VOLUME 2: CHAPTER 19 – SCHEDULE OF MITIGATION

19. SCHEDULE OF MITIGATION

19.1 Introduction

19.1.1 The purpose of this chapter is to provide a summary of the mitigation measures proposed throughout this EIA Report, to minimise or offset the potential effects of the Proposed Development on the receiving environment.

19.1.2 During construction of the Proposed Development, relevant mitigation measures will be detailed within and implemented through the site-specific Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP), to be developed by the Principal Contractors.

19.2 Summary of Measures

19.2.1 **Table 19.1** provides a summary of the mitigation measures identified throughout the EIA Report.

19.2.2 The mitigation codes used in this section are as follows:

- G – General
- LV – Landscape and Visual Impact
- E – Ecology
- O – Ornithology
- WE – Water Environment
- GE – Geological Environment
- CH - Cultural Heritage
- F - Forestry
- TT – Traffic and Transport
- NV – Noise and Vibration
- RT - Recreation and Tourism

Table 19.1: Schedule of Environmental Mitigation

Ref.	Issue	Mitigation/Monitoring Measure	Mitigation Type	EIA Report Reference	Responsibility
General Mitigation					
G1	Limit of Deviation (LOD)	It is possible that micro-siting may be required during the construction process to reflect localised land, engineering and environmental constraints, and therefore the LoD provides some flexibility in this regard. A design change control process will be implemented.	Embedded Mitigation	Volume 2, Chapter 3 – Paragraph 3.5.2	SSEN Transmission
G2	Restoration and Reinstatement	Following commissioning of the Proposed Development, all construction sites will be reinstated and restored. Reinstatement will form part of the contract obligations for the Principal Contractors and will include the removal of all temporary access tracks and work sites around the tower locations, and the re-vegetation of all construction compounds.	Embedded Mitigation	Volume 2, Chapter 3 – Paragraph 3.8.30 Volume 5 - Appendix 3.5: Outline Site Restoration Plan	Principal Contractors / SSEN Transmission
G3	Construction Employment and Hours of Work	Construction working is likely to be during daytime periods only. Working hours are anticipated seven days a week between approximately 07.00 to 19.00 during British Summer Time (BST) and 07.00 to 18.00 during Greenwich Mean Time (GMT), seven days a week. Working hours will be confirmed by the Principal Contractors and agreed with The Highland Council.	Embedded Mitigation	Volume 2, Chapter 3 – Paragraph 3.12.2	Principal Contractors
G4	Best Practice Construction Measures, GEMPs and SPPs	All works will be carried out in accordance with industry best practice construction measures, guidance and legislation, together with General Environmental Management Plans (GEMPs) and Species Protection Plans (SPPs) that have been developed by the Applicant.	Embedded Mitigation	Volume 2, Chapter 3 – Paragraph 3.14.1 – 3.14.3 Volume 5, Appendix 3.3: GEMPs and Volume 5, Appendix 3.4: SPPs	Principal Contractors / ECoW

Ref.	Issue	Mitigation/Monitoring Measure	Mitigation Type	EIA Report Reference	Responsibility
G5	Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP)	A contractual management requirement of the Principal Contractors shall be the development and implementation of a Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP). This document will detail how the Principal Contractors will manage the site in accordance with all commitments and mitigation detailed in the EIA Report, statutory consents and authorisations, and industry best practice and guidance. The CEMP will also reference GEMPs and SPPs. The implementation of the CEMP will be managed on site by a suitably qualified and experienced Environmental Representative), with support from other environmental professionals as required. An independent Environmental Clerk of Works will be appointed to monitor compliance with environmental mitigation contained within this EIA Report and any other environmental consents, licences and/or authorisations.	Embedded Mitigation	Volume 2, Chapter 3 – Paragraph 3.14.4 Volume 5, Appendix 3.6: Outline CEMP Volume 5, Appendix 3.3: GEMPs and Volume 5, Appendix 3.4: SPPs	Principal Contractors / ECoW
Mitigation for Landscape and Visual (see Volume 2 – Chapter 7)					
LV1	Design Mitigation during Construction Phase	Construction of the Proposed Development will follow the CEMP and will include arrangements for implementation of various aspects of the works to mitigate local adverse impacts during construction. Specific mitigation measures during construction will include: • Minimising land clearance / vegetation removal as far as possible; • Protection of existing features such as field boundaries; • Maintaining the Proposed Development Site in a tidy and contained condition; • Controlling construction lighting (construction works will be focused within daytime periods only); • Use of existing tracks where possible; • Utilise temporary access tracks where conditions allow; and • Removal of the construction compound and all temporary construction materials will be undertaken after construction work is completed.	Embedded Mitigation	Volume 2 – Chapter 7 – Paragraph 7.8.3	Principal Contractors / SSEN Transmission
LV2	Design Mitigation During Operational Phase	Mitigation in relation to the operational phase primarily relates to the gradual re-establishment of any disturbed ground cover along the route of the Proposed Development. The reinstatement would focus on native moorland, reflecting the local	Embedded Mitigation	Volume 2 – Chapter 7 – Paragraph 7.8.4	SSEN Transmission / Maintenance Contractor

Ref.	Issue	Mitigation/Monitoring Measure	Mitigation Type	EIA Report Reference	Responsibility
		ground conditions and landscape character, ensuring a natural context to the proposed built form, and also providing ecological habitat to the locality. Where required, reinstatement will involve replacement of topsoil, grading and installation of drainage as required. Graded areas will be allowed to vegetate naturally, although some seeding may be required to stabilise sites for example where peat has become exposed. For the purposes of this LVIA, it is assumed that the ground cover reinstatement will occur rapidly following cessation of construction activities. Where tree felling to mitigate the risk of windblow (management felling) is deemed appropriate, these measures can only be undertaken with the agreement of the affected landowner and with felling permission granted by Scottish Forestry. This shall require the landowner to fully address the replanting of such areas of felling outwith the operational corridor. It is the intention of the applicant to encourage the landowners to follow this good practice in terms of redesigning their current Long-Term Forest Plans which in turn shall aim to follow UK Forestry Standard for the implementation of the works required. This management felling is therefore considered temporary.			
Mitigation for Ecology and Nature Conservation (see Volume 2 – Chapter 8)					
E1	Dunbeath Water SSSI and Berriedale Water SSSI	In order to mitigate the loss of woodland within these protected sites, natural regeneration is proposed in order to connect fragmented pockets of woodland or reinforce existing woodland blocks (as appropriate). Natural regeneration is the preferred method of mitigation (as opposed to planting) as it will enable the natural seed bank to grow, maintaining the characteristics of the woodland to be lost. The proposed regeneration area will be protected from deer grazing. Areas protected for natural regeneration will need to be managed to remove growth of unwanted species, such as non-native commercial conifer species and those which may hinder tree growth such as bracken (where required), which also may be present within the seed bank. Consideration should be given to enabling access to regeneration areas to other species through e.g. mammal gates (as appropriate). A sufficient area (not less than the area lost) of natural regeneration will be encouraged in order to provide functional and connected woodland habitat that promotes the features for which the sites are designated. Protection measures will be removed at a point at which the woodland is considered resilient to grazing by deer and sheep and in consultation with NatureScot. During establishment the site shall be monitored and managed to enable the target	Additional Mitigation	Volume 2 – Chapter 8 – Paragraph 8.8.2	Principal Contractors / SSEN Transmission / Maintenance Contractor

Ref.	Issue	Mitigation/Monitoring Measure	Mitigation Type	EIA Report Reference	Responsibility
		condition to be reached in line with the Proposed Development HMP (an Outline HMP has been included as an annex to **Volume 5, Appendix 8.8: Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) Report**).			
E2	Allt nan Caorach SSSI	Woodland situated within the gorge and below the OHL will be managed to prevent trees from impinging on the safe clearance zone of the conductors. This may involve reducing the height or pruning / lopping of trees, with the trees otherwise being preserved in situ, with associated habitats and species also being preserved.	Additional Mitigation	Volume 2 – Chapter 8 – Paragraph 8.8.3	Principal Contractors / SSEN Transmission
E3	Sheilton Peatlands SSSI	Compensation for the loss of peatland habitat will be provided off-site in line with the mitigation strategy appended to **Volume 5, Appendix 8.8: Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) Report**.	Additional Mitigation	Volume 2 – Chapter 8 – Paragraph 8.8.4 Volume 5, Appendix 8.3: Biodiversity Net Gain Assessment	SSEN Transmission
E3	AWI	Compensation for the loss of AWI will be provided off-site in line with the mitigation strategy appended to **Volume 5, Appendix 8.8: Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) Report**.	Additional Mitigation	Volume 2 – Chapter 8 – Paragraph 8.8.5 Volume 5, Appendix 8.3: Biodiversity Net Gain Assessment	SSEN Transmission
E3	Habitat	The Applicant is committed to protecting and enhancing the environment by minimising the potential impacts from their construction and operational activities. As part of this approach, the Applicant has made commitments within its Sustainability Strategy to deliver 10% biodiversity net gain (BNG) and leave a positive legacy for nature on all projects gaining consent. Where this cannot be delivered on-site, the Applicant must identify off-site opportunities for biodiversity enhancement. Details of the strategy behind delivering a net gain for the Proposed Development are appended to **Volume 5, Appendix 8.8: Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) Report**.	Additional Mitigation	Volume 2 – Chapter 8 – Paragraph 8.8.6 Volume 5, Appendix 8.8: Biodiversity Net Gain Assessment	SSEN Transmission

Ref.	Issue	Mitigation/Monitoring Measure	Mitigation Type	EIA Report Reference	Responsibility
E4	Great Crested Newt	In order to reduce mortality to GCN, exclusion zones will be set up around newt ponds up to 250 m. Works including felling, vegetation removal and construction activities that take place within 250 m of a confirmed newt pond will be undertaken under the guidance of a suitably qualified and experienced ECoW and under licence from NatureScot. To minimise the risk of direct mortality to newts, works areas within 250 m of confirmed GCN ponds, will be fenced off using suitable newt proof fencing in line with guidance[1][2], to prevent movement of newts into the works area. Newts within the work area will be trapped and translocated out with the fenced off area in line with guidance. Once all newts are considered to have been removed from works areas (as per guidance), works including felling, vegetation removal and infrastructure construction may commence. Following completion of construction activities, habitat within the newt fenced area will be enhanced, through the provision of, for example, artificial hibernaculum, new pond habitats and appropriate landscape planting to promote newt populations. All measures will be designed, sited and constructed in line with the stated guidance detailed within the HMP (an Outline HMP has been included as an annex to **Volume 5, Appendix 8.8: Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) Report**). On completion of works (including reinstatement), all newt fencing will be removed and newts given access to their previous extents. The above measures will be detailed within an application for a European Protected Species Disturbance licence from NatureScot. The measures will also be detailed within a Great Crested Newt Management Plan developed by the Principal Contractors and implemented through the CEMP. Compliance with these documents will be monitored and audited by the site ECoW.	Additional Mitigation	Volume 2 – Chapter 8 – Paragraph 8.8.7 – 8.8.11 Volume 5 - Appendix 3.6 Outline Construction Environmental Management Plan Volume 5, Appendix 8.8: Biodiversity Net Gain Assessment	Principal Contractor / SSEN Transmission / ECoW
E5	Mitigation for Reptiles	Implementation of safeguarding measures in line with guidance[3], for example, staged strimming of areas earmarked for development / disturbance, will be undertaken to minimise the risk of killing reptiles, making existing habitat less favourable so they move out of that area. Stacking the arisings away from work areas may also be considered, to	Additional Mitigation	Volume 2 – Chapter 8 –	Principal Contractor / ECoW

[1] Langton, T.E.S., Beckett, C.L., and Foster, J.P. (2001), Great Crested Newt Conservation Handbook, Froglife, Halesworth. https://www.froglife.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/06/GCN-Conservation-Handbook_compressed.pdf [Accessed 14.01.January 2025].

[2] English Nature (2001). Great Crested Newt Mitigation Guidelines. English Nature, Peterborough. https://mokrady.wbs.cz/literatura_ke_stazeni/great_crested_newt_mitigation_guidelines.pdf [Accessed 14.01.January 2025].

3 Edgar, P., Foster, J. and Baker, J. (2010). Reptile Habitat Management Handbook. Amphibian and Reptile Conservation, Bournemouth. https://www.arc-trust.org/habitat-management-handbooks. [Accessed 14.01.25].

