

VOLUME 1: CHAPTER 8 – SUMMARY OF EFFECTS

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Appendices (Volume 5 of this EIA Report)

There are no appendices associated with this Chapter

Figures (Volume 3 of this EIA Report)

There are no figures associated with this Chapter

8. SUMMARY OF EFFECTS

8.1 Introduction

- 8.1.1 The findings of the environmental impact assessment (EIA) for the Proposed Development are presented within the technical assessments contained within **Volume 2** (for the Proposed Alignment) and **Volume 6** (for the Alternative Alignment) of this EIA Report. The significance of these effects has been assessed using criteria defined in the topic chapters. Unless stated otherwise in the technical assessments, the significance of effects has been categorised as **major**, **moderate**, **minor** or **negligible**, with effects assessed as being of ‘**major**’ or ‘**moderate**’ considered to be **significant** effects in the context of the Electricity Works (Environmental Impact Assessment) (Scotland) Regulations 2017 (‘the EIA Regulations’).
- 8.1.2 Mitigation measures have been identified to prevent, reduce or remedy any potentially significant adverse environmental effects identified where practicable, beyond that already taken into account as normal good practice (i.e. embedded mitigation) (e.g. the Construction Environment Management Plan (CEMP)). Such measures will be implemented during detailed design, construction and / or operation of the Proposed Development. Each technical chapter of this EIA Report details the measures recommended to mitigate any identified significant effect, and a summary of the recommended mitigation measures is provided in **Appendix V1-3.6: Schedule of Mitigation Measures**. Any remaining effects following implementation of available mitigation measures are known as ‘residual effects’.
- 8.1.3 The purpose of this Chapter is to provide a summary of the environmental effects identified within **Volume 2** (for the Proposed Alignment) and **Volume 6** (for the Alternative Alignment) of this EIA Report. Likely predicted significant effects are summarised in **Table V1-8.1** and **V1-8.2** at the end of this Chapter.

8.2 Landscape and Visual

- 8.2.1 A summary of the likely predicted significant landscape and visual effects of the Proposed Alignment, as described within **Volume 2: Chapter 3 - Landscape and Visual**, is set out below.

Summary of Significant Landscape Effects

Landscape Character

- 8.2.2 The landscape assessment has identified that there would be no significant effects to landscape character during both construction and operational phases, within Sections 0, 3, 5 and 6 of the Proposed Development.
- 8.2.3 Significant adverse landscape effects during construction are predicted within parts of Sections 1, 2 and 4. These Sections contain the greater areas of remote and mountainous landscapes within the study area, considered to be of higher sensitivity to development of the type proposed. Construction works for the Proposed Development would lead to a temporary disruption of these remote characteristics within Sections 1 and 4 and more southerly parts of Section 2 and would lead to a temporary distraction and disconnect between mountain and coastal landscapes within the more northerly part of Section 2. This is predicted to lead to temporary significant adverse landscape effects within the following areas:
- Section 1: Open, expansive parts of the landscape within the Achaleathan and An Leitir areas;
 - Section 2: Coastal edge and foothill areas between Glen Varragill and Creag Strollamus;
 - Section 4: Remote mountain glen areas between Druim Iosal and Kinloch Hourn; and
 - Section 4: The landscape of rugged knolls and lochans between Kinloch Hourn and Loch Cuaich.
- 8.2.4 During operation, following reinstatement, and with the application of mitigation measures to minimise the longer term effects of tracks, the majority of these effects would reduce and become not significant. Residual significant adverse effects would be limited to localised parts of the landscape within Section 1 (within the

Achaleathan area) and Section 2 (within an area to the south of Luib and Strollamus), comprising more remote and unmanaged areas where the Proposed Development would involve the replacement of the existing wood pole OHL with steel lattice towers, and therefore, a more noticeable degree of change to landscape components would be experienced.

- 8.2.5 Elsewhere, the similarity of the proposed steel lattice towers or wood poles to those which would be replaced, and / or the presence of other development or land management activities would lead to a less pronounced change in landscape characteristics and no longer term significant effects are predicted.
- 8.2.6 There would also be some limited beneficial effects in parts of Section 2, between Glen Varragill and Luib, and in Section 6, where the existing wood pole OHL would be replaced with an underground cable connection.

Designated and Protected Landscapes

- 8.2.7 The assessment of designated and protected landscapes has considered potential effects on National Scenic Areas (NSAs), Wild Land Areas (WLAs), Special Landscape Areas (SLAs) and sites included on the Inventory of Gardens and Designed Landscapes (GDLs), giving special consideration to potential effects on identified Special Qualities of these areas.
- 8.2.8 The landscape effects described above are anticipated to lead to a localised significant adverse effect to the landscape character of the Cuillin Hills NSA during construction within Section 2, which would affect the Special Landscape Qualities (SLQs) “*Magnificent mountain scenery*” and “*The surrounding wild landscape, a fitting foil for the mountains*” within a localised area between Luib and Strollamus. However, this effect would be temporary with longer term operational effects on the NSA being not significant and no longer term significant effects to any of the NSA SLQs. There would also be some benefit elsewhere around the edge of the NSA, where an existing wood pole OHL would be removed and replaced by an underground cable connection.
- 8.2.9 Although this part of the Proposed Development would also lead to limited adverse effects to the wild land character and some Wild Land Qualities (WLQs) of WLA 23. Cuillin, these would be not significant during both construction and operation, due to the existing influence of external built features and contemporary land use within the areas affected.
- 8.2.10 Significant adverse landscape effects during construction within Section 4 are also anticipated to lead to temporary and localised significant adverse effects to WLA 18. Kinlochhourn – Knoydart – Morar, between Druim losal and Kinloch Hourn, affecting the Wild Land Quality “*A very remote interior drawing adventurous and experienced hillwalkers*”. This effect on the sense of remoteness is also anticipated to lead to a localised significant adverse effect to the Knoydart NSA within the same area, affecting the SLQ “*One of the remotest areas on mainland Britain*”. However, these effects would be temporary, during the construction phase only with no long term significant effect.
- 8.2.11 Adverse effects on the remaining part of the Knoydart NSA between Kinloch Hourn and Loch Cuaich are not predicted to be significant, and there would be no significant adverse effects to the character and Special Qualities of the Moidart, Morar and Glen Shiel SLA which also falls within Section 4.
- 8.2.12 There would be no significant effects during construction or operation for any other designated or protected landscapes within the study area.

Summary of Significant Visual Effects

- 8.2.13 The visual assessment has identified that there would be a limited number of significant adverse visual effects during construction and operation within Sections 1, 2, 4 and 5, affecting residents, tourists and visitors, travellers and recreational users. No significant visual effects have been identified for Sections 0, 3 and 6.

8.2.14 During construction, temporary significant effects are anticipated for the following locations or routes where the appearance of construction activities is anticipated to form a noticeable reduction in the quality of visual amenity for those present:

- Within Section 1: Residents located in Glen Vic Askill, Glenmore and Mugeary; travellers using the B885; and recreational users of two paths at Glen Vic Askill and to the north of Loch Connan;
- Within Section 2: Residents located at Luib and Strollamus, visitors to Sligachan hotel and campsite; travellers on the A87, and the Sconser to Moll minor road around Loch Ainort; recreational receptors using footpaths and tracks around Luib and Strollamus, and along the northern shore of Loch Sligachan to Peinachorrain; and visitors to laybys located at the head of Loch Ainort;
- Within Section 4: Residents located in Glen More, near Balavoulin; travellers / recreational users of the minor road to Kinloch Hourn; and recreational users of walking routes which form parts of the Kinloch Hourn Drove Road Heritage Path between Balvraid (in Gleann Beag) and Kinloch Hourn, and a localised part of a track to the north of Loch Coire Shubh; and
- Within Section 5: Residents located at Leacan Dubh and Munerigie.

8.2.15 During operation the number and spread of significant adverse effects would be reduced with longer term adverse effects occurring only at a few locations within Sections 1, 2 and 5 where the steel lattice towers, replacing an existing wood pole OHL, would appear larger and more prominent in the view. These locations are summarised as follows:

- Within Section 1, for recreational users of a Core Path and residents at an isolated property at Glen Vic Askill, residents at properties at Mugeary and travellers on the B885 minor road;
- Within Section 2, for recreational users of a footpath close to Luib (the Torrin Ring from Luib); and
- Within Section 5, for residents of properties at Leacan Dubh and Munerigie.

