

## **APPENDIX V2-3.7: LVIA OF SECTION 1 (EDINBANE SUBSTATION TO NORTH OF SLIGACHAN)**

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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 1 of the Proposed Development. The purpose of the LVIA is to identify and describe potential significant effects which may occur as a result of the Proposed Development to views obtained by those living, working and visiting in the area, and to the wider landscape resource, and, the residual predicted significance of effects after mitigation.

1.1.2 The LVIA has been undertaken by Chartered Landscape Architects at ASH design + assessment Ltd (ASH), a registered practice with the Landscape Institute, in accordance with best practice guidance, the *Guidelines for Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment*, 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 2.5 km from the Proposed Development (132 kV steel lattice tower overhead line (OHL));
- Landscape character assessment focussing on Local Character Zones (LCZs) within the study area and identifying the potential for the Proposed Development to influence the key characteristics of Landscape Character Types (LCTs) from the NatureScot<sup>2</sup> *National Landscape Character Assessment*<sup>3</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 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 0 and Section 2 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> Scottish Natural Heritage (SNH) formally changed their operating name to NatureScot on 24 August 2020. Some documents referred to in this report were published prior to this date. As such reference is still made to SNH where appropriate.

<sup>3</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>

### Visualisations

- 1.2.2 Two visualisations have been produced to support the LVIA work for Section 1. 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 1:
- Visualisation Location 1-1: B885 at Leacan Nighean an t-Siosalaich (OS Grid Reference NG 39549 42641); and
  - Visualisation Location 1-2: Mugeary (OS Grid Reference NG 44348 39232).
- 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-1.1a to d and V4A-1.2a to d**) and **Volume 4B** (see **Figures V4B1-1a to e and V4B-1.2a 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 effect (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) to provide 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>, an effect 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 1 is characterised by broad, open swathes of moorland plateau with a large scale pattern of plantation forestry. Within the western part of this Section, the landscape is characterised by small and very distinctive, flat-topped rocky knolls which are scattered throughout. Wind turbines further to the north-west also influence this part of the Section. To the east, the landform becomes characterised by more pronounced rounded hills and sweeping valleys, with linear croft lands strung along the valley of Glenmore which comprises the only settlement within this Section. The A87 crosses through the study area on a north / south trajectory at its eastern end.

#### *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-S1**):
- National Context:
    - Cuillin Hills National Scenic Area (NSA).
  - Regional / Local Context:
    - North West Skye Special Landscape Area (SLA).
- 1.3.4 However, as detailed in **Appendix V2-3.1**, North West Skye SLA and Cuillin Hills NSA have been scoped out of this assessment as it is considered very unlikely that these areas, would be significantly affected by this Section of the Proposed Development due to limited likely intervisibility.

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

### *Landscape Character*

- 1.3.5 NatureScot has undertaken detailed review and classification of various landscape areas and types of Scotland (SNH, 2019 [online]<sup>3</sup>). Two individual Landscape Character Types (LCTs) are identified within the study area for Section 1 as follows (see **Figure V2-3.3-S1**):
- LCT 359 – Upland Sloping Moorland; and
  - LCT 360 – Stepped Moorland;
- 1.3.6 Descriptions of these LCTs, including their key characteristics are included in **Appendix V2-3.4**.

### Local Character Zones

- 1.3.7 In order to reflect more closely the local characteristics and qualities of the study area, Local Character Zones (LCZs) have been identified which linearly divide the study area into segments where it is considered that an over-riding uniformity of character is present. These LCZs form the basis of the landscape character assessment.
- 1.3.8 The study area for Section 1 has been divided into five LCZs as shown on **Figure V2-3.3-S1**. These are described in detail in **Appendix V2-3.7: Annex 1** and summarised below.

#### *LCZ 1-1 Glen Colbost*

- 1.3.9 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 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. Dun Arkaig Broch overlooks the glen to the south, lending some limited but localised value to the landscape in this area.

#### *LCZ 1-2 Loch Connan Rocky Knolls*

- 1.3.10 Covering the section of alignment between Glen Colbost in the west and Dun Maol to the east, this LCZ has the relatively small, almost circular Loch Connan at its heart and is dissected northeast-southwest by the B885. The LCZ comprises an elevated moorland plateau between the coastline to the south-west of the study area and the valley of the River Snizort to the north-east. The upland moorland is characterised craggy rounded hills, and distinctive knolls with a rocky stepped profile and typically flat tops. In the northern part of the LCZ, the moorland opens out into smoother slopes and lower, rounded hills shrouded with extensive conifer plantations. There is no settlement except one or two houses on the outskirts of Totardor on the southern edge of the study area below the Allt Mor gorge which have little intervisibility with the wider upland plateau. Infrastructure is limited to a few upland tracks and forest roads, the single track B885 road, and the existing 132 kV wood pole OHL which crosses east-west to the south of Loch Connan. This limited and geographically disparate spread of these features leads to a remote and exposed quality. The very south of this LCZ falls within the North West Skye SLA, but does not share any intervisibility with the remainder of the LCZ.

#### *LCZ 1-3 Achaleathan and Glenmore*

- 1.3.11 This LCZ covers the section of the alignment between Dun Maol in the north and the head of Glenmore to the south. Surrounded by moorland hills, in places afforested and some distinctively craggy, the focus of the area is Achaleathan (c.100m AOD), an area of broad, flat peat-bog clothed with moorland grasses and occasional

heather, and sometimes breaking into areas of hag or pools. Three small rivers converge on this area from their respective glens: the Glenmore River; the Tungadal River and Abhainn an Acha-leathan which leads from Loch Duagrigh. These three rivers follow a slow-moving, sinuous course across the flat bogland, with low peaty banks and numerous, braided tributaries draining the area of peat. before eventually draining into the upper reaches of the River Snizort. The open, peatland area narrows into Glenmore towards the south-east of the LCZ and an extensive forested area lies to the south. Overall, this LCZ has an expansive and spatial quality, with extensive vistas, particularly from more elevated areas. It's situation at the end of a long single track road, and generally limited accessibility due to the interlinked rivers and extensive peat bog gives a sense of relative remoteness.

*LCZ 1-4 An Leitir and Glen Varragill*

- 1.3.12 Covering the section of alignment between the head of Glenmore and the section of Glen Varragill to the north of the existing OHL crossing point, virtually the whole area consists of stepped moorland LCT. The focus of this LCZ is a broad, high moorland valley called An Leitir, bordered on both sides by rounded and in some cases craggy moorland hills. It is drained to the east via steep slopes into the still broader north-south Glen Varragill where areas of forest plantation are present to the east and west of the A87 Broadford to Portree road. There is no settlement within this LCZ and the open, western moorland area of An Leitir has little development other than the existing wood pole OHL to be removed as part of the Proposed Development. This gives this area a sense of remoteness. However, in Glen Varragill, towards the east of the LCZ, the busy road and forest areas, which feature large areas of clearfell and restocking, give a transitional, and dynamic, managed quality to the landscape. Although this LCZ lacks notable features in itself, views towards mountains in the wider context are available from some areas, including the Cullins to the south and the Storr to the north. This focus on external features can add to the transitional quality of this landscape.

*LCZ 1-5 – Caiplach*

- 1.3.13 This LCZ covers the section of the alignment between the south end of Glen Varragill at the existing OHL crossing point and the head of Loch Sligachan. The character of this LCZ is heavily influenced by the dramatic landscape of the nearby Cuillin mountains which are set within the adjacent context to the south. Within the LCZ, the local character is defined by an area of open, sloping moorland known as Caiplach, scattered with numerous small lochs and lochans and bordered to the west, north and east sides by rounded moorland hills. The moorland slopes down to the head of Loch Sligachan, where the River Sligachan meets a low lying tidal area of salt-marsh and forms a braided system of watercourses and areas of shingle. The A87 cuts down through the moorland slope and meets the A863 near the head of the loch and this junction is a focus for collection of tourism development including a hotel and camp site. An extensive conifer belt extends from Glen Varragill down the east side of the busy A87 Broadford to Portree Road on the upper moorland slopes in the northern context.

**1.4 Baseline Conditions: Visual**

*Interpretation of the ZTV*

- 1.4.1 The ZTV (**Figure V2-3.1-S1**) indicates that intervisibility with the Proposed Development would be relatively widespread across the study area, with likely visibility indicated from residential areas at Glen Vic Askill, Glenmore and Mugeary and across transport routes crossed by the Proposed Development: the A87 and B885. However, the landform of craggy knolls towards the west and rounded hill towards the east would mostly restrict this to relatively small numbers of towers (usually below five) beyond around 1 to 1.5 km from the Proposed Development. Potential visibility of larger numbers of towers (more than ten) is generally restricted to isolated areas of higher ground including facing valley slopes in Glen Varragill and summits of knolls around Loch Connan. However, a larger area of continuous theoretical visibility of greater numbers of towers is indicated through the broad valley of Glenmore where linear crofting settlement is present. Limited or no theoretical visibility of towers is indicated for the A863 between Sligachan and Crossal.

### *Visual Receptors*

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

### Building-based Receptors

- 1.4.3 Building-based receptor locations are described in detail in **Appendix V2-3.7: Annex 2, Table 1.2** and their locations are shown on **Figure V2-3.4-S1**. These very limited receptor locations within the study area can be broadly subdivided into three areas as detailed below:
- Glen Vic Askill (Receptor Location B1-1):
    - Residents and visitors occupying an isolated farmhouse and associated outdoor areas with low level, southerly views across Glen Colbost.
  - Glenmore and Mugeary (Receptor Locations B1-2 and B1-3):
    - Residents and visitors to linear crofting settlement in slightly elevated position along the slopes of the Glenmore River Valley with generally south-westerly views down crofts, and across the broad valley to forested slopes on the opposite side.
  - Sligachan (Receptor Location B1-4)
    - Largely visitors in and around hotel / restaurant and campsite and associated outdoor recreational areas where views are focussed either east, down Loch Sligachan, or south towards the neighbouring Cuillin mountains.

### Route-based Receptors

- 1.4.4 Routes within the study area are described in detail in **Appendix V2-3.7: Annex 2, Table 1.2** and shown on **Figure V2-3.4-S1**. These can be classified into two different categories:
- Public transport routes (including public roads); and
  - Recreational routes.
- 1.4.5 Public transport routes within the study area are used by local residents (including equestrians) and visitors (including cyclists). Those which have been included in the visual assessment are as follows:
- A roads:
    - Route R1-1 (A87) comprises the busy single carriageway road between Broadford and Portree used by residents, tourists and other travellers. Through the study area, views are frequently enclosed by forest plantation but when travelling south, open up to allow an expansive panorama of the Cuillins and elevated views over the head of Loch Sligachan.
    - Route R1-2 (A863), a single carriageway route between Sligachan and Dunvegan used by residents and tourists, featuring low-level and slightly elevated moorland views with the Cuillin Hills dominating the view southwards and views to the north enclosed by lower hills.
  - B roads:
    - Route R1-3 (B885) comprises an elevated single track route across the high moorland between Bracadale and Portree, used by residents, tourists and recreational users, and featuring extensive views across the open moorland plateau and conifer plantation.
  - Minor Roads:



- Route R1-4 (Glenmore and Mugeary Minor Road), a high-level single track, dead-end route serving the settlement areas of Glenmore and Mugeary and therefore used primarily by residents, with elevated, expansive, south-westerly views overlooking the Glen More valley.

