecting the easterly and westerly sides of Waternish peninsula.	Elevated, open moorland views with main views of the sea in both directions on descent. The existing 132 kV wood pole OHL crosses the route just above Hallin below the Dun Hallin broch which is a notable sky-lined feature in both directions. Two small distribution lines also cross the route.	Low	The existing OHL crossing near Dun Hallin broch would be removed and would therefore no longer interrupt south-westerly views.  The Proposed Development would cross the plateau at the crest of the route and would be briefly sky-lined along the mid-ground ridge in views in both directions and briefly impinge upon the sky-lined views of the broch when travelling west. However, it would form only a very limited interruption to the south-westerly coastal view, likely to be similar to the existing OHL.  Overall, this is considered to lead to a small reduction in the visual amenity of this route.	20m	Low-Medium	Low-Medium	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)
R0-7	<b>Dunvegan Substation Minor Road</b> Visitors and residents on road.	Low level open moorland main views, with skyline views constrained on all sides by hills, notably Ben Vic Askill and Macleod's Tables The existing OHL runs roughly parallel to the minor road until it reaches Dunvegan substation, in close proximity on the east side of the road and is a noticeable element in the view before it heads southeast from the substation overland towards Glen Heysdal.	Low	The Proposed Development would result in the removal of the existing wood pole OHL and its substitution with a new, OHL along a similar alignment, with more robust wood poles than existing and the change would be perceptible but not detracting within the low-level views.	0.1km	Low	Low	Minor Adverse (not significant)	Minor Adverse (not significant)
R0-8	<b>Minor Roads to Feorlig and Upper Feorlig</b>	Varying views are mostly open to the west and south-west from the Feorlig across Loch Caroy to Caroy and more contained from the Upper Feorlig road across, up and down Glen Heysdal with moorland hills beyond featuring Ben Aketil windfarm prominently sky-lined to the north.	Low	The Proposed Development would result in the removal of the existing wood pole OHL and its substitution with a new OHL with more robust wood poles than existing. The existing OHL crossing point in Glen Heysdal would be removed but the new alignment would be seen at slightly higher elevation with a slightly greater degree of skylining traversing the easterly glen-side. Overall, it is considered that any negative effects of the new alignment would be balanced by removal of the existing OHL crossing.	20m	Low	Low	Minor Adverse (not significant)	Negligible (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)
R0-9	<b>Balmeanach Minor Road</b>  Visitors and residents on road.	Slightly elevated moorland views across the broad valley, somewhat contained by the enclosing valley slopes. The existing OHL runs roughly parallel to the road on the northern uphill side is occasionally visible, but often hidden from the road by the rising adjacent ground.	Low	The Proposed Development would result in the removal of the existing wood pole OHL and its substitution with a new OHL along a similar alignment, albeit slightly further away, and would be likely to have similarly limited visibility from the road due to the adjacent rising ground.	0.2km	Low	Low	Minor Adverse (not significant)	Negligible (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)
R0-10	<b>Core Path SL10.01 (Stein to Gillen)</b> Recreational users of track from Brae Stein which climbs up the side of Beinn na Mointeich adjacent to an area of forestry before dropping down again to Gillen on the opposite side of the Peninsula.	Views are mostly of moorland and forestry in the central section with more important elevated views opening up to Loch Bay to the west or Loch Snizort to the east depending on the direction of travel. The existing OHL crosses the route above Brae Stein and impinges upon the views of Loch Bay westbound at this point.	Medium	Along its new alignment, the Proposed Development would run alongside the west side of this route for around 900 m and would cross the route above Brae Stein, slightly further north than it does at present. Although the new route would run alongside the path in the central section adjacent to the forestry, views across Loch Bay and Loch Snizort would be largely unaffected and in particular, the existing OHL would be removed from the view across Loch Bay. However, this would constitute a noticeable feature in certain views resulting in some deterioration in visual amenity for a relatively short section of the route.	20m	Low-Medium	Low-Medium	Minor-Moderate Adverse (not significant)	Minor-Moderate 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)
R0-11	<b>Core Path SL06.02 (Healaval Forest)</b> Recreational users of footpath following the line of a track from Dunvegan, through and past conifer plantations below Beinn a' Chapuill before emerging on the A850 below Ben Hornival.	Mostly low-level enclosed views of forestry and more open views of stepped moorland hills at its eastern end. Eastbound views feature the existing OHL on the opposite side of the A830 and running across the view, in parallel to it, below Ben Horneval.	Low	The Proposed Development would result in the removal of the existing wood pole OHL and its substitution with a new OHL with more robust wood poles than existing; along a similar alignment. This would constitute a barely perceptible change within the view especially in the foreground context of the main road.	0.2km	Negligible-Low	Negligible-Low	Negligible (not significant)	Negligible (not significant)