8.2.16 During operation, there would be a small number of not significant beneficial effects for some residential receptors, travellers and recreational users within Section 0, the northern part of Section 2 and Section 6 due to the replacement of an existing wood pole OHL with an underground cable connection within Section 2 and 6, and localised realignment within Section 0.

Summary of Significant Cumulative Effects

8.2.17 The cumulative assessment identified a small number of additional cumulative effects as follows:

- Cumulative visual effects for users of a Core Path (SL28.01 (Loch Caroy to Glen Vic Askill) near Glen Vic Askill, resulting from Section 1 of the Proposed Development, when considered in addition to Section 0 of the Proposed Development and the Edinbane Substation Extension, and the consented Glen Ullunish Wind Farm;
- Cumulative landscape effects around the Sligachan area for Section 2 of the Proposed Development, when considered in addition to Section 1 of the Proposed Development;
- Cumulative visual effects for travellers on the A87 for Section 2 of the Proposed Development, affecting in addition to Sections 1 and 3 of the Proposed Development; and
- Cumulative visual effects for users of the Kinloch Hourn Minor Road for Section 4 of the Proposed Development, when considered in addition to Section 5 of the Proposed Development.

8.2.18 The majority of these cumulative effects would occur during the construction phase of the Proposed Development only, but cumulative effects to Core Path SL28.01 (Loch Caroy to Glen Vic Askill) are also predicted to occur during the operational phase of the Proposed Development.

Alternative Alignment

8.2.19 A summary of the likely predicted significant landscape and visual effects of the Alternative Alignment within Section 3 of the project, as described within **Volume 6 – Chapter 3: Landscape and Visual**, is set out below.

Summary of Significant Landscape Effects

8.2.20 The landscape assessment for the Alternative Alignment has identified that significant adverse effects would be likely to occur within the Glen Arroch and Kyle Rhea Glen areas during construction and operation. During construction, the Alternative Alignment is predicted to appear prominent and distracting, and likely to affect the sense of remoteness through the elevated pass of Bealach Udal and disrupt valued views through Kyle Rhea Glen, and the setting of crofting landscapes at the base of the glen. During operation, proposed steel lattice towers would form a new characteristic within these valued landscapes, likely to appear distracting and, with the addition of a permanent access track, leading to a greater sense of accessibility and development.

8.2.21 A temporary significant landscape effect would also occur along the shore of Kyle Rhea, between Kylerhea and the existing OHL due to the effects of felling works, construction of towers and temporary access tracks. However, given the forested character of this area, the presence of the existing tall sea-crossing towers and the positive effect of removal of towers to the north of the crossing point, the longer-term operational effect would not be significant.

8.2.22 No significant effects are predicted to the landscape around Broadford Bay, where the Proposed Development would appear very similar to the OHL it would replace, and the landscape is considered capable of accommodating construction activities without a noticeable change in character.

8.2.23 No designated or protected landscapes would be affected by the Alternative Alignment although it is recognised that the landscape of Kylerhea Glen is valued locally and by visitors.

Summary of Significant Visual Effects

8.2.24 The visual assessment has identified that the majority of visual receptors would not be significantly affected by the Proposed Development. However, significant adverse effects have been identified for receptors within the Glen Arroch and Kyle Rhea area, affecting those at residential areas, using routes, and present at outdoor locations.

8.2.25 During construction, this would include visual receptors at the following locations:

- Residents and visitors at Kylerhea village, where the OHL would be prominent in rear views, although it would not affect valued coastal views;
- Travellers on the narrow minor road leading to Kylerhea village through Glen Arroch and Kylerhea Glen;
- Individuals engaged in appreciating the view from the Bealach Udal viewpoint;
- Visitors to a carpark / picnic area and using a recreational route to wildlife hides at the RSPB Otter Haven reserve; and
- Walkers accessing hill routes to the north of Kylerhea Glen (ascending Beinn na Caillich and Sgùrr na Còinnich) and to the south of Kylerhea Glen (ascending Ben Aslak).

8.2.26 During the operation of the Proposed Development, some of these effects would be reduced after 10 years post construction with the cessation of construction works and re-establishment of vegetation. However, longer term significant adverse visual effects are anticipated to continue for residents of Kylerhea village, where the Alternative Alignment would be prominent within the rear setting, and for users of the minor Glen Arroch / Kyle Rhea Glen Road, and Bealach Udal viewpoint where towers and a permanent access track are anticipated to appear distracting and interrupt the easterly views.

8.2.27 Elsewhere within the study area, for receptors within Broadford and outlying areas including residential areas and routes, and for receptors on the east side of the Kyle Rhea strait, although there may be views of the Alternative Alignment, the visual effect would be not significant during construction or operation.

Summary of Significant Cumulative Effects

8.2.28 When considering the Proposed Development in addition to Section 2 and Section 4 of the wider Skye Reinforcement project, and the related proposed Broadford Substation Extension (subject of a separate application), the LVIA has established that significant cumulative landscape effects would occur during the construction of the Alternative Alignment as follows:

- Cumulative landscape and visual effects within the area around Kyle Rhea, due to the additional intensity and focus of works on the western side of the Kyle, in addition to works within a smaller area on the eastern coast.
- Cumulative visual effects for recreational users of the Otter Haven recreational path through the forest, due to the closer proximity of the works in addition to those for Section 4; and
- Cumulative visual effects for walkers ascending the Kylerhea Hills on the northern side of Kylerhea Glen due to the closer proximity of the works in addition to those for Section 4.

8.2.29 No significant cumulative effects are anticipated during operation.

8.3 Ecology

8.3.1 A summary of the likely predicted significant ecology effects of the Proposed Alignment, as described within **Volume 2: Chapter 4 - Ecology**, is set out below.

8.3.2 The Proposed Development overlaps with the Kinloch and Kyleakin Hills Special Area of Conservation (SAC) and Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) and passes through areas of habitat listed on the Ancient Woodland Inventory. Most of the study area consists of open upland heath and bog habitats. Patches of other habitat types break up the expanses of wet heath and blanket bog; with the respective communities often forming complex mosaics and transitional areas. Protected species including badger, bats, hares, otter, pine marten, red squirrel and reptiles are likely to be within the study area, with a number of watercourses providing suitable habitat for salmonid populations.

8.3.3 The Proposed Development has been designed to minimise impacts on important habitats, peatland and protected species as far as practicable. This has been achieved through embedded mitigation and the iterative design process. This process, combined with further commitments to certain mitigation measures pre-construction, during construction, and during operation, allowed potential effects on several habitats and species present to be scoped-out of the assessment.

8.3.4 The following Important Ecological Features (IEFs) were taken forward to the assessment stage: the Kinloch and Kyleakin Hills SAC and SSSI sites (including lichen and bryophyte assemblages), ancient woodland, broadleaved woodland, blanket bog (including wet modified bog), wet heath, dry heath and otter.

8.3.5 Assessment of potential effects and their significance were determined through consideration of the sensitivity of the feature (nature conservation value and conservation status) and the characterisation of impact. The most tangible effect during construction of the Proposed Development on most IEFs would be direct habitat loss due to the construction of infrastructure, in addition to some indirect drainage effects on wetland habitats. Dismantling of the existing OHL could have beneficial effects on woodland habitats due to removal of the need for maintaining an operational corridor, although could cause disturbance to otter through proximity of suitable habitat and known resting sites. Operational impacts could have adverse impacts on the woodland habitat of the Kinloch and Kyleakin Hills SAC and SSSI through maintenance of the operational corridor.

- 8.3.6 With respect to the Kinloch and Kyleakin Hills SAC within Section 3 of the project, the assessment predicted likely significant effects as a result of the Proposed Development for four of the SAC's qualifying features (Western acidic oak woodland, blanket bog, wet heathland with cross-leaved heath and dry heaths). As such, a shadow HRA has been prepared to provide information for Scottish Ministers, as competent authority, to consider (see **Appendix V2-4.7**). Likely significant effects were also predicted for the same features of the Kinloch and Kyleakin Hills SSSI.
- 8.3.7 For other IEFs, residual significant adverse effects were also predicted for ancient woodland, whereby the majority of predicted habitat loss of ancient woodland for the Proposed Development is located within Sections 4 and 5¹.
- 8.3.8 To compensate residual significant adverse effects on the Kinloch and Kyleakin Hills SAC and SSSI habitats, a Habitat Management Plan (HMP) would be developed for the relevant qualifying features affected. Significant adverse effects through the loss of ancient woodland would be reduced through compensation planting, which would be detailed in an HMP for habitats outwith the SAC. The HMP would also be designed to reduce the effects on other IEF habitats and provide enhancement at the Site.