1.4.6 Recreational routes considered within the visual assessment include Core Paths (The Highland Council, 2011)<sup>7</sup>, Scottish Hill Tacks (Scottish Rights of Way and Access Society, 2011)<sup>8</sup>, and other commonly used recorded walking or cycling routes. Those identified within the study area comprise the following.

- Core Paths:
  - Route R1-5 (Core Path SL28.01: Loch Caroy to Glen Vic Askill), comprising a forestry and farm track, also used to access a wind farm and substation, with mostly low level views enclosed by forestry or open across Glen Colbolt to surrounding moorland hills. The Edinbane Wind Farm forms a feature on the hills to the north;
- Other Routes
  - Route R1-6 (Forest Track to north of Loch Connan), comprising a rough moorland track from the B885, leading across moorland to a forest plantation. Views are typically east and south-east, elevated from the northerly end, across moorland and featuring the distant Cuillin mountains, with rising ground typically restricting views to the west;
  - Route R1-7 (Glenmore to Glenvarragill Footpath), an elevated footpath rising over the hills to the east of Glenmore, with elevated views to the west and north-west, featuring Glenmore and the Cuillins to the south.

#### Outdoor Locations

1.4.7 No particular Outdoor Viewing Locations were identified within the study area for Section 1.

#### *Future Baseline*

1.4.8 A wind farm proposal has been consented at Glen Ullinish, lying just south of the western end of the study area for Section 1. If built, this would also the characteristics of the area around Glen VicAskill to some extent. Any potential changes relating to this development are considered within the cumulative assessment (see Part 1.7).

1.4.9 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 likely significance of effects that the Proposed Development would have on landscape character during the construction and operational phases, in accordance with the significance of effects criteria outlined in the methodology (**Appendix V2-3.1: Table 4**).

1.5.2 The detailed assessment of effects for each LCZ is provided in **Appendix V2-3.7: Annex 1** with the key points being summarised in paragraphs 1.5.3 to 1.5.18 below.

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

1.5.3 Significant effects have been identified for three of the five LCZs assessed as follows:

- LCZ 1-2 (Loch Connan Rocky Knolls);

<sup>7</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>8</sup> Scottish Rights of Way and Access Society (2011). *Scottish Hill Tracks*. 5th edition. Scottish Mountaineering Trust.

- LCZ 1-3 (Achaleathan and Glenmore); and
- LCZ 1-4 (An Leitir and Glen Varragill).

Of the above areas, significant effects would be limited to the construction phase only, for LCZ 1-2 (Loch Connan Rocky Knolls) and LCZ 1-4 (An Leitir and Glen Varragill). However, localised significant effects are predicted to occur during the operational phase, within LCZ 1-3 (Achaleathan and Glenmore). These effects are described below:

#### LCZ 1-2 (Loch Connan Rocky Knolls)

- 1.5.4 During construction, the knolled character of the landscape within this LCZ would limit intervisibility of lower features to relatively localised areas with only occasional tower tops or cranes featuring between and above knolls across many areas to the south of the OHL. However, construction works would be more widely intervisible across the open, moorland parts of the LCZ, particularly though northern and eastern sloping moorland areas. This would lead to a reduced sense of remoteness in the short term, where increased accessibility and movement would form a distraction within the open moorland area, although the existing road and forest tracks provide some precedent for this.
- 1.5.5 Within the knolly landscape to the north of Loch Connan, the Proposed Development would lead to a more noticeable interruption of the skyline and may form a more imposing feature in the setting to the loch and reduce the prominence of the distinctive knolls. This effect would be greater during construction due to the additional activities involved, which would draw greater focus to the Proposed Development and affect the sense of remoteness within this area .
- 1.5.6 In the longer term, although removal of the existing wood pole OHL would take away some existing, locally detracting features, the increased height and different structure of the steel lattice towers would form a more noticeable feature when crossing this LCZ, likely to be more widely intervisible across a larger area. This would therefore result in perceptible change in landscape characteristics over a wider area combined with more notable change in the localised area of the Proposed Development. However, the alignment would generally follow a route on the edge of the rocky knolls and smoother northern slopes where an existing transition in the landscape character is present. This is evident in the division between the NatureScot LCTs 360 (Stepped Moorland) and 359 (Upland Sloping Moorland). This would minimise this effect within the wider landscape of knolls to the south and would to some extent limit the effect of dissecting the moorland area.
- 1.5.7 Overall within this LCZ, a Medium to High magnitude of change during construction, on this landscape of Low-Medium sensitivity, is predicted to lead to a **Moderate Adverse** (significant) construction phase effect. However, during the operation of the Proposed Development, after 10 years, the magnitude is anticipated to be Medium, and the effect would be **Minor – Moderate** (not significant) throughout this LCZ.

#### LCZ 1-3 (Achaleathan and Glenmore)

- 1.5.8 Within this LCZ, the Proposed Development would cross the open land of Achaleathan to the east of Dun Maol and follow the forest edge on the western edge of Glenmore within the south-western context of the settled, linear crofting area where the existing 132 kV wood pole OHL would be removed. A small amount of felling would be required near Mugeary to create a new wayleave through forest. Temporary tracks would follow the alignment across the open landscape and a short stretch of new track of around 650 m would be constructed within the forest area near Mugeary.
- 1.5.9 Construction works are anticipated to form an extensively influential feature throughout this open, expansive landscape, where they would be perceptible across a wide area, due to the open characteristics of the LCZ, and more noticeable within the localised context, particularly across the open expansiveness of the Achaleathan basin, an extensive, area of peatland. Construction works would be more indirectly influential

within the context of Glenmore, appearing noticeable within the extensive south-westerly vistas where they would be likely to be distracting and affect perceptions of accessibility and remoteness. The Proposed Development would be more directly influential in the glen near Mugeary, where felling would occur, but the remaining standing forest would reduce intervisibility of lower construction and access within this area, and sensitivity is considered to be slightly reduced by the greater influence of the forest.

- 1.5.10 In the longer term, during operation (10 years post construction), the greater height and different form of the steel lattice towers when compared to the existing wood pole OHL to be removed, would form a more noticeable feature, particularly across Achaleathan, where a more direct alignment across the peatland and the larger scale of the steel lattice towers would be more inconsistent with the sense of open expansiveness. This is anticipated to slightly reduce the perceived scale of this area and, to some extent, the connection with Dun Maol a prominent hill which presides over it. Whilst there would be a small localised beneficial effect to the crofting landscape of Glenmore and Mugeary, with the removal of the existing 132 kV wood pole OHL and movement of the alignment away from this area, the Proposed Development would form a relatively noticeable feature along the forest edge which would continue to affect the setting to some degree. Although this would be less directly influential on the character of the glen and would follow an existing line through the landscape at the forest edge, it would be somewhat distracting in the wider expansive vistas which are obtained. Although more directly influential in the glen near Mugeary, as illustrated by Visualisation Location 1-2 (see **Figure V4A-1.2a to d**), with assumed restructuring of the forest over time to accommodate the new wayleave, the effect in this area is not anticipated to be significant.
- 1.5.11 Overall, construction works in this area are predicted to lead to a Medium magnitude of change on a landscape of Medium sensitivity, leading to a **Moderate Adverse** (significant) effect during construction. A significant effect is predicted to continue within this LCZ but would be localised, limited to the Achaleathan area where the Low – Medium magnitude of change is predicted to lead to a **Moderate Adverse** (significant) effect. Elsewhere, the operational effect after 10 years would be **Minor – Moderate Adverse** (not significant).

*LCZ 1-4 (An Leitir and Glen Varragill)*

- 1.5.12 Construction works within this LCZ would include the erection of towers and a temporary access track across the An Leitir valley, and erection of towers to the rear of forestry in Glen Varragill where a new, permanent track would also be constructed. These works are likely to be noticeable within the localised An Leitir valley and would be likely to distract from the simple structure and remote characteristics of this area, due to the increased activity and presence of large scale plant and features. However, this effect would be relatively contained by the surrounding landform, with works at only occasional towers intervisible beyond the immediate enclosure of the valley, as indicated by the ZTV (see **Figure V2-3.1-S1**). Construction works would appear less out of place within the context of Glen Varragill where similar types of forestry works are not uncommon and the sensitivity to this type of activity is reduced by the busy road.
- 1.5.13 During operation, the greater height and different form of the steel lattice towers would lead to these forming a more eye-catching feature in the landscape, when compared to the existing wood pole OHL. However, this would be a relatively localised effect in this LCZ and, given the existing foreground forest and wood pole OHLs within Glen Varragill, is not anticipated to form a very noticeably greater distraction in this area than existing features (see Visualisation Location 1-3 (**Figures V4A-1.3a to d**)). Although likely to be more noticeable in the An Leitir area and potentially reducing localised perceptions of remoteness, the Proposed Development is not anticipated to noticeably alter the broadly simple characteristics of the landscape and the effect would therefore be not-significant.
- 1.5.14 This LCZ is considered to have a Medium sensitivity to development of the type proposed, but this is locally Low within Glen Vaarragill. During construction, a Medium magnitude of change, is predicted to lead to a localised **Moderate Adverse** (significant) effect within the An Leitir area and a **Minor – Moderate Adverse** (not significant) effect across the remainder of the LCZ. During operation, effects would reduce to a non-significant

level, being locally **Minor – Moderate Adverse** (not significant) within the An Leitir area, and otherwise **Minor Adverse** (not significant)

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

- 1.5.15 Landscape effects for the remaining two LCZs, would be not significant during both construction and operation.
- 1.5.16 A **Minor – Moderate Adverse** (not significant) effect is predicted for LCZ 1-1 (Glen Colbost), during construction and operation. Although both temporary construction works and, in the longer term, steel lattice towers, would form a noticeable and detracting feature within this LCZ, the existing character already features an overriding presence and influence of electrical infrastructure and this is considered to reduce sensitivity to development of the type proposed, and the overriding characteristics of the landscape are anticipated to remain broadly intact.
- 1.5.17 A **Minor Adverse** (not significant) effect is predicted for LCZ 1-5 (Caipalach), where the Proposed Development would feature only within the very northernmost part of the LCZ, in the lower part of Glen Varragill,. Although this is a sensitive landscape, valued by visitors and as a setting to the adjacent Cuillin mountains, the Proposed Development would have little perceptibility through the majority of the LCZ and these valued associations would not be affected.
- 1.5.18 Effects during operation are also predicted to be not significant for LCZ 1-2 (Loch Connan Rocky Knolls), LCZ 1-4 (An Leitir and Glen Varragill), and the majority of LCZ 1-3 (Achaleathan and Glenmore), as described in paragraphs 1.5.4 to 1.5.14, above.

