Scottish & Southern Electricity Networks

TRANSMISSION

Spittal to Loch Buidhe to Beauly 400 kV OHL Connection

Environmental Impact Assessment

Volume 5 | Technical Appendix

Appendix 7.8 | LVIA of Section D

July 2025

Scottish & Southern Electricity Networks
TRANSMISSION

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7. LANDSCAPE AND VISUAL ASSESSMENT OF SECTION D

7.1 Introduction

7.1.1 This appendix presents the findings of the Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment (LVIA) for Section D of the proposed Spittal to Loch Buidhe to Beauly 400 kV OHL Connection (the Proposed Development). The primary aim of the LVIA is to identify the predicted landscape and visual effects that would result from the construction and operation of the Proposed Development, as described in **Chapter 3: Description of the Proposed Development**. This includes potential effects upon views experienced by those living, working, and visiting in the area, as well as those on the wider landscape resource.

7.1.2 The LVIA has been undertaken by Chartered Landscape Architects at TGP Landscape Architects Ltd, a registered practice with the Landscape Institute. The assessment is in accordance with best practice guidance within the Guidelines for Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment, 3rd Edition (GLVIA3)[1].

7.2 Scope of Assessment and Methodology

Scope of Assessment

7.2.1 Detailed explanation of the process and rationale for scoping the LVIA is contained within **Volume 5, Appendix 7.1: LVIA Scoping Appraisal**. In summary, the LVIA considers the potential effects resulting from the temporary construction phase, as well as the long term / permanent effects resulting from the operational stage of the Proposed Development. This also includes consideration of embedded mitigation measures.

7.2.2 The following scope has been agreed through Scoping and consultation with NatureScot and The Highland Council (THC):

- Study Area extending to 10 km from the Proposed Development;
- Landscape character assessment, identifying potential effects on Landscape Character Types (LCTs) within the Study Area, with reference to the NatureScot National Landscape Character Assessment[2];
- Landscape assessment of potential effects on the special qualities of designated and/or protected landscapes, specifically the Dornoch Firth National Scenic Area (NSA), Rhiddoroch - Beinn Dearg - Ben Wyvis Wild Land Area (WLA), Fannichs, Beinn Dearg and Glencalvie Special Landscape Area (SLA), and Ben Wyvis SLA;
- Visual assessment giving consideration to views obtained by those living, working and travelling and undertaking recreation within the Study Area. This includes views from settlement areas, views from promoted recreational routes or vantage points, and views from key transport routes; and
- Cumulative assessment giving consideration to the combined effects with all other proposed power-related infrastructure works within the Study Area. For Section D, this includes effects associated with:
  - Section C and Section E of the Proposed Development (steel lattice tower OHL);
  - Consented Meall Buidhe Wind Farm (20/02659/FUL / PPA-270-2277);
  - Consented Strathrory Wind Farm Redesign (22/02442/FUL);
  - Proposed Abhainn Dubh Wind Farm (23/02754/S36);
  - Proposed Knockbain Wind Turbine Repowering (24/03379/FUL);

1 Landscape Institute and Institute of Environmental Management and Assessment. 2013. Guidelines for Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment, Third Edition.
2 NatureScot. 2023. Landscape Character Assessment in Scotland.

- Scoping-stage Balblair Wind Farm (24/01500/SCOP);
- Scoping-stage Inveroykel Wind Farm (24/04326/SCOP);
- Scoping-stage Braelangwell Wind Farm (24/04752/SCOP);
- Scoping Stage Ceislein Wind Farm (24/03524/SCOP);
- Scoping Stage Creachan Wind Farm (24/03825/SCOP);
- Scoping Stage Carn Fearna Wind Farm (23/03238/SCOP);
- Scoping Stage Tarvie Wind Farm (23/03044/SCOP);
- Screening Stage Carn Fearna 132 kV OHL (25/00219/SCRE);
- Screening Stage Abhainn Dubh 132 kV OHL (25/00218/SCRE); and
- Pre-app Western Isles HVDC Link.

7.2.3 For each identified receptor, the LVIA describes the overall effects with a clear narrative to explain the process in a transparent manner. In each case, a conclusion is drawn on whether the effect is significant or not.

Supporting Visualisations

7.2.4 The LVIA is supported by 35 visualisations that illustrate the predicted appearance of the Proposed Development during operation, once landscape reinstatement of disturbed areas has been assumed to be fully established. Visualisations have been included from the locations listed in **Table 7.1**.

Table 7.1: Viewpoint Locations (Section D)

Number	Location	Grid Reference		
Viewpoint 7-52	A836 (west of Balblair)	NH	58237	94557
Viewpoint 7-53	Lower Hilton	NH	56906	93829
Viewpoint 7-54	Clashcoig (Lochbuidhe Road)	NH	64064	94325
Viewpoint 7-55	Airdens	NH	64064	94325
Viewpoint 7-56	Bonar Bridge	NH	60932	91541
Viewpoint 7-57	A949 (south of Swordale)	NH	61899	90222
Viewpoint 7-58	A949 Little Creich	NH	63549	89310
Viewpoint 7-59	A836 Kincardine	NH	60583	89387
Viewpoint 7-60	Gruinards (west of Dounie)	NH	55112	90711
Viewpoint 7-61	Strath Rusdale	NH	58903	75388
Viewpoint 7-62	Ardross (north)	NH	61948	74873
Viewpoint 7-63	Ardross Distillery	NH	60859	74557
Viewpoint 7-64	Ardross (east)	NH	62730	73926
Viewpoint 7-65	Boath	NH	57208	74148
Viewpoint 7-66	Loch Glass	NH	52402	70877
Viewpoint 7-67	Ben Wyvis	NH	49838	71132
Viewpoint 7-68	Redburn	NH	57034	67052
Viewpoint 7-69	Evanton (west)	NH	59031	66024
Viewpoint 7-70	Milton Lodge	NH	56080	65606