Ref.	Issue	Mitigation/Monitoring Measure	Mitigation Type	EIA Report Reference	Responsibility
		create refuges for reptiles to further draw them away from work areas. Use of reptile fencing, to prevent reptiles from moving into areas where they could be killed or injured, or in conjunction with capture and translocation to move animals to suitable habitat out with work areas may also be considered, in specific circumstances, where habitat management measures are deemed unsuitable or as advised by the ECoW. During the reptile hibernating season (October – March inclusive) pre-clearance checks of areas of vegetation to be removed will be undertaken by an appropriately qualified and experienced ECoW to reduce the likelihood of direct mortality of reptiles. All areas within the footprint of the Proposed Development will be surveyed for potential reptile hibernation sites (hibernacula). All hibernacula / potential hibernacula identified within work sites, will be removed through a destructive search undertaken / supervised by the ECoW, outside of the reptile hibernation season (October – March inclusive). The measures stated above will be detailed within a reptile management plan developed by the Principal Contractors and implemented through the CEMP. Compliance with these documents will be monitored and audited by the site ECoW.		Paragraph 8.8.12 – 8.8.15 Volume 5 - Appendix 3.6 Outline Construction Environmental Management Plan	
E6	Mitigation for Atlantic salmon	The removal of riparian woodland will be compensated through the planting and creation of riparian woodland in appropriate locations to improve riparian habitat for Atlantic salmon and increase resilience within populations of salmon to climate change. This habitat management will be captured within the HMP (an Outline HMP has been included as an annex to **Volume 5, Appendix 8.8: Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) Report**), and will be targeted to areas which will provide the greatest increase to salmon, for example in SACs designated for salmon such as the Berriedale and Langwell SAC. However, planting may occur throughout the wider catchment and if needed other areas within the Highlands. NatureScot will be consulted on habitat improvements and locations.	Additional Mitigation	Volume 2 – Chapter 8 – Paragraph 8.8.16 Volume 5, Appendix 8.8: Biodiversity Net Gain Assessment	Principal Contractors / SSEN Transmission
E7	Mitigation for freshwater pearl mussel	The removal of riparian woodland in watercourses which contain freshwater pearl mussel, may leave populations more susceptible to effects of climate change, such as increased water temperature and siltation. To compensate for the loss of riparian woodland, riparian woodland will be created in appropriate locations for freshwater pearl mussel. This will be captured within the HMP (an Outline HMP has been included as an annex to **Volume 5, Appendix 8.8: Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) Report**) and a species	Additional Mitigation	Volume 2 – Chapter 8 – Paragraphs 8.8.17 Volume 5, Appendix 8.8:	Principal Contractors / SSEN Transmission

Ref.	Issue	Mitigation/Monitoring Measure	Mitigation Type	EIA Report Reference	Responsibility
		specific mitigation plan for freshwater pearl mussel. Planting locations will be agreed in consultation with NatureScot to provide benefit to freshwater pearl mussel populations local to the Proposed Development, locations in the wider catchment and if needed other areas in the Highlands.		Biodiversity Net Gain Assessment	
Mitigation for Ornithology (see Volume 2 – Chapter 9)					
O1	Section A - Common Scoter – Disturbance and Displacement	All felling and construction work within the advised common scoter disturbance distances (500 m) of Loch Toftingall undertaken during August and September will be overseen by an ECoW, with buffer zones implemented to avoid disturbance to common scoter flocks on the loch.	Additional Mitigation	Volume 2 – Chapter 9 – Paragraph 9.8.89	Principal Contractors / ECoW
O2	Section A - Common Scoter – Disturbance and Displacement	All works within the advised common scoter disturbance distance (500 m) of Loch Stemster in April and May will be overseen by an ECoW with buffer zones implemented to avoid disturbance to common scoter on the loch.	Additional Mitigation	Volume 2 – Chapter 9 – Paragraph 9.8.90	Principal Contractors / ECoW
O3	Section A - Common Scoter – Collision Risk	Pre- and post-breeding common scoter were recorded on Loch Toftingall and Loch Stemster during baseline surveys. As a result, bird flight diverters will be installed along the earth wire of the Proposed Development adjacent to both lochs (towers N14-N22 and N46- N51). Given the potential for common scoter to migrate at night, flight diverters which are visible at night will be installed.	Additional Mitigation	Volume 2 – Chapter 9 – Paragraph 9.8.91	Principal Contractors / ECoW
O4	Section A – Herring gull – Collision Risk	Bird flight diverters will be installed along the earth wire of the Proposed Development between towers N14-N22 (at Loch Toftingall) N95-N99 (at Borgue) N146-N149 (at River Helmsdale). Bird flight diverters will be installed at 10 m spacing, along the earth wire, which presents the greatest collision risk. Flight diverters will be subject to a regular programme of maintenance and overhaul for the lifetime of the Proposed Development.	Additional Mitigation	Volume 2 – Chapter 9 – Paragraph 9.8.92	Principal Contractors / ECoW / SSEN Transmission
O5	Section A – Great black backed gull – Collision Risk	Bird flight diverters will be installed along the earth wire of the Proposed Development between towers N95-N99. Bird flight diverters will be installed at 10 m spacing, along the earth wire, which presents the greatest collision risk. Flight diverters will be subject to a regular programme of maintenance and overhaul for the lifetime of the Proposed Development.	Additional Mitigation	Volume 2 – Chapter 9 – Paragraph 9.8.93	Principal Contractors / ECoW / SSEN Transmission

Ref.	Issue	Mitigation/Monitoring Measure	Mitigation Type	EIA Report Reference	Responsibility
O6	Section A – Red-throated diver – Disturbance and Displacement	If works are required during the breeding season, works will be undertaken in line with SSEN Transmission's Bird SPP. If the need is identified by the ECoW, visual or noise reducing screening will be erected to avoid disturbance to waterbodies.	Additional Mitigation	Volume 2 – Chapter 9 – Paragraph 9.8.95	Principal Contractors / ECoW / SSEN Transmission
O7	Section A – Red-throated diver – Collision Risk	Bird flight diverters will be installed along the earth wire of the Proposed Development along the section which runs in parallel to the breeding lochan, with tower locations detailed in **Volume 5, Appendix 9.4c.** Bird flight diverters will be installed at 10m spacing, along the earth wire, which presents the greatest collision risk. Flight diverters will be subject to a regular programme of maintenance and overhaul for the lifetime of the Proposed Development.	Additional Mitigation	Volume 2 – Chapter 9 – Paragraph 9.8.97	Principal Contractors / ECoW / SSEN Transmission
O8	Section A – Osprey – Collision Risk	Bird flight diverters will be installed along the earth wire of the Proposed Development adjacent to Loch Toftingall (towers N14-N22). Bird flight diverters will be installed at 10 m spacing, along the earth wire, which presents the greatest collision risk. Flight diverters will be subject to a regular programme of maintenance and overhaul for the lifetime of the Proposed Development.	Additional Mitigation	Volume 2 – Chapter 9 – Paragraph 9.8.98	Principal Contractors / ECoW / SSEN Transmission
O9	Section A – Golden Eagle – Collision Risk	Bird flight diverters which will be installed to reduce collision risk to a number of other species will also benefit golden eagle in areas where concentrations of flights were recorded. This includes sections proposed for red-throated diver, common scoter (towers N46-N51), osprey (towers N14-N22) and hen harrier (towers N24-N29, N33-N38, and N55-N66). Bird flight diverters will be installed at 10 m spacing, along the earth wire, which presents the greatest collision risk. Flight diverters will be subject to a regular programme of maintenance and overhaul for the lifetime of the Proposed Development.	Additional Mitigation	Volume 2 – Chapter 9 - Paragraph 9.8.99	Principal Contractors / ECoW / SSEN Transmission
O10	Section A – Hen harrier – Collision Risk	Bird flight diverters which will be installed to reduce collision risk to a number of other species will also benefit hen harriers in areas where concentrations of flights were recorded. This includes sections proposed for herring gull (towers N95-N99), and common scoter (towers N46-N51). In addition, bird flight diverters will be installed between towers N55 - N66 where a relatively high number of flights were recorded. Flight diverters will also be installed between towers N24-N29 and N33-N38 where the Proposed Development passes through the Caithness and Sutherland Peatlands SPA / Ramsar site and Shielton Peatlands SSSI to reduce collision risk to hen harriers breeding in these sites. Bird flight diverters will be installed at 10m spacing, along the earth wire,	Additional Mitigation	Volume 2 – Chapter 9 - Paragraph 9.8.100	Principal Contractors/ ECoW / SSEN Transmission

Ref.	Issue	Mitigation/Monitoring Measure	Mitigation Type	EIA Report Reference	Responsibility
		which presents the greatest collision risk. Flight diverters will be subject to a regular programme of maintenance and overhaul for the lifetime of the Proposed Development.			
O11	Section B – Red-throated diver – Disturbance and Displacement	If works are required during the breeding season, works will be undertaken in line with SSEN Transmission's Bird SPP. If the need is identified by the ECoW, visual or noise reducing screening will be erected to avoid disturbance to waterbodies.	Additional Mitigation	Volume 2 – Chapter 9 - Paragraph 9.8.173	Principal Contractors / ECoW / SSEN Transmission
O12	Section B – Golden eagle – Disturbance and Displacement	In the unlikely event that birds are displaced, it is anticipated that they will move to an alternative nest site within their territory. Monitoring will be undertaken, in collaboration with HRSG if possible, to identify other nest sites within this territory and confirm that birds remain resident in the territory. In addition, the Proposed Development's Offsite Biodiversity Net Gain and Irreplaceable Habitat Off-Site Strategy (included in Volume 5 Appendix 8.8 Biodiversity Net Gain Report, Annex C) will include measures to improve habitat for golden eagle in the wider region.	Additional Mitigation	Volume 2 – Chapter 9 - Paragraph 9.8.175 and 9.8.176	ECoW / SSEN Transmission
O13	Section B – Barn owl – Disturbance and Displacement	Within Section B, two confirmed historical nest sites were located immediately adjacent to the Proposed Alignment or associated infrastructure (access tracks). These nest sites will be monitored, and if birds cease to use them following construction, barn owl nest boxes will be situated in suitable habitat within the territory outwith 100 m from the Proposed Development.	Additional Mitigation	Volume 2 – Chapter 9 - Paragraph 9.8.177	SSEN Transmission / ECoW
O14	Section B – Greylag goose – Collision Risk	Flight diverters will be placed across the earth wire of the Proposed Alignment between towers N219- N223 inclusive to reduce collision risk of birds commuting up and down Loch Brora. Bird flight diverters will be installed at 10m spacing, along the earth wire, which presents the greatest collision risk. Flight diverters will be subject to a regular programme of maintenance and overhaul for the lifetime of the Proposed Development.	Additional Mitigation	Volume 2 – Chapter 9 - Paragraph 9.8.179	Principal Contractors / ECoW / SSEN Transmission
O15	Section B – Red-throated diver – Collision Risk	Flight diverters will be installed between towers N219 - N223 to mitigate collision risk for birds foraging at Loch Brora. Flight diverters will be installed on the earth wire in sections of the line adjacent to breeding lochans, at locations as set out in **Volume 5, Appendix 9.4c**. Bird flight diverters will be installed at 10 m spacing, along the earth wire, which presents the greatest collision risk. Flight diverters will be subject to a regular programme of maintenance and overhaul for the lifetime of the Proposed Development.	Additional Mitigation	Volume 2 – Chapter 9 - Paragraph 9.8.180	Principal Contractors / ECoW / SSEN Transmission

Ref.	Issue	Mitigation/Monitoring Measure	Mitigation Type	EIA Report Reference	Responsibility
O16	Section B – Golden eagle – Collision Risk	Flight diverters will be installed along a section of the Proposed Alignment in close proximity to the historic golden eagle nest site within 350 m from the Proposed Development. Specific flight diverter locations are detailed in **Volume 5, Appendix 9.4c.** Bird flight diverters will be installed at 10m spacing, along the earth wire, which presents the greatest collision risk. Flight diverters will be subject to a regular programme of maintenance and overhaul for the lifetime of the Proposed Development.	Additional Mitigation	Volume 2 – Chapter 9 - Paragraph 9.8.181	Principal Contractors / ECoW / SSEN Transmission
O17	Section B – Hen harrier – Collision Risk	Flight diverters will be installed between towers N270 – N297 within the Strath Carnaig and Strath Fleet SPA. Bird flight diverters will be installed at 10 m spacing, along the earth wire, which presents the greatest collision risk. Flight diverters will be subject to a regular programme of maintenance and overhaul for the lifetime of the Proposed Development.	Additional Mitigation	Volume 2 – Chapter 9 - Paragraph 9.8.182	Principal Contractors / ECoW / SSEN Transmission
O18	Section B – Dornoch Firth and Loch Fleet SPA /Ramsar site Oystercatcher and Curlew – Disturbance and Displacement	An ECoW will be employed during the non-breeding season to enforce disturbance buffers around flocks of SPA / Ramsar site waders up to 650 m for curlew and 300 m for oystercatcher.	Additional Mitigation	Volume 2 – Chapter 9 - Paragraph 9.8.184	Principal Contractors / ECoW
O19	Section D – Capercaillie – Habitat loss	Within the Operational Corridor, under-planting of lower-growing native shrubs (e.g. blaeberry) between Towers S111 and S129 will provide suitable compensatory mitigation through supplying foraging habitat and encouraging birds to enter and cross the operational corridor, whilst also meeting maintenance and operational Health and Safety (H&S) requirements for maintaining access and conductor clearance for the OHL. Providing sufficient ground cover will also allow birds to move across the operational corridor and reduce habitat fragmentation. Subject to the levels of browsing by deer, the area will be over-planted to accommodate a degree of loss to deer browsing.	Additional Mitigation	Volume 2 – Chapter 9 - Paragraph 9.8.292	SSEN Transmission / ECoW
O20	Section D – Black Grouse – Disturbance and Displacement	To improve overall habitat for black grouse, the Proposed Development's Offsite Biodiversity Net Gain and Irreplaceable Habitat Off-Site Strategy (included in **Volume 5 Appendix 8.8 Biodiversity Net Gain Report**) will include measures to improve habitat for black grouse.	Additional Mitigation	Volume 2 – Chapter 9 Paragraph 9.8.293	SSEN Transmission / ECoW
O21	Section D - Red-throated Diver – Disturbance and Displacement	All construction / operational work within disturbance distance of the breeding lochan will, where possible, be restricted to the non-breeding season. If works are required during the breeding season, works will be undertaken in line with SSEN Transmission's Bird	Additional Mitigation	Volume 2 – Chapter 9 - Paragraph 9.8.295	Principal Contractors / ECoW / SSEN Transmission