*Summary of Landscape Effects*

- 1.5.19 A summary of the effects on LLZs is provided in **Table V2-S1-1** during construction and **Table V2-S1-2** during operation.

**Table V2-S1-1: 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 1-1 Glen Colbost								•			
LCZ 1-2 Loch Connan Rocky Knolls									•		
LCZ 1-3 Achaleathan and Glenmore									•		
LCZ 1-4 An Leitir								•	L		
LCZ 1-5 Caipalach							•				

**Table V2-S1-2: 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 1-1 Glen Colbost								•			
LCZ 1-2 Loch Connan Rocky Knolls								•			
LCZ 1-3 Achaleathan and Glenmore								•	L		
LCZ 1-4 An Leitir							•	L			
LCZ 1-5 Caiplach							•				

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 V2-3.7: Annex 2**. Predicted effects are summarised below with an emphasis on predicted significant effects.

### *Building-based Receptors*

1.6.2 Settlement is limited within the study area. Four building-based receptor locations were included in the visual assessment (see **Figure V2-3.3-S1**), comprising individual buildings or groups of buildings and associated outdoor spaces where a view of the Proposed Development would potentially be obtained. Significant effects were identified for three of these receptor locations as summarised below.

#### Glen Vic Askill (Receptor Location B1-1)

1.6.3 A **Moderate Adverse** (significant) effect during construction and operation was identified for Receptor Location B1-1 where receptors would obtain views of the Proposed Development within the main southerly view at relatively close proximity (approximately 0.3 km). Although the Proposed Development would replace the existing 132 kV wood pole OHL it would be closer within the view, and would form a noticeable change.

#### Glenmore and Mugeary (Receptor Locations B1-2 and B1-3)

1.6.4 During construction, **Moderate Adverse** (significant) effects are predicted for Receptor Location B1-2 (Glenmore) and B1-3 (Mugeary), where construction activities for the Proposed Development are anticipated to form a noticeably distracting feature in the view. In the case of B1-2 (Glenmore) construction would be relatively distant, at 1.2 km away on the opposite side of the valley, but would form a noticeable feature crossing throughout the main, elevated panoramic view. For Receptor Location B1-3 (Mugeary), the Proposed Development would similarly feature within the main view on the opposite site of the valley but would be closer to the receptor, at approximately 0.8 km. However, construction activities would take place within an existing area of coniferous forest which reduces the sensitivity. Although some localised felling would take place to accommodate the new wayleave, it is anticipated that the lower works would be concealed within the forest, with only taller features visible within the context of the coniferous forest plantation.

- 1.6.5 During operation, the effect is predicted to be **Moderate Adverse** (significant) for receptors at Receptor Location B1-3 (Mugeary), where the top parts of the towers and insulators would continue to feature at relatively close proximity within the view. However, the effect would be reduced to **Minor – Moderate Adverse** (not significant) for Receptor Location B1-2 (Glenmore) as the towers alone, without the movement and activities associated with construction, would form a less distracting feature in the middle distance of the view. Visualisation Location 1-2 (see **Figures V4A-1.2a to d**) provides a representative view from this area, showing both towers within the forest area, and as they leave the forest, moving further away from visual receptors. For both receptor locations, the effects of the Proposed Development would be slightly offset by the removal of the existing 132 kV wood pole OHL from the view, at closer proximity.

#### Sligachan (Receptor Location B1-4)

- 1.6.6 The effect for Receptor Location B1-4 (Sligachan) would be **Negligible**, because the Proposed Development is anticipated to be a very small and barely perceptible feature, very oblique to the focus of the main view.

#### *Route Based Receptors*

- 1.6.7 Receptors using seven routes were included in the visual assessment (see **Figure V2-3.3-S1**), including four public roads and three recreational routes. Significant effects were identified for three of these receptor locations. Predicted sequential effects for visual receptors using routes are summarised below:

#### Public Roads

- 1.6.8 Four public roads within the study area were included within the assessment. A predicted significant effect to the visual amenity for travellers was identified for one of these routes: Route R1-3 (B885). This route would be crossed by the Proposed Development at a similar location to the wood pole OHL it would replace. However, the Proposed Development would be more prominent from around 1 km of the route, to either side of the crossing point (2 km total) due to the taller steel lattice towers which would be seen extending around 1 km to the east and west of the road. Visualisation Location 1-1 (see **Figure V4A-1.1a to d**) provides a representative view from the road, showing the Proposed Development on the east side. The additional activities and plant associated with construction, along with temporary access tracks following the alignment, would draw greater attention to the Proposed Development during the construction phase, although this is not anticipated to increase the level of effect, which would be **Moderate Adverse** (significant), during both construction and operation.
- 1.6.9 Visual effects for receptors using the three other public roads falling within the study area would be not significant. A **Minor – Moderate Adverse** (not significant) effect is predicted during construction and operation, for Route R1-1 (A87). This route would be crossed by the Proposed Development, which would therefore be prominent for a short section of the route and otherwise perceptible through fragments of coniferous roadside forestry. However, the visual sensitivity of this section of road is considered low, due to the adjacent actively managed forestry (an indicative 'worst case' view of the Sealing End Compound from this route is depicted by Visualisation Location 1-3 (see **Figures V4A-1.3a to d**) which is located from an elevated mound alongside the road) and the Proposed Development would not affect the valued views towards the Cuillin mountains which are obtained further to the south of the OHL crossing point.
- 1.6.10 A **Minor - Moderate Adverse** (not significant) effect during both construction and operation is also predicted for Route R1-4 (Glenmore and Mugeary Minor Road) where more distant elevated views of the Proposed Development would be obtained. Although this would feature within the more expansive views which are likely to be more valued, the distance of the Proposed Development from the receptor, along with the lower sensitivity of those using the road compared to building-based receptors is considered to lead to this effect being not significant.

1.6.11 The visual effect for users of Route R1-2 (A863) would be **Negligible** as the Proposed Development is anticipated to be barely discernible within the views obtained from this route.

#### Recreational Routes

1.6.12 Three recreational routes were included in the assessment comprising one Core Path and two other signposted footpath routes. A significant effect to visual amenity of path users was identified for two of these routes during construction, one of which is anticipated to continue during the operational phase.

1.6.13 Route R1-5 (Core Path SL28.01 (Loch Caroy to Glen Vic Askill)), would be crossed obliquely by the Proposed Development leading to towers being seen at close proximity from an approximate 1.5 km stretch of the route, when travelling in both directions. Although views from this route already feature existing wood pole OHLs and a wind farm to the north, this is predicted to lead to a **Moderate Adverse** (significant) effect during both construction and operation.

1.6.14 Route R1-6 (Forest Track to north of Loch Connan) would receive minor upgrading as part of the Proposed Development, although would be only used occasionally during operation. The Proposed Development would form a perceptible feature within elevated, open, southerly views from this route and towers and would also be seen occasionally at closer proximity on the skyline to the south-west. This is predicted to lead to only a **Minor – Moderate Adverse** (not significant) effect during operation, but with the additional activities and features involved during construction, would be temporarily **Moderate Adverse** (significant) during this phase.

1.6.15 For the remaining footpath, Route R1-7 (Glenmore to Glenvarragill Footpath), the Proposed Development would form a perceptible feature within elevated wider views for a short part of the route, at a distance of over 1 km. This effect is predicted to be **Minor - Moderate Adverse** (not significant) during construction, reducing to **Minor Adverse** (not significant) in the longer term.

#### *Summary of Visual Effects*

1.6.16 A summary of the effects on visual receptors is outlined below in **Table V2-S1-3** and **Table V2-S1-4** during construction and operation.

**Table V2-S1-3: 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
Buildings / Building Groups	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	3	-	-
Routes	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	3	3	-	-
Outdoor Viewing Locations	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Totals	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	3	6	-	-

**Table V2-S1-4: 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
Buildings / Building Groups	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	2	-	-
Routes	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	3	2	-	-
Outdoor Viewing Locations	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Totals	-	-	-	-	-	2	1	4	4	-	-

## 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 1km of the study area (3.5 km from the Proposed Development) as agreed with THC and NatureScot.

1.7.2 The cumulative assessment has been set out considering two different scenarios (see **Figure V2-3.5-S1**):

- Scenario 1: Including other parts of the Proposed Development and other related development proposals. For Section 1, this includes:
  - Section 0 of the Proposed Development (wood pole OHL, replacing wood pole OHL).
  - Section 2 of the Proposed Development (underground cable (UGC) connection replacing wood pole OHL).
  - 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 1, 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 1, 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 LVIAs of Section 0 and Section 2 of the Proposed Development have been completed and are included in this EIA Report as **Appendix V2-3.6** and **Appendix V2-3.8**. These LVIAs identified effects to the following receptors which have been identified within the study area for Section 1.

- Landscape effects:
  - LCZ 1-1 – Glen Colbost (Section 0 reference: LCZ 0-4): Minor Adverse (not significant) during construction and Negligible during operation.
  - LCZ 1-5 – Caiplach (Section 2 reference: LCZ 2-1 (Loch Sligachan): Moderate Adverse (significant) during construction and Minor Beneficial during operation.
- Visual effects:



- B1-1 – Glen Vic Askill (Section 0 reference: B0-23): Negligible during construction and operation.
- B1-4 – Sligachan (Section 2 reference: B2-1): Moderate Adverse (significant) during construction and Minor - Moderate Beneficial (no significant) during operation;
- R1-1 – A87 (Section 2 reference: R2-1A): Moderate Adverse (significant) during construction and Minor Beneficial during operation.
- R1-2 – A863 (Section 2 reference: R2-2): Minor Adverse (not significant) during construction and Negligible during operation.
- R1-5 – Core Path SL28.01 (Loch Caroy to Glen Vic Askill) (Section 0 reference R0-12): Minor Adverse (not significant during construction and operation.

1.7.5 Predicted effects identified within the Section 0 LVIA (**Appendix V2-3.6**) or Section 2 LVIA (**Appendix V2-3.8**) and Section 1 LVIA (this Appendix) are detailed in **Table V2-S0-5** 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 unless it is predicted that the effects of the Edinbane Substation Extension would be greater than Negligible.