Number	Location	Grid Reference		
Viewpoint 7-71	A9 northbound at Duncanston	NH	59047	58042
Viewpoint 7-72	Heights of Brae	NH	52506	61303
Viewpoint 7-73	Neil Gunn Memorial	NH	51927	61022
Viewpoint 7-74	Heights of Inchvannie	NH	49882	60271
Viewpoint 7-75	Knockfarrel	NH	50535	58546
Viewpoint 7-76	Loch Kinellan	NH	47223	57657
Viewpoint 7-77	View Rock, Contin	NH	46153	57365
Viewpoint 7-78	Jamestown	NH	48408	56531
Viewpoint 7-79	A834 (south west of Jamestown)	NH	46974	55856
Viewpoint 7-80	A834 (east of Contin)	NH	46513	55758
Viewpoint 7-81	A835 (south-east of Contin)	NH	46475	55329
Viewpoint 7-82	Moy Rock	NH	49896	54775
Viewpoint 7-83	Marybank Road	NH	48151	54314
Viewpoint 7-84	Achonochie Road (west of Marybank)	NH	47515	53801
Viewpoint 7-85	Fairburn Drive (west)	NH	46989	53071
Viewpoint 7-86	Fairburn Drive (east)	NH	47414	53043

7.2.5 Two sets of visualisations have been produced, which comply with NatureScot 2017[3] guidelines and The Highland Council (THC) 2016[4] visualisation standards. These are included within **Volume 4a** and **Volume 4b** respectively. Further detail on the preparation of visualisations can be found in **Volume 5, Appendix 7.3: Technical Methodologies for Visual Representation.**

Methodology

7.2.6 The detailed methodology for the LVIA is set out in **Volume 5, Appendix 7.2: LVIA Methodology**. This is based on best practice within the GLVIA3, which identifies five key stages:

- Understanding the Proposed Development;
- Establishment of the baseline;
- Identification of key landscape and visual receptors;
- Recognition of potential effects; and
- Assessment of the significance of effects.

7.2.7 To this end, the assessment has drawn from other published guidance and the following relevant baseline information:

- Landscape Sensitivity Assessment Guidance[5];

[3] NatureScot. 2017. Visual Representation of Wind Farms. Version 2.2.
[4] The Highland Council. 2016. Visualisation Standards for Wind Energy Developments.
[5] NatureScot. 2022. Landscape Sensitivity Assessment Guidance.

- Assessing Impacts on Wild Land Areas - Technical Guidance[6];
- Technical Guidance Note 02/21 Assessing landscape value outside national designations[7];
- Technical Guidance Note 6/19 Visual Representation of Development Proposals[8];
- National Landscape Character Assessment (web-based interactive map)[9];
- The Special Qualities of the National Scenic Areas (Commissioned Report No.374)[10];
- Wild Land Areas Map and Descriptions[11];
- Scotland's Inventory of Gardens and Designed Landscapes[12];
- Wildness in Scotland's Countryside[13];
- Assessment of Highland Special Landscape Areas[14];
- Ordnance Survey Land ranger (1:50 000) and Explorer (1:25 000) maps;
- Aerial photography; and
- Site survey (to review landscape character, potential visibility and obtain viewpoint photography, undertaken throughout 2024).

7.2.8 Landscape and visual assessments are separate, though linked, procedures. In both cases the significance of effect is based upon the correlation between the impact magnitude (i.e. High, Medium, Low, or Negligible) and the sensitivity of the receptor (i.e. High, Medium, Low or Negligible), which are summarised below.

Landscape Sensitivity and Impact Magnitude

7.2.9 The sensitivity of the landscape to a particular development considers the susceptibility of the landscape and its value. This is assessed by taking into account the existing landscape characteristics, markers signifying value such as designations, and landscape capacity to accommodate change, which often vary depending on the type of development proposed and the particular site location. As such, sensitivity needs to be considered on a case by case basis.

7.2.10 The impact magnitude arising from the Proposed Development at any location is based on the interpretation of a combination of quantifiable elements, as follows:

- the loss or alteration to key landscape features / elements or characteristics;
- distance from the Proposed Development;
- duration of effect;
- landscape context of the Proposed Development, including other nearby development or scale features.

Visual Sensitivity and Impact Magnitude

7.2.11 The sensitivity of visual receptors is based on a combination of how susceptible the viewer is to potential change as a result of the Proposed Development, and the value of the existing views. Residents are usually regarded as the highest susceptibility group, as well as those engaged in outdoor pursuits for whom landscape

[6] NatureScot. 2020. Assessing Impacts on Wild Land Areas - Technical Guidance.
[7] Landscape Institute. 2021. Technical Guidance Note 02/21 Assessing Landscape Value Outside National Designations.
[8] Landscape Institute. Technical Guidance Note 6/19 Visual Representation of Development Proposals.
[9] NatureScot. 2019. National Landscape Character Assessment in Scotland.
[10] NatureScot. 2010. The Special Qualities of the National Scenic Areas (Commissioned Report No.374).
[11] NatureScot. 2014. Wild Land Areas Map and Descriptions.
[12] Historic Environment Scotland. 2021. Scotland's Inventory of Gardens and Designed Landscapes.
[13] NatureScot. 2022. Wildness in Scotland's Countryside, SNH Policy Statement 02/03
[14] The Highland Council. 2011. Assessment of Highland Special Landscape Areas.

experience is the primary objective. The susceptibility of potential visual receptors varies depending on the activity of the receptor. The value attributed to views varies depending on the nature, location and context of the view and the recognised importance of the view.