Ref.	Issue	Mitigation/Monitoring Measure	Mitigation Type	EIA Report Reference	Responsibility
		SPP. If the need is identified by the ECoW, visual or noise reducing screening will be erected to avoid disturbance to waterbodies.			
O22	Section D - Red-throated Diver – Collision Risk	Bird flight diverters will be installed along the earth wire of the Proposed Development in the proximity of the breeding lochan, with specific flight diverter tower locations detailed in **Volume 5, Appendix 9.4c.** Bird flight diverters will be installed at 10 m spacing, along the earth wire, which presents the greatest collision risk. Flight diverters will be subject to a regular programme of maintenance and overhaul for the lifetime of the Proposed Development.	Additional Mitigation	Volume 2 – Chapter 9 - Paragraph 9.8.297	Principal Contractors / ECoW / SSEN Transmission
O23	Section D - Barn Owl – Disturbance and Displacement	As a result of construction activity, a single barn owl nest/roost may be temporarily lost. The nest site will be monitored, and if birds cease to use it following construction, a barn owl nest box will be situated in suitable habitat within the territory outwith 100 m from the Proposed Development.	Additional Mitigation	Volume 2 – Chapter 9 Paragraph 9.8.298	SSEN Transmission / ECoW
O24	Section E – Black Grouse – Disturbance and Displacement	To improve overall habitat for black grouse, the Proposed Development's Offsite Biodiversity Net Gain and Irreplaceable Habitat Off-Site Strategy (included in **Volume 5 Appendix 8.8 Biodiversity Net Gain Report**) will include measures to improve habitat for black grouse.	Additional Mitigation	Volume 2 – Chapter 9 - Paragraph 9.8.348	SSEN Transmission / ECoW
O25	Section E - Slavonian Grebe - Disturbance and Displacement	No construction activity will take place within 350 m of identified lochs occupied by Slavonian grebe during the breeding season unless check surveys are undertaken by an ECoW and works are overseen to check birds are not disturbed. If the need is identified by the ECoW, visual or noise reducing screening will be erected to avoid disturbance to waterbodies. These measures will be implemented through the production of a species protection plan, incorporating, control of vehicle / pedestrian movements, and toolbox talks to all personnel.	Additional Mitigation	Volume 2 – Chapter 9 - Paragraph 9.8.349	Principal Contractors / ECoW / SSEN Transmission
O26	Section E – Red-throated diver – Disturbance and Displacement	All construction / operational work within disturbance distance of breeding lochans will, where possible, be restricted to the non-breeding season. If works are required during the breeding season, works will be undertaken in line with SSEN Transmission's Bird SPP. If the need is identified by the ECoW, visual or noise reducing screening will be erected to avoid disturbance to waterbodies.	Additional Mitigation	Volume 2 – Chapter 9 - Paragraph 9.8.351	Principal Contractors / ECoW / SSEN Transmission

Ref.	Issue	Mitigation/Monitoring Measure	Mitigation Type	EIA Report Reference	Responsibility
O27	Section E – Red-throated diver Disturbance and Displacement	Bird flight diverters will be installed along the earth wire of the Proposed Development in the proximity of the confirmed breeding lochans with specific flight diverter tower locations detailed in **Volume 5, Appendix 9.4c.**	Additional Mitigation	Volume 2 – Chapter 9 - Paragraph 9.8.353	Principal Contractors / ECoW / SSEN Transmission
O28	Section E – Osprey – Collision Risk	Flight diverters will be installed on the earth wire between towers S228 and S229. Bird flight diverters will be installed at 10 m spacing, along the earth wire, which presents the greatest collision risk. Flight diverters will be subject to a regular programme of maintenance and overhaul for the lifetime of the Proposed Development.	Additional Mitigation	Volume 2 – Chapter 9 - Paragraph 9.8.354	Principal Contractors / ECoW / SSEN Transmission
Mitigation for Water Environment (see Volume 2 – Chapter 10)					
WE1	Watercourse Buffers and Alterations	SEPA's recommended riparian corridor watercourse buffers (buffers that have been produced by SEPA that range from 10 m to 30 m depending on channel width) are implemented for towers and ancillary infrastructure. There are 23 instances where this buffer is not achievable, the final location will be determined on site in consultation with the project ECoW. The following measures will be in place for such locations that cannot be micro-sited outside of the SEPA Recommended Riparian Corridor: • Location specific drainage, pollution prevention and incident response plans; Induction and training for staff highlighting sensitivities; • A wet weather working protocol and provision to cease works during prolonged rainfall or periods of high runoff (pluvial or fluvial) as detailed in the Wet Weather GEMP shown in **Volume 5, Appendix 3.3: GEMPs**; • Working area as small as reasonably practicable within the buffers to minimise the potential to disturb ground; • Additional passive water quality control measures, such as temporary water diversion ditches, silt fences and silt traps to control and treat runoff from working areas; • Daily inspection of works and watercourses, and supervision of construction, restoration and dismantling works; and	Embedded Mitigation	Volume 2 – Chapter 10 - Table 10 5: Embedded Mitigation Volume 5 - Appendix 3.3 General Environmental Management Plans (GEMPs) Volume 5 - Appendix 3.6 Outline Construction Environmental Management Plan Volume 5 - Appendix 10.4 Site Water Management and Pollution Prevention Plan	Principal Contractors / ECoW / SSEN Transmission

Ref.	Issue	Mitigation/Monitoring Measure	Mitigation Type	EIA Report Reference	Responsibility
		• Documentation that clearly identifies responsibilities and actions and contact details should a pollution event be recorded. A 10 m vegetation buffer strip will be left intact around watercourses during construction where possible, within which no storage or construction works will take place in accordance with SEPA Good Practice Guidance WAT-SG-29. The Proposed Development will utilise existing access tracks where feasible; this will help to minimise ground disturbance and requirement for watercourse crossings. Watercourse crossings will implement the following approach to adhere to good practice in relation to new water crossings: • The design of the watercourse crossings will be agreed with SEPA prior to construction and be regulated in accordance with Controlled Activities Regulations (CAR); • The appropriate crossing type will be identified from SEPA's good practice guidance and will take into account any ecological and hydrological constraints; and • The crossing will be sized and designed so as to minimise effect upon flood risk (sized to accommodate at least the 200-year climate change flow). For watercourse crossings less than 2 m wide CAR General Binding Rules will be adhered to. Bog mats, or similar, will be positioned across the water course to enable access, where necessary, side rails will be installed with silt mitigation if required to ensure that silt impacts from vehicles crossing are controlled at all times. Crossings will be cleaned at the end of the day if required. Any watercourse alterations will be subject to CAR authorisation. Where watercourses are altered, structures appropriate to the localised conditions will be installed. It is anticipated that these alterations will be designed as appropriately sized culverts in line with SEPA's good practice guidance, SEPA CAR Practical Guidance (In particular the General Binding Rules), the Site Water Management and Pollution Prevention Plan and the GEMPs.			
WE2	Pollution and Spillage	Construction good practice methods, outlined within the Outline CEMP and the GEMPs, will limit the potential risk of spillages and contamination, to reduce the potential for	Embedded Mitigation	Volume 2 – Chapter 10 - Table	Principal Contractors / SSEN Transmission

Ref.	Issue	Mitigation/Monitoring Measure	Mitigation Type	EIA Report Reference	Responsibility
		chemical pollutants to be transferred to the water environment and protect watercourses from impacts related to construction works. Additional measures such as absorbent spill pads / kits and other measures highlighted within the Outline CEMP will effectively limit the uncontained release of chemicals to minor fugitive releases. These will be minimised through best practice construction methods such as storing fuel away from where they could be hit by moving vehicles and regular vehicle and machine maintenance. Routine training practices such as staff inductions and toolbox talks will be conducted throughout construction.		10 5: Embedded Mitigation Volume 5 - Appendix 3.3 General Environmental Management Plans (GEMPs) Volume 5 - Appendix 3.6 Outline Construction Environmental Management Plan Volume 5 - Appendix 10.4 Site Water Management and Pollution Prevention Plan	
WE3	Erosion and Sedimentation	Good practice site environmental management measures set out in the Soil Management GEMP will reduce any potential effects of soil erosion and sedimentation. A 10 m vegetation buffer strip around watercourses during construction will be left intact where possible, within which no storage or construction works will take place.	Embedded Mitigation	Volume 2 – Chapter 10 - Table 10 5: Embedded Mitigation Volume 5 - Appendix 3.3 General Environmental Management Plans (GEMPs)	Principal Contractors / SSEN Transmission

Ref.	Issue	Mitigation/Monitoring Measure	Mitigation Type	EIA Report Reference	Responsibility
WE4	Modifications to Hydrogeology and Groundwater	Prior to excavation works, ground investigations will be conducted by an appointed contractor, which will include identifying groundwater levels within the areas of excavation. Where groundwater is identified dewatering or groundwater diversion will be conducted with mitigation and control measures in accordance with best practice guidance (e.g., CIRIA Groundwater Control). Measures relating to the identification and protection of groundwater will be detailed and secured within the CEMP. This will include: • A Pollution Prevention Plan (PPP) is implemented to ensure good practice working methods are followed throughout construction works; • An Environmental Auditing and Monitoring Plan will monitor all work that could impact groundwater; • A Water Management Plan will detail how drainage will be managed during construction to protect groundwater; and • A Soil Management Plan will detail how soil will be stripped stored and reinstated to protect groundwater.	Embedded Mitigation	Volume 2 – Chapter 10 - Table 10 5: Embedded Mitigation Volume 5 - Appendix 3.6 Outline Construction Environmental Management Plan Volume 5 - Appendix 10.4 Site Water Management and Pollution Prevention Plan	Principal Contractors / SSEN Transmission
WE5	GWDTEs and Designated Sites	Prior to access track construction, site operatives will identify flush areas, depressions or zones which may concentrate water flow. These sections will be spanned with plastic pipes or drainage matting to ensure hydraulic conductivity under the track and reduce water flow over the track surface during heavy precipitation. The following good practice construction and design measures will be implemented during construction and secured through the CEMP and GEMPs to ensure that effects on designated and wetland habitats are minimised: • A Pollution Prevention Plan (PPP) is implemented to ensure good practice working methods are followed throughout construction works; • Silt traps will be deployed to trap and filter sediment-laden run-off throughout the construction phase of the Proposed Development; • Settlement lagoons will be constructed and actively managed to control water levels and ensure that any run-off is contained, especially during times of rainfall; • Foundations are constructed in holes in the ground that will be dewatered, and hence water flow is typically into the foundation area. This dewatering will prevent	Embedded Mitigation	Volume 2 – Chapter 10 - Table 10 5: Embedded Mitigation Volume 5 - Appendix 3.3 General Environmental Management Plans (GEMPs) Volume 5 - Appendix 3.6 Outline Construction	Principal Contractors / SSEN Transmission

Ref.	Issue	Mitigation/Monitoring Measure	Mitigation Type	EIA Report Reference	Responsibility
		concrete leaching into groundwater or surface water in the event of shutter collapse; and • All excavations will be sufficiently dewatered before concrete pours begin and that dewatering will continue while the concrete cures. However, construction good practice will be followed to ensure that fresh concrete is isolated from the dewatering system. • As set out in Volume 5, Appendix 10.3: GWDTE Assessment where there will be excavations of >1 m within 250 m and <1 m within 100 m of GWDTEs, a quantitative assessment may be required in accordance with SEPA GWDTE Guidance to demonstrate that there is no degradation in the quality of groundwater and hydrological connectivity. The methodology and frequency of any monitoring will be secured and agreed in consultation with SEPA on a case-by-case basis.		Environmental Management Plan Volume 5 - Appendix 10.3: GWDTE Assessment Volume 5 - Appendix 10.4 Site Water Management and Pollution Prevention Plan	
WE6	Drinking Water Protected Areas and Private Water Supplies (PWS)	The Principal Contractors will verify the location of PWS source locations, types and uses. Further consultation will be held with the property/landowner as part of this process if any further PWS were to be identified. The Principal Contractors will consider all construction activities and ensure they are aware of all PWS within the surrounding area that may be at risk as a result of the Proposed Development. Should this process identify any PWS which require protection an approach will be developed and agreed with THC. The Principal Contractors will complete construction works in accordance with the measures and approach set out in the Private Water Supplies GEMP. Where potential impacts to PWS are identified, a detailed quantitative risk assessment (DQRA) would be undertaken. If the DQRA confirms the potential impacts are Major or Medium, then site-specific mitigation measures will be implemented as set out in full in Volume 5, Appendix 10.2: DWPA and PWS Risk Assessment and are as follows: • Pre construction water quality monitoring as set out in a site-specific monitoring plan where this is required following the detailed quantitative risk assessment; • Where possible and if not already in place, fence off the PWS intake (to avoid accidental damage and to deter animals) and identify relevant buffer distances;	Embedded Mitigation	Volume 2 – Chapter 10 - Table 10 5: Embedded Mitigation Volume 5, Appendix 10.2: DWPA and PWS Risk Assessment Volume 5 - Appendix 3.3 General Environmental Management Plans (GEMPs) Volume 5 - Appendix 10.4 Site Water Management and	Principal Contractors / SSEN Transmission

Ref.	Issue	Mitigation/Monitoring Measure	Mitigation Type	EIA Report Reference	Responsibility
		• Installation of silt mitigation to prevent runoff from works areas entering the PWS, using a precautionary approach as not all flow pathways may be immediately obvious; • When undertaking works within PWS catchments during wet weather or when wet weather is forecast the control measures set out in the Bad Weather GEMP and Private Water Supplies GEMP will be followed; • Use low impact access methodologies, as far as reasonably practicable, including, but not limited to, the use of floated tracks or track panels where works are within the PWS catchment; • Survey and mark out the route of the PWS infrastructure in the vicinity of the construction works and avoid / minimise activity within this area; • Ensure all site operatives working in the area are made aware of the location of the PWS and catchment area, and mitigation measures required through toolbox talks or similar; and • Use of signage shall be considered to remind workers when works take place in areas near to PWS infrastructure. Put in place measures to protect infrastructure where they cross beneath roads/access tracks. These may include: o Setting the existing pipe work within mass concrete; o Upgrading or rerouting the existing pipe work; o Ensuring that there are adequate pollution control and emergency response measures in place to deal with any accidents that could affect a water supply (e.g. spill response or sediment control); o Implementation of regular, recorded checks on any pipework (visible signs of cracking or other damage); and o Provision of an alternative supply (temporary / permanent), e.g. taking a surface water abstraction to a point above the works to prevent potential downstream contamination from works impacting upon the supply.		Pollution Prevention Plan	