Alternative Alignment

- 8.3.9 A summary of the likely predicted significant ecology effects of the Alternative Alignment, as described within **Volume 6: Chapter 4 - Ecology**, is set out below.
- 8.3.10 The Alternative Alignment comprises an alternative option for the Proposed Development within Section 3 of the project. Nevertheless, both options would be required to pass through the Kinloch and Kyleakin Hills SAC and SSSI.
- 8.3.11 The assessment of the Alternative Alignment also predicted likely significant effects for four of the SAC's qualifying features (Western acidic oak woodland, blanket bog, wet heathland with cross-leaved heath and dry heaths). These are the same qualifying features that are predicted to be adversely affected by the Proposed Alignment. Given the likely significant effects predicted, a shadow HRA has been prepared to provide information for Scottish Ministers, as competent authority, to consider with respect to the Alternative Alignment (see **Appendix V2-4.7**). Likely significant effects were also predicted for the same features of the Kinloch and Kyleakin Hills SSSI.
- 8.3.12 To compensate residual significant adverse effects on the Kinloch and Kyleakin Hills SAC and SSSI habitats, a Habitat Management Plan (HMP) would be developed for the relevant qualifying features affected. Significant adverse effects through the loss of ancient woodland would be reduced through compensation planting, which would be detailed in a HMP for habitats outwith the SAC. The HMP would also be designed to reduce the effects on other IEF habitats and provide enhancement at the Site.

8.4 Ornithology

- 8.4.1 A summary of the likely predicted significant ornithology effects of the Proposed Alignment, as described within **Volume 2: Chapter 5 - Ornithology**, is set out below.
- 8.4.2 Desk-based studies and field surveys were carried out in and around the Proposed Development over respective 'Study Areas' to establish baseline conditions and the species and populations present.
- 8.4.3 Four bird species were included in the assessment, white-tailed eagle, golden eagle, black-throated diver and common scoter. These species were considered to be of high Nature Conservation Importance due to their

¹ Note that ancient woodland habitat loss is also predicted in Section 6. However, no felling of trees is actually required or anticipated in Section 6 because the respective AWI area affected by the Proposed Development here was previously commercially afforested but has since been clear-felled.

listing as Annex I species (Birds Directive) and Schedule 1 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981, as amended by the Nature Conservation (Scotland) Act 2004). It was possible to 'scope out' the effects on a number of other species of high Nature Conservation Importance by virtue of their ecology, absence, distance from the Proposed Development, small numbers, low levels of activity and the nature and location of this activity.

- 8.4.4 Habitat loss arising from the construction of the Proposed Development is unlikely to result in adverse impacts upon any bird species. Any impacts are likely to be negligible and not significant. Population reductions due to habitat loss, displacement and/or collision mortality are also likely to be minimal. Where "hot spots" of flight activity have been identified mitigation, by way of bird flight diverters, has been proposed. Any impacts are predicted to be negligible and not significant for all bird species.
- 8.4.5 The contribution of adverse effects accrued by the Proposed Development to regional populations would be undetectable and so cumulative effects of the Proposed Development with existing and planned developments in the region are judged as being unlikely to have a significant effect on existing bird populations. Overall, it is concluded that the Proposed Development would not have a significant effect on birds.
- 8.4.6 As the Proposed Development passes through or within the vicinity of European designated sites, information is presented in the form of shadow HRAs to allow the competent authority to consider the requirement for an assessment of potential effects of the Proposed Development on the integrity of relevant Special Protection Areas (SPAs). This information demonstrates that the Proposed Development would not have an adverse effect on the integrity of any SPA.

Alternative Alignment

- 8.4.7 A summary of the likely predicted significant ornithology effects of the Alternative Alignment, as described within **Volume 6: Chapter 5 - Ornithology**, is set out below.
- 8.4.1 One bird species was included in the assessment of the Alternative Alignment within Section 3 of the project, white-tailed eagle. This species is considered to be of high Nature Conservation Importance due to their listing as Annex I species (Birds Directive) and Schedule 1 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981, as amended by the Nature Conservation (Scotland) Act 2004). It was possible to 'scope out' the effects on a number of other species of high Nature Conservation Importance by virtue of their ecology, absence, distance from the Proposed Development, small numbers, low levels of activity and the nature and location of this activity.
- 8.4.2 Habitat loss arising from the construction of the Alternative Alignment is unlikely to result in adverse impacts upon any bird species. Any impacts are likely to be negligible and not significant. Population reductions due to habitat loss, displacement and/or collision mortality are also likely to be minimal. Where "hot spots" of flight activity have been identified mitigation, by way of bird flight diverters, has been proposed. In relation to the Alternative Alignment, the results of baseline surveys have identified a 'hot-spot' of white-tailed eagle flight activity around Kyle Rhea. The substantial majority of white-tailed eagle activity within Section 3 is to the south of the existing OHL crossing tower at Kyle Rhea. Therefore, the frequency of flight activity in proximity to the Alternative Alignment within Section 3 is considered to be significant and is likely to give rise to an increase in collision effects to those already presented by the existing OHL. As line marking is proposed for the duration of the operational period of parts of the Alternative Alignment within Section 3, the residual effects on all bird species are negligible and therefore not significant.
- 8.4.3 The contribution of adverse effects accrued by the Alternative Alignment within Section 3 of the Proposed Development to regional populations would be undetectable and so cumulative effects of the Alternative Alignment with existing and planned developments in the region are judged as being unlikely to have a significant effect on existing bird populations. Overall, it is concluded that the Alternative Alignment within

Section 3 of the Proposed Development would not have a significant effect on birds under the terms of the EIA Regulations.

8.5 Water Environment

- 8.5.1 A summary of the likely predicted significant effects on the water environment of the Proposed Alignment, as described within **Volume 2: Chapter 6 - Water Environment**, is set out below.
- 8.5.2 An assessment has been undertaken on hydrology and hydrogeology (the water environment) during the construction and operational phases of the Proposed Development. The assessment has also considered the potential effects of dismantling the existing 132 kV overhead line (OHL) on hydrology and hydrogeology.
- 8.5.3 Information for the assessment was compiled using baseline information from a desk study which was verified by an extensive programme of field work. The field work included investigation of private and public water supply sources in order to determine those which might be hydrologically connected to and at risk from the Proposed Development. Measures required to protect these sources have been confirmed.
- 8.5.4 The assessment considers the potential effects associated with alteration of surface water or groundwater flow; impairment of surface water or groundwater quality; increase in flood risk; impairment of Drinking Water Protected Areas and private water supplies; and adverse effect on water dependent designated sites where there is a potential hydrologic connection to the Proposed Development
- 8.5.5 The assessment was undertaken considering the sensitivity of receptors identified during the baseline study and considering mitigation measures incorporated in the development design, which included a buffer of at least 20 m to water features. There are limited locations where, as a consequence of engineering constraints, it has not been possible to maintain this buffer and these locations have been confirmed in the assessment. It is recognised that at these locations additional safeguards are required to protect the water environment and details of these are identified in this assessment. It has also considered potential future changes to baseline conditions.
- 8.5.6 The scope of the assessment was informed by scoping responses received from statutory and non-statutory consultees. Further consultation was undertaken with Scottish Water and residents who benefit from a private water supply to enable a thorough assessment of the potential effects of the Proposed Development on public and private water supply sources.
- 8.5.7 Subject to adoption of best practice construction techniques and a project specific Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP), no significant adverse effects on the water environment have been identified. The CEMP includes provision for drainage management plans which will be agreed with statutory consultees, including SEPA and which will be used to safeguard water resources and manage flood risk. A commitment to deploy Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS) in these plans has been made. The CEMP also includes provision of a Pollution Prevention Plan which would also be agreed with statutory consultees including SEPA prior to any construction or dismantling works being undertaken.
- 8.5.8 Notwithstanding these safeguards, a programme of baseline and construction phase water quality monitoring is proposed which would be used to confirm that the Proposed Development does not have a significant effect on the water environment. The monitoring programme would also be used to ensure private water supplies, Drinking Water Protected Areas, and water dependant designated sites are safeguarded. It is proposed that the monitoring programme is agreed with statutory consultees.