7.2.12 The impact magnitude arising from the Proposed Development at any particular viewpoint is based on the following elements:

- distance of view from the Proposed Development;
- duration of effect;
- extent of the Proposed Development in the view;
- angle of view in relation to main receptor activity;
- proportion of the view occupied by the Proposed Development;
- background to the Proposed Development; and
- extent of other built development visible, particularly vertical elements.

Significance of Effect

7.2.13 GLVIA3 places a strong emphasis on the importance of professional judgement in identifying and defining the significance of landscape and visual effects. Accordingly, professional judgement has been used in combination with the criteria outlined above to evaluate landscape and visual sensitivity, impact magnitude, and significance of effect. The assessment has been undertaken and verified by Chartered Landscape Architects to provide a robust and consistent approach.

7.2.14 For the purposes of this assessment, the significance of effect is based on a four point scale (i.e. Major, Moderate, Minor, or Negligible). Interim ratings, such as Moderate-Minor are also possible. Where the landscape or visual effect is classified as Moderate or greater, this is considered to be 'significant'. Effects are considered to be adverse unless stated otherwise.

Limitations and Assumptions

7.2.15 The LVIA has been undertaken on the basis of the following limitations and assumptions:

- The Proposed Development would be permanent;
- The construction stage would be temporary and approximately 48 months in duration;
- The LVIA has assessed the design heights of the proposed towers and their location as per the tower schedule provided in **Volume 5**, **Appendix 3.1: Indicative Tower Schedule**. Variations in tower heights and deviations of the final alignment may occur at certain tower locations to account for undulations in the surrounding topography, and to align with best practices. Accordingly, the LVIA accounts for a vertical Limit of Deviation of +/- 9 m with the proposed towers heights and locations detailed in **Volume 5, Appendix 3.1: Indicative Tower Schedule**.
- A horizontal Limit of Deviation of up to 100 m in most cases, where necessary to avoid or minimise environmental impact while remaining consistent with wayleave boundaries. It is also recognised that the horizontal Limit of Deviation would be less than 50 m along some sections of the Alignment.
- The LVIA is undertaken on the assumption that the Proposed Development would be experienced in clear visibility and the assessment is carried out on that basis. Where appropriate, comment is made in relation to lighting and weather conditions, including visibility in winter months during periods of seasonal leaf-fall.
- The LVIA draws on field observations from publicly accessible locations. Accordingly, the assessment of effects at individual residential properties has been undertaken from publicly accessible locations within closest proximity to the dwelling to ensure appropriate representation of potential views, unless stated otherwise where access was granted by the property owner.

- The assessment of operational effects assumes that areas disturbed but not required for the operation of the Proposed Development—such as temporary tracks, laydown and compound areas, and excavations for tower foundations—would be successfully reinstated to reflect, as closely as possible, similar vegetation types and appearance to those present prior to construction. It is important to note that these vegetation types may not necessarily comprise habitat types and values identical to those that were previously present.
- The data used in the completion of the LVIA has some inherent limitations regarding data tolerances and levels of accuracy; however, these limitations have been factored into the assessment.

7.2.16 No further limitations and assumptions specific to the Landscape and Visual Assessment of Section D have been identified or made.

7.3 Baseline Conditions: Landscape

Landscape Overview

7.3.1 Section D extends north-south across the rolling landform between Dounie in the north (where it adjoins Section C) and Near Strathpeffer in the south (where it adjoins Section E). The local landscape comprises a series of slopes and summits that are characterised by open swathes of moorland and large areas of forestry. In addition, the alignment extends across a number of enclosed river valleys and wider straths, including Glen Glass. Built form and settlement is limited, and predominantly focused across the lower-lying agricultural landscape to the east. In addition, there are localised elements of large-scale infrastructure, including Novar Wind Farm to the west of the Section D alignment, and Beinn Tharsuinn Wind Farm to the east, as well as existing OHLs.

Landscape Designations and Protected Landscapes

7.3.2 Landscapes recognised for their natural beauty and scenic appeal may be designated at an international, national, or regional / local level, and are typically subject to protection by planning policy. Landscape designations are considered in the determination of the sensitivity of landscape and visual receptors as they provide an indication of value ascribed to the landscape or visual resource.

7.3.3 With reference to **Volume 3, Figure 7.2e-f: Section D Designated and Protected Landscapes**, the Proposed Development does not extend through any landscape designations, hence there would be no direct effects. Landscape designations and protected landscapes within wider parts of the Study Area that may be indirectly impacted by the Proposed Development have been identified as follows:

- National Context:
  - Dornoch Firth NSA; and
  - Rhiddoroch - Beinn Dearg - Ben Wyvis WLA.
- Regional / Local Context:
  - Fannichs, Beinn Dearg and Glencalvie SLA; and
  - Ben Wyvis SLA.