Ref.	Issue	Mitigation/Monitoring Measure	Mitigation Type	EIA Report Reference	Responsibility
WE7	Soil Loss and Compaction	The measures set out in the Soil Management GEMP will limit potential impacts on soil compaction and quantities. Traffic routes will be clearly defined throughout construction with vehicles not permitted to route through ground outwith the defined access. Access to unstripped grounds will be limited to low weight and tracked vehicles. A defined working area, where soil stripping will take place, will be set for construction with the number of working areas planned for and managed to ensure that soil transportation within the site is limited. Stripping will be undertaken with care and in accordance with industry standard best practice measures with topsoil and sub-soils being removed and stored in clearly separated bunds on unstripped grounds.	Embedded Mitigation	Volume 2 – Chapter 10 - Table 10 5: Embedded Mitigation Volume 5 - Appendix 3.3 General Environmental Management Plans (GEMPs)	Principal Contractors / SSEN Transmission
WE8	Peat and Soil Management	The following measures are considered sufficient, and sufficiently reliable, to avoid substantial alterations to the natural drainage regime and are included in Volume 5, Appendix 11.2: Outline Peat Management Plan: • Any peat and peaty soils will be reinstated on temporary access tracks and infrastructure verges with turves placed on the upper horizons, encouraging revegetation; • All peat, soil and turves excavated from beneath infrastructure will be reinstated in the vicinity of its original location; • Any wet catotelmic peat will be placed at the bottom of any restoration profile, followed by semi-fibrous catotelmic peat and acrotelmic peat should be placed at the top; • Peatland restoration activities will be overseen by the Ecological Clerk of Works (ECoW) to ensure methods are properly adhered to; • The surface layer of peat (acrotelm) and vegetation will be stripped and stored separately from the catotelmic peat. This will typically be an excavation depth of up to 0.5 m; • Careful handling is essential to retain any existing structure and integrity of the excavated materials and thereby maximise the potential for excavated material to be re-used;	Embedded Mitigation	Volume 2 – Chapter 10 - Table 10 5: Embedded Mitigation Volume 5, Appendix 11.2: Outline Peat Management Plan	Principal Contractors / SSEN Transmission

Ref.	Issue	Mitigation/Monitoring Measure	Mitigation Type	EIA Report Reference	Responsibility
		• Less humified catotelmic peat which maintains its structure upon excavation shall be kept separate from any highly humified amorphous or wet catotelmic peat; • Acrotelmic material will be replaced as intact as possible once construction progresses / as it is complete; • Temporary storage of peat will be minimised, with restoration occurring in parallel with other works; • Suitable storage areas shall be sited in locations with lower ecological value, low stability risk and at a suitable distance from water courses; • Peat shall be stored in stockpiles no greater than 2 m in height; • Reinstatement will, in all instances, be undertaken at the earliest opportunity to minimise storage of turves and other materials; • Managing the construction work as much as possible to avoid periods when peat materials are likely to be wetter i.e. high rainfall events; • and • Transport of peat on Site from excavation to temporary storage and restoration site shall be minimised.			
WE9	Flood Risk and Drainage	Where watercourse crossings cannot be avoided, crossings will be designed to convey flows for a 1 in 200-year (plus climate change) storm event in accordance with SEPA guidance. The design and capacity of the watercourse crossings will be agreed by the Principal Contractors in consultation with SEPA as part of the detailed design. Where areas of anticipated significant hardstanding are present which have the potential to increase surface water runoff and flood risk elsewhere, onsite drainage systems will be installed. The drainage systems will be designed in accordance with SuDS principles and attenuate surface water runoff from the Proposed Development to a 1 in 200-year plus climate change allowance whilst limiting discharge rates to the calculated greenfield runoff rate. The Principal Contractors will ensure no new permanent features which are sensitive to flooding are located within the floodplain.	Embedded Mitigation	Volume 2 – Chapter 10 - Table 10 5: Embedded Mitigation Volume 5 - Appendix 10.1 Schedule of Permanent Watercourse Crossings Volume 5 - Appendix 3.6 Outline Construction	Principal Contractors / SSEN Transmission

Ref.	Issue	Mitigation/Monitoring Measure	Mitigation Type	EIA Report Reference	Responsibility
				Environmental Management Plan Volume 5 - Appendix 10.4 Site Water Management and Pollution Prevention Plan	
Mitigation for Geological Environment (see Volume 2 –Chapter 11)					
GE1	Geology, Peat and Soils	It is expected that the following good construction practice and methodologies will be included within the CEMP, as appropriate, to minimise geological impact and prevent peat instability within areas that contain peat deposits: • Measures to ensure well-maintained drainage systems, including the identification of any areas of sensitive drainage or hydrology in construction areas; • Developing robust drainage systems that will require minimal maintenance and that will avoid creating areas of concentrated flow that may lead to over or undersaturation of peatland; • Minimisation of 'undercutting' peat slopes and if this is necessary, a more detailed assessment (including geotechnical assessment) of the targeted area will be required; • Ensuring construction site staff are aware of potential peat stability issues by incorporating the issue in the site induction (e.g. peat instability indicators and good construction practice); • Developing methodologies to prevent degradation and erosion of exposed peat deposits to minimise effects on peat morphology and associated hydrology. This includes limiting vehicle movements on untracked ground to reduce the impact on areas of peat, reducing surface cover loss, soil compaction and impacts on areas of peat or areas with softer drift deposits / soils and steeper slopes; • The removal and off-site disposal of soils will be avoided where possible and particularly where soils hold environmental or ecological value (e.g. peat) and	Embedded Mitigation	Volume 2 – Chapter 11 – Paragraph 11.3.54 Volume 5 - Appendix 3.6 Outline Construction Environmental Management Plan	Principal Contractors / SSEN Transmission

Ref.	Issue	Mitigation/Monitoring Measure	Mitigation Type	EIA Report Reference	Responsibility
		agricultural productivity. Soils are to be used for reinstatement and/or restoration following construction; and • The implementation of best practice methods for soil handling and storage. This will be required to preserve soil structure and texture, and to avoid compaction within sensitive locations.			
GE2	Geological Designated Sites	In areas where geological statutory designated sites are present, it is anticipated that additional construction measures will be implemented and detailed within the CEMP. Micro-siting within the LoD will be undertaken to ensure the designated features are not significantly impacted by the Proposed Development, both prior to and during the construction phase based on the localised ground conditions encountered. In regard to solid geology, supervision may be required by a suitably qualified and experienced clerk of works during the construction phase to identify any qualifying features related to the geological designated site.	Embedded Mitigation	Volume 2 – Chapter 11 – Paragraph 11.3.55 Volume 5 - Appendix 3.6 Outline Construction Environmental Management Plan	Principal Contractors / SSEN Transmission
GE3	Geotechnical Stability	Earth cutting along steep slopes will be avoided where possible to reduce any impact on slope stability and the potential for peat slides. Suitable engineering works will be undertaken, where required, to ensure the stability of the slope is maintained in areas prone to slides.	Embedded Mitigation	Volume 2 – Chapter 11 – Paragraph 11.3.56	Principal Contractors
GE4	Contaminated Land	• Prior to commencing construction works, an assessment will be made by the Principal Contractors on the potential for contamination to be present based on site-specific information regarding potentially contaminated sites; and • Where evidence of previously unidentified contamination is encountered during construction, appropriate investigation and remedial measures will be developed and implemented by the Principal Contractors in accordance with relevant legislation and regulatory requirements to prevent pollution of environmental receptors and / or risk to human health.	Embedded Mitigation	Volume 2 – Chapter 11 – Paragraph 11.3.56	Principal Contractors
GE5	Access Tracks	In general, proposed construction site access will be taken via the existing public road network and will make use of existing forest and estate tracks as far as practicable, upgraded as required, to avoid unnecessary disturbance to peat soils that may arise from the construction of new tracks.	Embedded Mitigation	Volume 2 – Chapter 11 – Paragraph 11.3.56	Principal Contractors / SSEN Transmission

Ref.	Issue	Mitigation/Monitoring Measure	Mitigation Type	EIA Report Reference	Responsibility
		The majority of access will be achieved through upgrade of existing and installation of new tracks. Floating stone roads may be installed in sensitive areas such as over deeper areas of peat (>1 m), where slope gradients allow. Any floating tracks will be installed with reference to NatureScot (formerly Scottish Natural Heritage (SNH)), FCS guide on the Good Practice Guide for the Use of Floating Roads on Peat. All new tracks will be constructed in accordance with best practice construction methods, and with reference to NatureScot's good practice guide: Constructed tracks in Scottish Uplands[4]. It is assumed that the access across the Proposed Development will be via the permanent proposed track infrastructure, suitably constructed to account for the low volume of maintenance traffic. Minimal traffic is anticipated during the operational phase of the Proposed Development, and it is assumed that all vehicles will only drive on the permanent access tracks. It is not anticipated that vehicles will require off-road access which could potentially impact soils and peatland.			
GE6	Pollution Prevention	• Water will be prevented, as far as practicable, from entering excavations such as cable trenches and foundations; • Procedures will be adhered to for storage of fuels and other potentially contaminative materials in line with the Controlled Activity Regulations, to minimise the potential for accidental spillage; and • A detailed Emergency Plan will be implemented for dealing with spillage incidents, and this will be adhered to should any incident occur, reducing the effect as far as practicable. This will be included in the CEMP.	Embedded Mitigation	Volume 2 – Chapter 11 – Paragraph 11.3.56 Volume 5 - Appendix 3.6 Outline Construction Environmental Management Plan	Principal Contractors
GE7	Management Felling	The indirect impact of management felling on peat is likely to be limited to access tracks. Given that the proposed location of the access tracks is unknown at this stage, no targeted peat probing can be undertaken and the impact on peat and soils cannot be assessed fully. Best practice guidance detailed within the final CEMP shall be implemented to limit any potential effects.	Embedded Mitigation	Volume 2 – Chapter 11 – Paragraph 11.3.56 Volume 5 - Appendix 3.6 Outline	Principal Contractors / SSEN Transmission

4 Scottish Natural Heritage (SNH) Constructed tracks in the Scottish Uplands (2015) [Online] Available at: https://cairngorms.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2019/09/CD039-Scottish-Natural-Heritage-Constructed-tracks-in-the-Scottish-Uplands-2015.pdf [Accessed December 2024]

Ref.	Issue	Mitigation/Monitoring Measure	Mitigation Type	EIA Report Reference	Responsibility
		Management felling will require agreement from the landowner and will be delivered under a felling permission to be applied for by the landowner. More details on management felling are presented in Chapter 5: EIA Process and Methodology and Chapter 13: Forestry.		Construction Environmental Management Plan	
GE8	Adverse Weather	Where adverse weather occurs or is forecast best practise contained within the Bad Weather GEMP will be followed. Toolbox talks will be given to engineering, construction and supervising staff, and inspection and maintenance regimes relating to sediments and runoff control will be adopted during these scenarios. In extreme conditions, work on-site may be temporarily suspended until weather/ground conditions are acceptable.	Embedded Mitigation	Volume 2 – Chapter 11 – Paragraph 11.3.57	Principal Contractors / SSEN Transmission
GE9	Peat Stability	Embedded mitigation includes measures taken during the design of the Proposed Development which has been informed by peat probing surveys to reduce the potential risk of a peat slide. In summary, the principal measures considered include: • The use of floating tracks where peat depths are > 1.0 m, where practicable; • Locating infrastructure on shallow slopes where practicable; and, • Locating infrastructure on areas of shallow peat (or no peat) where practicable.	Embedded Mitigation	Volume 5 - Appendix 11.1 Peat Landslide and Hazard Risk Assessment - Paragraph 1.8.47	Principal Contractors / SSEN Transmission
GE10	Peat Stability	The following mitigation measures shall be adopted post consent stage to validate the PLHRA and influence the detailed design of the Proposed Development: • Ground investigations prior to detailed design; • Identification of areas sensitive to changes in drainage regime prior to detailed design; • Update the PLHRA as necessary following detailed ground investigations; • Development of a drainage strategy that will not create areas of concentrated flow and will not affect the current peatland hydrology, particularly in areas where a medium or high peat slide risk has been identified; • Design of a Proposed Development drainage system for tracks and hardstandings that will require minimal ongoing maintenance during the operation of the OHL; • Inspection and maintenance of the drainage system during construction and operation;	Additional Mitigation	Volume 5 - Appendix 11.1 Peat Landslide and Hazard Risk Assessment - Paragraph 1.8.47	Principal Contractors / SSEN Transmission

Ref.	Issue	Mitigation/Monitoring Measure	Mitigation Type	EIA Report Reference	Responsibility
		• Identification of suitable areas for stockpiling material during construction prior to commencement of works; and, • Consideration of specific construction methods appropriate for infrastructure in peatland (i.e. geogrids) as part of the design development.			
GE11	Peat Stability	• During construction visual inspections and monitoring in areas with the potential for peat slide risk shall take place; and • Micro-siting into areas of shallower peat within the LoD where practicable.	Additional Mitigation	Volume 5 - Appendix 11.1 Peat Landslide and Hazard Risk Assessment – Tables 39 - 43	Principal Contractors / SSEN Transmission
GE12	Excavation of Peat	The principles of excavating peat and peat soils shall be adhered to for all elements of the Proposed Development, comprised of the following: • Where excavation activities occur within peatland it shall be undertaken by a contractor with machine operators that are highly experienced working in peatland restoration projects; • Excavation activities will be overseen by a suitably qualified and experienced Peatland Restoration Advisor, with advice from the Ecological Clerk of Works (ECoW) (as appropriate), to ensure methods and mitigation detailed in the BNG Assessment, Habitat Management Plan (HMP) and Peat Management Plan (PMP) are correctly adhered to; • The construction works will be phased to ensure that peat is stripped in each part of the site ahead of mineral subsoil; • Wherever possible, a 360 excavator will be used to permit stripping of large-scale surface peat turves, with their vegetation intact; • The surface layer of peat (acrotelm) and vegetation will be stripped separately from the catotelmic peat, where practicable. This will typically comprise an excavation depth of up to 0.5 m and across an area up to a maximum of 1 m subject to the depth, consistency and condition of the surface peat at each location and the plant used for stripping; and	Embedded Mitigation	Volume 5 - Appendix 11.2 Outline Peat Management Plan – Paragraph 5.1.7	Principal Contractors / SSEN Transmission

