

**Spittal to Loch Buidhe to Beauly 400 kV
OHL Connection
Environmental Impact Assessment
Volume 5 | Technical Appendix**

**Appendix 7.1 | Landscape and Visual
Scoping Appraisal**

July 2025



VOLUME 5: APPENDIX 7.1 - LANDSCAPE AND VISUAL SCOPING APPRAISAL

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1. LANDSCAPE AND VISUAL SCOPING APPRAISAL

1.1 Introduction

- 1.1.1 This appendix presents provides an appraisal of the Landscape and Visual scoping exercise that was undertaken to the Proposed Development. The appendix provides details of the Pre-Scoping consultation that was undertaken; and details of the responses to the Scoping Report (i.e. the Scoping Opinions). The appendix also details the scope of the Landscape Assessment, that of the Visual Assessment and the scope of the Cumulative Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment (CLVIA).
- 1.1.2 The scoping appraisal describes the rationale behind, and identification of, the scope for the landscape and visual impact assessment and the cumulative landscape and visual impact assessment. It is reiterated that the aim of the LVIA has been to focus on those receptors where, as a result of the Proposed Development, there is the potential for significant effects to occur.

1.2 Consultation

Pre-Scoping

- 1.2.1 Extensive consultation was undertaken during the alignment process for the Proposed Development in order to establish potential concerns, constraints and opportunities at an early stage and inform the final alignment and scope of future assessment. These issues are summarised in the Alignment Report on Consultation. Details of the routeing process and how considerations relating to Landscape and Visual matters were applied to the selection of the proposed alignment are provided in **Volume 2, Chapter 4: The Routeing Process and Alternatives**.

1.3 Scoping

- 1.3.1 The Scoping Report to the Proposed Development was submitted in October 2024 (refer to see **Volume 5, Appendix 6.1: Scoping Report**) and a Scoping Opinion was received in February 2025 (refer to **Volume 5, Appendix 6.2: Scoping Opinion**). Scoping responses, relevant to landscape and visual matters are summarised in **Table 1.1**.
- 1.3.2 Full details of all responses are provided in **Volume 5, Appendix 6.2: Scoping Opinion** and **Volume 5, Appendix 6.3: Scoping Matrix**.

Table 1.1: Scoping Responses relating to Landscape and Visual Matters

Consultee	Reference	Response	Comment
Energy Consents Unit	n/a	The scoping report identified viewpoints will be contained within Volume 4 of the EIA Report. Any additional viewpoints that are to be agreed must be within the scope of the EIA and best practice approach / methodologies	Viewpoint locations for the Proposed Development have been selected and consulted on with the NatureScot and THC.
	n/a	Regarding cumulative assessment, it is recommended by the Scottish Ministers that in order to assess the full environmental impact of the Development, the Company include within the cumulative impact assessment, OHL and Substation infrastructure that is associated with SSEN Transmission ASTI projects.	SSEN Transmission developments which are required to connect the Proposed Development are included within the cumulative assessment in the Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment chapter as outlined in Section 5.5 of Volume 2, Chapter 5: EIA Process and Methodology .
	n/a	Mitigation Measures: The Scottish Ministers are required to make a reasoned conclusion on the significant effects of the proposed development on the environment as identified in the environmental impact assessment. The mitigation measures suggested for any significant environmental impacts identified should be presented as a conclusion to each chapter. Applicants are also asked to provide a consolidated schedule of all mitigation measures proposed in the environmental assessment, provided in tabular form, where that mitigation is relied upon in relation to reported conclusions of likelihood or significance of impacts.	Mitigation of impacts on Landscape and Visual receptors has been undertaken as part of the routing process, which drew from advice from consultees. Details of this are provided in Volume 2, Chapter 4: the Routing Process and Alternatives . Where mitigation has been proposed as part of this EIA Report in order to reduce potential landscape and visual impacts, this has been consolidated in Volume 2, Chapter 19: Schedule of Mitigation .
	n/a	When finalising the EIA report, applicants are asked to provide a summary in tabular form of where within the EIA report each of the specific matters raised in this scoping opinion has been addressed.	Volume 5, Appendix 6.3: Scoping Matrix of this EIA Report includes a summary of all consultation comments received as part of the Scoping process and where these are addressed within this EIA Report, where relevant.
	n/a	It should be noted that to facilitate uploading to the Energy Consents portal, the EIA report and its associated documentation should be divided into appropriately named separate files of sizes no more than 10 megabytes (MB).	All figures supporting the LVIA have been saved in separate files of no more than 10 mb. Where this leads to a loss of resolution of visual material consultees can request higher resolution / larger files where required.
The Highland Council (THC)	THC16	The Council expects the EIAR to consider the landscape and visual impact of the development. The Council makes a distinction between the two. While not mutually exclusive, these elements require separate assessment and therefore presentation of visual material in different ways. It is the Council's position that it is not possible to use panoramic images for the purposes of visual impact assessment. The Council, while not precluding the use of panoramic images, require single frame images with different focal lengths	The LVIA has considered and assessed the subjects of landscape and visual amenity separately. Single frame images with different focal lengths have been taken with a 35mm format full frame sensor camera (focal lengths required are 50mm and 75mm). These images form part of this EIA Report.

Consultee	Reference	Response	Comment
		<p>taken with a 35mm format full frame sensor camera – not an 'equivalent.' The focal lengths required are 50mm and 75mm. The former gives an indication of field of view and the latter best represents the scale and distance in the landscape, i.e., a more realistic impression of what we see from the viewpoint. These images should form part of the EIAR and not be separate from it.</p> <p>Photomontages should follow the Council's Visualisation Standards and are subject an independent verification check upon receipt:</p> <p>https://www.highland.gov.uk/downloads/file/12880/visualisation_standards_for_wind_energy_developments</p> <p>The following are minimum requirements for the printed copies:</p> <p>For hard copies - Visuals should be presented in their own bound version of the document.</p> <p>The first image should clearly set out the location of the viewpoint and directions on how to get there (as per figure 2 of the Standards).</p> <p>The second page should include a photomontage presented at A3 with a 50mm field of view for landscape assessment (as per figure 6 of the Standards).</p> <p>The third page should include a baseline photograph at 50mm field of view and wirelines at the same scale as per Figure 7 or Figure 8 of the Standards).</p> <p>The fourth page should include a 50mm image photomontage (as per figure 10 of the Standards).</p> <p>The fifth page should include a 75mm image photomontage for assessment of visual impacts (as per figure 12 of the Standards).</p> <p>The document requires to be printed single sided with a high-quality laser printer or equivalent on photo quality paper</p>	<p>The Applicant acknowledges the minimum requirements for printed copies of the images detailed in the THC scoping response and has prepared visualisations in accordance with THC's Visualisation Standards for Wind Energy Developments.</p>
	THC17	<p>THC suggest that photomontages should be prepared to Highland Council Standards.</p> <p>Separate volumes of visualisations should be prepared to both Highland Council Standards and NatureScot guidance. These should be provided in hard copy and request that for THC's volume, these are provided in an A3 ring bound folder for ease of use.</p>	<p>Photomontages to assist with the assessment and determination of the EIA have been produced in accordance with NatureScot guidance and THC Standards and are included in separate volumes of this EIA Report. They cover all relevant impacts of all elements of the Proposed Development and are provided in an A3 hard copy.</p>

Consultee	Reference	Response	Comment
			<p>The visual assessment is receptor-based and considers all potential receptors within the Study Area rather than a small number of viewpoints, which provides a more detailed and robust assessment.</p> <p>The visualisations are illustrative of the type of view that would be obtained and are considered to be representative of visual receptors within the Study Area.</p>
	THC18	All elements of a development are important to consider within any EIAR and the assessment must include the expected landscape and visual impact of all structures, access roads, temporary cranes / compounds, laydown areas, soil and overturned stores, fencing etc. All elements of the proposal are to be rendered into photomontages.	The LVIA has considered the impacts of all elements associated with the Proposed Development.
	THC19	The finalised list of Viewpoints (VP) and wireframes for the assessment of effects of a proposed development must be agreed in advance of preparation of any visuals with THC and NatureScot. THC's Landscape and Planning Officers have not provided any comments at the scoping stage.	NatureScot and THC have been consulted re. proposed viewpoints. Nature Scot have responded and additional sites have been included as requested. THC have yet to respond.
	THC20	THC acknowledge that there will be some micro-siting of the viewpoints to avoid intervening screening of vegetation boundary treatments etc. THC recommend that the photographer has in their mind whether the VP is representative or specific and also who the receptors are when they are taking the photos it would be helpful. THC have also found that if the photographer has a 3D model on a laptop when they go out on site it helps the orientation of the photography. Care should also be taken when undertaking the baseline photography in appropriate weather conditions, and during months of the year when visibility is not excessively obscured by intervening vegetation / deciduous trees being full leaf to ensure that the worst case scenario is accurately captured in the LVIA. Production of Zone of Theoretical Visibility (ZTV) and route analysis considering the nature and type of intervening trees, woodland, with further consideration given to woodland management plans and committed felling and planting cycles is also required.	THC's recommendations have been considered while undertaking the visual photography.
	THC21	THC stated that the detailed location of viewpoints will be informed by site survey, mapping and predicted ZTVs and should be selected in order to show the proposal from as an open viewpoint as possible. Failure to do this may result in abortive work, requests for additional visual material and delays in processing	The Applicant confirms that the location of viewpoints has been informed by site survey, mapping and predicted ZTVs and have been selected in order to show the proposal from as an open viewpoint as possible.

Consultee	Reference	Response	Comment
		applications/consultation responses. Community Council's may request additional viewpoints, and it would be recommended that any pre-application discussions with the local community, and associated reporting on consultation undertaken, takes this into account. Specifically, Brora Community Council have sought to be consulted on the local Viewpoint selection when the final OHL application route is decided prior to work on the LVIA, with consideration given to the suitability of including assessment of limited bespoke longer distance views from receptors at Brora, Embo and Dornoch.	The viewpoint selection has taken into account Community Councils' requests for additional viewpoints. In respect of Brora Community Council, views from Brora, Embo and Dornoch have been included. Comments raised through consultation at the route and alignment stages have been used to inform viewpoints.
	THC22	THC stated that the purpose of the selected and agreed viewpoints shall be clearly identified and stated in the supporting information. For example, it should be clear that the VP has been chosen for landscape assessment, or visual impact assessment, or cumulative assessment, or sequential assessment, or to show a representative view, or for assessment of impact on designated sites, communities, or individual properties. However, it is important for assessors to remember that Visual Effects are defined by GLVIA3 not just as effects on views, but as 'Effects on specific views and on the general amenity experienced by people'.	The purpose of the selected and agreed viewpoints is clearly identified and stated in the LVIA. It's noted that Visual Effects are defined by GLVIA3 not just as effects on views, but as 'Effects on specific views and on the general amenity experienced by people'.
	THC23	THC stated that the LVIA Chapter of the EIAR should also clearly set out the methodology including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Definitions of each point on the scale of magnitude of change which is used by the applicant in reaching a conclusion on the magnitude of change. Definitions of each point on the scale of sensitivity of receptor which is used by the applicant in reaching a conclusion on the sensitivity of receptor. The threshold to which the applicant considers a significant effect is reached. For the avoidance of doubt the Council consider that Moderate impacts can be significant, and it is recommended that the EIAR takes this approach as well. A clear matrix approach supported by descriptive text setting out how you have reached your conclusion of effect on landscape character, designated landscapes, visual receptors, and residential amenity. The LVIA should contain an assessment of singular and cumulative effects for each of the representative viewpoints (as	The LVIA has been carried out in accordance with best practice guidance 'The Guidelines for Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment (GLVIA3)' and criteria have been used in accordance with this guidance in terms of identification and presentation of significant effects.