7.3.4 A detailed description of the landscape designations included within the assessment can be found in **Volume 5, Appendix 7.4: Assessment of Designated and Protected Landscapes**. A summary of their Special Qualities is provided below.

Dornoch Firth NSA

7.3.5 The Dornoch Firth NSA is located on the north-eastern part of the Study Area, 4.0 km to the east of the Proposed Development within Section D at the closest point. This encompasses the linear landscape along the Firth, which is enclosed by rounded hills with a ground cover consisting primarily of heather moor and scree. The lower slopes incorporate areas of woodland and plantation forestry, as well as areas of pasture and arable farmland. The coastal landscape is characterised by a series of bays, sandy beaches, flats, shallows and promontories.

Rhiddoroch - Beinn Dearg - Ben Wyvis WLA

7.3.6 The Rhiddoroch - Beinn Dearg - Ben Wyvis WLA extends between Ullapool in the north-west to the mountain of Ben Wyvis in the south-east, 450 m to the west of the Proposed Development within Section D at the closest point. It encompasses a complex composition of high and steep mountains within the central section, which transitions to cnocan and open peatland hills in the north, and rounded hills and plateaux in the south. The challenging terrain and quiet, uninhabited glens create a sense of isolation and wildness, albeit there are some isolated estate buildings and forestry activity on the outer edges. The area is primarily used for deer stalking, fishing and hydro-electric generation, as well as hill walking. It is also enjoyed in views from adjoining areas, including those from the A837 to the north.

Fannichs, Beinn Dearg and Glencalvie SLA

7.3.7 The Fannichs, Beinn Dearg and Glencalvie SLA covers an extensive area of mountains and moorland between Loch Glascarnoch and the head of Loch Broom, 6.4 km to the west of the Proposed Development within Section D. This encompasses a combination of rugged terrain, high summits enclosing sheltered glens with plantation and native woodland, as well as upland lochans. There is very limited habitation and access, which combine to create a sense of remoteness and solitude. The peaks and ridges in the northern and eastern parts of the SLA are characterised by more extensive areas of gentle slopes and high plateau summits.

Ben Wyvis SLA

7.3.8 This SLA covers the summit and foothills of Ben Wyvis, 2.6 km to the west of the Proposed Development within Section D. The area comprises ridges and cories, often snow-capped. Its bulk and profile make it stand out as a distinct landmark that is separate to the main mountain areas located further north and west. As such, it contributes to, and forms a backdrop to, views along the Moray Firth. Outward views from the summit incorporate varied elements, including large areas of arable land, as well as the industrial port at Invergordon, and drilling rigs within the Cromarty Firth. The SLA excludes the lower slopes of Ben Wyvis, which are characterised by commercial plantation operations.

7.3.9 The special qualities of the landscape designations and protected landscapes, as identified by the guidance documents listed in paragraph 7.2.5, are listed below in **Table 7.2**. Special qualities of specific relevance to the Proposed Development are highlighted in bold.

Table 7.2: Special Qualities of Designated and Protected Landscapes

Designation	Description
Dornoch Firth NSA	• **The contrast between the enclosed west and the expansive east.** • **Inhabited surrounds within a wilder backdrop of hills and moors.** • **A wide diversity of woodland cover.** • A rich variety of alluvial lands, dunes and links. • The ever-changing firth.

Designation	Description
	• **The tranquillity of an undeveloped coastline.** • Migdale, a microcosm of the wider Dornoch Firth.
Rhiddoroch - Beinn Dearg - Ben Wyvis WLA	• **A range of awe-inspiring massive, high rounded hills and plateaux, as well as steep rocky peaks and ridges, offering elevated panoramas.** • Long and deep penetrating glens with steep, arresting side slopes that limit views, some containing access routes and clearly influenced by estate management. • **A very large interior with a strong sense of remoteness and sanctuary that seems even more extensive where appearing to continue into neighbouring wild land areas.** • **Rocky hills, cnocan and peatland slopes that appear simple and awe-inspiring at a broad scale, but harbour intricate features at a local level, as well as a strong sense of sanctuary and solitude.**
Fannichs, Beinn Dearg and Glencalvie SLA	• **Rugged mountains and lonely glens and spectacular panoramic views.** • Impressive natural features.
Ben Wyvis SLA	• Dominant landmark and uninterrupted panoramas.

Landscape Character

7.3.10 With reference to NatureScot's National Landscape Character Assessment, LCTs within the Study Area are illustrated in **Volume 3, Figure 7.3e-f: Section D Landscape Character**. The Proposed Development would extend through parts of the following five LCTs, and result in direct effects in each case:

- 135 – Rounded Hills - Caithness & Sutherland LCT;
- 142 – Strath - Caithness & Sutherland LCT;
- 139 – Rugged Mountain Massif - Caithness & Sutherland LCT;
- 330 – Rounded Hills and Moorland Slopes - Ross & Cromarty LCT; and
- 341 – Forest Edge Farming LCT.

7.3.11 In addition, 10 other LCTs located within the Study Area, that may be indirectly impacted by the Proposed Development have been identified as follows:

- 335 – Wooded Glens and Rocky Moorland LCT;
- 345 – Farmed and Forested Slopes - Ross & Cromarty LCT;
- 145 – Farmed and Forested Slopes with Crofting LCT;
- 329 – Rounded Mountain Massif LCT;
- 347 – Open Steep Farmed Slopes LCT;
- 346 – Open Farmed Slopes LCT;
- 331 – Rounded Rocky Hills - Ross & Cromarty LCT;
- 340 – Strath - Ross & Cromarty LCT;
- 339 – Inland Strath LCT; and
- 342 – Farmed River Plains LCT.