Ref.	Issue	Mitigation/Monitoring Measure	Mitigation Type	EIA Report Reference	Responsibility
		• Timing of excavation activities shall be considered to avoid periods of heavy and or prolonged rainfall to minimise the likelihood of excavated peat losing its structural integrity.			
GE13	Peatland Restoration Potential	The outline objectives in proposing restoration of peatlands on Site are to: • Peatland reinstatement and restoration activities shall be undertaken by a contractor with machine operators that are highly experienced working in peatland restoration projects; • Peatland restoration activities will be overseen by a Peatland Restoration Advisor, with advice from the ECoW (as appropriate), to ensure methods and mitigation detailed in the BNG Assessment, HMP and PMP are correctly adhered to; • Ensure residual volumes of excavated peat from the Proposed Development are re-used in areas where ecological benefits cab be maintained or increased carbon sequestration can be delivered in line with the BNG Assessment and HMP; • Promote the reuse of excavated peat materials and avoid their disposal to landfill; • Reinstatement will, in all instances, be undertaken at the earliest opportunity to minimise storage of turves and other materials; • Promote use of best practices and guidance to ensure that benefit is made from reusing peat and peaty soils for ecological enhancement; • Complement planned mitigation identified in the HMP.	Embedded Mitigation	Volume 5 - Appendix 11.2 Outline Peat Management Plan – Paragraph 5.1.8	Principal Contractors / SSEN Transmission
GE14	Estimation of Peat Reuse requirements	The principles of reinstating peat and peat soils shall be adhered to for all elements of the Proposed Development, comprising of the following: • Further site investigation will be undertaken to inform the detailed design of the Proposed Development, which will be micro-sited within the Limits of Deviation (LoD) to avoid the deepest areas of peat, sensitive peatland habitats and/or saturated ground as far as possible. Where micro-siting is not possible, mitigation by design will consider the use of floated tracks and compounds, and piled foundations to avoid or minimise the removal of peat. • Where located within peat, the area cleared for construction of the tower (apart from the tower foundations themselves) will be fully reinstated with the carbon rich soil or	Embedded Mitigation	Volume 5 - Appendix 11.2 Outline Peat Management Plan – Paragraph 5.1.9	Principal Contractors / SSEN Transmission

Ref.	Issue	Mitigation/Monitoring Measure	Mitigation Type	EIA Report Reference	Responsibility
		peat that has been excavated from the cleared area and temporarily stored during the construction works; • The orientation and exact width of dressing back around the reinstated tower area will need to take into account the presence of adjacent access tracks and will be determined by the Site Construction Manager following advice, , from the ECoW and Peatland Restoration Advisor (as appropriate) taking into account local conditions including topography, morphology and peat slide risk; • Peat and peaty soils will be reinstated on access track and infrastructure verges with turves placed on the upper horizons, encouraging re-vegetation; • Verges will be created on both sides of permanent cut access tracks through carbon rich soil or peat. These will be no more than 2 m wide and 0.5m deep following advice from the Peatland Restoration Advisor; • All peat, soil and turves excavated from beneath infrastructure (excluding floated access tracks) will be reinstated in the vicinity of its original location; • Any wet catotelmic peat will be placed at the bottom of any restoration profile, followed by semi-fibrous catotelmic peat and acrotelmic peat should be placed at the top; • It is proposed that a large proportion of excavated peat will be utilised in peatland restoration activities in line with the outline techniques discussed in the HMP; • Acrotelmic material will be replaced as intact as possible once construction progresses/as it is complete; • Acrotelmic material is to be placed on the surface of reinstatement areas but not placed on intact vegetation; • Dressing back site infrastructure and the creation of verges along access tracks will generally involve the laying of peat turves up to a maximum depth of 0.5m. Where the depth exceeds 0.5m, there will be two stages to create an appropriate peat profile. The first stage involves the spreading of loose peat and the second stage involves the replacement of peat turves on top to create conditions that will promote the growth of peatland vegetation and grade smoothly into adjacent peatland vegetation. Reinstated peat areas will not exceed a depth of 0.7m;			

Ref.	Issue	Mitigation/Monitoring Measure	Mitigation Type	EIA Report Reference	Responsibility
		• Dressing back will be tapered to fit smoothly with the adjacent habitat using peat turves that will typically be trimmed to a slope of between 1 in 5 and 1 in 2 (notably where hardstandings need to be cut into the side of a steep sided hill). Loose, wet peat will not be used for this purpose and peat at the edges of deposition areas will be compressed to minimise water loss from lateral flow; • It is anticipated that, if peat turf has been correctly stored, no further re-seeding will be required. However, re-seeding will be carried out using heather brash collected from the surrounding area and/or an appropriate seed mix if judged to be necessary by the Peatland Restoration Advisor; and • In the event of surplus peat arising from the construction of the Proposed Development the Applicant considers it can successfully be reused within, or adjacent to, the Proposed Development for reinstatement and restoration peatland habitats in line with the BNG Assessment and HMP.			
GE15	Handling and Storage of Peat	Careful handling of peat is essential to retain any existing structure and integrity of the excavated materials and thereby maximise the potential for excavated material to be re-used. Temporary peat storage areas may be required throughout the construction phase, the location of which will be defined by the chosen Site Construction Manager following advice from the Peatland Restoration Advisor, and ECoW (as appropriate). The chosen locations will be based on the site conditions, environmental constraints and logistical considerations. The following best practice applies to the handling and temporary storage of peat: • Identification of suitable areas for stockpiling material during construction prior to commencement of works; • The number and location of temporary peat storage areas will be chosen to minimise the distance the stripped and excavated peat will have to be transported; • Acrotelmic material will be stored separately from catotelmic material, where required;	Embedded Mitigation	Volume 5 - Appendix 11.2 Outline Peat Management Plan – Paragraph 5.1.10 - 5.1.12	Principal Contractors / SSEN Transmission

Ref.	Issue	Mitigation/Monitoring Measure	Mitigation Type	EIA Report Reference	Responsibility
		• Temporary storage of peat will be minimised, with restoration occurring in parallel with other works to protect the peat resource and minimise the area required for temporary storage where possible; • Excavated peat will be temporarily stored in designated locations as close as possible to the area from which it has been cut; • Doubling handling will be avoided as much as possible and a robust planning and monitoring programme will be invoked to ensure peat and mineral soils are not mixed; • Less humified catotelmic peat which maintains its structure upon excavation should be kept separate from any highly humified amorphous or wet catotelmic peat, as far as reasonably practicable; • Peat turf and vegetated layer will be transferred intact to their temporary storage location, with vegetation upright, in a single layer on geotextile material (to protect the underlying vegetation as much as possible); • Moisture levels of acrotelm will be maintained to prevent it drying out, as far as reasonably practicable; • Peat turves may be stored in double layers (separated by geotextile) provided that such storage does not exceed 2 months; • Subsoil and mineral soils are to be stored in bunds, separate to peat to avoid cross contamination; • Excavated peat will be stored in areas of previous disturbance area where peat was less than 0.5 m, where possible; • Peat that is not overly wet shall be stored in stockpiles no greater than 2 m in height, in areas where topography permits and there is a low instability risk, as far as reasonably practicable; • Any bunded storage areas will need to be designed with a sedimentation/settling pond to de-water wet peat and aid sediment containment. Each settling pond must be designed with appropriate filtration treatment facilities prior to connection into the construction phase surface water drainage scheme and Sustainable Drainage System (SuDS) for the Proposed Development;			

Ref.	Issue	Mitigation/Monitoring Measure	Mitigation Type	EIA Report Reference	Responsibility
		• Excavated peat will be stored in areas out with 25 m buffer of watercourses/ major functioning drainage ditches, where possible; • Excavated peat will be stored in locations with lower ecological risk and avoid areas of sensitive habitat; • If heavy goods vehicles (HGVs) or dump trucks typically used for transporting non-peat materials are repurposed to carry peat materials, appropriate measures must be taken to prevent cross-contamination between peat soils and other materials. • In order to ensure that the minimum amount of peat compaction occurs during placement when heavy machinery is being used for reinstatement, the contractor will develop a suitable method for spreading any loose peat prior to reinstating peat turves. This is likely to include very light tamping down by use of the bucket on a long reach excavator; • The Site Construction Manager, with advice from the Peatland Restoration Advisor, ECoW and or Site Engineer, will determine whether special mitigation measures are required, such as orientation of stockpile, levelling/benching to level the surface, bunding to contain stored materials and/or site-specific drainage to ensure that runoff waters are sufficiently controlled; • Peat turves and storage areas will be regularly managed and inspected to ensure maintenance of stockpile stability and integrity and to identify any features such as bare peat surfaces, erosion and/or ponding so that corrective actions can be taken if necessary; • Monitor peat storage areas during periods of heavy or prolonged rainfall, or during snowmelt, to identify early signs of peat instability. Dewatering may be required to protect the peat following periods of increase precipitation; and • Should any issues be observed during regular visual inspections of peat stockpiles, implementation of appropriate correction measures will need to be recorded and monitored for effectiveness.			

Ref.	Issue	Mitigation/Monitoring Measure	Mitigation Type	EIA Report Reference	Responsibility
GE16	Vehicle Movement and Transportation of Peat	The following best practices apply to vehicle movement on peat soils: • Managing the construction work as much as possible to avoid periods when underlying peat soils are likely to be wetter i.e. high rainfall events; • Limiting vehicle movements on untracked ground to reduce the impact on areas of peat, reducing surface cover loss, soil compaction and impacts on areas of peat or areas with softer drift deposits / soils and steeper slopes; • Appropriate scale plant will be used, such as 360° diggers rather than bulldozers. Transportation of peat soils will be avoided where reasonably practicable. In cases where in situ restoration or within close proximity to the excavation area is not feasible, such as when excess peat is generated, peat soils may need to be relocated within the Site for reuse in areas lacking sufficient local peat. The following best practices will be applied to the transportation of peat soils: • If heavy goods vehicles (HGVs) or dump trucks typically used for transporting non-peat materials are repurposed to carry peat materials, appropriate measures must be taken to prevent cross-contamination between peat soils and other materials. • Avoid transportation during adverse weather conditions to reduce erosion and runoff risks; • Transport peat in sealed or covered containers to retain moisture and prevent drying; • Designate specific haul routes to limit the spatial extent of disturbance within the Site; and, • Follow best practice for the handling of peat.	Embedded Mitigation	Volume 5 - Appendix 11.2 Outline Peat Management Plan – Paragraph 5.1.13 – 5.1.14	Principal Contractors / SSEN Transmission
GE17	Management of Peat	Additional mitigation measures recommendations relating to the Outline PMP will be implemented across specific areas of the Proposed Development where the potential impact on peat is considered significant. These measures include: • Access routes and working areas will be clearly delineated throughout the construction phase;	Additional	Volume 5 - Appendix 11.2 Outline Peat Management Plan	Principal Contractors / SSEN Transmission

Ref.	Issue	Mitigation/Monitoring Measure	Mitigation Type	EIA Report Reference	Responsibility
		• Inspection and maintenance of the drainage system during construction; • Reinstated peat conditions will be inspected immediately and corrective actions taken as deemed necessary by the Peatland Restoration Advisor; • Consideration of specific construction methods appropriate for infrastructure in peatland (i.e. geogrids) as part of the design development; • Use of the LoD to aid micro-siting of Proposed Development infrastructure based on the findings of site surveys where deep peat has been identified; • Avoid loading of materials on deep peat; • Floating access tracks will be considered to protect areas of deep peat; • If sustained heavy rain occurs during soil/peat stripping operations, work must be suspended and not restarted until the Peatland Restoration Advisor confirms the ground conditions are suitable to do so. Rainfall quantities and soil/ peat wetness conditions considered to be cut-off thresholds for cessation of soil/ peat stripping/ handling works may differ across the site depending upon the peat conditions and will be informed by the results of detailed site investigations; and • If sustained heavy snowfall or prolonged freezing conditions occur, soil/peat striping and or stockpiling, and/or restoration activities will be suspended. When thawing conditions occur, the Site Construction Manager with advice from the Peatland Restoration Advisor will determine the appropriate timescale for restarting peat management activities based on the meteorological forecast. Decision making will pay attention to the potential for rapid snowmelt runoff, peat erosion and slide risk.		– Paragraph 5.1.15	
GE18	Peat Stability	• Visual inspections to be completed in areas of moderate to high risk, as identified by the PLHRA, during construction and for a period after and during heavy rainfall events to identify risk to slope stability; and • Use of the LoD to aid micro-siting of Proposed Development infrastructure based on the peat data collected that identifies increased stability risk, e.g. due to localised topography or ground conditions.	Additional	Volume 2 – Chapter 11 – Paragraph 11.7.3 Volume 2 – Chapter 11 - Table 11.23: Summary of Effects and Proposed	Principal Contractors / SSEN Transmission