**Table V2-S0-5: Individual Effects on Cumulative Receptors**

LCZ / Designated or Protected Areas	Section 1 Effect Rating	Section 0 or 2 Effect Rating	Included in Cumulative
LCZ 1-1 – Glen Colbost (Section 0 Reference: LCZ 0-4)	Construction and Operation: Minor - Moderate Adverse (not significant)	Construction: Minor Adverse (not significant) Operation: Negligible.	Yes
LCZ 1-5 – Caiplach (Section 2 Reference: LCZ 2-1 (Loch Sligachan)	Construction and Operation: Minor-Moderate Adverse (not significant)	Construction: Moderate Adverse (significant) Operation: Minor Beneficial (not significant)	Yes
Visual Receptor	Section 1 Effect Rating	Section 0 or 2 Effect Rating	Inclusion in Cumulative
B1-1 – Glen Vic Askill (Section 0 Reference: B0-23)	Construction and Operation: Moderate Adverse (significant)	Construction and Operation: Negligible	Yes
B1-4 – Sligachan (Section 2 Reference: B2-1)	Construction and Operation: Negligible	Construction: Moderate Adverse (significant) Operation: Minor - Moderate Beneficial (not significant)	No
R1-1 – A87 (Section 2 reference: R2-1A)	Construction and Operation: Minor-Moderate Adverse (not significant)	Construction: Moderate Adverse (significant) Operation: Minor Beneficial (not significant).	Yes
R1-2 – A863 (Section 2 reference: R2-2)	Construction and Operation: Negligible	Construction: Minor Adverse (not significant) Operation: Negligible	No
R1-5 – Core Path SL28.01 (Loch Caroy to Glen Vic Askill) (Section 0 reference R0-12)	Construction and Operation: Moderate Adverse (significant)	Construction and Operation: Minor Adverse (not 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 western end of Section 1 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 0. 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 below in **Table V2-S1-6**. 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-S1-6: Cumulative Effects**

Landscape Area / Visual Receptor Location	Cumulative Developments	Potential Cumulative Effects
<p>LCZ 1-1; Glen Colbost</p>	<p>Scenario 1:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Section 0 of the Proposed Development</li> <li>Edinbane Substation Extension</li> </ul>	<p>The Edinbane Substation extension would comprise a more focussed development than the Proposed Development (Section 1), with noticeable permanent features which would lead to some additional influence on the local landscape character in the longer term. This LCZ is already influenced by the existing electrical infrastructure features including the existing Substation but the addition of the Substation extension would be likely to increase this influence to some extent, although the Section 0 wood pole OHL would be unlikely to lead to any noticeable increase in infrastructure.</p> <p>The additional construction works for the Proposed Development would lead to a perceptible increase in works and would result in a construction corridor being spread across the width of the glen, which would form a division of the upper and lower glen. During operation, the addition of the Proposed Development would also increase the influence of existing electrical infrastructure increasing its prominence within the local area, although this would already be an established feature of this LCZ.</p> <p>The cumulative effect is predicted to be, <b>Minor-Moderate Adverse</b> (not significant) during construction and 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 baseline context of this LCZ in addition to the associated 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 1) would lead to a perceptible further change to the landscape character in this scenario but due to the</p>

Landscape Area / Visual Receptor Location	Cumulative Developments	Potential Cumulative Effects
		scale and nature of the existing surrounding features, it is anticipated that the cumulative effect would remain at the assessed <b>Minor-Moderate Adverse</b> (not significant) level during operation.
LCZ 1-5 Caiploch	Scenario 1: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Section 2 of the Proposed Development</li> </ul>	The associated development in Section 2 would consist of the replacement of the existing wood-pole OHL with an underground cable. This would lead to a noticeable level of activity within the context of this LCZ during construction. However, the addition of the Proposed Development (Section 1) including steel lattice towers and a sealing end compound, to this would be likely to be barely perceptible, due to its peripheral location within the LCZ. Similarly, during operation, the Proposed Development would have a very limited effect in this LCZ and this is considered unlikely to outweigh the beneficial effects of removal of the existing OHL within Section 2. The cumulative effect would therefore be <b>Negligible</b> during construction and operation.
B1-1: Glen Vic Askill	Scenario 1: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Section 0 of the Proposed Development</li> <li>Edinbane Substation Extension</li> </ul> Scenario 2: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Glen Ullinish Wind Farm</li> </ul>	There would be very limited, if any visibility of the cumulative baseline sites from this property and as such these developments would not be anticipated to alter the baseline. Therefore, no cumulative effect is anticipated to occur.  The Glen Ullinish Wind Farm would be likely to be appear prominent from this property and would introduce a more developed appearance to the view. The addition of the Proposed Development at closer proximity would draw the appearance of development closer and increase this effect. However, given the assumed presence of the wind farm within the view (within the cumulative baseline), which would reduce sensitivity, this is not anticipated to significantly increase the effect. The cumulative effect during operation, is therefore predicted to be <b>Minor Adverse</b> (not significant).
R1-1 A87	Scenario 1: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Section 2 of the Proposed Development</li> </ul>	Construction works for Section 2 of the Proposed Development would be very visible along an extended length of this route. The addition of Section 1 would lead to a small additional section of the route obtaining views of construction works, but within a less sensitive area where forestry works are already adjacent to both side of the road. Given the extent of works which would already affect the road in relation to Section 2, this is unlikely to result in a very noticeable additional effect.  During operation, there would be a small beneficial effect from the removal of the existing OHL and replacement with a UGC connection in relation to Section 2. There

Landscape Area / Visual Receptor Location	Cumulative Developments	Potential Cumulative Effects
		<p>would therefore be an increased adverse effect of the steel lattice towers associated with Section 1, on a localised portion of the road.</p> <p>The cumulative effect as a result of the addition of the Proposed Development would therefore be <b>Minor Adverse</b> (not significant) during construction and operation.</p>
R1-5 Core Path SL28.01 (Loch Caroy to Glen Vic Askill)	Scenario 1: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Section 0 of the Proposed Development</li> <li>Edinbane Substation Extension</li> </ul>	<p>During construction, the baseline developments, particularly the Edinbane Substation, but also felling works associated with Section 0 of the Proposed Development, would lead to combined noticeable change in the view from this route and precedent for further development. Construction for the Proposed Development would extend the length of the route and extent of the view affected by the works which would be prominent from most, or potentially all, of the route.</p> <p>During operation, the steel lattice towers would add an increased sense of infrastructure affecting parts of the view and the route not otherwise affected by the baseline developments. The cumulative effect is predicted to be <b>Moderate Adverse</b> (significant) during construction and operation.</p>
	Scenario 2: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Glen Ullinish Wind Farm</li> </ul>	<p>The addition of the Glen Ullinish Wind Farm to the cumulative baseline would lead to a greater visibility of surrounding existing development from the route, in the southerly context. However, the Proposed Development would appear closer than the wind farm and would still be anticipated to lead to a noticeable increase in infrastructure, affecting some parts of the view which would be otherwise unaffected by infrastructural development. The operational cumulative effect would therefore still be <b>Moderate Adverse</b> (significant) under this baseline scenario.</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. Whilst significant landscape and visual effects are predicted in relation to the Proposed Development within Section 1, due to other sensitivities no further specific mitigation measures have been identified which would effectively reduce these potential effects to non-significant levels. 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**.

1.8.2 Further specific mitigation measures to minimise individual effects where possible are recommended for consideration and implementation where possible, as detailed in **Appendix V2-3.13**. These comprise the following within Section 1:

- Route R1-1 (A87): Although no significant effects are anticipated for receptors using this route, minor landform creation is proposed around the proposed sealing end compound at Glen Varragill to help minimise the potential for visibility of the compound area.

## 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.

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

## 1.10 Summary and Conclusions

### *Landscape Effects*

1.10.1 The Landscape Assessment has identified predicted significant effects during the construction of the Proposed Development within three of five LCZs assessed. These effects would largely occur within open, expansive parts of the landscape around Loch Connan, Achaleathan and Glenmore, and An Leitir, mostly associated with LCT 359 (Upland Sloping Moorland) and also affecting localised parts of LCT 360 (Stepped Moorland). Construction activities are anticipated to form a noticeably distracting feature through these simple upland areas with the level of activity and movement, and associated temporary access tracks anticipated to affect sense of remoteness. Within the Loch Connan area, which is characterised by distinctive, flat-topped rocky knolls, these works would also have the potential to appear imposing and reduce the prominence of the distinctive landform.

1.10.2 Within other parts of the study area, similar landscape effects would occur but are not predicted to be significant as there is a greater characterisation of forestry and other infrastructure within these areas which reduces the landscape sensitivity.

1.10.3 During operation, the majority of landscape effects would reduce to levels which would be not significant. However, a localised significant effect is predicted to continue into the longer term, within the Achaleathan area, where the Proposed Development would cut across an area of expansive, open peatland. The linear development of steel lattice towers would appear fairly prominent crossing this area and would physically divide it, thereby anticipated to reduce the sense of remoteness and perceived scale, and the association with Dun Maol, a distinctive knoll which presides over this area.

### *Visual Effects*

1.10.4 The Visual Assessment has identified that, during construction, significant effects would be likely to occur to the visual amenity of receptors occupying residential properties, located in Glen Vic Askill, Glenmore and Mugeary, one road: the B885; and two paths at Glen Vic Askill and to the south of Loch Connan. For these receptors, the works to construct the Proposed Development are anticipated to form a noticeable and detracting feature within remote views across the open moorland and within the forest edge landscape. These effects would be reduced during the operational phase with the removal of temporary access tracks, plant, and construction works, and with the removal of the existing 132 kV OHL, with only the transparent lattice style towers and conductors remaining. However, the visual effect is predicted to remain significant for receptors using a Core Path and occupying an isolated property at Glen Vic Askill, properties at Mugeary, and travellers on the B885 minor road, where the Proposed Development would appear in closer proximity and would form a larger and more noticeable feature than the existing wood pole OHL which it would replace.

- 1.10.5 Longer term, visual effects for the remainder of receptors within the study area, including properties at Glenmore and Sligachan and the A87 through Glen Varragill would be not significant.

*Cumulative Effects*

- 1.10.6 As assessment of Section 1 of the Proposed Development in addition to other Sections of the Proposed Development with the inclusion of the Edinbane Substation Extension (the subject of a separate planning application), has identified a predicted significant cumulative visual effect during both construction and operation, for users of one Core Path (SL28.01 (Loch Caroy to Glen Vic Askill)), where the Proposed Development would be likely to lead to a noticeable reduction in scenic quality as an addition to the other related developments. The addition of the consented Glen Ullinish Wind Farm, which would be situated within the landscape to the south of the Core Path and the Proposed Development, to the cumulative baseline is not predicted to change the level of this cumulative effect.

- 1.10.7 No significant cumulative landscape effects were identified as a result of the addition of the Proposed Development to either cumulative baseline scenario.

*Conclusions*

- 1.10.8 The LVIA has concluded that there would be localised significant landscape and visual effects and very isolated cumulative visual effects resulting from the Proposed Development, affecting a few remote, open areas of the moorland landscape and individuals occupying or using a small number of properties or routes. Embedded mitigation through careful design of alignment has been utilised to minimise the number and range of significant effects.