Consultee	Reference	Response	Comment
		opposed to grouped receptors) following this methodology. This approach is important because the logic of the applicant's assessment must be clearly and readily understood. For key routes where there is shown to be prolonged sections of theoretical visibility towards the site, these should be subject of sequential route analysis, with provision of baseline photography at regular intervals, together with wireframes of the proposed development.	
	THC24	THC requested that when assessing the impact on recreational routes to ensure that all core paths, rights of way, national cycle network, and long-distance trails are assessed. It should be noted that these routes are used by a range of receptors.	Volume 2, Chapter 7: Landscape and Visual and Volume 2, Chapter 14: Traffic and Transport considers impacts on recreational routes. The Draft Outdoor Access Management Plan (Volume 5, Appendix: 16.1) outlines the approach to minimising negative impacts on potential interactions between construction traffic and recreational routes.
	THC25	THC expect that the LVIA assesses the impacts on any landscapes designated at a national and local scale.	The LVIA has considered the impacts on designated landscapes including National Scenic Areas and Special Landscape Areas.
	THC26	THC requested separate to the production of the EIAR and LVIA, owing to the development being of national scale, a 3D flythrough of the project covering key routes and receptors is also required for presentation to committee, with the scope and content of this to be developed with Council officers. As with previous SSEN projects this material is expected to demonstrate the short term and longer-term impacts of the development post establishment of intervening proposed landscaping. Additionally, for select viewpoints there may be scope to utilise The Highland Council's Panoramic Viewer to best capture the horizontal nature of the development. This can be considered at the application stage ahead of committee.	A 3D flythrough of the Proposed Development is available and has been used to inform consultation. The 3D model will be made available to THC. THC's Panoramic Viewer has been considered at the application stage ahead of committee.
NatureScot	NS08	The OHL through route sections C and D passes close to the Dornoch Firth National Scenic Areas (NSA). The OHL Route is close to, but avoids entering, Wild Land Area 29 - Rhiddoroch - Beinn Dearg - Ben Wyvis but does cross a section of WLA 36 - Causeymire -Knockfin Flows. NatureScot agree with the Applicant's approach to assessing effects on landscape and visual amenity as set out in the Scoping Report, chapter 6.	The EIA has followed the approach agreed upon by NatureScot for assessing effects on landscape and visual amenity as detailed in Chapter 6 of the Scoping Report.

Consultee	Reference	Response	Comment
Mountaineering Scotland		<p>Mountaineering Scotland's interests lie with the perceptions of landscape and its scenic and wild qualities, and the wildlife that lives there. Our main focus is on the potential effects of construction on the landscape qualities, and visual impact in the area that the route traverses. We are therefore disappointed to see in this scoping exercise that the applicant has not provided any locations for hillwalkers' viewpoints in order to assess the adequacy of a forthcoming Environmental Report.</p> <p>All we can therefore say about this scoping exercise is that we request the Scottish Government to ensure that the applicant includes for visual impact assessment recreational summit destinations close to the proposed route. This should include not only Munros, but any Corbetts and Fionas that may be within a reasonable distance of the route, as well as more locally prominent viewpoints</p>	The Applicant acknowledges the request to include a comprehensive visual impact assessment that considers recreational summit destinations near the proposed route.
Ardgay & District Community Council	ADCC11	A&DCC strongly advise that the list of proposed developments to which a cumulative landscape and visual impact assessment is undertaken is based on that which is in this response and any further proposed developments that come forward in the meantime.	The assessment has considered the developments listed by A&DCC, as well as any new proposals that arose during the assessment process to ensure a comprehensive understanding of cumulative impacts.
	ADCC12	<p>A&DCC stated the accuracy of the Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment will be questioned if it is based on the level of information as cited in the Scoping Report where it is stated that pylons may be "be 57 m above ground level in height on average, with a maximum extension height of up to 70 m".</p> <p>Also note that the landscape and visual impact assessment cannot comply with established best practice and be considered competent until it is clear where the pylons are actually being sited.</p>	<p>The LVIA has assessed the proposed design height to the towers and the proposed alignment. The LVIA has considered the potential for changes in the placement of the towers within the horizontal limit of deviation (hLOD) and the height of the towers, the vertical limit of deviation (vLOD). Where a change in the level of effect is anticipated as a result in a change to either the hLOD or vLOD this is noted in the reporting.</p> <p>Reasonable horizontal deviations may occur to minimise environmental impact but stay consistent with wayleave boundaries. The LVIA has been undertaken based on the latest route alignment design and shown in the Webmap.</p>
	ADCC13	In respect to Issues Scoped Out: Landscape and Visual amenity A&DCC have concerns regarding light pollution, A&DCC request that baseline night surveys are undertaken in respect of the zones of theoretical visibility and in reference to agreed viewpoints	Night-time working is not anticipated and there is no permanent lighting associated with the towers. There are therefore no anticipated impacts from light pollution as a result of the Proposed Development and night-time landscape effects have not been assessed.

Consultee	Reference	Response	Comment
Brora Community Council	BCC02	<p>The currently proposed route will plough through the heart of this SLA. It is therefore of primary importance that the effects on this special landscape are properly assessed in this context with full consideration of the future validity of the SLA's special qualities in the light of what is proposed.</p> <p>Brora Community Council stated that this locally designated area forms the setting of their coastal community and is a precious resource for our residents and visitors. Therefore, it is primary importance that the effects on this special landscape are properly assessed with full consideration of the future validity of the SLA's special qualities in the light of what is proposed.</p>	The noted chapter will include a comprehensive assessment of the potential effects on the Special Landscape Area (SLA). This assessment has considered the SLA's special qualities.
	BCC03	Brora Community Council suggest that there is greater flexibility regarding the area of search, which is limited to 10km, to cover some of the important longer northward views from Brora, Embo and Dornoch.	The LVIA Study Area has been defined following a desk study, fieldwork, preparation of visibility mapping, and consultation with THC and NatureScot. Based on an examination of the existing landscape, landform, and the predicted extent of visibility from sensitive visual receptors, the assessment considered the area extending up to 10 km from the proposed OHL, focusing on key receptors identified within the 2 km Study Area where significant effects are predicted to occur. Any effects on views and visual amenity beyond the 10 km radius from the proposed OHL alignment are predicted as negligible due to the static, transparent nature of the steel lattice tower, intervening vegetation, and/or rolling landforms.
	BCC04	<p>Brora Community Council noted that they support the use of The Highland Council Visualisation Standards for Wind Energy Developments (2016). These guidelines should be strictly adhered to particularly with respect to the photographic standards specified. The Council wish to be consulted on the local Viewpoint selection when the final OHL application route is decided and prior to work on the LVIA.</p> <p>The council suggest that for key viewpoints within this scenic stretch of coastline The Highland Council Single Frame Panoramic Viewer is utilised as described in Section 5 of their Standards.</p>	<p>THC Visualisation Standards for Wind Energy Developments (2016) guidelines have been followed particularly with respect to the photographic standards specified.</p> <p>Highland Council and Nature Scot have been consulted regarding viewpoints.</p> <p>The Applicant will consider the recommendation to utilise THC Single Frame Panoramic Viewer for key viewpoints within this scenic coastal stretch, as outlined in Section 5 of the Standards, to enhance the visual assessment process.</p>
	BCC05	<p>Brora Community Council strongly request that more detailed base mapping at 1:25 000 or at very least 1:50 000 OS is used in the application EIA.</p> <p>In addition, they further request that map references and AOD information is supplied for proposed pylon positions as part of the development information provided.</p>	<p>All information has been provided in the respective LVIA report for each section, along with associated mapping and visualisation. Key sources to inform the assessment are listed below:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1:50,000 mapping – Ordnance Survey;

Consultee	Reference	Response	Comment
		All major access tracks should be included in all mapping of the OHL route, within the visualisation terrain model and be included in all the visualisations where they are likely to be visible. (THC Standards 2.23).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 5 m and 50 m Digital Terrain Model – Ordnance Survey; • Scottish Landscape Character Assessment Data – NatureScot Datasets; • Gardens and Designed Landscapes - Historic Environment Scotland Datasets; • National Scenic Areas – NatureScot Datasets; • Core Paths Inventory – THC; • Road Network – Meridian 2 Data; and • Cumulative Data compiled by ERM GIS Team.
Contin, Strathpeffer, and Marybank, Scatwell and Strathconon Community Councils	CSMSSCC06	Request for the landscape impact to take account of the current, essentially rural, landscape and the effect that creeping change and cumulative impact are having on this rural character.	The Applicant acknowledges the importance of evaluating the landscape impact in relation to the current rural setting. The noted chapter considers the effects of the Proposed Development on the existing rural character.
	CSMSSCC07	Stated support for the use of The Highland Council Visualisation Standards for Wind Energy Developments (2016).	Noted
	CSMSSCC08	<p>The council suggest additional viewpoints are needed from an appropriate point in Contin village, and from the Coul House Hotel and/or Mid Coul. There should be a view from a suitable point on Strathpeffer Golf Course, either the clubhouse or the 10th hole.</p> <p>The Councils wish to be consulted on the local Viewpoint selection when the final OHL application route is decided and prior to work on the LVIA.</p>	THC and Nature Scot have been consulted regarding viewpoints.
	CSMSSCC09	<p>The Council is concerned particularly about the impact on the large number of users of the highly accessible land around Loch Kinellan, and the users of the highly accessible parts of Contin Forest.</p> <p>The Council request that measures be taken to minimise the appearance of the OHL on the skyline, and that the skyline sections to be highlighted on plans. Suggested measures to reduce impact might include dividing the circuits, for which a precedent exists at NH 643 730.</p>	Primary and secondary mitigation measures have been established and effectively implemented according to best practice GLVIA3 to address the likely visual effects resulting from the proposed OHL alignment around Loch Kinellan and Contin Forest.