Alternative Alignment

- 8.5.9 A summary of the likely predicted significant effects on the water environment of the Proposed Alignment, as described within **Volume 6: Chapter 6 - Water Environment**, is set out below.

- 8.5.10 An assessment has been undertaken on hydrology and hydrogeology (the water environment) during the construction and operational phases of the Alternative Alignment within Section 3 of the project. The assessment has also considered the potential effects of dismantling the existing 132 kV overhead line (OHL) on hydrology and hydrogeology.
- 8.5.11 The assessment followed the same approach and methods as have been undertaken for the Proposed Alignment, summarised in paragraphs 8.5.2 to 8.5.8 above. Similarly, the assessment concluded that, with appropriate safeguards and a programme of baseline and construction phase water quality monitoring, particularly in relation to private water supplies at Kylerhea, no significant adverse effects on the water environment have been identified.

8.6 Geology and Soils Environment

- 8.6.1 A summary of the likely predicted significant effects on the geology and soils environment, as described within **Volume 2: Chapter 7 - Geology and Soils Environment**, is set out below.
- 8.6.2 An assessment has been undertaken on geology, peat and soils (the geology and soils environment) during the construction and operational phases of the Proposed Development. The assessment has also considered the potential effects of dismantling the existing overhead line (OHL).
- 8.6.3 Information for the study area was compiled using baseline data from a desk study which was verified by an extensive programme of investigative field work. The assessment was undertaken considering the sensitivity of the receptors identified during the baseline study and considering the mitigation measures incorporated in the development design.
- 8.6.4 The assessment is supported by Appendices that consider potential effects on peat landslide and peat management, to ensure that there has been systematic consideration of peat throughout the development process.
- 8.6.5 Subject to adoption of best practice construction techniques and a project specific Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP), no significant adverse effects on the geology and soils environment have been identified for the Proposed Development.

Alternative Alignment

- 8.6.6 A summary of the likely predicted significant effects on the water environment, as described within **Volume 6: Chapter 7 - Geology and Soils Environment**, is set out below.
- 8.6.7 An assessment has been undertaken on the geology and soils environment during the construction and operational phases of the Alternative Alignment within Section 3 of the project. The assessment has also considered the potential effects of dismantling the existing 132 kV overhead line (OHL).
- 8.6.8 The assessment followed the same approach and methods as has been undertaken for the Proposed Alignment, summarised in paragraphs 8.6.2 to 8.6.5 above. Similarly, the assessment concluded that, subject to adoption of best practice construction techniques and a project specific Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP), no significant adverse effects on the geology and soils environment have been identified for the Alternative Alignment.

8.7 Cultural Heritage

- 8.7.1 A summary of the likely predicted significant effects on cultural heritage of the Proposed Alignment, as described within **Volume 2: Chapter 8 - Cultural Heritage**, is set out below.

- 8.7.1 The assessment identified and evaluated cultural heritage present within an Inner Study Area, which comprised a 200 m corridor around the proposed OHL and underground cable, and 50 m around associated access tracks, through the examination of desk-based resources and walk-over field survey, and to identify and evaluate heritage assets within an Outer Study Area extending up to 2.5 km around the Proposed Development that could have their settings affected.
- 8.7.2 A total of 208 heritage assets were identified within the Inner Study Area; 76 are recorded on the Historic Environment record (HER) and 132 were identified during the desktop study and/or subsequent field surveys. None of them are statutorily designated.
- 8.7.3 Twenty-four of these assets are assessed to be of regional heritage importance (medium sensitivity), 156 of these are assessed to be of local heritage importance (low sensitivity) and 28 are of lesser importance (negligible sensitivity).
- 8.7.4 The Proposed Development has been designed to avoid upstanding heritage assets wherever possible. However, potential direct effects of moderate significance have been predicted for one asset of local importance (low sensitivity). Potential direct effects of minor significance have been predicted for 14 assets of regional importance (medium sensitivity) and 41 assets of local importance (low sensitivity). Potential direct effects of negligible significance have been predicted for three assets of regional importance (medium sensitivity), 89 assets of local importance (low sensitivity), and 16 assets of lesser importance (negligible sensitivity).
- 8.7.5 Mitigation measures are proposed to ensure the protection of surviving remains that lie in close proximity to Proposed Development groundworks. Following the application of mitigation measures, the significance of all residual direct effects will be reduced to negligible.
- 8.7.6 A total of 65 statutorily designated heritage assets were identified within the Outer Study Area. They comprise 11 Scheduled Monuments and one Category A Listed Building assessed to be of national heritage importance (high sensitivity), 30 Category B Listed Buildings and one Conservation Area assessed to be of regional heritage importance (medium sensitivity), and 21 Category C Listed Buildings assessed to be of local heritage importance (low sensitivity).
- 8.7.7 There would be effects of minor significance on the settings of ten scheduled monuments and one Category A Listed Building. All other effects on the settings of designated heritage assets in the Outer Study Area would be of no more than negligible significance.
- 8.7.8 Potential cumulative effects of minor significance on the settings of two Scheduled Monuments (Dun Arkaig, broch (SM 13662) and Old Corry, cairns (SM 13673)) are predicted, arising from the Proposed Development in combination with the proposed extensions to Edinbane Substation and Broadford Substation, and the approved Glen Uilinish Wind Farm (including access track). All other cumulative effects on the settings of designated heritage assets in the Outer Study Area would be of no more than negligible significance.

Alternative Alignment

- 8.7.9 A summary of the likely predicted significant effects on cultural heritage of the Alternative Alignment, as described within **Volume 6: Chapter 8 - Cultural Heritage**, is set out below.
- 8.7.10 The study has identified 24 heritage assets within the Inner Study Area and 10 assets with statutory designations within the Outer Study Area.
- 8.7.11 The identified assets within the Inner Study Area are of the post-medieval and early modern period and comprise townships, farmsteads, shielings, historic field boundaries and cultivation remains. All 24 are non-designated heritage assets; four are of regional heritage value and medium sensitivity, 16 are of local heritage value and low sensitivity, and four are of limited heritage value and negligible sensitivity.

- 8.7.12 Designated assets within the Outer Study Area comprise one Scheduled Monument of national heritage value and high sensitivity, six Category B Listed Buildings of regional heritage value and medium sensitivity and three Category C Listed Buildings of local heritage value and low sensitivity.
- 8.7.13 Potential direct impacts arising from construction works have been identified that would affect up to 20 heritage assets within the Inner Study Area. These would result in potential adverse effects of minor significance on three heritage assets, and adverse effects of negligible significance on 17 others.
- 8.7.14 Mitigation measures set out to reduce predicted adverse direct impacts include archaeological investigation, recording, and archaeological monitoring. The scope and detail of mitigation work would be agreed with THC: HET. Following mitigation, all residual adverse effects would be of negligible significance.
- 8.7.15 The Alternative Alignment would result in residual effects of minor and not significant on the setting of one Scheduled Monument and residual effects of negligible and not significant upon the settings of the Listed Buildings within the Outer Study Area.