## **APPENDIX V2-3.7: ANNEX 1: LANDSCAPE CHARACTER ASSESSMENT (SECTION 1)**

<b>1.</b>	<b>LANDSCAPE CHARACTER ASSESSMENT (SECTION 1)</b>	<b>3</b>
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# 1. LANDSCAPE CHARACTER ASSESSMENT (SECTION 1)

**Table 1.1: LCZ 1-1 – 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 Ben Aketil and Edinbane Wind Farms 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>Large areas of coniferous forestry plantation occupy hillsides to the west and north and in the neighbouring LCZ to the east.</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; and</li> <li>Wide, bowl-shaped glen with open, large scale and simple characteristics;</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>New steel lattice towers could interrupt the skyline and distract;</li> <li>Construction works or new steel lattice towers 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>Potentially removal of existing wood pole OHLs in the local landscape to the east of Edinbane substation;</li> <li>Steel lattice towers with the potential for adverse direct effects and indirect influence of infrastructure on the landscape or potential to spread this influence into other areas.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Large areas of existing forestry plantation across hillsides to the west, north and east.</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 wood poles, a substation and wind turbines. 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 steel lattice towers crossing the floor of the glen and ascending the eastern glen-side would be more noticeable than existing land management activities and would constitute a localised change in the short term at individual tower positions and at storage or compound areas with associated temporary access tracks for heavy plant and lifting gear.</p> <p>In the longer term, the Proposed Development would largely follow a slightly more northerly alignment through this LCZ to the existing wood pole OHL which it would replace. Although removal of the existing wood pole OHL would take away some existing detracting features, the increased height and different form of the steel lattice towers would form a more noticeable feature crossing the LCZ. This would therefore result in perceptible change in landscape characteristics over a wider area combined with a notable change in the localised area. The magnitude of change is therefore considered to be <b>Medium</b> during construction and <b>Medium</b> during operation.</p>
<p><b>Significance of Effect</b></p>	<p>The removal of the existing wood pole OHL would lead to small scale localised improvement, but this would be outweighed by the proposed steel lattice towers which would form a more detracting feature in the landscape due to their greater height and footprint, and steel structure when compared to the smaller size and more neutral tones of the existing wood poles. This would form a more noticeable linear feature cutting across the glen which may draw focus and reduce the perceived scale of the open space to some degree. Towers would also affect a localised part of the enclosing skyline and may draw the sense of surrounding infrastructure further around the glen. However, the new towers would, to some extent, reflect an existing character of infrastructure within this landscape and the overriding characteristics of the landscape are anticipated to remain broadly intact.</p> <p>During construction, the increased activity and presence of additional plant and infrastructural facilities would increase the focus of the Proposed Development within the landscape and reduce the existing remote qualities. However, these activities would be temporary.</p> <p>A small areas of felling for a new wayleave would also be perceptible but would reflect the existing managed pattern of the surrounding commercial forests.</p> <p>Landscape effects would be both direct and indirect. Bearing in mind the Low sensitivity of the LCZ and the Medium magnitude of change, the effect is considered to be <b>Minor-Moderate Adverse</b> (not significant) during both construction and operation.</p>

**Table 1.2: LCZ 1-2 – Loch Connan Rocky Knolls**

Baseline Description	
<b>Description</b>	<p>Covering the section of alignment between Glen Colbost in the west and Dun Maol to the east, this LCZ has the relatively small, almost circular Loch Connan at its heart and is dissected northeast-southwest by the B885. The LCZ comprises an elevated moorland plateau between the coastline to the south-west of the study area and the valley of the River Snizort to the north-east. The upland moorland is characterised craggy rounded hills, and distinctive knolls with a rocky stepped profile and typically flat tops. In the northern part of the LCZ, the moorland opens out into smoother slopes and lower, rounded hills shrouded with extensive conifer plantations. There is no settlement except one or two houses on the outskirts of Totardor on the southern edge of the study area below the Allt Mor gorge which have little intervisibility with the wider upland plateau. Infrastructure is limited to a few upland tracks and forest roads, the single track B885 road, and the existing 132 kV wood pole OHL which crosses east-west to the south of Loch Connan. This limited and geographically disparate spread of these features leads to a remote and exposed quality.</p> <p>The very south of this LCZ falls within the North West Skye SLA, but does not share any intervisibility with the remainder of the LCZ.</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</li> </ul>
<b>Key Local Landscape Characteristics</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Large scale open landscape;</li> <li>Upland moorland plateau with craggy rounded hills, and distinctive knolls with a rocky stepped profile and typically flat tops including Beinn na Cloiche (232m AOD); Braon a' Mheallain (267m AOD and Am Maol (212m AOD);</li> <li>Lower, rounded hills, the highest being Beinn a' Ghlinne Bhig (208m AOD), and low smooth moorland shrouded with extensive conifer plantations in the northern part of the study area;</li> <li>Almost circular Loch Connan lies in a shallow dish of land in between the hills near the centre of the LCZ.;</li> <li>Settlement limited to a few properties at the southern edge of the study area which have little intervisibility with the rest of the LCZ;</li> <li>B885 single track road bisects the LCZ on a north-east, south-west trajectory; and</li> <li>Limited infrastructural features, including Existing 133 kV wood pole OHL, B885 and a few tracks and forest roads and forestry comprise the only man-made elements leading to a remote and exposed quality.</li> </ul>
<b>Landscape Value</b>	<p>A small area at the south of this LCZ around Totardo falls within North West Skye SLA but this SLA, being coastal in orientation, is not intervisible with the remainder of the LCZ which is otherwise undesignated in landscape terms. The area has some local value as a setting for Loch Connan and for its distinctive flat-topped knolled landform which is relatively unique to this part of Skye. However, these features are common within the local context.</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 upland moorland plateau and lower smooth moorland and distinctive flat topped knolls and hills forming backdrop;</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>New steel lattice towers could interrupt the skyline and distract; and</li> <li>New steel lattice towers could reduce the perceived height of hills and knolls.</li> </ul>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Large scale, open landscape;</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Proposed Development, as a linear feature, could divide the open landscape and reduce perceived scale;</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Loch Connan as an isolated focal point in the local landscape</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Proposed Development may form a more imposing feature in the context of Loch Connan, and may reduce it's sense of isolation.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Man-made interventions limited to existing wood pole OHLs across the moorland, single track road tracks and forestry giving remote and exposed quality.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Temporary construction activities, or new steel lattice towers in the longer term, could lead to potential erosion of remote and exposed qualities.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Landscape Sensitivity</b></p>	<p>This is a large-scale landscape of limited value and with locally common characteristics. Overall it has limited susceptibility to change of the type proposed because it is already influenced by the presence of the existing wood pole OHL, B-Road and forestry which create some precedence for development within the LCZ.</p> <p>Landscape sensitivity is Low-Medium</p>
<p><b>Nature and Magnitude of Change</b></p>	<p>Construction works for steel lattice towers would constitute a localised change in the short term at individual tower positions and at storage or compound areas with associated temporary access tracks between towers. The knolled character of the landscape would limit intervisibility of lower features to relatively localised areas with only occasional tower tops or cranes featuring between and above knolls across many areas to the south of the OHL. However, works would be more widely intervisible across the open, moorland parts of the LCZ, particularly though the northern and eastern sloping moorland areas and within the local context around Loch Connan.</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, although would be slightly closer to Loch Connan, and, on the eastern periphery would veer further to the south west. Although removal of the existing wood pole OHL would take away some existing, locally detracting features, the increased height and different structure of the steel lattice towers would form a more noticeable feature when crossing this LCZ likely to be more widely intervisible across a larger area. This would therefore result in perceptible change in landscape characteristics over a wider area combined with notable change in the localised area of the Proposed Development. The magnitude of change is therefore considered to be <b>Medium-High</b> during construction and <b>Medium</b> during operation.</p>
<p><b>Significance of Effect</b></p>	<p>Although mostly on a similar or parallel alignment to the existing wood pole OHL through this LCZ and the fact that its removal would result in beneficial local effects, consideration must also be taken of the adverse effects resulting from the greater height and different form of the steel lattice towers when compared to the lower height and more neutral tones of the existing wood poles. The Proposed Development would lead to a more noticeable interruption of the moorland hills skyline in some areas, particularly the knolly landscape around Loch Connan and may form a more imposing feature in the setting to the loch and reduce the prominence of knolls. However, the alignment would generally follow a transitional route on the edge of the rocky knolls and smoother northern slopes, which would minimise this effect within the wider landscape of knolls to the south and would to some extent limit the effect of dissecting the moorland area.</p> <p>Construction activities would lead to a reduced sense of remoteness in the short term, where increased accessibility and movement would form a distraction within the open moorland area, although the existing road and forest tracks provide some precedent for this. In the longer term, without this activity and with temporary tracks restored, this effect would be less noticeable, although the larger steel structures, in comparison to existing wood poles, may locally reduce the sense of openness and undeveloped isolation, especially in the vicinity of Loch Connan. Landscape effects would be both direct and indirect. The effect is anticipated to be <b>Moderate Adverse</b> (significant) during construction and <b>Minor – Moderate Adverse</b> (not significant) during operation.</p>

**Table 1.3: LCZ 1-3 – Achaleathan and Glenmore**

Baseline Description	
<b>Description</b>	<p>This LCZ covers the section of the alignment between Dun Maol in the north and the head of Glenmore to the south. Surrounded by moorland hills, in places afforested and some distinctively craggy, the focus of the area is Achaleathan (c.100m AOD), an area of broad, flat peat-bog clothed with moorland grasses and occasional heather, and sometimes breaking into areas of hag or pools. Three small rivers converge on this area from their respective glens: the Glenmore River; the Tungadal River and Abhainn an Acha-leathan which leads from Loch Duagrigh. These three rivers follow a slow-moving, sinuous course across the flat bogland, with low peaty banks and numerous, braided tributaries draining the area of peat. before eventually draining into the upper reaches of the River Snizort. The open, peatland area narrows into Glenmore towards the south-east of the LCZ.. An extensive forested area lies to the south of Glen More, and contains the parallel Glen Tungadal The three glens are all very different in character; as described below, but with the widest being Glenmore, which is characterised by a linear crofting settlement. Overall, this LCZ has an expansive and spatial quality, with extensive vistas, particularly from more elevated areas. It's situation at the end of a long single track road, and generally limited accessibility due to the interlinked rivers and extensive peat bog gives a sense of relative remoteness.</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; LCT 360 – Stepped Moorland</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>None</li> </ul>
<b>Key Local Landscape Character-stics</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The distinctive craggy form of Dun Maol presides over the contrastingly flat, open expanse of the Achaleathan peat bog at the north-western end of the LCZ</li> <li>The broad, flat Achaleathan peat bog forms the focus of an expansive but largely introspective basin into which rivers snake from their respective glens;</li> <li>Shrouded within an extensive area of coniferous forestry, Glen Tungadal has shallow slopes to the west and south but rises up on its west side to the craggy peaks of Beinn Mheadhonach (319m AOD) and Ben Duagrigh (304m AOD) which contain the LCZ in this direction and on its east side to the sharp ridge of Druim nan Creiche which separates Glen Tungadal from Glenmore;</li> <li>Ben Duagrigh slopes dramatically and steeply down to the almost rectangular form of Loch Duagrigh which lies in the bottom of a U-shaped valley of probable glacial origin;</li> <li>Glenmore, a wide, open glen characterises the south-east of the LCZ where the small crofting settlements of Glenmore and Mugeary accentuate the broad but linear characteristics together with the distinctive forestry-clad Druim na Criche ridgeline which encloses it to the west;</li> <li>Distant intervisibility with jagged Cuillin peaks above the local skyline to the south;</li> <li>An extensive area of coniferous forestry extends down from the ridge to the river opposite Mugeary but is stepped back opposite Glenmore with its dark green vertical form contrasting with the smoother forms and brown and buff hues of the adjacent moorland and light green of the fenced improved pasture crofting land;</li> <li>The small linear crofting settlement at Glenmore is only connected to the outside world by its elevated, long and winding minor road, which accentuates the overarching sense of remoteness and isolation of this LCZ;</li> <li>Glenmore rises steeply to two high hills in the east, the rounded Skriaig (396m AOD) with its two distinctive telecoms masts and contrastingly pointed form of Stroc-bheinn (400m AOD)both of which contain the LCZ along the east side. They are divided by the steeply sloping Bealach Mor pass;</li> <li>The existing wood-pole OHL skirts Achaleathan to the east and runs along the eastern slope of Glenmore below the settlements to the head of the valley where it climbs up to An Leitir in the LCZ to the south.</li> </ul>