Ref.	Issue	Mitigation/Monitoring Measure	Mitigation Type	EIA Report Reference	Responsibility
				Mitigation Measures	
GE19	Disturbance of Deep Peat	• Avoid the loading on deep peat; and • Use of the LoD to aid micro-siting of Proposed Development infrastructure based on the findings of site surveys where deep peat was identified.	Additional	Volume 2 – Chapter 11 – Paragraph 11.7.3 Volume 2 – Chapter 11 - Table 11.23: Summary of Effects and Proposed Mitigation Measures	Principal Contractors / SSEN Transmission
GE20	Loss and Compaction of Peat	• Use of the LoD to aid micro-siting of Proposed Development infrastructure based on the findings of site surveys where deep peat was identified; and • Reuse of peat that is removed from in situ conditions to other areas within the development.	Additional	Volume 2 – Chapter 11 – Paragraph 11.7.3 Volume 2 – Chapter 11 - Table 11.23: Summary of Effects and Proposed Mitigation Measures	Principal Contractors / SSEN Transmission
GE21	Loss and Compaction of Soils	• Use of the LoD to aid micro-siting of Proposed Development infrastructure based on the findings of site surveys; and • Reuse of soils that is removed from in situ conditions to other areas within the development.	Additional	Volume 2 – Chapter 11 – Paragraph 11.7.3 Volume 2 – Chapter 11 - Table 11.23: Summary of Effects and Proposed	Principal Contractors / SSEN Transmission

Ref.	Issue	Mitigation/Monitoring Measure	Mitigation Type	EIA Report Reference	Responsibility
				Mitigation Measures	
GE22	Impact on Solid Geology and Geological Designated Sites	Use of the LoD to aid micro-siting of Proposed Development infrastructure to limit impacts on solid geology.	Additional	Volume 2 – Chapter 11 – Paragraph 11.7.3 Volume 2 – Chapter 11 - Table 11.23: Summary of Effects and Proposed Mitigation Measures	Principal Contractors / SSEN Transmission
GE23	Impact on Contaminated Land	Where potential contamination is identified, strategies for the assessment, mitigation or remediation of the contamination will be developed and agreed with the regulatory authorities.	Additional	Volume 2 – Chapter 11 – Paragraph 11.7.3 Volume 2 – Chapter 11 - Table 11.23: Summary of Effects and Proposed Mitigation Measures	Principal Contractors / SSEN Transmission
Mitigation for Cultural Heritage (see Volume 2 – Chapter 12)					
CH1	Iterative Design Process	Prior to commencement of the EIA, the routeing and alignment stages of the project sought to prevent or minimise effects on environmental constraints where possible, including cultural heritage. Throughout the EIA an iterative design process to optioneer design amendments has been undertaken. The process incorporated the use of interdisciplinary expert input, field survey outcomes, regulator engagement and advice, and engineering input, to consider the potential for avoidance and minimisation of impacts, ad select a preferred design.	Embedded mitigation	Volume 2 – Chapter 12 – Paragraph 12.9.2 Volume 5 - Appendix 12.7: Mitigation	SSEN Transmission

Ref.	Issue	Mitigation/Monitoring Measure	Mitigation Type	EIA Report Reference	Responsibility
				Summary – Paragraph 1.4.1	
CH2	Preservation In-Situ	Micro-siting of the Proposed Development will consider the desirability of preservation in situ where practicable. Preservation in situ of identified heritage assets will be achieved through marking off those assets that lie within the micro-siting allowance prior to commencement of construction. To incorporate the potential for micro-siting requirements, changes to design that require the movement of project elements are constrained by the determined project limit of deviation (LoD) (see Volume 2, Chapter 3: Description of the Proposed Development, Section 3.5). Broadly, the horizontal LoD represents an area 100 m either side of the OHL and access track centreline, and 10m either side of the existing tracks that are to be upgraded. The vertical LoD represents a potential increase or decrease of tower / pole height of 9 m. This EIA Report approach has assessed impact in relation to the physical footprint of the Proposed Development within the LoD. There are therefore heritage assets within the LoD that do not interact with the Proposed Development footprint and report 'no impact', which may be subject to mitigation or impact should locational change of project elements occur within the LoD. In some areas, the LoD is increased or decreased to account for local constraints or known engineering challenges and environmental sensitivities.	Embedded Mitigation	Volume 5 - Appendix 12.7: Mitigation Summary – Section 1.3: Embedded Mitigation Measures – Paragraph 1.4.3 – 1.4.5 Volume 5, Appendix 12.3 to Volume 5, Appendix 12.5	Principal Contractors / ACoW
CH3	Demarcation	Demarcation through marking-out and barricading may be deployed, and achieved using high visibility marker posts / barricading, as appropriate, outside the edge of the identified heritage assets. These markers would be retained for the duration of the construction phase. The extent of demarcation distances, and any and all assets to be protected in this way, will be agreed following consultation with THC HET. All assets that interact with the Proposed Development LoD or are immediately adjacent will be subject to a demarcation zone, wherein it is advised that no construction activity takes place. These are set at: • 50 m for Designated assets; and • 25 m for non-designated assets.	Embedded Mitigation	Volume 5 - Appendix 12.7: Mitigation Summary – Section 1.3: Embedded Mitigation Measures – Paragraph 1.4.6 – 1.4.8	Principal Contractors / ACoW

Ref.	Issue	Mitigation/Monitoring Measure	Mitigation Type	EIA Report Reference	Responsibility
		Assets to be demarcated would be identified on the ground by a qualified archaeologist using the baseline and gazetteer information provided in Volume 5, Appendix 12.3, Volume 5, Appendix 12.4 and Volume 5, Appendix 12.5 (also see Volume 3, figures 12.1-4), aided, as required, by GPS measurement. Marking out of the assets would be undertaken by the appointed Principal Contractors using appropriate methods, with archaeological supervision, as appropriate.			
CH4	Archaeological Intervention	The following considerations for mitigation are advised to address the anticipated direct impacts as a result of the introduction of the Proposed Development: • Completion of archaeological walkover surveys of all project elements, • Inclusion of findings into the mitigation design; • Non-intrusive archaeological survey (e.g., geophysical survey, metal detection survey, surface finds collection, recording surveys); • Archaeological evaluation programme (e.g. trenching, test pitting, shovel pit testing, geoarchaeological/palaeobotanical/ paleoenvironmental survey); • Intrusive archaeological investigation (e.g. targeted/open area excavation works); • Archaeological monitoring (e.g. watching brief) during all intrusive works (unless exempted as a result of prior archaeological investigation for the Proposed Development); and • Utilisation of EAP areas to focus mitigation plans.	Embedded Mitigation	Volume 5 - Appendix 12.7: Mitigation Summary – Section 1.3: Embedded Mitigation Measures – Paragraph 1.4.10	Principal Contractors / ACoW
CH5	Management Felling Considerations	• Pre-commencement survey within the Operational Corridor,[5] to understand the potential for unintended impact to upstanding remains; • Determination of exclusion zones for upstanding remains; • Programme of recording upstanding remains, where unintentional impacts may occur; and • Develop an appropriate management plan to address potential 'windblow/windthrow' effects.	Embedded Mitigation	Volume 5 - Appendix 12.7: Mitigation Summary – Section 1.3: Embedded Mitigation Measures – Paragraph 1.4.11	Principal Contractors / ACoW

[5] Additional felling areas beyond the Operational Corridor are not within the EIA mitigation purview, and the responsibility lies with the landowner/operator.

Ref.	Issue	Mitigation/Monitoring Measure	Mitigation Type	EIA Report Reference	Responsibility
CH6	Spatial Intervention Considerations	The following triggers shall be implemented when modifying the location of project infrastructure within the proposed LoD, as they will require assessment by, or consultation with, a suitably qualified archaeologist: • where movement of project infrastructure may locate a project element within 100m of a designated asset or its boundary; • where movement of project infrastructure may interact with heritage assets not previously impacted; and • where movement of project infrastructure will occur within EAP areas.	Embedded Mitigation	Volume 5 - Appendix 12.7: Mitigation Summary – Section 1.3: Embedded Mitigation Measures – Paragraph 1.4.12	Principal Contractors / ACoW
CH7	Setting Intervention Considerations	The following triggers relate to micro-siting requirements, as may arise from such constraints as: unsuitable ground conditions and would necessitate further consultation with HES and/or THC HET, as appropriate. This consultation may involve the production of further visualisations to assist with the assessment of change. Elevation of the reported degree of impact should be avoided, and where micro-siting options present a lessening of impact, they should be prioritised: • Changes in the design that require the movement of project elements within the LoD will be subject to the constraints relating to the resulting effect from changes in the setting of assets; • Restrictions on the movement or amendment of project elements within areas identified as being highly constrained as a result of their contribution to the setting of heritage assets; • Accommodations for micro-siting changes within the given tolerances of the Proposed Development design / LoD to minimise effects resulting from changes in setting; and • Consideration of design amendments within the LoD.	Embedded Mitigation	Volume 5 - Appendix 12.7: Mitigation Summary – Section 1.3: Embedded Mitigation Measures – Paragraph 1.4.13	SSEN Transmission / Principal Contractors / ACoW
CH8	Public Benefit Considerations	In addition to the generation of a publicly available archive for the archaeological works (via ADS, DES and HER), opportunities for Public Benefit will be pursued in line with 'ALGAO: Scotland's *Delivery of Public Benefit and Social Value for Archaeology in the Planning Process'*.	Embedded Mitigation	Volume 5 – Appendix 12.1: Scope and Method of Assessment – Section 1.11: Mitigation –	SSEN Transmission / Principal Contractors / ACoW

Ref.	Issue	Mitigation/Monitoring Measure	Mitigation Type	EIA Report Reference	Responsibility
				paragraphs 1.11.9-12 Volume 5 - Appendix 12.7: Mitigation Summary – Section 1.3: Embedded Mitigation Measures – Paragraph 1.4.14	
CH9	Section A - Dunbeath Water to Burn of Houstry Catchment EAP (EAP_01)	• Due to the high density of known assets along river valleys and burn sides, and the interconnected nature of prehistoric settlement remains, pre-commencement investigations at the tower location platforms and compound areas between towers N76-N87, including access tracks, shall be undertaken. • Due to the location of tower N77, and its platform and compound area, being located directly atop of a known cairnfield (MHG39573) there is the potential for human remains to be identified during pre-commencement investigations. • Due to the location of tower N78, and its EPZ and access track are directly interacting with a hut circle (MHG28699) and cairn (MHG28698), respectively, there is the potential for human remains to be identified during pre-commencement investigations. • Due to the location of tower N82, and its platform and compound area, being located directly atop a known cairn (MHG13573) there is the potential for human remains to be identified during pre-commencement investigations. • At tower N86 the LoD has been amended to not include the prehistoric and post-medieval settlement site (SM512). Demarcation and potential barricading by a suitably qualified archaeologist (ACoW), will be utilised to ensure no Project interaction.	Additional Mitigation	Volume 5 - Appendix 12.7: Mitigation Summary – Section 1.5: Additional Mitigation (Elevated Archaeological Potential Areas (EAP)) – Paragraph 1.5.5	Principal Contractors / ACoW
CH10	Section A - Berriedale Catchment EAP (EAP_02)	• Due to the dense concentration of known designated and non-designated assets along the river valleys and burn sides and contextual understanding of the	Additional Mitigation	Volume 5 - Appendix 12.7:	Principal Contractors / ACoW

Ref.	Issue	Mitigation/Monitoring Measure	Mitigation Type	EIA Report Reference	Responsibility
		connectivity of the archaeological remains relating to multi-phase prehistoric settlement, pre-commencement investigations at the tower location platforms and compound areas between towers N107 to N117 to extend to areas required for access tracks, shall be undertaken. • Due to potential damage from plantation the elevated potential between towers N116 and N117 shall be investigated to understand the presence and condition of any remains that may be in association with the prehistoric settlement activity of the area. • EPZ for tower N114 directly interacts with a hut circle (MHG819) and field system (MHG39431) that extends beyond the LOD to the west and includes a hut circle complex (SM13631). • Tower N115 is directly atop a hut circle (MHG63445). Tower location platform and compound area potentially interacts with multiple other heritage assets, including hut circles (MHG63446 and MHG2427) and an enclosure (MHG63451). • Towers N114 and N115 are prominently positioned on the valley sides of Langwell Water, with the spanning conductors highly visible in views east to the inlet.		Mitigation Summary – Section 1.5: Additional Mitigation (Elevated Archaeological Potential Areas (EAP)) - Paragraph 1.5.6	
CH11	Section A - The River Helmsdale Valley (EAP_03)	• Due to the alluvial deposition of sediments and a contextual understanding of the known archaeology a pre-commencement investigation of tower locations, platforms, and compound areas as well as associated EPZs between towers N145 and N152 shall be undertaken.	Additional Mitigation	Volume 5 - Appendix 12.7: Mitigation Summary – Section 1.5: Additional Mitigation (Elevated Archaeological Potential Areas (EAP)) - Paragraph 1.5.7	Principal Contractors / ACoW
CH12	Section A - The Glen Loth EAP (EAP_04)	• Due to the alluvial deposition and contextual understanding of the known archaeology a pre-commencement investigation of tower locations, platforms, and compound areas as well as associated EPZs between tower N177 and N189 will be	Additional Mitigation	Volume 5 - Appendix 12.7: Mitigation	Principal Contractors / ACoW

Ref.	Issue	Mitigation/Monitoring Measure	Mitigation Type	EIA Report Reference	Responsibility
		required. Between towers N178 and N181 and at tower N185, there is the potential for direct interaction with known prehistoric settlement activity to be investigated. The other tower areas shall be subject to pre-commencement investigation. • In the area surrounding tower N176, geophysics will be extended to cover an area of the south-bound access track to identify a hut circle MHG9981. Once identified, mitigation through avoidance or targeted excavation will be utilised. All other access tracks will be monitored via Watching Brief.		Summary – Section 1.5: Additional Mitigation (Elevated Archaeological Potential Areas (EAP)) - Paragraph 1.5.8	
CH13	Section B - The River Fleet EAP (EAP_05)	• Due to the alluvial deposition of sediments and a contextual understanding of the known archaeology a pre-commencement investigation of tower locations, platforms, and compound areas as well as associated EPZs between towers N264 and N266 shall be undertaken.	Additional Mitigation	Volume 5 - Appendix 12.7: Mitigation Summary – Section 1.5: Additional Mitigation (Elevated Archaeological Potential Areas (EAP)) - Paragraph 15.5.9	Principal Contractors / ACoW
CH14	Section C - The West Loch Buidhe EAP (EAP_06)	• Due to the alluvial deposition of sediments and a contextual understanding of the known archaeology a pre-commencement investigation of tower Locations, platforms, and compound areas as well as associated EPZs between towers S1 and S13 shall be undertaken.	Additional Mitigation	Volume 5 - Appendix 12.7: Mitigation Summary – Section 1.5: Additional Mitigation (Elevated Archaeological Potential Areas	Principal Contractors / ACoW