Consultee	Reference	Response	Comment
	CSMSSCC10	The council expect data collection to monitor access to key areas including Contin Forest and Loch Kinellan, over an adequately long time to capture seasonal variability in use.	Visitor surveys have not been undertaken and publicly available information has been used where available.
	CSMSSCC11	The council seek clarification conclusion on significance for the LVIA will be drawn in an un-biased way.	The assessment has been conducted in line with guidance and best practice.
	CSMSSCC12	The council state that 'as far as possible' proviso attached to 170 m standoff is not acceptable, neither is 'wherever possible' attached to the 100 m minimum. The council expect the EIA to identify all sections of line within 170 m and 100 m of occupiable properties.	Noted.
	CSMSSCC13	The council have reservations about this statement in P6.14.5 of the scoping report: "Residential properties located at a distance greater than 170 m from the Proposed Development will generally not be assessed as part of the RVAA". At 170 m, the standard tower still presents a visual angle of 18.5°.	Noted.
Golspie Community Council	GCC07	Any development which breaks the skyline must be subject to the same stringent appraisal as previous commercial wind farm applications and include affected communities in the choice of views and simulations used.	THC has been consulted on the viewpoint selection. The viewpoints include locations in the region of Golspie.
Helmsdale and District Community Council	HDCC02	HDCC note that the proposed route for the OHL through the District includes a large section of The Highland Council's Loch Fleet, Loch Brora and Glen Loth SLA. HDCC ask that the Applicant explain in detail how the proposals will fit within this designation.	The EIA includes a detailed explanation of how the proposed OHL aligns with the designated SLA in the chapter noted. This encompasses an assessment of the potential impacts on the landscape's special qualities, as well as a discussion of mitigation measures to ensure that the integrity of the SLA is preserved.

1.4 Scope of the Landscape Assessment

- 1.4.1 **Table 1.2** and **Table 1.3** list the landscape designated and protected areas and Landscape Character Types (LCTs) within the Study Area and provide an explanation of those which have been selected for inclusion within the detailed assessment and those that have been scoped out.

Designated and Protected Landscapes

- 1.4.2 All designated and protected landscapes within the Study Area (refer to **Volume 3, Figure 7.2**) are considered in **Table 1.2** and reasoning provided for their inclusion or exclusion in the detailed assessment. The final list of designated and protected landscapes to be included in the LVIA, has been agreed with NatureScot and THC, through the Scoping process and subsequent consultation.

Table 1.2: Scope of Assessment of Designated and Protected Landscapes

Section	Designation	Approximate distance to the Proposed Development	Potential for Significant Effects	Inclusion in Detailed Assessment
Section A: Spittal to Brora	The Flow Country WHS	Proposed Development passes through the landscape	Refer to Volume 2, Chapter 8: Ecology and Nature Conservation	
	Ben Klibreck – Armine Forest WLA	Approx. 7.6 km	No	No
	Causeymire – Knockin Flows WLA	Proposed Development passes through the WLA	Yes	Yes
	The Flow Country and Berriedale Coast SLA	Proposed Development passes through the SLA	Yes	Yes
	Loch Fleet, Loch Brora and Glen Loth SLA	Proposed Development passes through the SLA	Yes	Yes
	Langwell Lodge GDL (GDL00253)	Approx. 108 m	Refer to Volume 2, Chapter 12: Cultural Heritage	
	Dunbeath Castle GDL (GDL00150)	Approx. 2.2 km	Refer to Volume 2, Chapter 12: Cultural Heritage	
	Kildonan Lodge GDL (GDL00236)	Approx. 7.3 km	Refer to Volume 2, Chapter 12: Cultural Heritage	
	Dunrobin Castle GDL (GDL00160)	Approx. 6.8 km	Refer to Volume 2, Chapter 12: Cultural Heritage	
Section B: Brora to Loch Buidhe	The Flow Country WHS	3km	Refer to Volume 2, Chapter 12: Cultural Heritage	
	Ben Kilbreck- Armine Forest WLA	3.3km	Yes	Yes
	The Flow Country and Berriedale Coast SLA	3km	Yes	Yes
	Loch Fleet, Loch Brora, and Glen Loth SLA	0.0km	Yes	Yes
	Dunrobin Castle (GDL00160)	4km	Refer to Volume 2, Chapter 12: Cultural Heritage	
	Cairn Laith Broch (SM90060, GDL0016)	4km	Refer to Volume 2, Chapter 12: Cultural Heritage	
	Skibo Castle (GDL00343)	4km	Refer to Volume 2, Chapter 12: Cultural Heritage	
	Duke of Sutherland Monument. (B7063)	3km	Refer to Volume 2, Chapter 12: Cultural Heritage	

Section	Designation	Approximate distance to the Proposed Development	Potential for Significant Effects	Inclusion in Detailed Assessment
Section C: Loch Buidhe to Dounie	Dornoch Firth NSA	4.5 km	Yes	Yes
	Rhiddoroch - Beinn Dearg - Ben Wyvis WLA	2.6 km	Yes	Yes
	Skibo Castle GDL	10.0 km	Refer to Volume 2, Chapter 12: Cultural Heritage	
	Fannichs, Beinn Dearg and Glencalvie SLA	8.1 km	Yes	
Section D: Dounie to Near Strathpeffer	Dornoch Firth NSA	4.0 km	Yes	Yes
	Rhiddoroch - Beinn Dearg - Ben Wyvis WLA	450 m	Yes	Yes
	Ardross Castle GDL	2.0 km	Refer to Volume 2, Chapter 12: Cultural Heritage	
	Novar GDL	4.4 km	Refer to Volume 2, Chapter 12: Cultural Heritage	
	Castle Leod GDL	890 m	Refer to Volume 2, Chapter 12: Cultural Heritage	
	The Spa Gardens, Strathpeffer GDL	1.9 km	Refer to Volume 2, Chapter 12: Cultural Heritage	
	Brahan GDL	2.7 km	Refer to Volume 2, Chapter 12: Cultural Heritage	
	Fairburn GDL	2.5 km	Refer to Volume 2, Chapter 12: Cultural Heritage	
	Fannichs, Beinn Dearg and Glencalvie SLA	6.4 km	Yes	Yes
	Ben Wyvis SLA	2.6 km	Yes	Yes
Section E: Near Strathpeffer to Beaully	Rhiddoroch - Beinn Dearg - Ben Wyvis WLA	2.9 km	Yes	Yes
	Central Highlands WLA	2.3 km	Yes	Yes
	Glen Strathfarrar NSA	7.9 km	Yes	Yes
	Castle Leod GDL	3.3 km	Refer to Volume 2, Chapter 12: Cultural Heritage	
	The Spa Gardens, Strathpeffer GDL	2.3 km	Refer to Volume 2, Chapter 12: Cultural Heritage	
	Brahan GDL	2.8 km	Refer to Volume 2, Chapter 12: Cultural Heritage	
	Fairburn GDL	0 m	Refer to Volume 2, Chapter 12: Cultural Heritage	

Section	Designation	Approximate distance to the Proposed Development	Potential for Significant Effects	Inclusion in Detailed Assessment
	Beaufort Castle GDL	1.5 km	Refer to Volume 2, Chapter 12: Cultural Heritage	
	Ben Wyvis SLA	2.6 km	Yes	Yes
	Strathconon, Monar and Mullardoch SLA	9.2 km	Yes	Yes

Landscape Character

- 1.4.3 Twenty-six Landscape Character Types (LCTs) from the National Landscape Character Assessment by NatureScot (SNH, 2019) [online]¹ fall within the Study Area for the various Sections. Descriptions of these LCTs, including their key characteristics are included in **Volume 5, Appendix 7.4**.
- 1.4.4 LCTs identified within the Study Area that would be directly affected by the Proposed Development are listed in **Table 1.3**, and LCTs that would be indirectly affected are listed in **Table 1.4**.

¹ National Landscape Character Assessment by NatureScot (SNH, 2019)

Table 1.3: Landscape Character Types Directly affected by the Proposed Development (affected LCTs highlighted in dark blue)

Landscape Character Unit	Section A	Section B	Section C	Section D	Section E
143 – Farmed Lowland Plain					
134 – Sweeping Moorland and Flows					
144 Coastal Crofts & Small Farms					
135 - Rounded Hills - Caithness & Sutherland					
142 - Strath - Caithness & Sutherland					
139 – Rugged Mountain Massif - Caithness & Sutherland					
330 - Rounded Hills and Moorland Slopes - Ross & Cromarty					
341 – Forest Edge Farming					
335 - Wooded Glens and Rocky Moorland					
345 – Farmed and Forested Slopes - Ross & Cromarty					
346 – Open Farmed Slopes LCT					
342 – Farmed River Plains LCT					
331 - Rounded Rocky Hills - Ross & Cromarty					
220 - Rugged Massif - Inverness					
227 - Farmed Strath - Inverness					
229 - Enclosed Farmland					

Table 1.4: Landscape Character Types Indirectly affected by the Proposed Development (affected LCTs highlighted in dark blue)

Landscape Character Unit	Section A	Section B	Section C	Section D	Section E
138 – Lone Mountains					
140 – Sandy Beaches and Dunes					
141 – High Cliffs and Sheltered Bays					
146 – Coastal Farmland and Woodlands					
134 – Rugged Mountain Massif - Caithness & Sutherland					
139 – Rugged Mountain Massif - Caithness & Sutherland					
145 – Farmed and Forested Slopes with Crofting					
330 – Rounded Hills and Moorland Slopes - Ross & Cromarty					
329 – Rounded Mountain Massif					
335 – Wooded Glens and Rocky Moorland					
345 – Farmed and Forested Slopes - Ross & Cromarty					
347 – Open Steep Farmed Slopes					
346 – Open Farmed Slopes					
331 – Rounded Rocky Hills - Ross & Cromarty					
340 – Strath - Ross & Cromarty					
339 – Inland Strath					
342 – Farmed River Plains					
328 – Rugged Mountain Massif - Ross & Cromarty					
220 – Rugged Massif - Inverness					

Landscape Character Unit	Section A	Section B	Section C	Section D	Section E
226 - Wooded Glen – Inverness					
228 - Rolling Farmland and Woodland					
222 - Rocky Moorland Plateau - Inverness					

1.5 Scope of Visual Assessment

- 1.5.1 All building receptor locations and routes within the Study Area, identified by the ZTV or otherwise anticipated to enable views of tracks or construction works have been included within the visual assessment. Consideration of routes has included public roads, Core Paths, Scottish Hill Tracks (Scotways, 2011)², and cycle routes. In addition, outdoor viewing locations where the view is considered to be an important element in the receptor being at the location have been included, where not otherwise captured within other receptor groups.
- 1.5.2 Visual receptor locations included in the assessment are listed in **Table 1.5** to **Table 1.7** and shown on **Volume 3, Figure 7.4**.

