

VOLUME 6: CHAPTER 1 – INTRODUCTION – ALTERNATIVE ALIGNMENT

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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.

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 Overview

- 1.1.1 As outlined in **Volume 1, Chapter 1 (Part 1.2)**, the Applicant is presenting an Alternative Alignment as part of the consent application in Section 3 of the project between Broadford and Kyle Rhea, via Glen Arroch. The decision taken by the Applicant to include both options within the consent application has been made given that both the Proposed Alignment within Section 3 and the Alternative Alignment cross the Kinloch and Kyleakin Hills Special Area of Conservation¹ (SAC). That means the Scottish Ministers have duties as the competent authority under The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (the “Habitats Regulations”). This is explained in **Volume 1, Chapter 1 (Part 1.2)**.
- 1.1.2 The Applicant’s preference is to construct and operate the Proposed Alignment, as presented in **Figures V1-1.1a to 1c: Overview of the Proposed Development**. If Scottish Ministers were to agree that the Applicant’s Proposed Alignment within Section 3 should be consented, the Applicant would request that consent be granted for that option within Section 3, and refused in respect of the Alternative Alignment.
- 1.1.3 In order to ensure the Scottish Ministers as competent authority have sufficient detail, environmental information in relation to the Alternative Alignment is provided within this volume of the EIA Report, and the Alternative Alignment is considered in the shadow HRA (see **Appendix V2-4.7** of this EIA Report). In the event that Scottish Ministers were to conclude, contrary to the Applicant’s view, that the Proposed Alignment within Section 3 should not be consented, the Applicant seeks consent for the Alternative Alignment. Only one of the options would be built and the Applicant requests that Scottish Ministers consent only one of the two options. This approach avoids the need to bring forward a separate application, and allows all relevant issues to be considered together. Doing so is important to ensuring security of supply is maintained, and that proposed renewable developments in support of Net Zero targets can be accommodated within reasonable timescales.
- 1.1.4 A full description of the project and its ancillary works is set out within **Volume 1, Chapter 3: Project Description** of this EIA Report. A description of the project specifically in relation to the Alternative Alignment is set out within **Volume 6, Chapter 2: Project Description** (this volume), with cross referencing to **Volume 1, Chapter 3: Project Description** where appropriate.
- 1.1.5 The Alternative Alignment comprises a complete alternative within Section 3 of the project (i.e. it originates at Broadford Substation and terminates at the existing crossing towers at Kyle Rhea).

1.2 Purpose of this Volume of the EIA Report

- 1.2.1 This **Volume 6** of the EIA Report comprises information relating to the Alternative Alignment, including a description of the works related to this option, and an assessment of the likely significant effects that are predicted were the Alternative Alignment to be constructed and operated as part of the Skye Reinforcement Project.

1.3 Structure of this Volume of the EIA Report

- 1.3.1 This volume of the EIA Report is structured as per **Table V6-1.1** below:

¹ Also designated as a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI).

Table V6-1.1: Structure of Volume 6 of the EIA Report

Chapter Number	Chapter Name	Purpose
1	Introduction	A brief overview of the Alternative Alignment and the purpose and structure of Volume 6 of the EIA Report
2	Project Description	Providing a description of the Alternative Alignment within Section 3 of the project.
3	Landscape and Visual	An assessment of the Alternative Alignment on landscape and visual receptors.
4	Ecology	An assessment of the Alternative Alignment on terrestrial ecology, including habitats and protected species.
5	Ornithology	An assessment of the Alternative Alignment on ornithological sensitivities.
6	Water Environment	An assessment of the Alternative Alignment on the water environment.
7	Geology and Soils Environment	An assessment of the Alternative Alignment on geology and soils, including peat.
8	Cultural Heritage	An assessment of the Alternative Alignment on cultural heritage.
9	Forestry	An assessment of the Alternative Alignment on forestry.
10	Transport	An assessment of the Alternative Alignment on traffic and transport related effects.
11	Socio-Economics, Recreation and Tourism	An assessment of the Alternative Alignment on socio-economic, recreation and tourism receptors.

- 1.3.2 The scope of each assessment is set out in the relevant chapter and has been informed by a scoping exercise to determine the scope of the EIA Report, further details of which are contained in **Volume 1, Chapter 6: Scope and Consultation**.