<b>Landscape Value</b>	<p>This LCZ does not fall within any designated landscape areas. Although the main types of components are locally common, this LCZ contains a relatively complex juxtaposition of less common landscape features within a relatively small area and is locally valued as a setting for the remote rural settlements of Glen More and Mugeary and for the open, undeveloped characteristics of the peat bogs, which are also of ecological value.</p> <p>Landscape Value is Low-Medium</p>
<b>Assessment of Effects</b>	
<b>Possible Landscape Receptors</b>	<b>Potential Effects</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The distinctive craggy form of Dun Maol which presides over the contrastingly flat, open expanse of the Achaleathan peat bog</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>New steel lattice towers could interrupt the connection between Achaleathan and Dun Maol;</li> <li>Steel lattice towers could reduce the perceived height of Dun Maol in relation to the surrounding landscape.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Achaleathan peat bog which forms the focus of this open, expansive but largely introspective basin;</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Proposed Development crossing this area could lead to perceived reduction in scale of the open landscape.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Smaller-scale, linear crofting landscape of Glenmore with forestry backdrop to the west;</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Potential for steel lattice towers to appear dominating in the smaller scale landscape;</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Pattern of existing wood pole OHLs across Achaleathan and up Glenmore;</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Potentially beneficial removal of existing wood pole OHLs in the local landscape and their replacement by;</li> <li>Taller steel lattice towers with the potential for increased adverse direct effects and indirect influence on the local landscape within the LCZ or spreading into other adjacent areas.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The overarching sense of remoteness and isolation</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Taller steel lattice towers could erode the sense of remoteness due to their more obvious presence in the landscape</li> </ul>
<b>Landscape Sensitivity</b>	<p>This is a landscape of low-medium value and although influenced by the presence of the existing wood pole OHLs, its open character and remote, introspective nature, combined with the settled smaller scale of Glenmore makes this LCZ potentially more susceptible to development of the type proposed.</p> <p>Landscape sensitivity is therefore considered <b>Medium</b>.</p>
<b>Nature and Magnitude of Change</b>	<p>The Proposed Development would cross the open land of Achaleathan to the east of Dun Maol and follow the forest edge on the western edge of Glenmore. A small amount of felling would be required near Mugeary to create a new wayleave through forest. Temporary tracks would follow the alignment across the open landscape. A short stretch of new track of around 650 m would be constructed within the forest area near Mugeary. The existing wood pole OHL would be removed from the croftland and north-eastern slopes of Glen More.</p> <p>Construction works for steel lattice towers would be noticeable within this context, and perceptible across a wide area due to the open characteristics of the LCZ. Although existing land management activities within Glenmore or forest activities at Mugeary may already be present, the location of construction works within the more remote moorland parts of the LCZ and more intensive nature of construction activities, and large plant would appear more distracting.</p> <p>In the longer term, the more direct alignment across Achaleathan compared to the more circuitous one followed by the wood-pole OHL, would lead to a noticeable direct change to this central feature. The alignment along the forest edge of Glenmore would introduce a new feature to this setting with towers being more noticeable than the wood poles they would replace. However, this would be in the context of the more direct change associated with the removal of the wood pole OHL crossing the croftland through the centre of the glen. Removal of trees at Mugeary would be noticeable, particularly during construction, although reflective of forest operations which may be expected in this landscape. In the longer term, this would also result in the new OHL</p>

	<p>and tracks being partially obscured by trees opposite Mugeary, thus reducing the magnitude of indirect change in this localised area.</p> <p>Overall, the Proposed Development is anticipated to result in perceptible change in landscape characteristics over a wider area, combined with a more noticeable change in the localised area, with a slightly higher magnitude experienced during the construction phase. The magnitude of change is therefore considered to be Medium during construction and Low -Medium during operation.</p>
<p><b>Significance of Effect</b></p>	<p>The greater height and different form of the steel lattice towers when compared to the existing wood pole OHL would form a more noticeable feature throughout this landscape, particularly during construction but would generally be unlikely to interrupt the skyline of the local landscape due to the low elevation of the revised alignment. However, the steel lattice towers would represent larger scale features which would be more inconsistent with the open expansiveness of the Achaleathan basin, likely to slightly reduce the perceived scale of this area and connection with Dun Maol to some extent. Whilst there would be a small localised beneficial effect to the crofting landscape with the removal of the existing 132 kV wood pole OHL and movement of the alignment away from this area, the Proposed Development would form a relatively noticeable feature along the forest edge which would continue to affect the setting of this area to some degree. Although it would be less directly influential on the character of the glen and would follow an existing line through the landscape at the forest edge it would be somewhat distracting in the wider expansive vistas which are obtained. The Proposed Development would appear more directly influential in the glen near Mugeary, especially during construction, but the existing forest within the glen in this area slightly reduces the sensitivity and would help to conceal the lower parts of towers, assuming this area is restocked and maintained as woodland.</p> <p>The Proposed Development may also reduce the perceived sense of remoteness and isolation of the LCZ to some extent. This effect would be more pronounced during construction with the increased level of activity, movement and perceived accessibility of the temporary tracks and would continue to some degree during operation due to the more obvious landscape presence of the steel lattice towers, compared to the existing wood-pole OHL..</p> <p>Landscape effects would be both direct and indirect. Bearing in mind the Medium sensitivity of the LCZ and the Medium and Low-Medium magnitude of change, the effect is considered to be <b>Moderate Adverse</b> (significant) during construction and <b>Minor – Moderate Adverse</b> (not significant) during operation. But with a localised <b>Moderate Adverse</b> (significant) effect across the open peatland of Achaleathan.</p>

**Table 1.4: LCZ 1-4 – An Leitir and Glen Varragill**

Baseline Description	
<b>Description</b>	Covering the section of alignment between the head of Glenmore and the section of Glen Varragill to the north of the existing OHL crossing point, virtually the whole area consists of stepped moorland LCT. The focus of this LCZ is a broad, high moorland valley called An Leitir, bordered on both sides by rounded and in some cases craggy moorland hills. It is drained to the east via steep slopes into the still broader north-south Glen Varragill where areas of forest plantation are present to the east and west of the A87 Broadford to Portree road. There is no settlement within this LCZ and the open, western moorland area of An Leitir has little development other than the existing wood pole OHL to be removed as part of the Proposed Development. This gives this area a sense of remoteness. However, in Glen Varragill, towards the east of the LCZ, the busy road and forest areas, which feature large areas of clearfell and restocking, give a transitional, and dynamic, managed quality to the landscape. Although this LCZ lacks notable features in itself, views towards mountains in the wider context are available from some areas, including the Cuillins to the south and the Storr to the north. This focus on external features can add to the transitional quality of this landscape.
<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>An Leitir, a large scale, broad, high (c.150m AOD) moorland valley with simple characteristics, drained to the east into Glen Varragill via a series of waterfalls.</li> <li>The open, elevated and largely undeveloped character of An Leitir gives it isolated and remote characteristics;</li> <li>Surrounding rounded and sometimes craggy moorland peaks, within the wider context give a sense of enclosure to the valley including Stroc-bheinn (400m AOD) to the north, Meall Odhar Mor (336m AOD) to the east, and Meall a Fhuarain (291m AOD) to the west.</li> <li>Glen Varragill feels more developed and less remote than An Leitir due to the busy main road, existing OHLs and large areas of actively managed commercial coniferous forest plantation which give a transitional and managed quality to the landscape;</li> <li>Pattern of existing wood pole OHL poles crossing open moorland areas, and following the edges of the forestry plantations within Glen Varragill are particularly noticeable where crossing the A87 within the northerly context.</li> <li>Views towards the surrounding mountain context are obtained from some areas, including the Cuillin mountains to the south and The Storr to the north drawing focus beyond the edge of the LCZ.</li> </ul>
<b>Landscape Value</b>	This LCZ is undesignated in landscape terms. There are limited landscape features of note and the components are locally common although the broad valley areas of An Leitir has some value for its remote qualities. The largely transitional qualities draws greater importance to surrounding landscape areas.  Landscape Value is Low
Assessment of Effects	
<b>Possible Landscape Receptors</b>	<b>Potential Effects</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>An Leitir valley which forms the focus of this, expansive, large scale and simple landscape;</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Proposed Development may appear prominent within the simple landscape or reduce sense of scale;</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Pattern of existing wood pole OHLs along An Leitir then down into, and across, Glen Varragill;</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Potential removal of existing distracting features; and</li> <li>Potential increased influence of taller steel lattice towers on the landscape or skyline within similar areas or affecting new areas.</li> </ul>