² Scottish Hill Tracks (Scotways, 2011)

Built Receptors

Table 1.5: Built Receptors included in the Detailed Assessment

Section	Built Receptors included in the Detailed Assessment
Section A: Spittal to Brora	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Woodview, Milton, and Smiddy Cottage adjoining Banniskirk House (SA-1), approx. 998 m to the northeast of the Proposed Development (Tower N1) at the closest point; Single-storey cottages along the track (Criffel, An Luachair, and Rowanlea) (SA-1), approx. 1.45 km to the north of the Proposed Development (Tower N1) at the closest point; Joint cottages at Lower Banniskirk (Foinaven, Sarindel, and two unnamed cottages) (SA-1), approx. 1.78 km to the north of the Proposed Development (Tower N1) at the closest point. Banniskirk Mains (SA-2), approx. 921 m to the northeast of the Proposed Development (Tower N1) at the closest point. Hayfold Cottage and residences, west of Achalone (Hayfold Cottage, Cruachan, Maldon, Just Home, Achalone View, Achalone Gill, North Achalone, and an unnamed cottage with outbuildings) (SA-3), approx. 934 m to the northwest of the Proposed Development (Tower N1) at the closest point; and Halkirkburn House and properties along the A9 (Revelstone, Achalone Croft, Halkirkburn House, The Old Schoolhouse, and Clashgal) (SA-3), approx. 756 m to the northwest of the Proposed Development (Tower N1) at the closest point. Sibster Burn Farm (SA-4), approx. 1.77 km to the northeast of the Proposed Development (Tower N1) at the closest point. Banniskirk House (SA-5), approx. 636 m to the north of the Proposed Development (Tower N1) at the closest point. Mossgiel, Achalone Cottage, Achalone Farm, and an unnamed cottage (SA-6), approx. 682 m to the southwest of the Proposed Development (Tower N1) at the closest point. Lanergill Farm, the Old Croft, Markethill, School House, and Balnasmurich (SA-7), approx. 230 m to the southwest of the Proposed Development (Tower N12) at the closest point. Toftingall Farm (SA-13), approx. 330 m to the northwest of the Proposed Development (Tower N12) at the closest point. Shielton (SA-15), approx. 1.22 km to the east of the Proposed Development (Tower N22) at the closest point. Farmstead at Halsary (SA-16), approx. 256 m to the northwest of the Proposed Development (Tower N29) at the closest point. Farmsteads and cottages along the A9 (Rangag Farm, Old Keepers Cottage, Rowan Cottage, Hill of Rangag, Hill Croft, Achavanich Farm, and School House) (SA-18), approx. 198 m to the west of the Proposed Development (Tower N46) at the closest point. Farmsteads and cottages along the A9 (Corrie View and Willow Cottag) (SA-19), approx. 280 m to the northwest of the Proposed Development (Tower N57) at the closest point.

Section	Built Receptors included in the Detailed Assessment
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Single-story cottage and mobile shed west of the A9 (Braehungie and Mountain View), (SA-20), approx. 178 m to the northwest of the Proposed Development (Tower N62) at the closest point. Farmhouses and cottages at Houstry (Boulfruch, Pynag, Newlands of Houstry, Boulcrawford, Old School House, and Buldoo) (SA-21), approx. 750 m to the northwest of the Proposed Development (Tower N73) at the closest point. Croft township at Smerral (SA-22), approx. 334 m to the west of the Proposed Development (Tower N69) at the closest point. Scattered properties at Badnagie (SA-24), approx. 726 m to the southeast of the Proposed Development (Tower N80) at the closest point. Farmsteads along Achorn Road (Achorn House, Roselea, Croft House, Rowans, Burnside, and unnamed cottages and outbuildings) (SA-25), approx. 365 m to the southeast of the Proposed Development (Tower N87) at the closest point. Borgue (SA-29), approx. 431 m to the southeast of the Proposed Development (Tower N98) at the closest point. Badrinsary (Rose Cottage and an unnamed house) (SA-32), approx. 343 m to the southeast of the Proposed Development (Tower N106) at the closest point. Langwell House and the Firs (SA-35), approx. 814 m to the southeast of the Proposed Development (Tower N110) at the closest point. Landwell Gardens, Langwell Kennels, and Keepers House (SA-36), approx. 386 m to the southeast of the Proposed Development (Tower N114) at the closest point. The Bungalow, Ousdale, and Keepers Cottage (SA-37), approx. 187 m to the southeast of the Proposed Development (Tower N127) at the closest point. Scattered cottages along the A897 and River Helmsdale (SA-38), approx. 1.58 km to the northwest of the Proposed Development (Tower N148) at the closest point. Marrel (SA-39), approx. 470 m to the southeast of the Proposed Development (Tower N148) at the closest point. Ballachly (SA-46), approx. 1.58 km to the east of the Proposed Development (Tower N41) at the closest point.

Section	Built Receptors included in the Detailed Assessment
Section B: Brora to Loch Buidhe	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SB-01 Old Town, 1.75 km to the north of the Proposed Development. • SB-02 Killin, 200 m to the south of the Proposed Development • SB-03 Carroll Cottage, 200 m to the south of the Proposed Development • Glen house (SB-04), 750 m to the north of the Proposed Development • Morvich (SB-05), 1 km to the east of the Proposed Development • East Kinnard (SB-06), 850 m to the west of the Proposed Development • West Kinnard (SB-07), 1.1 km to the west of the Proposed Development • Milton Bank (SB-08) 1.2 km to the northwest of the Proposed Development • Blairmore (SB-09), 2.5 km to the northwest of the Proposed Development • Remusaig (SB-10), 1.1 km to the northwest • Eiden (SB-11), 300 m to the southwest of the Proposed Development • Pittentrail (SB-12), 1.5 km to the west of the Proposed Development • Reidlin (SB-13), 1.75 km to the west of the Proposed Development • Tighnaneum (SB-14), 850 m to the west of the Proposed Development • Dalnamain (SB-15), 300 m to the east of the Proposed Development • Brae Cottage (SB-16), 500 m to the north of the Proposed Development • Little Torboll (SB-17), 2.5 km to the east of the Proposed Development

Section	Built Receptors included in the Detailed Assessment
Section C: Loch Buidhe to Dounie	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Culrain (SC-1), 1.0 km to the east of the Proposed Development • Lower Gledfield (SC-2), 3.4 km to the east of the Proposed Development • Ardgay (SC-3), 4.1 km to the east of the Proposed Development • Kincardine (SC-4), 4.8 km to the east of the Proposed Development • Bonar Bridge (SC-5), 5.2 km to the east of the Proposed Development • Creide (SC-6), 205 m to the north-east of the Proposed Development • Oak Bank (SC-7), 300 m to the north-east of the Proposed Development • Invershin Farm (SC-8), 325 m to the north-east of the Proposed Development • The Bungalow, Invershin (SC-9), 460 m to the north of the Proposed Development
Section D: Dounie to Near Strathpeffer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sonnycroft (SD-01), 210 m to the east of the Proposed Development (Tower S38) at the closest point • Balnarge (SD-02), 220 m to the south-east of the Proposed Development (Tower S112) at the closest point • Cnoc Cluaran (SD-03), 290 m to the west of the Proposed Development (Tower S38) at the closest point • Glaik Croft, (SD-04), 290 m to the south of the Proposed Development (Tower S96) at the closest point • Fannyfield, (SD-05), 315 m to the east of the Proposed Development (Tower S123) at the closest point • Tighnacraig (SD-06), 340 m to the south-west of the Proposed Development (Tower S113) at the closest point • Culeave Cottage (SD-07), 375 m to the south-west of the Proposed Development (Tower S38) at the closest point • Cairn View (SD-08), 380 m to the west of the Proposed Development (Tower S38) at the closest point • Leac Dubh Mor (SD-09), 460 m to the west of the Proposed Development (Tower S38) at the closest point • Strathpeffer (SD-10), 2.4 km to the south-east of the Proposed Development (Tower S149) at the closest point • Swordale (SD-11), 2.4 km to the east of the Proposed Development (Tower S121) at the closest point • Dingwall (SD-12), 4.0 km to the south-east of the Proposed Development (Tower S135) at the closest point • Ardgay (SD-13), 4.1 km to the east of the Proposed Development (Tower S39) at the closest point • Evanton (SD-14), 4.2 km to the east of the Proposed Development (Tower S117) at the closest point • Jamestown (SD-15), 4.3 km to the south of the Proposed Development (Tower S149) at the closest point

Section	Built Receptors included in the Detailed Assessment
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Contin (SD-16), 4.9 km to the south-west of the Proposed Development (Tower S149) at the closest point
Section E: Near Strathpeffer to Beaully	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bridge Park Cottage (SE-01) 200 m to the north-east of the Proposed Development (Tower S193) at the closest point Mid Lodge (SE-02) 225 m to the north-east of the Proposed Development (Tower S167) at the closest point Heights of Kinnahaird (SE-03) 228 m to the south-east of the Proposed Development (Tower S171) at the closest point Bruaich Cottages (SE-04) 230 m to the west of the Proposed Development (Tower S173) at the closest point Ben View (SE-05) 240 m to the north-west of the Proposed Development (Tower S173) at the closest point Grieve's Cottage (SE-06) 250 m to the south-east of the Proposed Development (Tower S172) at the closest point Broompark (SE-07) 260 m to the south-east of the Proposed Development (Tower S169) at the closest point Wester Newton (SE-08) 280 m to the north-west of the Proposed Development (Tower S179) at the closest point Kinnahaird (SE-09) 300 m to the south-east of the Proposed Development (Tower S172) at the closest point Achnacoul (SE-10) 340 km to the south-west of the Proposed Development (Tower S167) at the closest point Oakmor (SE-11) 380 m to the north-west of the Proposed Development (Tower S171) at the closest point Jackson Cottage (SE-12) 320 m to the north-east of the Proposed Development (Tower S186) at the closest point Orrin Cottage (SE-13) 275 m to the north-east of the Proposed Development (Tower S186) at the closest point Sawmill Cottage (SE-14) 380m to the north-east of the Proposed Development (Tower S187) at the closest point Coul Garden Cottage (SE-15) 460 m to the south-west of the Proposed Development (Tower S167) at the closest point Auchederson Farmhouse (SE-16) 470 m to the south-west of the Proposed Development (Tower S195) at the closest point