7.3.12 Descriptions of these LCTs, including their key characteristics are included in **Annex 1**.

7.4 Baseline Conditions: Visual

Interpretation of the ZTV

7.4.1 With reference to **Volume 3, Figure 7.1e-f: Section D Zone of Theoretical Visibility**, which illustrates potential visibility across the 10 km Study Area, ZTV coverage is relatively widespread within approximately 5 km of the Proposed Development. Theoretical visibility of greater numbers of steel lattice towers is focused on the raised ridge at Cnoc Ceislsin (which reaches 523 m AOD) and Cnoc an t-Sithean Mor (at 659 m AOD).

7.4.2 At distances beyond 5 km, ZTV coverage is typically more fragmented, particularly towards the west, which coincides with more mountainous landscape. Across these areas, views of the Section D alignment would be subject to screening by intervening ridges and summits. Theoretical visibility of greater numbers of steel lattice towers is typically focused across the more elevated slopes at Glas Leathad Beag / Meall Nam Bradan Leathan, An t-Socach, and Tor Leathann. Conversely, the Proposed Development would be screened from the lower-lying valleys and glens.

7.4.3 Within the southern part of the Study Area, ZTV coverage encompasses parts of the Black Isle, indicating potential long distance views across the open water of the Cromarty Firth.

Visual Receptors

7.4.4 The visual baseline set out below draws from Ordnance Survey maps, aerial photographs, ZTV maps and field survey. The key visual receptors considered in this LVIA comprise:

- residents within settlements and isolated dwellings in closest proximity to the Proposed Development;
- road users / passengers on key transport routes, comprising A-roads, B-roads and rail lines;
- tourists visiting cultural heritage locations / outdoor locations where enjoyment of the view is one of the principal reasons for being at the location; and
- walkers / cyclists on promoted long-range recreational trails, Core Paths and national cycleways.

7.4.5 The following section identifies visual receptors within the Study Area that would experience potential views of the Proposed Development. Where distances to the Proposed Development are noted, these distances are measured from the visual receptor to the closest tower location. Although the overhead lines would also be visible, the towers would form the largest and most prominent part of the Proposed Development and would be visible from greater distances. Visual receptors are described in greater detail within **Annex 2**. Their locations are illustrated in **Volume 3, Figure 7.4i-l: Section D Visual Receptors**.

Settlements

7.4.6 Residential settlements within the Study Area are predominantly concentrated on coastal areas and low-lying farmland adjacent to Dornoch and Cromarty Firth. With reference to **Volume 3, Figure 7.4i-j: Section D Visual Receptors**, those located within the ZTV, where there may be views of the Proposed Development are as follows:

- Strathpeffer (SD-10), 2.4 km to the south-east;
- Swordale (SD-11), 2.4 km to the east;
- Dingwall (SD-12), 4.0 km to the south-east;
- Ardgay (SD-13), 4.1 km to the east;
- Evanton (SD-14), 4.2 km to the east;
- Jamestown (SD-15), 4.3 km to the south; and
- Contin (SD-16), 4.9 km to the south-west.

7.4.7 In addition to the main settlements, there are isolated farmsteads and dwellings scattered across the surrounding landscape. Isolated residential properties within closest proximity to the Proposed Development (within 500m of the Alignment) are listed below are located within the low-lying strath at Stath Conon, remote glens (west and north of Evanton) and in Strath Peffer, near Contin and Jamestown.

- Sonnycroft (SD-01), single-storey dwelling is located within Strathcarron, 210 m to the east of the Proposed Development;
- West End (SD-02), property located near Glen Glass, 220 m to the south-east of the Proposed Development;
- Cnoc Cluaran (SD-03), property located within Strathcarron, 290 m to the west of the Proposed Development;
- Glaik Croft, (SD-04), property near Boath (south of Strathrusdale) 290 m to the south of the Proposed Development;
- Fannyfield, (SD-05), property located to the west of Evanton, north of the River Sgitheach, 315 m to the east of the Proposed Development;
- Tighnacraig (SD-06), property located near Glen Glass, 340 m to the south-west of the Proposed Development;
- Culeave Cottage (SD-07), property within Strathcarron, 375 m to the south-west of the Proposed Development;
- Cairn View (SD-08), property within Strathcarron, 380 m to the west of the Proposed Development; and
- Leac Dubh Mor (SD-09), property within Strathcarron, 460 m to the west of the Proposed Development.

Transport Routes

7.4.8 Similar to residential settlements, the main transportation routes across the Study Area are generally aligned to straths and lower lying coastal areas, near the Dornoch Firth and Cromarty Firth. In addition, there are routes located within low lying areas in and around Strath Peffer and Strath Conon.