8.8 Forestry

- 8.8.1 A summary of the likely predicted significant effects on forestry, as described within **Volume 2: Chapter 9 - Forestry**, is set out below.
- 8.8.2 The Proposed Development is predicted to result in the direct loss of 100 ha of commercial woodland, 11 ha of ancient woodland and 7 ha of semi-natural woodland, due to the requirement to create an Operational Corridor (OC) for the construction and safe operation of the proposed OHL, including the creation of access tracks.
- 8.8.3 The assessment concluded that the removal of 11 ha of ancient woodland and 7 ha of semi-natural woodland, of which 0.15 ha is ancient woodland within the Kinloch and Kyleakin hills Special Area of Conservation (SAC), would result in a significant adverse effect on both woodland types across the project, despite potential opportunities to reduce the amount of felling, subject to further detailed design. No significant effects were predicted for the removal of commercial woodland.
- 8.8.4 Given the Proposed Development would result in the permanent loss of woodland, the Applicant is committed to making arrangements to plant off-site the equivalent area of woodland as Compensatory Planting, meeting the Scottish Government's Control of Woodland Removal Policy objective of no net loss of woodland.
- 8.8.5 Furthermore, it is acknowledged that the creation of the OC would result in wider potential indirect effects on the surrounding woodland areas. These areas would be subject to potential increased risk of damage (windthrow). The Woodland Reports identify further areas of felling to leave a windfirm edge (categorised as an indirect secondary impact). Any felling undertaken outwith the OC would be solely under the control of the relevant landowner (and not the Applicant). It is the intention of the Applicant to encourage the landowners to follow this good practice in terms of redesign of their current Long-Term Forest Plans which in-turn would aim to follow UKFS for the implementation of the works required.
- 8.8.6 The assessment identified the potential for significant effects (pre-mitigation) on forest management, due to the requirement for forest managers to amend current objectives, plans and techniques for their forest, in particular, to incorporate the felling requirements for the OC into their long-term felling and landscape design plans. With the commitment to develop the 'Woodland Reports' for each of the forests and woodlands affected by the Proposed Development, this is deemed sufficient to reduce the residual effect on forest management to not significant.
- 8.8.7 No significant effects on forest operations access were identified.

Alternative Alignment

- 8.8.8 A summary of the likely significant predicted effects on forestry of the Alternative Alignment, as described within **Volume 6: Chapter 9 - Forestry**, is set out below.
- 8.8.9 The assessment followed the same approach and methods as has been undertaken for the Proposed Alignment, summarised in paragraphs 8.8.2 to 8.8.7 above.
- 8.8.10 The Alternative Alignment would result in the requirement to create an OC through Kyle Farm and Mudalach Woodland, owned by Scottish Ministers and managed by Forestry and Land Scotland. Part of this woodland is commercial conifer plantation, with Lodgepole pine as its principal conifer species. Other parts of this woodland are included within the Kinloch and Kyleakin Hills SAC / SSSI noted for the Western Acidic Oak Woodland.
- 8.8.11 In comparison with the Proposed Alignment within Section 3, the Alternative Alignment would result in an increase to the amount of commercial woodland felling requirements. 19.89 ha of commercial woodland would be required to be felled to form the OC for the Alternative Alignment, whereas 9.4 ha of commercial woodland would be required to be felled to form the OC for the Proposed Alignment within Section 3. This would result in the total commercial woodland felling requirements across the project increasing from 100 ha to approximately 110 ha.
- 8.8.12 For semi-natural woodland, the Alternative Alignment would result in a loss of 0.7 ha, of which 0.1 ha is ancient woodland within the Kinloch and Kyleakin Hills SAC within Section 3. This compares with a loss of 1 ha of semi-natural woodland (of which 0.15 ha is within the SAC) for the Proposed Alignment.
- 8.8.13 The Alternative Alignment within Section 3 would not alter the assessment findings for the Proposed Development noted in paragraphs 8.8.2 to 8.8.7 above, and would be subject to the same good practice measures and compensatory planting requirements.

8.9 Transport

- 8.9.1 A summary of the likely predicted significant effects on transport of the Proposed Alignment, as described within **Volume 2: Chapter 10 - Transport**, is set out below.
- 8.9.2 An assessment has been carried out to fully consider the transport and access issues arising from the construction phase (which includes the dismantling and removal of existing OHL) of the Proposed Development. The assessment considered direct effects during construction on traffic flows in the surrounding study area, direct effects upon local road users and effects upon local residents due to an increase in construction traffic.
- 8.9.3 Where the effects meet the criteria set out in the IEMA guidance, a review of the effects on severance, driver delay, pedestrian delay, pedestrian amenity, fear and intimidation and accidents / road safety has been undertaken.
- 8.9.4 The Proposed Development would lead to a temporary increase in traffic volumes on the study road network during the construction phase. Traffic volumes would fall considerably outside the peak period of construction.
- 8.9.5 No link capacity issues are expected on any of the roads assessed due to the additional movements associated with the Proposed Development. The effects of construction traffic are temporary in nature and are transitory.
- 8.9.6 A series of mitigation measures and management plans have been proposed to help mitigate and offset the impacts of the construction phase traffic flows. These would be implemented through a Construction Traffic Management Plan (CTMP).

8.9.7 The assessment confirms that the predicted residual effects (i.e. after the implementation of mitigation) would be minor in nature and they would not be significant. There are no long-lasting detrimental transport or access issues associated with the construction phase of the Proposed Development.

Alternative Alignment

8.9.8 A summary of the likely predicted significant effects on transport of the Alternative Alignment, as described within **Volume 6: Chapter 10 - Transport**, is set out below.

8.9.9 Consideration has been given to whether the Alternative Alignment would result in any change to the assessment of effects predicted for the Proposed Development.

8.9.10 It has been concluded that should the Alternative Alignment within Section 3 of the project be constructed, there would be a localised increase in traffic flows associated with this change. The wider study area effects would be unlikely to alter to any significant degree, but it is recognised that the impact on users and residents living along Glen Arroch road will increase in significance and duration.

8.9.11 Whilst the effects of the Alternative Alignment would increase locally along the Glen Arroch Road, the proposed mitigation measures including the use of the proposed CTMP, localised road enhancements and a Section 96 Abnormal Wear and Tear agreement would still remain valid, albeit with localised enhancements to cater for the effects of any change in access and routing. As such, the conclusions of no likely significant residual effects for the Proposed Development remain.

8.9.12 Should the Alternative Alignment be progressed, the Applicant would agree any changes with Transport Scotland and The Highland Council prior to works commencing and will agree any necessary changes to the CTMP and Section 96 road bond value. This would be secured by a condition of consent.

8.10 Socio-Economic, Recreation and Tourism

8.10.1 A summary of the likely predicted significant effects on socio-economic, recreation and tourism of the Proposed Alignment, as described within **Volume 2: Chapter 11 - Socio-economic, Recreation and Tourism**, is set out below.

8.10.2 The assessment has been carried out in line with Scottish Government guidance on 'Net Economic Benefit and Planning'². The guidance highlights how the net economic benefit generated by a proposed development can be assessed as a material consideration in the decision-making process.

8.10.3 As a significant investment (approximately £488 million) in a key economic sector, the Proposed Development supports both pillars of the national economic strategy and each of the broad priority areas set out in the strategy. It would provide contract and employment opportunities for Scottish and Highland based businesses throughout the construction and operational phases.

8.10.4 The capital investment would enable a long-term security of supply and increasing capacity for renewable electricity generation across Skye and Lochalsh.

8.10.5 There would be direct construction impacts for the Highlands and Scotland as a whole as part of the investment plans, where 638 Person Year Employments (PYEs) would be generated as a result of the construction programme. Taking into account the origin of these jobs, displacement and multiplier effects the construction works alone would generate 167.4 PYE in the Highlands and 430.7 PYE at the Scottish level. This equates to a Gross Value Added (GVA) impact of £10.4 million to the Highlands and £27.38 million at the Scottish level over the construction period.

² Scottish Government (2016): Net Economic Benefit and Planning

- 8.10.6 Overall, taking account of displacement and multiplier effects, the Proposed Development is expected to generate 6.3 operational jobs per annum in the Highlands and 16.2 across Scotland per annum. This equates to a GVA impact of £310,320 to the Highlands and £1,065,393 across Scotland per annum.
- 8.10.7 The predicted residual socio-economic effect in relation to construction activities are deemed to be of Moderate Beneficial and significant at both regional and national level. The predicted residual socio-economic effect in relation to operational activities are deemed to be of Minor Beneficial and not significant at both regional and national level.
- 8.10.8 The Applicant has committed to maximise the economic opportunities for the local area and business and communities in the Highland Council area, where possible. As for other developments and as set out in their corporate communications, the Applicant is committed to using local supply chain where feasible and their Principal Contractors are also encouraged to do the same.
- 8.10.9 The Applicant has a raft of corporate communications which can be reviewed as to the contribution it makes to the Scottish economy, its sustainability ethos and track record of developing and delivering on community investment.