<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Elevated, unsettled and largely undeveloped nature gives An Leitir isolated and remote characteristics;</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Taller steel lattice towers, in comparison the existing wood poles to be removed, could erode the sense of remoteness due to their more obvious presence in the landscape</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Views towards the surrounding mountain context which draw focus beyond the edge of the LCZ</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Proposed steel lattice towers could distract from external views and form a more localised focus</li> </ul>
<p><b>Landscape Sensitivity</b></p>	<p>This is a large-scale landscape of low value and with locally common characteristics. Susceptibility to change of the type proposed varies across the area with the area around Glen Varragill being less susceptible to change due to the presence of the busy road, forest areas and existing wood pole OHLs, but a greater susceptibility across An Leitir due to the lack of development and sense of remoteness.</p> <p>When considered overall, landscape sensitivity for this LCZ is considered to <b>Low-Medium</b>, but is locally <b>Low</b> within Glen Varragill.</p>
<p><b>Nature and Magnitude of Change</b></p>	<p>Construction works for steel lattice towers would constitute a localised linear change in the short term at individual tower positions, along the temporary tracks and at storage or compound areas. This change is likely to be noticeable within the localised An Leitir valley though would be relatively contained by landform as indicated by the ZTV (see <b>Figure V2-3.1-S1</b>). Construction works but would appear less out of place within the context of Glen Varragill where similar types of forestry works are not uncommon.</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 although it would extend slightly further out into the An Leitir valley than at present resulting in an extended area of direct change to the valley floor. Through Glen Varragill, the towers would follow the rear of the forestry area, where an existing transition is already established in the landscape and would form a less noticeable change, assuming that existing forestry areas continue to be managed and restocked. A short, new permanent access track in this area would appear unremarkable within the existing context of managed forest where similar tracks are already present.</p> <p>The level of change would therefore be noticeable within a localised area of around 1 km around An Leitir, particularly during construction, but becoming less so beyond this distance due to the containment of the surrounding hills, and would be perceptible within Glen Varragill area where the construction works and towers would be less out of place. The magnitude of change is therefore considered to be <b>Medium</b> during construction, and <b>Low-Medium</b> during operation.</p>
<p><b>Significance of Effect</b></p>	<p>During construction, the works through the remote An Leitir area would be likely to distract from the simple structure and remote characteristics of this area, due to the increased activity and presence of large scale plant and features. However, this effect would be relatively contained by the surrounding landform, with works at only occasional towers invisible beyond the immediate enclosure of the valley. The effects of construction works would be less noticeable towards the east of the LCZ in Glen Varragill where they would appear not inconsistent with existing forestry works, and the sensitivity to this type of activity is reduced by the busy road.</p> <p>During operation, the greater height and different form of the steel lattice towers would lead to these forming a more eye-catching feature in the landscape, when compared to the existing wood pole OHL. This would be a relatively localised effect in this LCZ, but may form some distraction from external views, although given the existing foreground forest and wood pole OHLs within Glen Varragill, this is not anticipated to form a very noticeably greater distraction in this area than existing features. Although likely to be more noticeable in the An Leitir area and potentially reducing localised perceptions of remoteness, the Proposed Development is not anticipated to noticeably alter the broadly simple characteristics of the landscape.</p> <p>The landscape effect within this LCZ is anticipated to be <b>Moderate Adverse</b> (significant) during construction within the localised An Leitir area but would be otherwise <b>Minor – Moderate Adverse</b> (not significant). During operation, the localised effect within An Leitir is anticipated to reduce to be <b>Minor – Moderate Adverse</b> (not</p>

	significant) and the effect on this LCZ as a whole would be <b>Minor Adverse</b> (not significant).
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**Table 1.5: LCZ 1-5 – Caiplach**

Baseline Description	
<b>Description</b>	This LCZ covers the section of the alignment between the south end of Glen Varragill at the existing OHL crossing point and the head of Loch Sligachan. The character of this LCZ is heavily influenced by the dramatic landscape of the nearby Cuillin mountains which are set within the adjacent context to the south. Within the LCZ, the local character is defined by an area of open, sloping moorland known as Caiplach, scattered with numerous small lochs and lochans and bordered to the west, north and east sides by rounded moorland hills. The moorland slopes down to the head of Loch Sligachan, where the River Sligachan meets a low lying tidal area of salt-marsh and forms a braided system of watercourses and areas of shingle. The A87 cuts down through the moorland slope meets the A863 near the head of the loch and this junction is a focus for collection of tourism development including a hotel and camp site. An extensive conifer belt extends from Glen Varragill down the east side of the busy A87 Broadford to Portree Road on the upper moorland slopes in the northern context.
<b>Included Landscape Character Types</b>	<b>Designated / Protected Landscapes within/adjacent to LCZ</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• LCT 358 – Low Smooth Moorland;</li> <li>• LCT 359 – Upland Sloping Moorland;</li> <li>• LCT 360 – Stepped Moorland; and</li> <li>• LCT 367 – Smooth Mountain Range</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Cuillin Hills National Scenic Area (NSA) (adjacent); and</li> <li>• Wild Land Area (WLA) 23. Cuillin (adjacent).</li> </ul>
<b>Key Local Landscape Character-istics</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Caiplach, an area of open, sloping moorland, characterised by numerous small lochs and lochans, is drained to the east via the Allt Dubh and Allt Dearg Mor and their tributaries ultimately into Loch Sligachan, and also by the River Drynoch to the west.</li> <li>• Outwith this LCZ, the moorland peak of Meall a Fhuarain (291m AOD) and Meall Odhar Mor (336mAOD) constrain intervisibility to the northwest and northeast of the study corridor respectively; and Leathad na Steiseig (298m AOD) to the southwest.</li> <li>• Glen Varragill stretching to the north of the LCZ is a very broad glen with linear areas of coniferous forestry through the valley floor;</li> <li>• Influence of the dramatic jagged skyline of the Cuillin Hills within the adjacent context to the south;</li> <li>• Areas of coniferous forest plantation, stretching down from Glen Varragill and on the western periphery of the Caiplach moorland area;</li> <li>• Existing wood pole OHLs crossing the open glen floor and adjacent to the edge of the forestry areas;</li> <li>• The busy A87 Broadford to Portree road runs north-south through the eastern side of the LCZ and is joined at Sligachan by the A863 Dunvegan road which runs through the southern end of the LCZ southeast to northwest;</li> <li>• Low lying tidal area of salt-marsh, braided system of watercourses and areas of shingle forming the head of Loch Sligachan</li> <li>• Concentrated area of tourism development near the head of Loch Sligachan.</li> </ul>
<b>Landscape Value</b>	<p>The southern periphery of this LCZ falls on the edge of The Cuillin Hills NSA and around 250 m of WLA 23. Cuillin. The LCZ, although relatively unexceptional on its own, is valued as a setting to these designated / protected areas, in particular the NSA as it allows striking views towards the Cuillin mountains.</p> <p>Landscape Value is Medium-High.</p>

Assessment of Effects	
Possible Landscape Receptors	Potential Effects
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Caiplach, an area of open, sloping moorland, characterised by numerous small lochs and lochans,</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• New steel lattice towers could form new prominent features within the open moorland landscape;</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The sloping moorland of Caiplach and its myriad of lochans, which acts as a valued foreground setting to the Cuillins and Loch Sligachan.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Construction works or new steel lattice towers may interrupt or distract in views towards the Cuillins or Loch Sligachan and erode the relationship between the foreground setting and the NSA;</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pattern of existing wood pole OHLs as they cross Glen Varragill and across the hill slopes outwith the LCZ to the south east.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Potential removal of existing distracting features; and</li> <li>• Potential increased influence of taller steel lattice towers on the landscape or skyline within similar areas or affecting new areas.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Areas of coniferous forest plantation</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Requirement to create new or wider wayleaves could lead to fragmentation of forest areas; or</li> <li>• Potential new or wider wayleaves may open up new views to other areas or features.</li> </ul>
<b>Landscape Sensitivity</b>	<p>Although of relatively common features in itself, the LCZ is valued as a setting to the Cuillin mountains and the open moorland as a setting to the dramatic mountain views has a limited tolerance to change of the type proposed. However, some detracting features in the form of existing OHLs, forestry and major roads reduce susceptibility to new development in the local context.</p> <p>Landscape sensitivity is <b>Medium-High</b></p>
<b>Nature and Magnitude of Change</b>	<p>Section 1 of the Proposed Development within this LCZ would include a short section of steel lattice towers crossing the lower part of Glen Varragill and the A87, and to the east side of the existing forest reaching down from Glen Varragill, and the construction of a sealing end compound at the termination of this route. An existing wayleave through the forest to the east of the A87 would be widened and short sections of permanent access track would be established through and alongside the forest belt, to east and west of the road, and to the sealing end compound. Elsewhere, temporary tracks would be established along the alignment during the construction period</p> <p>Construction works, including felling and access track construction, would constitute a localised linear change, confined to the northern part of this LCZ where the existing busy road and intermittent forestry works already give some similar, although likely less intensive, sense of movement and activity. Landform and forest areas would limit the intervisibility of the Proposed Development with the remainder of the LCZ to the south with only potential occasional glimpses of tower tops or taller construction elements such as cranes within the northern context. This would constitute virtually imperceptible change in landscape characteristics over the wider area combined with a perceptible change in the localised area within the north of the LCZ. When taking account of the limited perceptibility of change of the LCZ as a whole, the magnitude of change is considered to be <b>Low</b> during both construction and operation.</p>
<b>Significance of Effect</b>	<p>Potential effects within this LCZ would be limited to the northern, peripheral part of the LCZ where the Proposed Development would follow a mostly similar or parallel alignment to the existing wood pole OHL it would replace. There would therefore be unlikely to be any perceptual benefit from the removal of the existing wood pole OHL. The presence of the existing busy A87 road and forest within this area locally reduces the sensitivity to change. Within this context, construction works would not be out of character with the existing traffic movements and intermittent forestry activities which take place in this area, although would increase the influence of this type of activity in the short term within this localised area. In the longer term, the towers would be locally prominent features but would be concealed from the majority of this LCZ by existing forest and landform. The wider wayleave may accentuate the linear cut through the</p>

	<p>existing woodland but would generally reflect the character of this actively managed forest area, and similarly, permanent access tracks would not appear out of character.</p> <p>Although there would be localised effects within this northern part of the LCZ, the Proposed Development would not be perceptible across the majority of the LCZ and the more valued landscape aspects relating to Caiplach and the setting of the Cuillins and Loch Sligachan would not be affected.</p> <p>Landscape effect is therefore anticipated to be <b>Minor Adverse</b> (not significant) during construction and also during operation.</p>
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## **APPENDIX V2-3.7: ANNEX 2: VISUAL RECEPTOR ASSESSMENT (SECTION 1)**

<b>1.</b>	<b>VISUAL RECEPTOR ASSESSMENT (SECTION 1)</b>	<b>3</b>
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## 1. VISUAL RECEPTOR ASSESSMENT (SECTION 1)