7.4.9 With reference to **Volume 3, Figure 7.4k-l: Section D Visual Receptors** those located within the ZTV, from which there may be views of the Proposed Development are as follows:

- Dingwall to Kyle of Lochalsh Rail Link (RD-03), the railway corridor extends along the valley of the River Peffery, 690 m to the south of the Proposed Development at the closest point;
- A834 (RD-05), this is a single carriageway road connects the A835 (Contin) with Dingwall via Strathpeffer, 2.4 km to the south of the Proposed Development at the closest point;
- A836 (RD-07), this is a single carriageway that links Ardgay with the A9, 4.3 km to the east of the Proposed Development at the closest point;
- A835 (RD-08), this is a single carriageway connects the Contin with Maryburgh, 4.4 km to the south of the Proposed Development at the closest point;
- A9 (RD-09), this is a single carriageway, connects Alness with the Black Isle, 5.0 km to the south-east of the Proposed Development at the closest point;
- B817 (RD-10), this is a single carriageway, connects Milton and Evanton, 5.3 km to the south-east of the Proposed Development at the closest point; and
- A832 (RD-11), this is a single carriageway connects A835 with Muir of Ord, 6.3 km to the south of the Proposed Development at the closest point.

7.4.10 Roads that are minor or unclassified but identified as potentially having considerable visibility towards the Proposed Development have been included and assessed along with other visual receptors. These comprise:

- Cadh an Tartair (RD-01), this is a minor road extending along Strathcarron (north of River Carron). At its closest point, this road extends directly under the Proposed Development (between Towers S38 and S39);
- Minor road to the south of River Carron (RD-02), this is a minor road extending along Strathcarron (south of River Carron. this road extends directly under the Proposed Development (between Towers S39 and S40);
- Smoogro Road (RD-04), this is a single-track road that extends west from Bottacks to Dingwall, via the Heights of Docharty, 1. 4 km to the south-east of the Proposed Development at the closest point; and
- Old Evanton Road (RD-06), this is a single-track road that connects Dingwall and Evanton, 4.2 km to the south-east of the Proposed Development at the closest point.

Recreational Routes

7.4.11 Recreational routes considered within the visual assessment include core paths, long-distance paths, and other commonly used / promoted walking or cycling routes. These routes are listed below in order of distance from the Proposed Development, and illustrated in **Volume 3, Figure 7.4k-l: Section D Visual Receptors**.

Core Paths

- River Carron SU03.06 (RD-12), follows the route of the River Carron. At its closest point, the route extends directly under the Proposed Development (near Tower S39).
- Mains of Coul RC10.03, (RD-15), connects Jameston with Contin in the west, via the Coul House Hotel estate. At its closest point, the route extends 4.8 km to the south of the Proposed Development (Tower S149);
- Kinellan link path RC10.07 (RD-16), located to the north-west of Loch Kinellan and extends north-west to Torrachilty Forest, 3.7 km to the south-west of Proposed Development at the closest point (Tower S149);
- Loch Kinellan circuit RC45.01 (RD-17), forms a loop around Loch Kinellan, to the north-west of Strathpeffer. The Proposed Development would be located 3.0 km to the north (Tower S149), at its closest point;
- View Rock RC10.01(RD-18), forms a loop within Torrachilty Forest, with access gained from the A834 at Black Water, 3.8 km to the south-west of the Proposed Development at its closest point (Tower S149);
- Swordale Hill RC10.01 (RD-19), forms a loop around Swordale Hill, to the west of Evanton, approx. 670 m to east of the Proposed Development at its closest point (Tower S121 is the closest);
- Strathpeffer - Jamestown (Blackmuir Woods) RC45.05 (RD-20), connects the southern edge of Strathpeffer with Jamestown, 3.6 km to the south of the Proposed Development at its closest point (Tower S149);
- Ord Wood west - Kinellan RC45.03 (RD-21), which connects Ord Wood East path with Loch Kinellan circuit, to the north-west of Strathpeffer, 2.9 km to the south of the Proposed Development at its closest point (Tower S149);
- Cornhill Curling Pond Circuit SU03.14 (RD-22), forms a loop within East Strathcarron Forest, near the River Carron, approx. 980 m to north-east of the Proposed Development at its closest point (Tower S38);
- Contin to Strathgarve RC10.06 (RD-23), connects the View Rock path in Torrachilty Forest to footpath RC10.02, 4.2 km to the south-west of the Proposed Development at its closest point;
- Torrachilty Woods RC10.04 (RD-24), forms a loop within Torrachilty Forest adjacent to Black Water, 4.3 km to the south-west of the Proposed Development at its closest point;
- Golf course - Ord Wood east RC45.07 (RD-25), forms a loop between the golf course and the north-western edge of Strathpeffer, 2.4 km to the south of the Proposed Development at its closest point;