Recreation and Tourism

- 8.10.10 The review of recreational and tourism assets included a review of all notable visitor attractions, none of which are located in close proximity to the Proposed Development. Similarly, a review of core paths, rights of ways and hill tracks / mountain routes, has shown that these are largely unaffected by the Proposed Development. The tourism sector is important for Skye and Lochalsh, and review of secondary research has shown that visitors are not dissuaded from visiting or revisiting an area where renewable energy and transmission installations are present. It is unlikely that visitors would be dissuaded from visiting tourist attractions and using recreational routes, including viewpoints as a result of the Proposed Development.
- 8.10.11 The routing and alignment stage of the Proposed Development implemented mitigation by design including undergrounding within parts of Section 2 of the project through the Cullins, and near Fort Augustus (Section 6), to mitigate likely landscape and visual significant effects (in the case of Section 2) and rationalise the OHL electricity network (in the case of Section 6). Community consultation has been undertaken to gain the views of local residents, and SSEN Transmission has taken on board as far as possible these views in developing the design of the Proposed Development, to minimise against any adverse recreational and tourism effects.
- 8.10.12 The predicted residual recreational and tourism effect in relation to construction activities are deemed to be Negligible and not significant. The predicted residual recreational and tourism effect in relation to operational activities are deemed to be Negligible and not significant.

Alternative Alignment

- 8.10.13 A summary of the likely predicted significant effects on socio-economic, recreation and tourism of the Alternative Alignment, as described within **Volume 6: Chapter 11 - Socio-economic, Recreation and Tourism**, is set out below.
- 8.10.14 The economic effects for the project as a whole are not expected to differ from those presented for the Proposed Development, comprising the Proposed Alignment, in **Volume 2: Chapter 11 - Socio-Economics, Recreation and Tourism**. This is because the same level of works and investment levels would be required for both the Proposed Alignment or Alternative Alignment within Section 3 of the project.
- 8.10.15 The review of the recreational and tourism asset base relevant to the Alternative Alignment identified the Glenelg to Skye Ferry, which is a seasonal operation. The tourism sector is important for Skye and Lochalsh, and the review of secondary research has shown that visitors are not dissuaded from visiting or revisiting an

area where such developments are present. It is unlikely that visitors would be dissuaded from using the ferry and the neighbour routes, including viewpoints. Notwithstanding the significant landscape and visual effects that have been predicted for the Alternative Alignment, due to there being few other tourism assets in the local area there is unlikely to be any significant monetizable detrimental effects to the local area as a result of the Alternative Alignment.

8.10.16 The predicted residual effect on tourism and recreation receptors as a result of the Alternative Alignment is expected to be Minor Adverse and not significant during the construction and dismantling, and operation and maintenance phases.

8.11 Summary of Likely Significant Effects

8.11.1 **Table V1-8.1** summarises the likely predicted significant effects as a result of the Proposed Alignment, with reference to relevant sections of the project, where appropriate. **Table V1-8.2** summarises the likely predicted significant effects as a result of the Alternative Alignment within Section 3 of the project.

Table V1-8.1: Likely Significant Effects

Topic / Receptor	Section of Relevance	Effect Significance (Pre-Mitigation)	Additional Mitigation	Residual Effects and Significance (Post Mitigation)
Landscape and Visual				
Construction – Designated and Protected Landscapes				
The Cuillin Hills NSA	2	Locally Moderate Adverse and Significant	N/A	Locally Moderate Adverse and Significant
Knoydart NSA	4	Locally Moderate Adverse and Significant	N/A	Locally Moderate Adverse and Significant
WLA 18. Kinlochhour – Knoydart – Morar	4	Locally Moderate Adverse and Significant	N/A	Locally Moderate Adverse and Significant
Construction – Landscape Character Zone Receptors				
LCZ 1-2 Loch Connan Rocky Knolls	1	Moderate Adverse and Significant	N/A	Moderate Adverse and Significant
LCZ 1-3 Achaleathan and Glenmore	1	Moderate Adverse and Significant	N/A	Moderate Adverse and Significant
LCZ 1-4 An Leitir and Glen Varragill	1	Locally Moderate Adverse and Significant	N/A	Locally Moderate Adverse and Significant
LCZ 2-1: Loch Sligachan	2	Moderate Adverse and Significant	N/A	Moderate Adverse and Significant
LCZ 2-2: Gleann Torra-mhichaig	2	Moderate Adverse and Significant	N/A	Moderate Adverse and Significant
LCZ 2-3: Loch Ainort	2	Moderate Adverse and Significant	N/A	Moderate Adverse and Significant
LCZ 2-4: Strollamus Coastal Hills	2	Moderate Adverse and Significant	N/A	Moderate Adverse and Significant

Topic / Receptor	Section of Relevance	Effect Significance (Pre-Mitigation)	Additional Mitigation	Residual Effects and Significance (Post Mitigation)
LCZ 4-2: Druim Iosal to Kinloch Hourn	4	Moderate Adverse and Significant	N/A	Moderate Adverse and Significant
LCZ 4-3: Kinloch Hourn to Loch Cuaich	4	Moderate Adverse and Significant	N/A	Moderate Adverse and Significant
Construction – Visual Receptors (Buildings, Routes and Outdoor Locations)				
B1-1 Glen Vic Askill	1	Moderate Adverse and Significant	N/A	Moderate Adverse and Significant
B1-2 Glenmore	1	Moderate Adverse and Significant	N/A	Moderate Adverse and Significant
B1-3 Mugeary	1	Moderate Adverse and Significant	N/A	Moderate Adverse and Significant
B2-1: Sligachan Hotel and Camp Site	2	Moderate Adverse and Significant	N/A	Moderate Adverse and Significant
B2-8: Luib	2	Moderate Adverse and Significant	N/A	Moderate Adverse and Significant
B2-10: Strollamus	2	Moderate Adverse and Significant	N/A	Moderate Adverse and Significant
B4-7: Near Balavoulin	4	Moderate Adverse and Significant	N/A	Moderate Adverse and Significant
B5-12: Leacan Dubha and Munerigie	5	Major Adverse and Significant	N/A	Major Adverse and Significant
R1-3 B885	1	Moderate Adverse and Significant	N/A	Moderate Adverse and Significant
R1-5 Core Path SL28.01 (Loch Caroy to Glen Vic Askill)	1	Moderate Adverse and Significant	N/A	Moderate Adverse and Significant
R1-6 Forest Track to north of Loch Connan	1	Moderate Adverse and Significant	N/A	Moderate Adverse and Significant

Topic / Receptor	Section of Relevance	Effect Significance (Pre-Mitigation)	Additional Mitigation	Residual Effects and Significance (Post Mitigation)
R2-1 A&B: A87	2	Moderate Adverse and Significant	N/A	Moderate Adverse and Significant
R2-5: Sconser to Moll Minor Road	2	Moderate Adverse and Significant	N/A	Moderate Adverse and Significant
R2-13: Scottish Hill Track 290 (The Torrin Ring from Luib)	2	Moderate Adverse and Significant	N/A	Moderate Adverse and Significant
R2-14: Sligachan to Peinachorran Footpath	2	Moderate Adverse and Significant	N/A	Moderate Adverse and Significant
R2-17: Loch Ainort Footpath	2	Moderate Adverse and Significant	N/A	Moderate Adverse and Significant
R4-9: Track between Balvraid and Srath a' Chomair	4	Moderate Adverse and Significant	N/A	Moderate Adverse and Significant
R4-10: Route between Srath a' Chomair and Kinloch Hourn	4	Moderate Adverse and Significant	N/A	Moderate Adverse and Significant
R4-14: Buidhe Bheinn Mountain Route	4	Locally Moderate Adverse and Significant	N/A	Locally Moderate Adverse and Significant
R4-16: Scottish Hill Track 256	4	Locally Moderate Adverse and Significant	N/A	Locally Moderate Adverse and Significant
R4-19: Kinloch Hourn Minor Road	4	Moderate Adverse and Significant	N/A	Moderate Adverse and Significant
O2-4: A87 Lay-Bys above Kinloch Ainort	2	Moderate Adverse and Significant	N/A	Moderate Adverse and Significant
O2-5: Eas a' Bhradain Parking Bay	2	Moderate Adverse and Significant	N/A	Moderate Adverse and Significant