Section	Built Receptors included in the Detailed Assessment
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gas Street Cottage (SE-17) 520 m to the south-west of the Proposed Development (Tower S178) at the closest point • Wester Kinellan (SE-18) 520 m to the south-east of the Proposed Development (Tower S164) at the closest point • Upper Weston Fanellan Croft (SE-19) 550 m to the south-east of the Proposed Development (Tower S232) at the closest point • Jamestown (SE-20) 540 m to the west of the Proposed Development (Tower S168) at the closest point • Contin (SE-21) 580 m to the north-west of the Proposed Development (Tower S173) at the closest point • Strathpeffer (SE-22) 1.1 km to the east of the Proposed Development (Tower S164) at the closest point • Kiltarlity (SE-23) 2.6 km to the south-east of the Proposed Development (Tower S232) at the closest point • Marybank (SE-24) 2.1 km to the east of the Proposed Development (Tower S173) at the closest point • Muir of Ord (SE-25) 4 km to the east of the Proposed Development (Tower S200) at the closest point • Beaully (SE-26) 4.6 km to the east of the Proposed Development (Tower S205) at the closest point • Dingwall (SE-27) 5.8 km to the north-east of the Proposed Development (Tower S150) at the closest point

Route Based Receptors

Table 1.6: Route Based Receptors included in the Detailed Assessment

Section	Route Based Receptors included in the Detailed Assessment
Section A: Spittal to Brora	Public Transport Routes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A9 Shalmstry to Brora (RA-1), distances and direction to the Proposed Development varies. A882 Clayock to Haster (RA-2) located approximately 2.3 km from the Proposed Development. A897 Carn na Buth to Helmsdale), (RA-3) the route passes under the Proposed Development at Marrel. A99 Milton to Latheron (RA-4) located approximately 3.3 km to the east of the Proposed Development B870 Glengolly to the junction with B876 north of Kirk (RA-5), the route passes under the Proposed Development north of Moss of Toftingall. B874 Glengolly to Lochshell (RA-6) located approximately 4 km from the Proposed Development. B876 Bower to Kirk (RA-7) located approximately 9.6 km from the Proposed Development. Far North Railway Line (Railway Line via Helmsdale) (RA-8), the route passes under the Proposed Development at Marrel Far North Railway Line (Railway Line between Scotsclader and Wick via Georgemas Junction) (RA-9) located approximately 2.5 km from the Proposed Development.
	Recreational Routes: Core Paths: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A gravel track stretching from the A9 near Spittal: CA06.08 The Old Quarry(RA-10); located approximately 2 km to the west of the Proposed Development at the closest point. A loop track winding through the Causeymire Wind Farm: CA06.04 Causeymire Wind Farm (RA-11); located approximately 2 km to the west of the Proposed Development at the closest point. A track leading to Munsary via Loch Stemster: CA10.11 Achavanich and Munsary; (RA-12) located approximately 342 m to the east of the Proposed Development at the closest point. A collection of forest tracks at Rumster: CA10.03 Rumster Mast Loop, CA10.04 Rumster, and CA10.07 Rumster to A99 (RA-13); located approximately 1.08 km to the west of the Proposed Development at the closest point. A collection of tracks at Dunbeath: CA04.01 Dunbeath Strath, CA04.02 Coopers Path, CA04.04 Achnaclyth Track by Toutnagoul, CA04.06 Footbridge Link, CA04.07 Post Office Path, CA04.08 Balcladich and the Sandy Pools, CA04.09 Back Path, CA04.10 Milton Track, CA04.11 A9 Roadside Link, CA04.12 Old Road Link, CA04.13

Section	Route Based Receptors included in the Detailed Assessment
	<p>Old Road by the Driveway to Dunbeath Castle, CA04.16 Clashvalley Track, CA04.17 Portormin Beach, CA04.18 Camel Humps, and CA04.19 Balintra Wood; (RA-14) at its closest point, the route extends directly under the Proposed Development.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A collection of gravel paths stretching from Berriedale to Langwell: CA04.15 Langwell Woodland and CA04.14 Berriedale Pier; (RA-15) located approximately 560 m to the southeast of the Proposed Development at the closest point. A gravel track off North Coast 500 that leads to Badbea: CA04.03 Badbea; (RA-16) located approximately 360 m to the south of the Proposed Development at the closest point. A collection of tracks at Helmsdale: SU13.01 Lobster Ponds – Navidale, SU13.02 St Johns Well, SU13.03 Helmsdale River Bank, SU13.04 Simpson Crescent, SU13.05 Old Helmsdale - Old Caithness Road, SU13.05 Navidale Cycle Path, SU13.06 Old Helmsdale - East Helmsdale, SU13.07 Playing Fields – West Helmsdale, and SU13.09 Navidale Farm Track/Seaweed Road(RA-17); located approximately 1.2 km to the east of the Proposed Development at the closest point. A hill walk winding through rolling hills at Gartymore: SU13.08 Portgower Inn Road – Gartymore(RA-18); located approximately 2.1 km to the southeast of the Proposed Development at the closest point. <p>Long-distance Routes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The North Coast 500 (RA-19) located approximately 230 m to the north-west at its closest point near Badbea.
Section B: Brora to Loch Buidhe	<p>Public Transport Routes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A9 from Dornoch to Brora (RB-01) located approximately 1.5 km to the south-east of the Proposed Development. A839 from The Mound (A9) to Lairg (RB-02) the route passes under the Proposed Development. (River Brora catchment valley) (RB-03) the route passes under the Proposed Development. Dunrobin Glen Road, (RB-04) the route passes under the Proposed Development. Lochbuie Road (RB-05) located approximately 250 m to the south of the Proposed Development Far North Railway (RB-06), the route passes under the Proposed Development. <p>Recreational Routes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The drove Road SU06.03- 5.5 km linear route heading northwest from East Clyne to Oldtown. (RB-07) The Proposed Development traverses the route. North Brora River SU06.11 4.2 km following the river Brora west from Brora towards Ford at na Dubh-Lochan, Doll Bridge (RB-08) Doll Bridge- Loch Brora, heading northwest along the northern bank of the river (RB-08). The Proposed Development is approximately 1.5 km north of the path at the closest location.

Section	Route Based Receptors included in the Detailed Assessment
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •) Loch Brora West track SU06.02 9 km, heading northwest along the south of the Loch towards Kilbraur for c9 km (RB-08). The Proposed Development traverses the track at Carroll • SU12.14 Golspie Tower- Ben Bhraggie 4 km track heading in a circular route towards Duke of Sutherland monument within Ben Bhraggie Wood (RB-09). Proposed Development at the closest point is c3km from the track. • SU12.13 and SU12.19 two connecting tracks forming the Windfarm track heading north then northwest through Ben Bhraggie Wood and Dunrobbin Glen towards the road traversing the valley towards Fariary (RB-09). The Proposed Development at the closest point to the path is c1.75 km to the north, through the woodland. • SU12.24 Loch Lunndaigh path heading west up to the moorland and Loch Lunndaigh from Drummie initially through woodland before open moorland at Culinally Burn (RB10). At its closest point the Proposed Development is c3 km to the north • SU 20.10, SU20.02 and SU20.01 Three connecting paths totalling 10.5 km along the southern edge of River Fleet valley predominantly a wooded route with open aspects at Eiden and the far west of the track near Inchcape (RB11). The Proposed Development traverses the path at Eiden as it follows the alignment of existing OHL. • SU09.19 7.7 km track heading northwest from Achvaich to Loch Buidhe, the route is predominantly within plantation woodland before opening out at Loch Buidhe (RB12). The Proposed Development traverses the track close to the sub-station as it cuts through the Meall Mor plantation. <p><u>National Cycle Routes</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • National Cycle Route 1 Dover to North Scotland (RB-13) <p><u>Long-distance routes</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • North Coast 500 The North Coast 500 follows the A9 along the coast from Dornoch to Brora (RB-14). Please refer to RA-1 above. • Far North Way (RB-15) The Far North Way heads west from Dornoch along the A949 and then A836 towards Lairg.
Section C: Loch Buidhe to Dounie	<p>Public Transport Routes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A836 (RC-01) at its closest point, this road extends directly under the Proposed Development at Invershin (between Towers S21 and S22). • Far North Rail Line (RC-02), at its closest point it extends under the Proposed Development at Invershin (between Towers S21 and S22). • A837 (RC-03), this is a single track road that extends west from the A836 towards Lochinver, 110 m to the north of the Proposed Development at the closest point; • B864 (RC-04), this is a single track road that extends north from the A837 towards Lairg, 1.2 km to the north of the Proposed Development at the closest point. • A949 (RC-05), this is a single carriageway road that extends between Bonar Bridge and Clashmore, 5.4 km to the east the Proposed Development at the closest point.

Section	Route Based Receptors included in the Detailed Assessment
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cadh an Tartair Cadh' an Tain Road (RC-06), which extends directly under the Proposed Development within Strathcarron, 720 m south of the Proposed Development in Section C (between Towers S37-S39). Culrain – Inveroykel Minor Road (RC-7), which extends along the southern side of the Kyle of Sutherland (between Towers S23 and S24). The alignment would extend over the road in the vicinity of Inverhouse. <p>Recreational Routes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Inverness to John O' Groats Cycle Trail (RC-8), it extends directly under the Proposed Development at Invershin (between Towers S21 and S22) Core Path SU08.02: Carbisdale (RC-9), at its closest point, the route extends directly under the Proposed Development (between Tower S27 and S28) Core Path SU03.01: Cornhill – Culrain (RC-10), at its closest point, the route extends directly under the Proposed Development (near Tower S31) Core Path SU08.03: Lochcoire (RC-11), this extends east-west, directly under the Proposed Development (near Tower S30) Core Path SU08.01: Culrain to Invershin (RC-12), Short section of path connecting Culrain with Invershin via the viaduct; Core Path SU03.14: Cornhill Curling Pond (RC-13), footpath which forms a loop within East Strathcarron Forest. The route is accessed via Cornhill near the River Carron Core Path SU21.11: Shin Falls Forest Walk, and SU21.12: Shin Falls Circular (RC-14) which forms a loop within mature forestry near Shin Falls (visitor centre) Core SU03.06: River Carron footpath (RC-15) which follows the route of the River Carron (Dounie Estate) Core Path SU03.11: River Carron (RC-16) footpath which partially follows the route of the River Carron (Dounie Estate) to north of Lower Gledfield. The path connects with route SU03.11 Core Path SU05.06: Balblair Wood (RC-17) Invershin, footpath which is routed through Balblair Wood, with access point from A836 near Invershin Core path SU05.04, Balblair Forest Walk (RC-18) footpath which forms a loop through Maikle Wood, with access point from A836 near Drumliah Core Path SU16.08: Braemore – Achany (RC-19). footpath which connects the A839 with Achany Farm SU05.01: Loch Migdale (RC-20), located 6.3 km to the south-east of the Proposed Development at the closest point Core Path SU21.02: Sika Trail Cycle Route (RC-21), located 7.4 km to the north-west of the Proposed Development at the closest point.
Section D: Dounie to Near Strathpeffer	<p>Public Transport Routes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cadh an Tartair (RD-01), the route passes under the Proposed Development at the River Carron. Minor road to the south of River Carron (RD-02), the route passes under the Proposed Development at the River Carron