R0-12	<b>Core Path SL28.01 (Loch Caroy to Glen Vic Askill)</b> Recreational users of forestry and farm track, partially used as access for wind farm.	Mostly low-level enclosed views of forestry and more important open views of moorland hills at its eastern end featuring the existing OHL running roughly in parallel to it and upslope below An Cleirach. Just before the Edinbane Substation the woodland opens out to reveal views across Glen Colbost and to the north the close and prominent turbines of the Edinbane Wind Farm. Both these man-made features at close quarters reduce the sensitivity to change.	Low	The Proposed Development would result in some localised forestry felling for the increased wayleave. The Proposed Development would replace the existing wood pole OHL with slightly more robust poles, along a similar alignment. This would be in the context of the existing Edinbane substation and nearby windfarm. The presence of these existing man-made features at close quarters reduces the perceived magnitude of change which would be perceptible but not detracting within the low-level views.	0.2km	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)
R0-13	<b>Footpath to Waternish Point</b> Walkers on cliff-top footpath.	The start of this footpath is from Trumpan Chruch, where the main views are to the north-west across cliffs and coastal scenery. In the opposite direction, inland the existing OHL is seen in the background of the church before crossing the minor road and running inland past, and to the rear, of Trumpan.	Low	The Proposed Development would result in the removal of the existing wood pole OHL and its substitution with a new OHL with more robust wood poles than existing, but the altered alignment would mean that the new OHL would be less prominent in the existing view than at present as the existing OHL would be removed from the inland view and the new OHL would be less perceptible and further away. The main, coastal views would not be changed.	0.8km	Low	Negligible	Minor Adverse (not significant)	Negligible (not significant)

**Table 0.3: Receptors at Outdoor Viewing Locations**

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)
00-1	<b>Trumpan Vantage Point and Car-Park</b> Visitors to vantage point adjacent to historic church which is also identified as a dark sky viewpoint. This location is noted as a dark sky viewpoint.	Main views are to the north-west across cliffs and coastal scenery and south-west over the Ardmore peninsula. In clear weather, westerly views towards the Outer Isles are obtained. Also in the view are Trumpan settlement, to the north-east and the historic Trumpan Church and graveyard in the foreground to the south-east. The existing OHL is seen in the background of the church then running inland past, and to the rear, of Trumpan.	Low-Medium	The Proposed Development would result in the removal of the existing wood pole OHL from the inland view towards the church and Trumpan settlement and its substitution with a new OHL with more robust wood poles than existing, following a new alignment, which would veer away from this location. The new OHL would be further away and less perceptible in the view. The main, coastal views would not be changed.	0.3km	Low	Low	Minor Adverse (not significant)	Minor Beneficial (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)
00-2	<b>Hallin War Memorial</b> Visitors and residents at memorial.	Elevated panoramic 360-degree coastal views. However, the main focus of the view is out to sea and along the coast in either direction. The existing OHL can be seen running upslope, in the opposite direction to the focus of the view.	Low-Medium	The Proposed Development would result in the removal of the existing wood pole OHL and its substitution with a new OHL along a new alignment, to the rear of Beinn na Mointeach and therefore unlikely to be noticeable from this location. Works to remove the existing OHL would be perceptible but not detracting within the rear views during construction. During operation, there would be a small improvement due to the removal of the existing OHL from the rear view, although the main, coastal views would not be changed.	1.0km	Low	Low	Minor Adverse (not significant)	Minor Beneficial (not significant)
00-3	<b>Fairy Bridge</b> Visitors to disused stone bridge at the head of the Bay River, steeped in myth and legend and associated car park, in an enclosed bowl in the moorland near the junction of the B886 and A850 and the entrance to the Waternish Peninsula.	360-degree, low level moorland views, but enclosed on all sides by hills and also blocks of forestry to the west and southwest. The existing OHL runs roughly parallel to the B886 on the opposite side of the road and upslope and is a noticeable but not notable element in the view; before crossing the A850 and heading southwards towards Dunvegan substation.	Low-Medium	The Proposed Development would result in the removal of the existing wood pole OHL and its substitution with a new OHL along a similar alignment, albeit a little further away, with more robust wood poles than existing. This would constitute a barely perceptible change within the low-level views especially in the foreground context of the road.	0.4km	Low	Negligible	Minor Adverse (not significant)	Negligible (not significant)