- Blackmuir Woods - maze circular RC45.04 (RD-26), connects to path RC45.05 with Knockfarrel (maze to hill) via a loop in Blackmuir Woods, 3.5 km to the south of the Proposed Development at its closest point;
- Rogie Falls RC10.02 (RD-27), forms a loop between the A835 (car park) and Kinellan to Strathgarve path (within Torrachilty Forest), 4.0 km to the south-west of the Proposed Development at its closest point;
- Eagle Stone Path RC45.10 (RD-28), located at the northern edge of Strathpeffer, 2.6 km to the south of the Proposed Development at its closest point;
- Badvoon Forest, Allt Eiteachan Path SU03.05 (RD-29), located to south-west of Kincardine within Blar Garvary Forest,2.0 km to the east of the Proposed Development at its closest point;
- Badvoon Forest, Forest Road SU03.03 (RD-30), located to south-west Kincardine within Blar Garvary Forest, 2.0 km to the east of the Proposed Development at its closest point;
- Ardival - Catsback - Loch Ussie RC45.09 (RD-31), connects Strath View (at eastern edge of Strathpeffer) with footpath RC45.02, 3.0 km to the south of the Proposed Development at its closest point;
- Tollie to Lealty RC05.02 (RD-32), footpath located within Ardross Garden & Designed Landscape, 2.6 km to the east of the Proposed Development at its closest point;
- Culrain, via Invercharron Hill / Carbisdale SU03.01 (RD-33), connects Cornhill (near the River Carron) with Core Path SU08.02 Carbisdale, 2.5 km to the north-east of the Proposed Development at its closest point;
- River Carron SU03.11 (RD-34), follows the route of the River Carron (Dounie Estate) to the north of Lower Gledfield, 2 .9 km to the east of the Proposed Development at its closest point;
- Carron Bridge SU03.09 (RD-35), located to the east of Lower Gledfield, adjacent to the River Carron, 2.9 km to the east of the Proposed Development at its closest point;
- Knockfarrel (maze to hill) RC45.02 (RD-36), located on the slopes of Knock Farril between Blackmuir Woods - maze circular and Knockfarrel to Fodderty footpaths, 3.5 km to the south of the Proposed Development at its closest point;
- Dam Wood RC05.03 (RD-37), footpath located within woodland, near Ardross distillery, 3.2 km to the east of the Proposed Development at its closest point;
- Ardgayhill SU03.10 (RD-38), which forms a loop to the west of Ardgayhill, 3.3 km to the east of the Proposed Development at its closest point;
- Oldtown - Badvoon SU03.08 (RD-39), located to south-west of Kincardine, providing a link to Badvoon Forest, Link Path, 3.3 km to the east of the Proposed Development at its closest point;
- Badvoon Forest, Link Path SU03.04 (RD-40), to south-west Kincardine within Blar Garvary Forest, 3 .3 km to the east of the Proposed Development at its closest point;
- Knockfarrel to Fodderty RC13.05 (RD-41), accessed off the A834, near Fodderty, connecting to other local paths near Knockfarrel towards the south, 3.2 km to the south-east of the Proposed Development at its closest point;
- Black Rock Gorge RC16.05 (RD-42), located within Evanton Wood, adjacent to the River Glass, 3.8 km to the east of the Proposed Development at its closest point;
- Dublin to Ardross Mains RC05.04 (RD-43), located at the northern edge of Ardross Garden and Designed Landscape, 4.1 km to the east of the Proposed Development at its closest point;
- Evanton Woods RC16.06 (RD-44), located within Evanton Wood, adjacent to the River Glass, 4.0 km to the east of the Proposed Development at its closest point;
- Tulloch Lane-Dingwall RC13.02 (RD-45), located at the northern settlement edge of Dingwall, 4.0 km to the south-east of the Proposed Development at its closest point;
- Knockfarrel RC13.06 (RD-46), located to the west of Dingwall, linking to Knockfarrel to Fodderty path, 4.2 km to the south-east of the Proposed Development at its closest point; and

- Fyrish Path RC05.01 (RD-47), located with upland forestry to the north-west of Alness, 4.1 km to the east of the Proposed Development at its closest point.

Strathpeffer Walking and Cycling Routes

- RD-13 forms a series of serpentine paths within Torrachilty Forest. At the closest point, the paths are located 3.3 km to the south of the Proposed Development (Tower S149); and
- RD-14 comprises paths within forested areas to the north of Strathpeffer Golf Course, extending northwards towards Peffrey Burn. At the closest point the paths are located 810 m to the south of the Proposed Development (Tower S149).

North Coast 500

- The North Coast 500 (RD-48) is routed within the Study Area between Muir of Ord in the south-west and Alness in the east, approximately 5.0 km to the south-east of the Proposed Development at its closest point.

National Cycle Routes

- Inverness to John O' Groats Cycle Trail (RD-49), This path is routed through the Study Area between Alness and Conon Bridge, approximately 5.0 km to the south-east of the Proposed Development at its closest point.

Outdoor Locations

7.4.12 Outdoor visitor attractions / destinations have been included where views of the landscape is considered an important component for being at the outdoor location. The assessment focuses on those within closest proximity to the Proposed Development (within 3 km of the alignment). These outdoor locations are illustrated in **Volume 3, Figure 7.4i-j Section D Visual Receptors**, as listed below:

- Strathpeffer Golf Course (OD-01), located at the north-western edge of Strathpeffer, 2.1 km to the south of the Proposed Development at its closest point;
- Loch Morrie (OD-02), located within open moorland, south-west of Strathrusdale, approx. 890 m to the west of the Proposed Development at its closest point;
- Dounie Estate (OD-03), located near the River Carron, approx. 900 m to the east of the Proposed Development at its closest point;
- Gledfield House and Estate (OD-04), located within Strathcarron, approx. 2.0 km to the east of the Proposed Development at its closest point;
- Neil Gunn Memorial (OD-05), located at the Heights of Brae, north-east of Strathpeffer, approx. 2.3 km to the south-west of the Proposed Development at its closest point;
- Loch Glass (OD-06), located to the north-east of Ben Wyvis, approx. 3.0 km to the west of the Proposed Development at its closest point;
- Ardross Castle (OD-07), located within Strathrusdale, approx. 3.6 km to the east of the Proposed Development at its closest point;
- Pink House (Loch Glass) (OD-08), located 3.8 km to the west of the Proposed Development at its closest point; and
- Cnoc Fyrish Monument (OD-09), located to the north-west of Alness, 4.2 km to the east of the Proposed Development at its closest point.