Section	Route Based Receptors included in the Detailed Assessment
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dingwall to Kyle of Lochalsh Rail Link (RD-03), The rail route extends along the valley of the River Peffrey, 690 m to the south of Section D at the closest point (Tower S149). • Smoogro Road (RD-04), located 1.4 km to the south-east of Section D at the closest point (Tower S149). • A834 (RD-05), located 2.4 km to the south of Section D at the closest point (Tower S149). • Old Evanton Road (RD-06), located 4.2 km to the south-east of Section D at the closest point (Tower S124). • A836 (RD-07), located 4.3 km to the east of Section D at the closest point (Tower S39). • A835 (RD-08), located 4.4 km to the south of Section D at the closest point (Tower S149). • A9 (T) (RD-09), located 5.0 km south-east of Section D at the closest point (Tower S124). • B817 (RD-10), located 5.3 km to the south-east of Section D at the closest point (Tower S120). • A832 (RD-11), located 6.3 km to the south of Section D at the closest point (Tower S149). <p>Recreational Routes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • River Carron SU03.06 (RD-12), the path route intersects the Proposed Development, near Tower S39, at approx. 50 m • Strathpeffer Walking and Cycling Routes (Torrachilty Forest) (RC-13) located 3.3 km to the south of Section D at the closest point (Tower S149). • Strathpeffer Walking and Cycling Routes (North of Strathpeffer Golf Course) (RC-14) located within 810 m of Section D at the closest point (Tower S149), where it extends along the southern side of the Peffery Valley. • Mains of Coul (RC10.03) (RD-15) located 4.8 km to the south of Section D at the closest point (Tower S149). • Kinellan link path (RC10.07) (RD-16) located 3.7 km to the south-west of Section D at the closest point (Tower S149). • Loch Kinellan circuit (RC45.01) (RD-17) located 3.0 km to the south of Section D at the closest point (Tower S149). • View Rock RC10.01 (RD-18) located 3.8 km to the south-west of Section D at the closest point (Tower S149). • Swordale Hill RC16.01 (RD-19) where there are localised breaks in the surrounding forestry there would be partial views of the construction works and new steel lattice towers from western sections of the path (Tower S121 would be the closest at 670 m). • Strathpeffer - Jamestown (Blackmuir Woods) RC45.05 (RD-20) located 3.6 km to the south of Section D at the closest point (Tower S149). • Ord Wood west – Kinellan (RC45.03) (RD-21) located 2.9 km to the south of Section D at the closest point (Tower S149). • Cornhill Curling Pond Circuit (SU03.14) (RD-22) located 980 m to the north-east of Section D at the closest point (Tower S38).

Section	Route Based Receptors included in the Detailed Assessment
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contin to Strathgarve (RC10.06) (RD-23) located 4.2 km to the south-west of Section D at the closest point (Tower S149). • Torrachilty woods (RC10.04) (RD-24) located 4.3 km to the south-west of Section D at the closest point (Tower S149). • Golf course - Ord Wood east (RC45.07) (RD-25) located 2.4 km to the south of Section D at the closest point (Tower S149). • Blackmuir Woods - maze circular RC45.04 (RD-26) located 3.5 km to the south of Section D at the closest point (Tower S149). • Rogie Falls (RC10.02) (RD-27) located 4.0 km to the south-west of Section D at the closest point (Tower S149). • Eagle Stone Path (RC45.10) (RD-28) located 2.6 km to the south of Section D at the closest point (Tower S149). • Badvoon Forest, Allt Eiteachan Path (SU03.05) (RD-29) located 2.0 km to the east of Section D at the closest point (Tower S48). • Badvoon Forest, Forest Road (SU03.03) (RD-30) located 2.0 km to the east of Section D at the closest point (Tower S48). • Ardival - Catsback - Loch Ussie (RC45.09) (RD-31) located 3.0 km to the south of Section D at the closest point (Tower S149). • Tollie to Lealty (RC05.02) (RD-32) located 2.6 km to the east of Section D at the closest point (Tower S100). • Culrain, via Invercharron Hill/Carbisdale (SU03.01) (RD-33) located 2.5 km to the north-east of Section D at the closest point (Tower S38). • River Carron (SU03.11) (RD-34) located 2.9 km to the east of Section D at the closest point (Tower S38). • Carron Bridge (SU03.09) (RD-35) located 2.9 km to the east of Section D at the closest point (Tower S39). • Knockfarrel (maze to hill) (RC45.02) (RD-36) located 3.5 km to the south of Section D at the closest point (Tower S149). • Dam Wood (RC05.03) (RD-37) located 3.2 km to the east of Section D at the closest point (Tower S99). • Ardgayhill (SU03.10) (RD-38) located 3.3 km to the east of Section D at the closest point (Tower S40). • Oldtown – Badvoon (SU03.08) (RD-39) located 3.3 km to the east of Section D at the closest point (Tower S44). • Badvoon Forest, Link Path (SU03.04) (RD-40) located 3.3 km to the east of Section D at the closest point (Tower S44). • Knockfarrel to Fodderty (RC13.05) (RD-41) located 3.2 km to the south-east of Section D at the closest point (Tower S144). • Black Rock Gorge (RC16.05) (RD-42) located 3.8 km to the east of Section D at the closest point (Tower S114). • Dublin to Ardross Mains (RC05.04) (RD-43) located 4.1 km to the east of Section D at the closest point (Tower S99). • Evanton Woods RC16.06 (RD-44) located 4.0 km to the east of Section D at the closest point (Tower S115). • Tulloch Lane-Dingwall RC13.02 (RD-45) located 4.0 km to the south-east of Section D at the closest point (Tower S135). • Knockfarrel RC13.06 (RD-46) located 4.2 km to the south-east of Section D at the closest point (Tower S144).

Section	Route Based Receptors included in the Detailed Assessment
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fyrish Path RC05.01 (RD-47) located 4.1 km to the east of Section D at the closest point (Tower S105). <p><u>Long-distance routes</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> North Coast 500 (RD-48) located at a distance of 5 km. <p><u>National Cycle Routes</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Inverness to John O' Groats National Cycle Trail (RD-49) located at a distance of 5 km.
Section E: Near Strathpeffer to Beaulieu	<p>Public Transport Routes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A834 (RE-01) the road extends directly under the Section E alignment between properties at Heights of Kinnahaird and Broompark (between Towers S169 and S170). Achonachie Road (RE-02) the road extends directly under the alignment between the access to Muirton Mains and Loch Achonachie (between Towers S177 and S178). A835 (RE-03) the road extends directly under the alignment between Ben View and Brauch Cottage. A831 (RE-04) the road extends directly under the alignment between Aigas Dam Power Station and Crask of Aigas (between Towers S228 and S229). Dingwall to Kyle of Lochalsh Rail Link (RE-05) the rail route extends along the valley of the River Peffrey, where it would pass under the Section E alignment (between Towers S152 and S153). Minor road between Marybank and Muir of Ord (RE-06) Tower S196 would be located in closest proximity at approx. 330 m to the south-west. Minor road between Blackbridge and Struy (A831) (RE-07) Tower S232 would be the closest at 630 m from the road. A832 (RE-08) the Proposed Development would be located 1.6 km to the west at the closest point (Tower S172). A833 (RE-09) the Proposed Development would be located 3.5 km to the west at the closest point (Tower S232). A862 (RE-10) the Proposed Development would form an extremely discreet, linear element within wider views to the west and north west at a distance of 4.9 km.

Section	Route Based Receptors included in the Detailed Assessment
	<p>Recreational Routes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Orrin Dam track RC30.01 (RE-11) the eastern end of the path intersects the Proposed Development between Towers S187 and S188. Mains of Coul (RC10.03) (RE-12) the path intersects the Proposed Development between Towers S168 and S169). Kinellan link path (RC10.07) (RE-13) the eastern end of this footpath intersects the Proposed Development between Towers 163 and 164 (Tower S163 would be the closest at approximately 50 m to the north). Loch Kinellan circuit (RC45.01) (RE-14) the construction works and steel lattice towers would be experienced at close range from the western sections of path (Tower S163 would be located 120 m to the west). Orrin circular- Fairburn RC30.02 (RE-15) there would be filtered views of the construction works and introduction of steel lattice towers at close range from a localised section of the path near Bridgepark Cottage. Tower S192 would be the closest at 200 m to the west. View Rock RC10.01 (RE-16) Tower S164 would be the closest at 260 m to the east. Strathpeffer - Jamestown (Blackmuir Woods) RC45.05 (RE-17) the path is located 790 m to the east of Section E at the closest point (Tower S168). Ord Wood west – Kinellan (RC45.03) (RE-18) the path is located 940 m to the east of Section E at the closest point (Tower S159). Contin Island RC10.05(RE-19) Tower S173 would be located closest to the path at 950 m to the south-east. Home Farm to Hughton by Lonbuie IN20.11(RE-20) the path is located 930 m to the south-east of Section E at the closest point (Tower S232). Contin to Strathgarve (RC10.06) (RE-21) the path is located 1.0 km to the west of Section E at the closest point (Tower S164). Ord Hill RC32.07 (RE-22) the path is located 1.1 km to the east of Section E at the closest point (Tower S204). Torrachilty woods (RC10.04) (RE-23) the path is located 1.3 km to the west of Section E at the closest point (Tower S164). Golf course - Ord Wood east (RC45.07) (RE-24) the path is located 1.3 km to the south-east of Section E at the closest point (Tower S157). Blackmuir Woods - maze circular RC45.04(RE-25) the path is located 1.3 km to the east of Section E at the closest point (Tower S165). Rogie Falls (RC10.02) (RE-26) the path is located 1.4 km to the west of Section E at the closest point (Tower S161). Eagle Stone Path (RC45.10) (RE-27) the path is located 1.8 km to the south-east of Section E at the closest point (Tower S156). Ardival - Catsback - Loch Ussie (RC45.09) (RE-27) the path is located 2.2 km to the south-east of Section E at the closest point (Tower S156). Knockfarrel (maze to hill) (RC45.02) (RE-29) the path is located 2.4 km to the east of Section E at the closest point (Tower S168). Knockfarrel to Fodderty (RC13.05) (RE-30) the path is located 3.6 km to the east of Section E at the closest point (Tower S152).