Ref.	Issue	Mitigation/Monitoring Measure	Mitigation Type	EIA Report Reference	Responsibility
				(EAP)) - Paragraph 1.5.10	
CH15	Section C - The Kyle of Sutherland EAP (EAP_07)	• Due to the alluvial deposition of sediments and a contextual understanding of the known prehistoric settlement, pre-commencement investigations at the tower locations, platforms, and compound areas as well as special arrangement areas between towers S22 to S24 shall be undertaken. • Due to potential damage from plantation, the elevated potential between towers S19 and S21 will be investigated to understand the presence and condition of any remains that may be in association with the prehistoric settlement activity of the area. • SM5497 may require demarcation and barricading as advised by a suitably qualified archaeologist (ACoW), as it is located within 30 m of new permanent access track running north of tower S21. • Forestry track requiring major upgrades runs through SM5498 and may require Scheduled Monument consent for works, as well as demarcation, barricading, and monitoring by a suitably qualified archaeologist (ACoW), to avoid impacts to assets within the scheduled monument boundary.	Additional Mitigation	Volume 5 - Appendix 12.7: Mitigation Summary – Section 1.5: Additional Mitigation (Elevated Archaeological Potential Areas (EAP)) - Paragraph 1.5.11	SSEN Transmission / Principal Contractors / ACoW
CH16	Section D - The River Averon EAP (EAP_08)	• Due to the alluvial deposition of sediments and a contextual understanding of the known prehistoric settlement and medieval valley-style settlement, pre-commencement investigations at the tower location platforms and compound areas between towers S85 to S93 within the flood plains, and towers S94 to S100 along the transition zone from lowland to uplands running southeast, shall be undertaken. • Between towers S85 and S100 access tracks will be monitored by a suitably qualified archaeologist (ACoW), to identify the presence and condition of heritage assets and excavate or avoid as appropriate using micro-siting.	Additional Mitigation	Volume 5 - Appendix 12.7: Mitigation Summary – Section 1.5: Additional Mitigation (Elevated Archaeological Potential Areas (EAP)) - Paragraph 1.5.12	Principal Contractors / ACoW

Ref.	Issue	Mitigation/Monitoring Measure	Mitigation Type	EIA Report Reference	Responsibility
CH17	Section D - The River Sgitheach River EAP (EAP_09)	• Due to the alluvial deposition of sediments and a contextual understanding of the known prehistoric settlement pre-commencement investigations at the tower location platforms and compound areas between towers S110 to S124 shall be undertaken. • Tower S112 and its EPZ will require pre-commencement investigations to be extended south from the tower location to understand the extent of remains at the Garabil settlement (MHG14142). • Tower S120 will require pre-commencement investigations to be extended beyond the tower location to understand the extent of remains at the Women's Timber Corps Camp near Fannyfield Kiltearn (MHG56249). • Due to the prominent ridgeline position and contextual understanding of known archaeological remains relating to multi-phase prehistoric settlement, pre-commencement investigations at the tower location platforms and compound areas between towers S125 to S142 shall be undertaken. The known archaeological remains fall along the ridgeline with peatland to the north, to investigate the peatland for archaeological potential, a potential approach may be a window sampling programme, alongside the potential use of alternative geophysical survey methods as appropriate and determined by the ACoW. Given the known presence of rock art, a full record shall be developed by an archaeologist for the asset to record its current condition.[6] • Tower S129 is within 50 m of a chambered cairn (SM2396) and shall be appropriately demarcated by a suitably qualified archaeologist (ACoW), to avoid interaction. • Towers S114 to S125 are located within plantation forestry while towers S126 to S128 appear to be in plantation land but aerial imagery does not confirm an advanced stage of plantation growth. These tower location areas will be investigated to understand the presence and condition of any remains that may be in association with the prehistoric settlement activity of the area.	Additional Mitigation	Volume 5 - Appendix 12.7: Mitigation Summary – Section 1.5: Additional Mitigation (Elevated Archaeological Potential Areas (EAP)) - Paragraph 1.5.13	Principal Contractors / ACoW

6 The archaeologist undertaking the mitigation and recording should conduct a review of ScRAP (Scotland's Rock Art Project) to understand presence/absence within at the existing archive. Website found at: https://www.rockart.scot/

Ref.	Issue	Mitigation/Monitoring Measure	Mitigation Type	EIA Report Reference	Responsibility
CH18	Section D - The Cnoc na Gearraisich EAP (EAP_10)	• Due to potential damage from plantation the elevated potential between towers S143 and S152 the area shall be investigated to understand the presence and condition of any remains that may be in association with the potential (pre-) historical activity of the area.	Additional Mitigation	Volume 5 - Appendix 12.7: Mitigation Summary – Section 1.5: Additional Mitigation (Elevated Archaeological Potential Areas (EAP)) - Paragraph 1.5.14	Principal Contractors / ACoW
CH19	Section D - River Conan EAP (EAP_11)	• Due to the alluvial deposition of sediments and a contextual understanding of the known prehistoric settlement pre-commencement investigations at the tower location platforms and compound areas as well as special arrangement areas between towers S164 to S182 shall be undertaken. • Between towers S168 to S169 the existing access track is subject to a major upgrade. The presence of cup marked stone (MHG63243) requires demarcation and monitoring by a suitably qualified archaeologist (ACoW), to avoid interaction. Given the known presence of rock art, a full record will be developed by an archaeologist for the asset to record its current condition.[7] • Tower S173 will require pre-commencement investigations to be extended beyond the tower location to the site compound and borrow pit area, to understand the extent of remains of the enclosure (MHG14111). • Between towers S170 to S180 there are two river crossings of the River Conon and Allt an Dubh; an approach will be developed by a suitably qualified archaeologist (ACoW), to investigate the riverine area for archaeological potential. • Towers S180 to S182, including the special arrangement, are located within plantation and managed woodland, tower S182 is located within the Fairburn GDL	Additional Mitigation	Volume 5 - Appendix 12.7: Mitigation Summary – Section 1.5: Additional Mitigation (Elevated Archaeological Potential Areas (EAP)) - Paragraph 1.5.15	Principal Contractors / ACoW

7 Mitigation and recording should be subject to a review of ScRAP (Scotland's Rock Art Project) to understand presence/absence within at the existing archive. Website found at: https://www.rockart.scot/

Ref.	Issue	Mitigation/Monitoring Measure	Mitigation Type	EIA Report Reference	Responsibility
		(GDL00174). They shall be investigated understand the presence and condition of any archaeological remains present.			
CH20	Section E - River Orrin EAP (EAP_12)	• Between tower S186 and S187 on the north side of the River Orrin there is managed woodland within Fairburn GDL (GDL00174). On the south side of the River Orrin there is dispersed woodland and scrubland. Following survey of the areas to ascertain the appropriateness of the landcover, pre-commencement investigations will be undertaken.	Additional Mitigation	Volume 5 - Appendix 12.7: Mitigation Summary – Section 1.5: Additional Mitigation (Elevated Archaeological Potential Areas (EAP)) - Paragraph 1.5.16	Principal Contractors / ACoW
CH21	Section E - Loch nam Bonnach EAP (EAP_13)	• Due to the alluvial deposition of sediments and a contextual understanding of the known archaeology a pre-commencement investigation of tower locations, platforms, and compound areas as well as associated EPZs between towers S204 and S207 shall be undertaken.	Additional Mitigation	Volume 5 - Appendix 12.7: Mitigation Summary – Section 1.5: Additional Mitigation (Elevated Archaeological Potential Areas (EAP)) - Paragraph 1.5.17	Principal Contractors / ACoW
CH22	Section E - Urchany and Farley EAP (EAP_14)	• Between towers S210 and S212 the area will be investigated to understand the presence and condition of any remains that may be in association with the potential (pre-) historical activity of the area, based on the proximity to Dun Garbhlaich (SM2422).	Additional Mitigation	Volume 5 - Appendix 12.7: Mitigation Summary – Section 1.5:	Principal Contractors / ACoW

Ref.	Issue	Mitigation/Monitoring Measure	Mitigation Type	EIA Report Reference	Responsibility
				Additional Mitigation (Elevated Archaeological Potential Areas (EAP)) - Paragraph 1.5.18	
CH23	Section E - The Breacky Burn Upland West (EAP_15)	• EAP15 is present within the LOD but there is no Project interaction, and this shall be kept under review during the construction phase to avoid Project interaction through micro-siting and design changes.	Additional Mitigation	Volume 5 - Appendix 12.7: Mitigation Summary – Section 1.5: Additional Mitigation (Elevated Archaeological Potential Areas (EAP)) - Paragraph 1.5.19	Principal Contractors / ACoW
CH24	Section E - The Breacky Burn Upland East (EAP_16)	• Due to the prominent upland position and contextual understanding of known archaeological remains relating to multi-phase prehistoric settlement, pre-commencement investigations at the tower location platforms and compound areas between towers S217 to S218, to extend to areas required for access tracks, shall be undertaken. The known archaeological remains relate to dense upland settlement activity in relation to Dun Mor Fort (SM4979). Given the known presence of rock art in the surrounding areas a full record will be developed during a detailed walkover survey to identify any rock-art assets and record their current condition. [8] • Due to the location of tower S218, and its platform and compound area, being located directly atop known hut circles (MHG62069) and a potential burial cairn	Additional Mitigation	Volume 5 - Appendix 12.7: Mitigation Summary – Section 1.5: Additional Mitigation (Elevated Archaeological Potential Areas	Principal Contractors / ACoW

8 The archaeologist undertaking the mitigation and recording should conduct a review of ScRAP (Scotland's Rock Art Project) to understand presence/absence within at the existing archive. Website found at: https://www.rockart.scot/

Ref.	Issue	Mitigation/Monitoring Measure	Mitigation Type	EIA Report Reference	Responsibility
		(MHG62128) there is the potential for human remains to be identified during pre-commencement investigations.		(EAP)) - Paragraph 1.5.20	
Mitigation for Forestry (see Volume 2 – Chapter 13)					
F1	Embedded mitigation relevant to woodland and forestry	Embedded mitigation relevant to woodland and forestry includes the minimisation of woodland clearance within designated areas, retention of stable woodland edges to reduce windblow risk, and compensatory planting as per The Scottish Government's Control of Woodland Removal Policy (2009) to address permanent loss of forest resource in appropriate locations. During the detailed alignment and EIA stage, further design modifications were undertaken to avoid or minimise effects on forestry. Where temporary tree clearance is required as part of the construction process, the replanting of these areas is embedded mitigation which will be undertaken onsite to adhere to the Forestry and Land Management (Scotland) Act 2018.	Embedded mitigation	Volume 2 – Chapter 13 – Paragraph 13.5.1–13.5.2	SSEN Transmission / Principal Contractors
F2	Iterative Design Process	Prior to commencement of the EIA, the routeing and alignment stages of the project sought to prevent or minimise effects on environmental constraints where possible, including forestry.	Embedded mitigation	Volume 2 – Chapter 13 – Paragraph 13.5.3	SSEN Transmission
F3	Good Practice	In addition to the changes made through the design of the Proposed Development to take account of potential effects on forestry, a series of good practice measures will be put in place through the CEMP provided by the Principal Contractors during construction to minimise the effect of the Proposed Development on forestry. The assessment has been undertaken on the basis that these measures will be in place: • Adherence to Forest Industry Safety Accord FISA guidance[9] during felling and extraction of forestry. This is a UK-wide initiative (not specific to Scotland) aimed at improving health, safety, and welfare standards within the forestry industry; • Adherence to SF & SEPA[10] Guidelines e.g. to ensure protection and enhancement of the water environment during felling and construction; • Implementation of tree harvesting and extraction methods to ensure minimisation of soil disturbance and compaction during felling and construction;	Embedded mitigation	Volume 2 – Chapter 13 – Paragraph 13.5.4	Principal Contractors

9 https://ukfisa.com/Safety/Safety-Guides Forestry Industry Safety Accord (FISA)

10 https://www.sepa.org.uk/regulations/water/pollution-control/water-run-off-from-construction-sites/ - Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA)