**Table 1.1: 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)
B1-1	<b>Glen Vic Askill</b> Residents in and around isolated farmhouse with outbuildings.	Mostly low-level south-facing enclosed views of Glen Colbost with forestry blocks on hillsides to the west and east, with moorland hills above, featuring the existing wood pole OHL running into the Edinbane Substation from forestry to the west then running uphill to the east. In rear, northerly views the turbines of the Edinbane Wind Farm are close and prominent. The context of the existing OHL, the Edinbane substation and nearby windfarm at close quarters reduces the sensitivity of the receptors to some extent.	Low - Medium	The Proposed Development would cross the main southerly view at relatively close proximity, and would appear more noticeable than the existing wood pole OHL to be replaced, which is further away. Although existing wind turbines and other features already reduce the sensitivity of the view in other directions, the Proposed Development would contribute to a more surrounding visual experience of infrastructure.	0.3km	Medium-High	Medium-High	<b>Moderate Adverse</b> (significant)	<b>Moderate Adverse</b> (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)
B1-2	<b>Glenmore</b> Residents of 1-1.5 storey crofts, houses and outbuildings set amongst small clumps of conifers in linear settlement along the side of the Glenmore River Valley. Some receptor locations lie above the road and some below it.	Elevated south-west, front facing views over the glen with an extensive conifer forestry plantation on the opposite side and beyond. The existing wood pole OHL runs along the valley floor immediately below the houses. Also, a wood-pole distribution OHL runs along the side of the valley in the immediate foreground; both slightly reducing sensitivity to change of the type proposed.	Medium-High	In the main front-facing views, the existing wood pole OHL along the valley floor immediately below the houses would be removed and replaced with a taller steel lattice tower OHL on a new alignment further away on the opposite side of the glen, parallel to the edge of the conifer plantation and back-clothed by it. The Proposed Development would also require a temporary access track to be constructed, along the length of the OHL. This would be a more noticeable and detracting feature than the existing OHL in valued front views despite its increased distance from the receptor locations.	1.0km	Medium	Medium	<b>Moderate Adverse</b> (significant)	Minor - Moderate 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)
B1-3	<p><b>Mugeary</b></p> <p>Residents in and around 1 storey croft houses along the side of Glenmore to the south of Glenmore township.</p> <p>(Visualisation Location 1-2 illustrates a representative view from this area (see <b>Figures V4A-1.2a to d</b>))</p>	<p>Slightly elevated valued south-west facing views over the valley with an extensive conifer forestry plantation on the opposite side and beyond. The existing wood pole OHL runs along the valley floor below and opposite the houses, back-clothed by the conifers, slightly reducing sensitivity to change of the type proposed.</p> <p>A wood pole distribution OHL runs along the side of the valley to the immediate rear of the receptor locations.</p>	Medium	<p>In the main front-facing views, the Proposed Development would result in the removal of the existing wood pole OHL along the valley floor below the houses and its substitution with a taller steel lattice tower OHL on a new alignment further away on the opposite side of the valley; running through the conifer plantation. Felling works would be required to form a new wayleave through this forest but it is likely that the lower parts of the towers and new permanent access track would continue to be concealed by the trees, thereby reducing the magnitude of change.</p>	0.8km	Medium	Medium-Low	<b>Moderate Adverse</b> (significant)	<b>Moderate Adverse</b> (significant)
B1-4	<p><b>Sligachan</b></p> <p>Visitors to hotel / restaurant and campsite and associated outdoor recreational areas</p>	<p>Views are focussed towards and east down Loch Sligachan, framed by the enclosing hills and oblique to the south featuring the Cuillin mountains.</p>	Low	<p>The Proposed Development would be very oblique to the main view with one tower tip likely to be barely perceptible due to screening by local landform. There would be no view from the campsite.</p>	2.0km	Negligible	Negligible	Negligible (not significant)	Negligible (not significant)

**Table 1.2: Route-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)
R1-1	<b>A87</b> Residents, tourists and other travellers using busy north-south road along Glen Varragill which connects Portree with Broadford. (Visualisation Location 1-3 provides a representative worse case view of the sealing end compound and terminal tower from an elevated mound adjacent to this route (see <b>Figures V4A-1.3a to d</b> ))	Low-level views along the glen, periodically enclosed by blocks of forestry on both sides but opening up to views of open moorland to the northeast and the head of Loch Sligachan and the Cuillins to the south. The existing wood-pole OHL crosses the road approximately 4km north of Sligachan, before following the rear of the forestry plantation on the east side; largely screened.	Low	Featuring prominently in both northbound and southbound views, the Proposed Development would cross this route, replacing the existing wood pole OHL with a taller steel lattice tower OHL on a similar alignment. This would appear prominent on the approach, but generally only from a short section. Due to the position of the crossing, views towards the Cuillins would not be affected. The Proposed Development would also be perceptible, partly filtered by conifer plantations on the west side of the glen. Some broadening of the wayleave to the east of the road may be perceptible in passing, but generally towers on this side would be concealed, assuming existing forest stays in place. New permanent access tracks may be perceptible but would appear similar to existing forest tracks in the area.	40m	Medium-High	Medium-High	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 Closest Distance	Magnitude		Effect	
						Construction	Operation (after 10 years)	Construction	Operation (after 10 years)
R1-2	<b>A863</b> Residents, tourists and other travellers using coast road to Dunvegan on the section between Sligachan in the south and Crossal to the north.	Low-level to slightly elevated moorland views with the Cuillin Hills dominating the view southwards and views to the north enclosed by lower hills. In the foreground is the lochan-studded sloping moorland of Caiplich, drained by the Allt Dearg mor in the foreground at the Southern end near Sligachan and the River Drynoch at the north end. The existing wood-pole OHL is relatively distant from this receptor location and barely perceptible in glimpsed views.	Low	The Proposed Development would be a barely perceptible feature within glimpsed passing views to the north-east from a few limited parts of the route within which it would be likely to be largely hidden by conifer plantations and foreground topography with only tips of towers potentially visible.	1.8km	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)
R1-3	<b>B885</b> Residents and tourists or recreational users using high-level east-west single track road which connects the west coast at Bracadale with Portree running alongside the Allt Mor gorge above Totardor but otherwise across open, high, undulating moorland. (A representative view from this route is presented by Visualisation Location 1-1 (see <b>Figures V4A-1.1a to d</b> ))	Eastbound and westbound views across extensive, elevated open moorland and areas of extensive conifer plantations. The existing OHL crosses the road approximately halfway between Bracadale and Portree near Loch Connan (although the loch is not visible from the road).	Low	The Proposed Development would feature in both eastbound and westbound views as it crosses the road and extends either side, replacing the existing wood pole OHL with taller steel lattice towers, crossing at a similar position but veering southwest along a new alignment approximately 1km to the east of the road. A temporary track would follow the alignment during the construction period with temporary bellmouths created close to the OHL crossing point. Overall, this would result in a very noticeable change in the existing low sensitivity view at the crossing point and about 1km in either direction; within which the new OHL would be a more prominent feature than the existing wood-pole OHL it replaces.	0.1km	High	High	<b>Moderate Adverse</b> (significant)	<b>Moderate Adverse</b> (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)
R1-4	<b>Glenmore and Mugeary Minor Road</b> Receptors are primarily residents using this single-track high-level moorland road which serves Glenmore and Mugeary only. (Visualisation Location 1-2 gives an indication of a worse case view from this route (see <b>Figures V4A-1.2a to d</b> )	Elevated south-west facing views over the valley with an extensive conifer forestry plantation on the opposite side and beyond. The existing wood pole OHL runs along the valley floor immediately below the road and houses. Also, a wood-pole distribution OHL runs along the side of the valley in the immediate foreground then crosses to uphill before Mugeary. The presence of both in the view, together with the nature of the receptors (i.e., mainly residents who are not using the road primarily to appreciate the view unlike visitors) and the broader availability of views to road users, together reduces sensitivity to change of the type proposed.	Low	The Proposed Development would feature in side and oblique views across the glen, within the middle distance on the opposite side of the valley. As the route approaches Mugeary, the towers would be closer but with the lower part partially concealed by existing coniferous forest plantation. This would form a noticeable and somewhat distracting new feature within the southerly view. Construction works including a temporary track, cranes and plant would draw a greater degree of attention to the Proposed Development during construction.	0.8km	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 Closest Distance	Magnitude		Effect	
						Construction	Operation (after 10 years)	Construction	Operation (after 10 years)
R1-5	<p><b>Core Path SL28.01 (Loch Caroy to Glen Vic Askill)</b></p> <p>Recreational users and workers on forestry and farm track, partially used as access for wind farm and substation.</p>	<p>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.</p> <p>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.</p>	Low	<p>The Proposed Development would cross this route obliquely with steel lattice towers replacing existing wood poles from the east of Edinbane substation up Beinn a Chait. Towers would be seen at close proximity when travelling in both directions along the section of the route to the east of the forest plantation, albeit in the context of the existing substation and nearby windfarm.</p>	30m	Medium-High	Medium-High	<b>Moderate Adverse</b> (significant)	<b>Moderate Adverse</b> (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)
R1-6	<b>Forest Track to north of Loch Connan</b> Forestry workers and recreational users on track running from the B885 across moorland near the OHL crossing, into forestry above Glen Vic Askill	Open moorland views, particularly to east and south-east, featuring the distant Cuillins from the more elevated northerly part of the route. The view is more restricted to the west and south-west by cuttings and other landform but there are occasional glimpsed views over Loch Connan from more elevated sections. To southbound users, main views are elevated and southwards down past Am Maol to the Achaleathan basin. Large areas of forestry feature closely in views to the north and east and more distantly to the south. The existing OHL and forestry reduce sensitivity slightly. Sensitivity would also be lower for forestry workers than recreational users.	Low- Medium	This route would receive minor upgrading as part of the Proposed Development and would be occasionally used during operation of the Proposed Development but this is not anticipated to perceptibly alter the visual experience of the route for users. The Proposed Development would form a perceptible feature within elevated, open, southbound views over the moorland to the east of Am Maol, and may also be occasionally seen at closer proximity on the skyline to the south-west beyond Loch Connan where views are obtained through local terrain, replacing and forming a more noticeable feature than the existing wood pole OHL.	0.1km	Medium-High	Medium-High	<b>Moderate Adverse</b> (significant)	Minor – Moderate 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)
R1-7	<b>Glenmore to Glenvarragill Footpath</b> Recreational users, estate users, local residents on a high moorland footpath linking Glenmore with Glenvarragil via Bealach Mor.	Within the study area, main views are oblique and side-on across Glenmore to the west and northwest. These views feature the linear settlement of Glenmore in the foreground along the minor road with a distribution wood-pole OHL below this and the existing wood-pole OHL in the valley floor. Coniferous plantation woodland features prominently on the opposite side of the valley and beyond. The Cuillin mountains form a notable focus within elevated southerly views.	Medium	Elevated, oblique/ side views of the Proposed Development across the glen from around 1 km of the most westerly part of the route, including a temporary access track following the alignment during construction. The towers would form a new feature within the middle distance on the opposite side of the valley running along the edge of the conifer plantation and back-clothed by it, likely to form a perceptible feature in the view though would be more noticeable with the additional activity and plant associated with construction. The existing wood pole OHL would be removed from the view.	1.3km	Low-Medium	Low-Medium	Minor – Moderate Adverse (not significant)	Minor Adverse (not significant)