Section	Route Based Receptors included in the Detailed Assessment
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Knockfarrel RC13.06(RE-31) the path is located 4.2 km to the west of Section E at the closest point (Tower S152). • Strathpeffer Walking and Cycling Routes (Torrachilty Forest) (RE-32) this series of paths intersects the Proposed Development at four locations, near Towers S159, S160, S161 and S163). • Strathpeffer Walking and Cycling Routes (North of Strathpeffer Golf Course) (RE-33) this series of paths intersects the Proposed Development at two locations, near Towers S152 and S157). <p><u>Long-distance routes</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • North Coast 500 (RE-34) located 5.0 km to the east and south-east of the Proposed Development. <p><u>National Cycle Routes</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inverness to John O' Groats National Cycle Trail (RE-35) 7.0 km from the Proposed Development.

Table 1.7: Outdoor Receptors included in the Detailed Assessment

Section	Outdoor Receptors included in the Detailed Assessment
Section A: Spittal to Brora	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dunbeath Castle (OA-1) 2.75 km south-east of the Proposed Development Hill walk location at East Scaraben (OA-2): 4.6 km north-west of the Proposed Development Berriedale Braes Viewpoint (OA-3) approximately 1.4 km from the Proposed Development (Tower N106) Badbea Historic Clearance Village (OA-4): 895 m from the Proposed Development. Hill walk location at Creag Thoraraidh (OA-5) approximately 517 m from the Proposed Development (Tower N139) Helmsdale War Memorial (OA-6) approximately 2.2 km from the Proposed Development (Tower N152)
Section B: Brora to Loch Buidhe	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Duke of Sutherland Monument (OB-01 3.0 km from the Proposed Development.
Section C: Loch Buidhe to Dounie	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Carbisdale Castle (OC-1) 695 m to the north west of the Proposed Development, near Culrain and the Kyle of Sutherland. The Scap (Angling) (OC-2) 600 m to the north west of the Proposed Development, in the Kyle of Sutherland. Dounie Estate (OC-3), 900 m to the south-east of the Proposed Development <u>in Section C;</u> Loch Laro (OC- 4) 1.3 km to the north of the Proposed Development. Loch an Lagain (OC-5) 1.9km to the south east of the Proposed Development. Balblair Forest (OC-6) 1.2 km to the south of the Proposed Development Gledfield House and Estate (OC-7) is located near the River Carron, 2.4 km to the west of the Proposed Development Falls of Shin and Shin Forest (OC-8)2.6km to the north of the Proposed Development adjacent to the B864.
Section D: Dounie to Near Strathpeffer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Strathpeffer Golf Course (OD-01) located 2.1 km to the south of Section D at the closest point (Tower S149). Loch Morrie (OD-02), there would be views of construction works and introduction of steel lattice towers (from eastern edge of the Loch) in the landscape to the west where Section D extends across the River Averon (Tower S89 is the closest at approx. 890 m). Dounie Estate (OD-03), the construction works and steel lattice towers would be visible at distances of between 900 m and 1.5 km (Tower S39 is the closest at 900 m). Gledfield House and Estate (OD-04), located 2.0 km to the east of the Proposed Development. Neil Gunn Memorial (OD-05) located 2.3 km to the south-east of Section D at the closest point (Tower S138).

Section	Outdoor Receptors included in the Detailed Assessment
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Loch Glass (OD-06), located 3.0 km to the west of Section D at the closest point (Tower S112). Ardross Castle (OD-07), located 3.6 km to the east of Section D at the closest point (Tower S99). Pink House (Loch Glass) (OD-08), located 3.8 km to the west of Section D at the closest point (Tower S112). Cnoc Fyrish Monument (OD-09), located 4.2 km to the east of Section D at the closest point (Tower S105).
Section E: Near Strathpeffer to Beauly	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Coul House Hotel (OE-01) Tower S170 would be located in closest proximity, 480 m to the south-east. Falls of Orrin (OE-02) Tower S192 would be located in closest proximity, at a distance of 420 m to the south-west. Fairburn Activity Centre (OE-03) Tower S186 would be located in closest proximity, at a distance of 560 m to the south-west. Fairburn Tower (OE-04) Tower S192 would be located in closest proximity at a distance of 740 m. Strathpeffer Golf Course (OE-05) Tower S159 would be located in closest proximity at a distance of 800 m. Torrachilty Forest. – Car Park and Picnic Area (OE-06) located 1.2 km from the Proposed Development. Riverside Chalets and Caravan Park (OE-07) located 1.2 km from the Proposed Development. Neil Gunn Memorial (OE-08) located 4.1 km to the north-east of Section E at the closest point (Tower S150).

1.6 Scope of Cumulative Landscape and Visual Assessment

Developments included in the Cumulative Assessment

- 1.6.1 The assessment of cumulative effects has included consideration of other grid infrastructure or other energy projects currently proposed within the Study Area. Those located at distances greater than 10 km from the Proposed Development have been excluded from consideration. With reference to the main assessment, this is on the basis that the Proposed Development would not meaningfully contribute towards cumulative effects at this distance (accordingly any notable cumulative effects identified would be due to the other development proposals, and not the Proposed Development).
- 1.6.2 Developments which have been considered within the Cumulative Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment for each Section, are listed in **Table 1.8** and **Table 1.9** and shown on **Volume 3, Figure 7.5**.
- 1.6.3 The cumulative assessment has considered two different scenarios as follows
- Scenario 1: Including other parts of the Proposed Development and other related development:
 - This includes neighbouring Sections of the Proposed Development, and the Banniskirk, Carnaig and Fanellan Substations. The cumulative assessment considers the effects of these developments during both construction and operation as it is likely that they would be constructed concurrently;
 - Scenario 2: Including other unrelated development:
 - This would include all other identified cumulative baseline sites which are not related to the Proposed Development.
 - The cumulative assessment considers the effects of these developments during operation only, as it is difficult to predict how these developments would relate to the Proposed Development during construction.
- 1.6.4 The cumulative assessment has given consideration to all LCTs, designated or protected landscapes and visual receptors falling within the combined Study Areas for respective Sections, and elsewhere, where estimated theoretical visibility of non-associated developments would occur. As it is considered that a Negligible effect could not lead to a significant cumulative effect, those areas or receptor locations for which a Negligible effect has been identified within the main landscape or visual assessment have been scoped out of the cumulative assessment.

Table 1.8: List of projects considered for “intra-project” effects

Application	Planning Ref	Location	Proposal	Status	Distance from SLBB	Sections
Banniskirk 400kV Substation and HVDC Converter Station	24/04898/FUL	Land 360 m north east of Achalone Cottage Achalone Halkirk	New 400kv Substation & HVDC Converter Station To Connect To The Proposed New 400kv Overhead Line between Spittal & Beauly, The New Spittal To Peterhead HVDC Link, And The Existing Spittal 275/132kv Substation	Under Consideration	Adjacent	A
Carnaig 400kV Substation	24/05062/FUL	Land 1800 m north east Of Sleastray Bonar Bridge	Loch Buidhe 400kV Substation - EIA Scoping Request	Under Consideration	Adjacent	B, C
Fanellan 400kV Substation and HVDC Converter Station	25/00826/FUL	Land 300M north west of Fanellan Farmhouse Kiltarlity	Proposed new 400kV substation and HVDC converter station comprising new buildings, platform, plant and machinery, access, laydown/work compound area(s), landscaping, site drainage, and other ancillary works (National Development)	Under Consideration	Adjacent	E

Table 1.9: List of projects considered for “inter-project” effects

Application	Planning Ref	Location	Proposal	Status	Distance from SLBB	Section
Banniskirk – Sinclair’s Bay HVDC UGC	N/A	New underground cable between Spittal and Sinclair’s Bay	Circa 30 km of onshore underground HVDC cable from Spittal travelling between Loch Scarmclate and Loch Watten, and through to landfall connections at Sinclair’s Bay	Early Development	Adjacent	A
Banniskirk – Spittal 275 kV UGC Connection	N/A	New underground cable adjacent to Spittal 275 kV Substation	Circa 1 km of underground cable from the Banniskirk 400kV substation and HVDC converter station to the existing 275 kV substation at Spittal	Early Development	Adjacent	A
West of Orkney Wind Farm	23/05353/PIP	AC Site Spittal Sub Station Halkirk KW12 6XA	Construction of onshore transmission infrastructure comprising up to two cable landfalls, an onshore substation and up to five associated export circuits	Application Permitted	Adjacent	A
Ayre Offshore Wind Farm	24/00243/SCOP	Land 1500 m East Of Old Free Church Manse Bower	Onshore infrastructure including substation, inter-array cables, export cables and associated infrastructure	Scoping Application Decision Issued	Adjacent	A
Ouglassy Wind Farm	24/00902/SCOP	Ouglassy Wind Farm	The Proposed Development will comprise up to eight wind turbines, with a blade tip height of up to 180m, Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) technology, associated infrastructure and ancillary development	Scoping Application Decision Issued	Adjacent	A
Watten Wind Farm	23/04113/S36	Land 3670 m south west of Watten Village Hall Watten	Erection and operation of a wind farm for a period of 35 years, comprising of 7 wind turbines with a maximum blade tip height of 220m, access tracks, borrow pits, substation, control building, battery storage and ancillary infrastructure.	Under Consideration	Adjacent	A
Carnaig – Loch Buidhe 275 kV UGC Connection	N/A	New underground cable adjacent to Loch Buidhe 275 kV Substation	Circa 1km of underground cable from the proposed Carnaig 400kv substation to the existing 275 kV substation at Loch Buidhe	Early Development	Adjacent	B, C
Garvary Wind Farm	21/01921/S36	Land 4600 m north east of Invershin	Garvary Wind Farm - Erection and operation of wind farm for a period of 30 years, comprising of 25 (as amended) wind turbines with maximum blade tip height of up to 180m, access tracks, up to	Under Consideration	Adjacent	B, C