Topic / Receptor	Section of Relevance	Effect Significance (Pre-Mitigation)	Additional Mitigation	Residual Effects and Significance (Post Mitigation)
Operation – Landscape Character Zone Receptors				
LCZ 1-3 Achaleathan and Glenmore	1	Locally Moderate Adverse and Significant	N/A	Locally Moderate Adverse and Significant
LCZ 2-4: Strollamus Coastal Hills	2	Moderate Adverse and Significant	N/A	Moderate Adverse and Significant
Operation – Visual Receptors (Buildings, Routes and Outdoor Locations)				
B1-1 Glen Vic Askill	1	Moderate Adverse and Significant	N/A	Moderate Adverse and Significant
B1-3 Mugeary	1	Moderate Adverse and Significant	N/A	Moderate Adverse and Significant
B5-12: Leacan Dubha and Munerigie	5	Moderate-Major Adverse and Significant	N/A	Moderate-Major Adverse and Significant
R1-3 B885	1	Moderate Adverse and Significant	N/A	Moderate Adverse and Significant
R1-5 Core Path SL28.01 (Loch Caroy to Glen Vic Askill)	1	Moderate Adverse and Significant	N/A	Moderate Adverse and Significant
R2-13: Scottish Hill Track 290 (The Torrin Ring from Luib)	2	Moderate Adverse and Significant	N/A	Moderate Adverse and Significant
Cumulative – Landscape Character Zone Receptors				
LCZ 2-1: Loch Sligachan – in addition to Section 2 of the Proposed Development	1 and 2	Moderate Adverse and Significant (during construction)	N/A	Moderate Adverse and Significant (during construction)

Topic / Receptor	Section of Relevance	Effect Significance (Pre-Mitigation)	Additional Mitigation	Residual Effects and Significance (Post Mitigation)
Cumulative – Visual Receptors (Buildings, Routes and Outdoor Locations)				
R1-5 Core Path SL28.01 (Loch Caroy to Glen Vic Askill) – in addition to Section 0 of the Proposed Development and Related Edinbane Substation Extension	0 and 1	Moderate Adverse and Significant (during construction and operation)	N/A	Moderate Adverse and Significant (during construction and operation)
R1-5 Core Path SL28.01 (Loch Caroy to Glen Vic Askill) – in addition to Section 0 of the Proposed Development, Edinbane Substation Extension and Consented Glen Ullinish Wind Farm	0 and 1	Moderate Adverse and Significant (during operation)	N/A	Moderate Adverse and Significant (during operation)
R2-1: A87 – in addition to Sections 1 and 3 of the Proposed Development	1, 2 and 3	Moderate Adverse and Significant (during construction)	N/A	Moderate Adverse and Significant (during construction)
R4-19: Kinloch Hourn Minor Road – in addition to Section 5 of the Proposed Development	4 and 5	Moderate Adverse and Significant (during construction)	N/A	Moderate Adverse and Significant (during construction)
Ecology				
Construction				
Kinloch and Kyleakin Hills SAC Qualifying Habitats: Western Acidic Oak Woodland, Blanket Bog, Wet Heathland with Cross-leaved Heath and Dry Heaths.	3	Moderate Adverse and Significant	Good practice construction measures and working methods / plans as specified in the Principal Contractor's Construction Method Statement (CMS).	Moderate Adverse and Significant
Kinloch and Kyleakin Hills SSSI Notified Natural Features: Oak	3	Moderate Adverse and Significant	Good practice construction measures and working methods / plans as	Moderate Adverse and Significant

Topic / Receptor	Section of Relevance	Effect Significance (Pre-Mitigation)	Additional Mitigation	Residual Effects and Significance (Post Mitigation)
Woodland, Blanket Bog, Sub-alpine Wet Heath and Sub-alpine Dry Heath.			specified in the Principal Contractor's Construction Method Statement (CMS).	
Kinloch and Kyleakin Hills SSSI – Bryophyte and Lichen Assemblage	3	Moderate Adverse and Significant	Measures are proposed to reduce impacts on bryophyte and lichen assemblages.	Minor Adverse and not significant
Loss of ancient woodland habitat	3, 4, 5	Moderate Adverse and Significant	Good practice construction measures and working methods / plans as specified in the Principal Contractor's Construction Method Statement (CMS).	Moderate Adverse and Significant
Dismantling of the Existing OHL				
Kinloch and Kyleakin Hills SAC - Western Acidic Oak Woodland	3	Minor to Moderate Beneficial and Significant	N/A	Minor to Moderate Beneficial and Significant
Kinloch and Kyleakin Hills SSSI - Upland Oak Woodland and Lichen and Bryophyte Assemblages	3	Minor to Moderate Beneficial and Significant	N/A	Minor to Moderate Beneficial and Significant
Ancient woodland	3,4,5	Minor to Moderate Beneficial and Significant	N/A	Minor to Moderate Beneficial and Significant
Operation				
Kinloch and Kyleakin Hills SAC - Western Acidic Oak Woodland	3	Minor to Moderate Adverse and Significant	N/A	Minor to Moderate Adverse and Significant
Kinloch and Kyleakin Hills SSSI – Upland Oak Woodland and Lichen and Bryophyte Assemblages	3	Minor to Moderate Adverse and Significant	N/A	Minor to Moderate Adverse and Significant

Topic / Receptor	Section of Relevance	Effect Significance (Pre-Mitigation)	Additional Mitigation	Residual Effects and Significance (Post Mitigation)
Cumulative				
No significant effects prior to mitigation	All	No significant effects	N/A	No significant effects
Ornithology				
No significant effects prior to mitigation	All	No significant effects	Line marking is proposed along parts of the Proposed Alignment in Sections 1 and 5.	No significant effects
Water Environment				
No significant effects prior to mitigation	All	No significant effects	N/A	No significant effects
Geology and Soils Environment				
No significant effects prior to mitigation	All	No significant effects	N/A	No significant effects
Cultural Heritage				
Cup-marked Stone MHG 5351 (non-designated)	4	Moderate Adverse and Significant	Marking out of surviving remains and establishment of a clearly marked buffer zone / barrier to protect the asset during construction, and to minimise the risk from uncontrolled plant movement.	Negligible and not significant

Topic / Receptor	Section of Relevance	Effect Significance (Pre-Mitigation)	Additional Mitigation	Residual Effects and Significance (Post Mitigation)
Forestry				
Construction				
Loss of semi-natural native woodland	3, 4, 5	Moderate Adverse and Significant	Micrositing within the LoD where a combination of factors (e.g. topography, tower height, tree species and height) may reduce the area of semi-natural woodland defined as being within the OC.	Moderate Adverse and Significant
Loss of ancient and semi-natural woodland	3, 4, 5	Moderate Adverse and Significant	Micrositing within the LoD where a combination of factors (e.g. topography, tower height, tree species and height) may reduce the area of ancient woodland defined as being within the OC.	Moderate Adverse and Significant
Operation				
Necessity of updating Long-Term-Forest Plans (LTFP)	0 - 5	Moderate Adverse and Significant	The Applicant has committed to the development of Woodland Reports in conjunction with the relevant landowners and forestry managers for each of the forestry and woodland interests.	Minor Adverse and Not Significant
Transport				
Construction – Unclassified Roads, Minor Roads and Tracks, and Core Paths				
Severance	All	Significant	Implementation of Construction Traffic Management Plan (CTMP).	No significant effects
Driver Delay	All	Significant	Implementation of CTMP and improved signage.	No significant effects

Topic / Receptor	Section of Relevance	Effect Significance (Pre-Mitigation)	Additional Mitigation	Residual Effects and Significance (Post Mitigation)
Pedestrian Delay	All	Significant	Implementation of CTMP and Outdoor Access Management Plan proposals.	No significant effects
Amenity	All	Significant	Implementation of CTMP and Outdoor Access Management Plan proposals.	No significant effects
Fear and Intimidation	All	Significant	Implementation of CTMP and Outdoor Access Management Plan proposals.	No significant effects
Accidents and Safety	All	Significant	Implementation of CTMP and Access Junction Design to THC standards.	No significant effects
Socio-Economic, Recreation and Tourism				
Construction				
Socio-economic	All	Moderate Beneficial and Significant	Usage of local supply chain, where feasible, and encouraging the Principal Contractor to do the same.	Moderate Beneficial and Significant