Ref.	Issue	Mitigation/Monitoring Measure	Mitigation Type	EIA Report Reference	Responsibility
		• Restricting the width of the felling corridor to the minimum required for statutory safe clearances. This will predominantly be delivered by the identification of any areas where the individual tree is of a species which can be deemed to be low growing to the extent that they can remain in parts of the OC without conflicting with the safe construction and operation of the OHL within the OC; • A further opportunity for restricting the width of the OC will be implemented where individual trees within the corridor (which will be predominantly mature broadleaved trees) can be managed through crown reduction which thereby removing the need to fell the whole tree. This will be undertaken prior to felling as part of the pre-construction final design process; and • The Applicant will commit to working with the landowners through the construction period to facilitate ongoing forest management where possible within the constraints of safe working practices and the associated CDM working.			
F4	Proposed Mitigation Associated with the Loss of ancient and semi-natural woodland	The areas of ancient and semi-natural woodland impacted by the Proposed Development could potentially be further reduced to a limited extent through micro siting within the LoD where a combination of factors (e.g. topography, tower height, tree species and height) may reduce the area of ancient and semi-natural woodland defined as being within the OC. For example, the extent of tree clearance may be reduced where it can be demonstrated that trees can be safely overflown by the OHL conductors or that the trees can be accommodated within closer proximity to the Proposed Development with either no work being required, or a degree of crown reduction only. There may also be opportunities to further retain scrub/understorey layers in areas where existing tree cover does not breach safety clearances and allows for safe construction activity.	Additional Mitigation	Volume 2 – Chapter 13 – Paragraph 13.7.2	SSEN Transmission / Principal Contractors
F5	Proposed Mitigation Associated with Forest Management during Construction.	The design recommendations of the felling identified in the Woodland Reports have been developed in conjunction with the landowners / forest managers, in so far as is currently possible. The Applicant has agreed the use of the 'Woodland Reports' to confirm the extent of woodland removal required. This proposed felling will be further reviewed with the landowners to link this with their existing LTFP/LMP or Felling Permission (FP), which will, once amended, be required to adhere to the UKFS as part of the approval process with Scottish Forestry. This approval is required prior to any felling being undertaken outwith the OC or access tracks. This method of addressing felling has been successfully used on a number of other OHL projects and has delivered forest design to the	Embedded Mitigation	Volume 2 – Chapter 13 – Paragraph 13.7.3 and 13.7.4	SSEN Transmission

Ref.	Issue	Mitigation/Monitoring Measure	Mitigation Type	EIA Report Reference	Responsibility
		satisfaction of Scottish Forestry as the statutory authority. The embedded mitigation measures during construction for woodland management will be implemented, including the commitment of the Applicant to work with the landowners throughout the construction period to facilitate ongoing forest management where possible within the constraints of safe working practices and the associated CDM working.			
F6	Proposed Mitigation Associated with permanent loss of forest resource within areas of broadleaved woodland	The Applicant is committed to continuing to review opportunities to reduce the impact on the permanent loss of forest resource within areas of broadleaved woodland by utilisation of crown reduction in preference to tree clearance. With landowner agreement, the Applicant will seek to encourage natural regeneration on certain sections of the OC and on the edge of low-growing shrub species where possible, which are not deemed to put at risk the ongoing safe operation of the line.	Additional Mitigation	Volume 2 – Chapter 13 – Paragraph 13.7.5	SSEN Transmission / Principal Contractors
F7	Proposed Mitigation Associated with Plantations on Ancient Woodland Sites (PAWS)	For PAWS identified within the data sources within NWSS and AWI, the landowner will have the option to return these to native woodland, which will be considered after the felling of the current commercial timber crop. This opportunity of restoring such areas to native woodland is as per the guidelines for PAWS within the UK Forestry Standard and is in keeping with the UK woodlands assurance standards, to maintain, enhance or restore features and areas of high conservation value. The Study Area comprises areas of commercial conifer woodlands as well as blocks of broadleaved woodland, both planted and natural, and smaller scattered shelterbelts. Within these areas, there are a number of areas of woodland which are included within the AWI and the NWSS databases for native woodland sites (some of which are also identified as Plantations on Ancient Woodland Sites (PAWS)).	Additional Mitigation	Volume 2 – Chapter 13 – Paragraph 13.7.6	Landowner
F8	Proposed Mitigation Associated with operational forest management	• In areas adjacent to the OC where 'forwarding' or timber haulage is undertaken underneath or adjacent to the proposed OHL is allowed, 'goal-posts' will should be erected in accordance with HSE and industry guidelines to determine and indicate the maximum safe working height; • Opportunities to encourage regeneration of low-growing shrub species below the OHL and small trees within the sterilised areas of the OC under the OHL, only low-growing scrub species (under 1.5 m) such as heather, bell heather, blaeberry, and cowberry will be promoted. In areas where slightly taller vegetation (up to 3 m) is acceptable, mainly outside the immediate OHL footprint, species like hazel, dwarf	Additional Mitigation	Volume 2 – Chapter 13 – Paragraph 13.7.7	SSEN Transmission / Principal Contractors

Ref.	Issue	Mitigation/Monitoring Measure	Mitigation Type	EIA Report Reference	Responsibility
		willows, hawthorn, blackthorn, dog rose, gorse, and broom may be suitable. Such as rowan, gean, hazel, hawthorn and willow towards the edge of the OHL corridor will be considered. This strategy will assist the woodland managers in their objective of increasing woodland diversity; • Soil disturbance and compaction will be minimised during maintenance by the use of low ground pressurelow-groundlow ground -pressure tree harvesting and extraction methods; • Where appropriate, topping of trees will be restricted to removing a maximum of 30% of the live crown of trees as standard, so that some growth will continue and so disguise the felling line. This approach may not be suitable for older stands with shallow canopies for reasons of effectiveness – here coppicing will be considered if appropriate. Local drainage systems will be maintained; and. • Tree clearance operations associated with maintaining clearance distance from the Proposed Development within the operational will strictly adhere to the Forestry Commission publication 'Forest and Water Guidelines', UK Forestry Standard version five, 2023 .			
F9	Proposed Mitigation Associated with operational forest management	• Opportunities to introduce different species (conifers, broadleaves, evergreen, deciduous, varieties of size and shape) will be taken where appropriate; • New planting, restocking, and the management of natural regeneration will be undertaken in agreed designated areas, following negotiation with relevant landowners. This will target areas where maximum ecological advantage will be gained. This will include riparian areas and areas of existing biodiversity; and • In addition to monitoring and removal of windblown trees, consideration will also be given to the implementation of associated forest landscaping, including replanting.	Additional Mitigation	Volume 2 – Chapter 13 – Paragraph 13.7.8	SSEN Transmission
F10	Windblow associated with the construction	Subject to agreement with the landowners, the Applicant will commit to monitoring windblow associated with the construction of the Proposed Development in relation to compensatory measures and tree removal for a period of 5 years in line with the SSEN Grantorscharter.	Additional Mitigation	Volume 2 – Chapter 13 – Paragraph 13.7.9	SSEN Transmission

Ref.	Issue	Mitigation/Monitoring Measure	Mitigation Type	EIA Report Reference	Responsibility
F11	Vegetation management	Subject to agreement with the landowners, a programme of future vegetation management will be undertaken, incorporating an assessment of tree and shrub growth within and immediately adjacent to the OC to ensure the safe operation of the Proposed Development.	Additional Mitigation	Volume 2 – Chapter 13 – Paragraph 13.7.10	SSEN Transmission
F12	Management Felling Windblow	Post application design works to consider the benefits of additional tree felling to achieve more landscape sensitive and windfirm forest boundaries will be continued. This work will aim to reach agreement, where necessary with the landowner to undertake works outwith the 90m corridor as detailed within Volume 2 – Chapter 13 - Figure 13.1 Proposed Development Felling Plan.	Additional Mitigation	Volume 2 – Chapter 13 – Paragraph 13.7.11	SSEN Transmission / Principal Contractors
F13	Compensatory Planting Strategy	The Applicant will implement a Compensatory Planting Scheme to manage the required woodland planting. This process will involve engaging with landowners to identify suitable bare land for woodland planting. The Applicant will maintain ongoing communication with: • Landowners whose properties are affected by the Proposed Development; • Not-for-profit organizations, such as Community Trusts, that own or have rights to land and are interested in woodland planting; and • Other landowners within the Local Authority area, who wish to plant woodland. Through these collaborations, the Applicant will identify suitable areas of bare land for woodland planting, leading to agreements with landowners under the Compensatory Planting Scheme. The total area secured for woodland planting will correspond to the total area of woodland removed from the Proposed Development and imposed by a planning condition. Once an agreement with regards to compensatory planting is reached with a landowner, a formal woodland planting scheme design will be developed and submitted to Scottish Forestry for consultation and approval through their EIA screening and determination processes. After receiving approval for the planting scheme, the Applicant will execute the woodland planting in accordance with the approved design and maintain the newly planted area following industry best practices to ensure successful establishment. Upon approval of the planting scheme from Scottish Forestry, the Applicant will formally report to the planning authority, confirming that the required woodland planting area has	Additional Mitigation	Volume 2 – Chapter 13 – Paragraph 13.7.17-13.7.21	SSEN Transmission

Ref.	Issue	Mitigation/Monitoring Measure	Mitigation Type	EIA Report Reference	Responsibility
		been successfully established to offset the total woodland removal associated with the Proposed Development, ensuring no net loss of woodland.			
Mitigation for Traffic and Transport (see Volume 2 – Chapter 14)					
TT1	Mitigation of Traffic and Transport Effects	A number of mitigation measures are proposed to address the significant effects identified in relation to severance of communities, non-motorised user amenity, non-motorised delay, as well as fear and intimidation on and by road users. The measures which are recommended for adoption within the CTMP which will be agreed in consultation with Transport Scotland and THC are as follows: • As far as reasonably possible, deliveries shall be scheduled outside of school opening and closing times. Drivers of all delivery vehicles to be made aware during induction of the presence of schools and other amenities within villages and settlements along delivery routes; • Drivers to be reminded of the presence of 20 mph temporary speed restrictions on the main road outside of the school and that a strict adherence to these speed limits is expected; • Delivery times will be scheduled to ensure that deliveries do not arrive in a convoy where possible; • Timing of deliveries will be outlined within the CTMP to ensure construction vehicles avoid potentially congested networks at peak hours; • Where it is reasonably practicable, HGV deliveries will be programmed outwith local community events where increased traffic or parking requirements may be reasonably anticipated; • Temporary construction signage will be erected on the approved routes to Site to warn people of construction activities and associated construction vehicles. Road user safety (including non-motorised users) will be enhanced via the installation of signage and the maintenance of sight lines. Details of the implementation of temporary signage will be provided to THC/Transport Scotland (as appropriate) by the Applicant or their appointed Principal Contractors prior to the commencement of construction within the CTMP. All signage will also be provided in accordance with	Additional Mitigation	Volume 2 – Chapter 14 – Paragraph 14.7.2 Volume 5 - Appendix 14.5 Outline Construction Traffic Management Plan	Principal Contractors / SSEN Transmission

Ref.	Issue	Mitigation/Monitoring Measure	Mitigation Type	EIA Report Reference	Responsibility
		the Traffic Signs Regulations and General Directions 2016 and associated Traffic Signs Manuals 3, 5 and 8; • Consideration of reduced traffic speed limits (for example, 20 mph in 30 mph zones) through sensitive areas along the route (i.e. within settlements) and on approach to the main access points; • All HGVs transporting fine and loose material must be sheeted to avoid dust and the spillage of materials onto the highway; • Arrangements will be in place for regular road maintenance and cleaning, e.g., road sweeping in the vicinity of site access points as necessary; • Provision of construction updates on the project website and or a newsletter to be distributed to residents within an agreed distance of the Site; • Implementation of a package of measures in the form of construction staff travel plan to encourage construction staff to adopt modes of transport which reduce reliance on single occupancy private car use; • Appropriate parking / lay-up facilities will be provided for construction workers' vehicles and HGVs; • Consideration will be given to the potential use of on-site borrow pits to source aggregate material, thereby minimising or potentially eliminating the need to import aggregate from off-site quarries. This approach will significantly reduce HGV traffic accessing the Proposed Development Site, contributing to the overall reduction in construction-related transport impacts on the local road network; and • A Traffic Management Co-Ordinator will be appointed by the Principal Contractors who is responsible for ensuring that construction vehicle route timings do not coincide with planned public events and/or road network improvements within the vicinity of the Proposed Development, so as to not further impede local road users and communities. Furthermore, the Traffic Management Co-Ordinator will ensure communication and coordination with other cumulative developments under construction in the local area to identify opportunities to mitigate cumulative traffic impacts through a collaborated approach with others.			

Ref.	Issue	Mitigation/Monitoring Measure	Mitigation Type	EIA Report Reference	Responsibility
TT2	Minimise the impact of construction vehicle (HGV) on the local road network.	A road condition survey will be undertaken on the access routes used during the construction phase as a condition of granting consent to the Proposed Development. This will be undertaken prior to the start of the construction phase to record the existing road conditions. The survey area and methodology will be agreed with THC following confirmation of the construction access routes. Any deterioration in road condition, which is agreed as attributable to construction traffic associated with the Proposed Development will be restored to at least the same standard upon completion of construction. Additional measures that will be considered and undertaken as part of the road condition survey include: • carriageway strengthening; • strengthening of bridges and culverts; • swept path assessments and visibility splay assessment; • carriageway widening and/or edge strengthening; and • provision of passing places.	Additional Mitigation	Volume 2 – Chapter 14 – Paragraph 14.7.3	Principal Contractors / SSEN Transmission
Mitigation for Noise and Vibration (see Volume 2 – Chapter 15)					
NV1	To reduce noise impact of construction from the access roads	Principal Contractors will update CNMP when schedule and equipment is finalised, including being informed by a new CNIA if needed, to ensure construction noise is below noise limits. Consideration must be had to limit noisy activities to daytime hours rather than evenings to reduce potential impact. Temporary mitigation measures will be applied where necessary to reduce noise as stated in BS5228. Active operational time of equipment can be limited for works near identified NSRs, especially high impact equipment such as excavators and dumpers during civil/access works.	Additional Mitigation	Volume 2 – Chapter 15 – Table 15.21: Summary of Noise and Vibration Mitigation Measures	Principal Contractors
Mitigation for Tourism and Recreation (see Volume 2 – Chapter 16)					
RT1	To reduce effect on tourism and recreation activity	The applicant will continue to engage with THC and with stakeholders representing the tourism and recreation industry including community councils, local fisheries and Mountaineering Scotland to communicate the likely impacts of construction, including the timings of construction activity. This will include engaging with the organisers of the Strathpuffer mountain bike trials to identify any further mitigation that may be required to reduce potential impacts on the event.	Additional Mitigation	Volume 2 – Chapter 16 – Paragraph 16.9.4	SSEN Transmission