Application	Planning Ref	Location	Proposal	Status	Distance from SLBB	Section
		Community Hall Invershin	6 borrow pits, substation, battery storage compound, control building, 4 meteorological masts, and ancillary infrastructure			
Inveroykel Wind Farm	24/04326/SCOP	Land 1.5 km South of 2 Easter Kilmachalmack Strathkyle Ardgay	Scoping request for the erection and operation of a wind farm comprising 29 turbines with a maximum blade tip height of 230m, battery energy storage system (BESS) facility and associated infrastructure.	Scoping Application Decision Issued	Adjacent	C, D
Braelangwell Wind Farm	24/04752/SCOP	Land 1400 m North Of Ar Dachaigh Ardgay	Erection and operation of a wind farm comprising of up to 17 wind turbines with a maximum blade tip height of 220m and associated infrastructure.	Scoping Application Decision Issued	Adjacent	C, D
Balblair Wind Farm	24/01500/SCOP	Land 695 m north west of Coirshellach Airdens Bonar Bridge	Erection and operation of a wind farm, comprising 9 wind turbines with a maximum blade tip height of 180m, energy storage facility, access tracks, borrow pits, substation, control building, anemometer mast, LiDAR compound, and ancillary infrastructure.	Scoping Application Decision Issued	Adjacent	C, D
Abhainn Dubh Wind Farm	23/02754/S36	Land 3450 m north of Kaytoo Heights Of Dochcarty Dingwall	Erection and operation of a wind farm for a period of 30 years, comprising of 13 wind turbines with a maximum blade tip height of 149.9m, energy storage facility, access tracks, borrow pits, substation, anemometer mast, control building, and ancillary infrastructure.	Under Consideration	Adjacent	D, E
Ceislein Wind Farm	24/03524/SCOP	Land 3 km south west of Wester Lealty At Cnoc Ceislain Novar Evanton	Erection and operation of a wind farm comprising up to 20 turbines with a maximum blade tip height of 250m, potential Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) and associated infrastructure, with a combined generating capacity exceeding 50 MW	Scoping Application Decision Issued	Adjacent	D
Creachan Wind Farm	24/03825/SCOP	Land 5.8 km north east of The Bothy Kildermorie Strathrusdale Alness	Erection and Operation of a Wind Farm, comprising up to 21 Turbines with a maximum blade tip height 220m, battery energy storage system (BESS) facility, access tracks, borrow pits, substation, control building, and ancillary infrastructure.	Scoping Application Decision Issued	Adjacent	C, D
Abhainn Dubh 132 kV OHL Wind Farm Connection	25/00218/SCRE	Land 140 m north west of 2 Clashnabuic Alness	EIA Screening Opinion for construction and operation of a 132 kiloVolt (kV) single circuit overhead line (OHL) of approximately 8.4 km and approximately 1 km of underground cable (UGC) to	Screening Application EIA Required	Adjacent	D

Application	Planning Ref	Location	Proposal	Status	Distance from SLBB	Section
			connect the proposed Abhainn Dubh Wind Farm to the existing Fyrish Substation			
Western Isles HVDC UGC	N/A	New underground cable between Dundonnell and Beauly	Circa 80km of onshore underground HVDC cable from Dundonnell to a mainland HVDC Converter Station near Beauly	Early Development	Adjacent	D, E
Beauly to Blackhillock to New Deer to Peterhead 400kV OHL	24/03064/SCOP	Land 1525 m south east Of Finglack Culloden Moor Inverness	Section 37 application for the construction of a new double circuit steel structure 400 kV OHL between Beauly, Blackhillock, New Deer and Peterhead, approximately 194km in length, including the diversion of an existing 400kV OHL into a proposed new Coachford 400kV substation near Blackhillock, removal of the existing 132kV OHL from Beauly to Knocknagael substations, and rationalisation and crossings of the existing transmission network	Scoping Application Decision Issued	Adjacent	E
Loch Toftingall BESS	23/04690/FUL	Land 725 m east of Mybster Sub Station Spittal	Erection and operation of a battery energy storage system with a maximum output of 49.9MW including switchgear and control buildings, landscaping, fencing and ancillary infrastructure	Under Consideration	~1 km west	A
Ballach Wind Farm	24/04177/SCOP	Land 6260 m north east of Erchless Forest Cottage Struy Beauly	Scoping request for Ballach Wind Farm - Erection and Operation of a Wind Farm for a period of 35 years, comprising 36 turbines with a maximum blade tip height of 200m and 230m, along with a battery energy storage system (BESS) and ancillary infrastructure	Scoping Application Decision Issued	~1 km west	E
Golticlay Wind Farm Redesign	23/05188/S36	Land 2040 m north east of Bulreanrob Lybster	Erection and operation of a wind farm for a period of 35 years, comprising up to 13 wind turbines, 11 with a maximum blade tip height of 200m, 2 with a maximum blade tip height of 180m, access tracks, borrow pits, substation, control building, metrological mast, and ancillary infrastructure.	Approved by Scottish Ministers	~2 km east	A
Hill of Lynchrobbie Wind Farm	23/03246/SCOP	Land At Hill of Lynchrobbie Dunbeath	Erection of two wind turbines with a tip height of up to 149.9m, capacity of circa 4.5MW each, and ancillary infrastructure; including battery storage facility of up to 5MW	Scoping Application Decision Issued	~2 km east	A
Tormsdale Wind Farm	21/04984/S36 PLN/045/24	Land At Tormsdale 1500M South Of	Erection and operation of wind farm for period of 30 years, comprising of 10 wind turbines with maximum blade tip height of	S36 Raise Objection	~2 km west	A

Application	Planning Ref	Location	Proposal	Status	Distance from SLBB	Section
		Bridge Of Westerdale, Halkirk	149.9m, access tracks, substation, control building, Battery Energy Storage System, and ancillary infrastructure.			
Acheilidh Wind Farm (formerly known as Lairg III)	24/02094/S36	Land 1150 m south west Of Tigh An Alt Acheilidh Rogart	Erection and operation of a wind farm for a period of 35 years, comprising of 12 wind turbines with a maximum blade tip height of between 200m and 230m, battery energy storage system (BESS), access tracks, borrow pits, substation, control building, and ancillary infrastructure.	S36 Raise Objection	~2 km north	B, C
Lairg II Wind Farm Redesign	21/00849/FUL	Land 2400 m south east Of Cracrail Toroboll Lairg	Erection and Operation of a Wind Farm for a period of 35 years, comprising of 5 No. Wind Turbines with a maximum blade tip height of 200m, 2 No. Wind Turbines with a maximum blade tip height of 190m, 3 No. Wind Turbines with a maximum blade tip height of 150m, access tracks, borrow pits, 132kV substation, control building, energy storage compound and ancillary infrastructure.	Application Permitted	~3 km north	C
Fairburn Extension	22/03143/SCOP	Land south of Orrin Reservoir	Erection and operation of a wind farm extension, comprising of 14 turbines, with maximum blade tip height of 200 m.	Scoping	~3 km south-west	E
Carn Fearna Wind Farm	23/03238/SCOP	Land 4 km north east Of Garve	EIA Scoping request for the erection and operation of a wind farm, comprising up to 9 wind turbines with a tip height of approximately 200m, Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) and ancillary infrastructure	Scoping Application Decision Issued	~5 km north west	D, E
Tarvie Wind Farm	23/03044/SCOP	Land 1750 m south west Of Tarvie Services Tarvie Strathpeffer	EIA Scoping request for the erection and operation of a wind farm, comprising up to 5 wind turbines with a tip height of approximately 200m and ancillary infrastructure.	Scoping Application Decision Issued	~5 km west	D, E
Carn Fearna 132 kV OHL Wind Farm Connection	25/00219/SCRE	Land 4 km north east Of Garve	EIA Screening Opinion for construction and operation of a 132 kiloVolt (kV) single circuit overhead line (OHL) of approximately 7 km to connect the proposed Carn Fearna Wind Farm to the existing Corriemoillie Substation	Awaiting decision	~5 km west	D, E
Knockbain Wind Turbine Repowering	24/03379/FUL	Land north of Knockbain Farm	Proposed repowering of an existing wind turbine, with replacement turbine at height of 89.5 m to tip.	Awaiting decision	~5 km east	D, E

Application	Planning Ref	Location	Proposal	Status	Distance from SLBB	Section
		Airfield, 2km east of Dingwall.				
Strathory Wind Farm Redesign	22/02442/FUL PPA-270-2282	Land At Torr Leathann, Strathory, Ardross, Alness, IV17	Erection And Operation Of A Wind Farm For A Period Of 35 Years, Comprising A Total Of 7 Wind Turbines With Turbines 1,2,3 And 5 Having A Maximum Blade Tip Height Of 180M, Turbine 4 Having A Maximum Blade Tip Height Of 160M, And Turbines 6 And 7 Having A Maximum Blade Tip Height Of 149.9M, Battery Energy Storage System, Access Tracks, Borrow Pit, Substation, Control Building, And Ancillary Infrastructure	Appeal Allowed	~6 km east	D
Swarclett Wind Farm	24/04932/FUL	Land 975 m south east Of Mains Of Durran Castletown	Swarclett Wind Farm - Erection and operation of a wind farm for a period of 30 years, comprising 2 turbines with a maximum blade tip height of 149.9m, battery storage and ancillary infrastructure	Under Consideration	~7 km north east	A
Cogle Moss	22/00462/S42 15/02769/FUL	Land 477 m north east of Blackpark Watten	Application for non-compliance with Condition 1 (Commencement of Development) and Condition 13 (Archaeology) of Planning Permission 15/02769/FUL	Application Permitted	~8 km east	A
Meall Buidhe Wind Farm	20/02659/FUL PPA-270-2277	Land 4420M NW Of Croick Estate Ardgay	Erection of and Operation of a Wind Farm for a period of 25 years comprising of 8 Wind Turbines access tracks, substation, control building, and ancillary infrastructure with a maximum output of 40 Megawatts.	Application Permitted	~8 km north-west	C, D
Thurso BESS	25/00240/SCRE	Land 610 m south west Of Upper Geiselittle Thurso	Operation of an energy generating system, comprising a Battery Energy Storage System up to 100MW of energy, associated infrastructure, substation, security fencing, CCTV, security lighting and landscaping.	Under Consideration	~9 km north	A
Camster II Wind Farm	PPA-270-2242 19/03015/FUL	Land 2000 m north west Of Tannach Hill Tannach Wick	Erection of up to 11 wind turbines maximum tip height of 126.5m with associated infrastructure	Appeal Allowed	~10 km east	A
Achany Extension Wind Farm	21/03695/S36	Land 2 km north east Of Glencassley Castle Rosehall	Erection and Operation of a Wind Farm for a period of 50 years, comprising of 20 Wind Turbines with a maximum blade tip height 149.9m, access tracks, borrow pits, substation, control building, and ancillary infrastructure	Approved by Scottish Ministers	~10 km north	C

Application	Planning Ref	Location	Proposal	Status	Distance from SLBB	Section
Cnoc Farasd Wind Farm	24/04447/SCOP	Land 2 km north east Of The Lodge Buntait Glenurquhart Drumnadrochit	Cnoc Farasd Wind Farm - Erection and operation of a wind farm comprising of up to 9 wind turbines with a maximum blade tip height of 220m, battery energy storage system (BESS) and associated infrastructure.	Scoping Application Decision Issued	~10 km south west	E