Table V1-8.2: Alternative Alignment Likely Significant Effects

Topic / Receptor	Section of Relevance	Effect Significance (Pre-Mitigation)	Additional Mitigation	Residual Effects and Significance (Post Mitigation)
Landscape and Visual				
Construction – Landscape Character Zones				
LCZ 3B-2 Glen Arroch	3	Moderate Adverse and Significant	N/A	Moderate Adverse and Significant
LCZ 3B-3 Bealach Udal and Kylerhea Glen	3	Moderate - Major Adverse and Significant	N/A	Moderate – Major Adverse and Significant
LCZ 3B-4 Kyle Rhea Coast	3	Moderate Adverse and Significant	N/A	Moderate Adverse and Significant
Construction – Visual Receptors (Buildings, Routes and Outdoor Locations)				
B3B-5 Kyle Rhea	3	Moderate Adverse and Significant	N/A	Moderate Adverse and Significant
R3B-6 Glen Arroch / Kyle Rhea Minor Road	3	Moderate – Major Adverse and Significant	N/A	Moderate – Major Adverse and Significant
R3B-14 Ben Aslak Hill Walk	3	Moderate Adverse and Significant	N/A	Moderate Adverse and Significant
R3B-15 Ascent / Descent of Kylerhea Hills	3	Moderate Adverse and Significant	N/A	Moderate Adverse and Significant
R3B-16 Kylerhea Otter Hide Footpath	3	Moderate – Major Adverse and Significant	N/A	Moderate – Major Adverse and Significant
O3B-1 Bealach Udal	3	Moderate – Major Adverse and Significant	N/A	Moderate – Major Adverse and Significant
O3B-2 Otter Hide, Car Park and Picnic Area	3	Moderate – Major Adverse and Significant	N/A	Moderate – Major Adverse and Significant

Topic / Receptor	Section of Relevance	Effect Significance (Pre-Mitigation)	Additional Mitigation	Residual Effects and Significance (Post Mitigation)
Operation – Landscape Character Zones				
LCZ 3B-2 Glen Arroch	3	Moderate Adverse and Significant	N/A	Moderate Adverse and Significant
LCZ 3B-3 Bealach Udal and Kylerhea Glen	3	Moderate Adverse and Significant	N/A	Moderate Adverse and Significant
Operation – Visual Receptors (Buildings and Outdoor Locations)				
B3B-5 Kyle Rhea	3	Moderate Adverse and Significant	N/A	Moderate Adverse and Significant
R3B-6 Glen Arroch / Kyle Rhea Minor Road	3	Moderate Adverse and Significant	N/A	Moderate Adverse and Significant
O3B-1 Bealach Udal	3	Moderate Adverse and Significant	N/A	Moderate Adverse and Significant
Cumulative – Landscape Character Zones				
LCZ 3B-4 Loch Alsh and Kylerhea Coast - in addition to Section 4 of the Proposed Development	3 and 4	Moderate Adverse and Significant (during construction)	N/A	Moderate Adverse and Significant (during construction)
Cumulative – Visual Receptors (Routes)				
R3B-15 Ascent / Descent of Kylerhea Hills – in addition to Section 4 of the Proposed Development	3 and 4	Moderate Adverse and Significant (during construction)	N/A	Moderate Adverse and Significant (during construction)
R3B-16 Kylerhea otter Hide Footpath – in addition to Section 4 of the Proposed Development	3 and 4	Moderate – Major Adverse and Significant (during construction)	N/A	Moderate – Major Adverse (during construction)

Topic / Receptor	Section of Relevance	Effect Significance (Pre-Mitigation)	Additional Mitigation	Residual Effects and Significance (Post Mitigation)
Ecology				
Construction				
Kinloch and Kyleakin Hills SAC Qualifying Habitats: Western Acidic Oak Woodland, Blanket Bog, Wet Heathland with Cross-leaved Heath and Dry Heaths.	3	Moderate Adverse and Significant	Good practice construction measures and working methods / plans as specified in the Principal Contractor's Construction Method Statement (CMS).	Moderate Adverse and Significant
Kinloch and Kyleakin Hills SSSI Notified Natural Features: Upland Oak Woodland, Blanket Bog, Sub-alpine Wet Heath and Sub-alpine Dry Heath.	3	Moderate Adverse and Significant	Good practice construction measures and working methods / plans as specified in the Principal Contractor's Construction Method Statement (CMS).	Moderate Adverse and Significant
Kinloch and Kyleakin Hills SSSI – Bryophyte and Lichen Assemblage	3	Moderate Adverse and Significant	Measures are proposed to reduce impacts on bryophyte and lichen assemblages.	Minor Adverse and not Significant
Loss of ancient woodland habitat	3, 4, 5, 6	Moderate Adverse and Significant	Good practice construction measures and working methods / plans as specified in the Principal Contractor's Construction Method Statement (CMS).	Moderate Adverse and Significant
Dismantling of the Existing OHL				
Kinloch and Kyleakin Hills SAC - Western Acidic Oak Woodland	3	Minor to Moderate Beneficial and Significant	N/A	Minor to Moderate Beneficial and Significant
Kinloch and Kyleakin Hills SSSI - Upland Oak Woodland and Lichen and Bryophyte Assemblages	3	Minor to Moderate Beneficial and Significant	N/A	Minor to Moderate Beneficial and Significant

Topic / Receptor	Section of Relevance	Effect Significance (Pre-Mitigation)	Additional Mitigation	Residual Effects and Significance (Post Mitigation)
Ancient woodland	3,4,5	Minor to Moderate Beneficial and Significant	N/A	Minor to Moderate Beneficial and Significant
Broadleaved semi-natural woodland	4,5	Minor to Moderate Beneficial and Significant	N/A	Minor to Moderate Beneficial and Not Significant
Operation				
No significant effects prior to mitigation	All	No significant effects	N/A	No significant effects
Cumulative				
No significant effects prior to mitigation	All	No significant effects	N/A	No significant effects
Ornithology				
Operation				
Collision Risk – White-tailed Eagle	3	Significant	Line marking is proposed at Kyle Rhea in Section 3.	No significant effects
Water Environment				
No significant effects prior to mitigation	3	No significant effects	N/A	No significant effects
Geology and Soils Environment				
No significant effects prior to mitigation	3	No significant effects	N/A	No significant effects

Topic / Receptor	Section of Relevance	Effect Significance (Pre-Mitigation)	Additional Mitigation	Residual Effects and Significance (Post Mitigation)
Cultural Heritage				
No significant effects prior to mitigation	3	No significant effects	N/A	No significant effects
Forestry				
Construction				
Loss of semi-natural native woodland	3, 4, 5	Moderate Adverse and Significant	Micrositing within the LoD where a combination of factors (e.g. topography, tower height, tree species and height) may reduce the area of semi-natural woodland defined as being within the OC.	Moderate Adverse and Significant
Loss of ancient and semi-natural woodland	3, 4, 5	Moderate Adverse and Significant	Micrositing within the LoD where a combination of factors (e.g. topography, tower height, tree species and height) may reduce the area of ancient woodland defined as being within the OC.	Moderate Adverse and Significant
Operation				
Necessity of updating Long-Term-Forest Plans (LTFP)	0 - 5	Moderate Adverse and Significant	The Applicant has committed to the development of OHL Woodland Reports in conjunction with the relevant landowners and forestry managers for each of the forestry and woodland interests.	Minor Adverse and Not Significant

Topic / Receptor	Section of Relevance	Effect Significance (Pre-Mitigation)	Additional Mitigation	Residual Effects and Significance (Post Mitigation)
Transport				
Construction				
Severance	All	Significant	Implementation of Construction Traffic Management Plan (CTMP).	No significant effects
Driver Delay	All	Significant	Implementation of CTMP and improved signage.	No significant effects
Pedestrian Delay	All	Significant	Implementation of CTMP and Outdoor Access Management Plan proposals.	No significant effects
Amenity	All	Significant	Implementation of CTMP and Outdoor Access Management Plan proposals.	No significant effects
Fear and Intimidation	All	Significant	Implementation of CTMP and Outdoor Access Management Plan proposals.	No significant effects
Accidents and Safety	All	Significant	Implementation of CTMP and Access Junction Design to THC standards.	No significant effects
Socio-Economic, Recreation and Tourism				
Construction – Socio-economic				
Local Economy	All	Moderate Beneficial and Significant	Usage of local supply chain, where feasible, and encouraging the Principal Contractor to do the same.	Moderate Beneficial and Significant