Future Baseline

7.4.13 The baseline landscape and visual resource of the Study Area is predicted to undergo some continued minor development (new properties / housing extensions, or similar), in combination with ongoing changes to forestry

/ tree cover. However, these activities are not anticipated to result in notable change to the landscape characteristics of the Study Area or visual amenity and are therefore not considered further.

7.4.14 Conversely, larger-scale development with the potential to exert more notable influence on the future landscape and baseline resource within the Study Area has been identified in the form of wind energy development. This comprises the consented Meall Buidhe Wind Farm (20/02659?FUL / PPA-270-2277) comprising eight turbines, 144.5 - 149.9 m to tip), consented Strathrory Wind Farm Redesign (22/02442/FUL), which comprises seven turbines, 149.5 – 180 m to tip, as well as the proposed Abhainn Dubh Wind Farm (23/02754/S36), incorporating nine turbines, up to 149.9 m to tip, and proposed Knockbain Farm Wind Turbine Repowering (24/03379/FUL) comprising one turbine, 89.5 m to tip. Due to the scale of these developments (with reference to their spread and vertical height), they are anticipated to result in changes to local landscape character and visual amenity. In addition to these schemes, there are further energy-related proposals within the Study Area at pre-planning stages. The potential effects are considered further within the assessment of cumulative effects.

7.5 Assessment of Likely Significant Effects: Landscape

7.5.1 This section assesses the likely effects of the Proposed Development on relevant LCTs, and designated and protected landscapes during the construction and operational phases. This follows the significance of effects criteria outlined in the methodology (refer to **Volume 5, Appendix 7.2: LVIA Methodology**). The assessment begins with LCTs, which informs the subsequent evaluation of effects on designated and protected landscapes.

7.5.2 The detailed assessment of effects for each LCT is described within **Annex 1**. The detailed assessment of effects on designated and protected landscapes is provided **in Volume 5, Appendix 7.4: Assessment of Designated and Protected Landscapes**. In each case, the key effects are summarised below.

Assessment of Effects on Landscape Character – Effects likely to be Significant

The detailed assessment of landscape character has considered 15 separate LCTs, as illustrated in **Volume 3, Figure 7.3e-f: Section D Landscape Character**. Likely significant effects have been identified across localised parts of the following:

- LCT 135 – Rounded Hills - Caithness & Sutherland;
- LCT 142 – Strath - Caithness & Sutherland;
- LCT 139 – Rugged Mountain Massif - Caithness & Sutherland;
- LCT 330 – Rounded Hills and Moorland Slopes - Ross & Cromarty;
- LCT 341 – Forest Edge Farming; and
- LCT 329 – Rounded Mountain Massif.

LCT 135 – Rounded Hills - Caithness & Sutherland

7.5.3 LCT 135 – Rounded Hills - Caithness & Sutherland coincides with the northern-most part of Section D (between Strathcarron and Meall Bhenneit). This equates to approximately 8.1 km of the Section D alignment (Towers S40-S42 and S46-S67). Refer to Viewpoints 7-46 Loch Laro, 7-53 Lower Hilton and 7-54 (A and B) Clashcoig (Lochbuidhe Road).

7.5.4 Construction works would involve very localised forestry felling at West Dounie to create a wayleave for the alignment, and the establishment of temporary access tracks to facilitate construction of the new towers. The construction stage activities, including vehicular movement and the presence of worker activity would reduce the sense of remoteness. These works would be partly screened / back-clothed by forestry at Blar Garvary from surrounding parts of the LCT. A **Major-Moderate Adverse** (significant) effect is predicted along a linear corridor within 700-800 m of the works, due to the open nature of the moorland landscape. At greater distances, the

construction activities would represent more discreet elements in the background landscape. Accordingly, across the wider LCT, the effects would be **Moderate-Minor Adverse** (not significant).

7.5.5 During operation, the steel lattice towers would represent a new linear element within the landscape. The towers would predominantly extend across open moorland, albeit would be partly contained by the forestry at Blar Garvary to the east. Within the most open views from the 'scarcely settled' and 'largely uninhabited interior' of the LCT, the Proposed Development would represent a new element of human influence within the landscape. However, the rolling hill slopes would restrict views of the towers across more distant parts of the LCT 135. The main effects would be focused within a linear corridor along the alignment. Given the open nature of the local moorland landscape, this would extend out to approximately 700-800 m from the towers where the effect would be **Major-Moderate Adverse** (significant). At greater distances, the alignment would typically represent a more discreet element in the background landscape. Accordingly, across the wider LCT 135, the effects would be **Moderate-Minor Adverse** (not significant).

LCT 142 – Strath - Caithness & Sutherland

7.5.6 This LCT is focused upon the low-lying river valley of Strathcarron at the northern-most end of Section D. This coincides with a very localised part of the Section D alignment, approximately 900 m in length, comprising two towers (Towers S38 and S39). Refer to Viewpoints 7-47 A837 (near Inveran) to 7-52 A836 (west of Balblair) (within the Kyle of Sutherland), and 7-60 Gruinards (west of Dounie) (in Strathcarron).

7.5.7 Construction works would include localised forestry felling on the upper slopes of Strathcarron to create a wayleave for the alignment, as well as additional felling to ensure a wind-firm edge to the retained forestry in the surrounding area. As described within **Annex 1**, this additional felling would be focused at Tower S38 (on its northern side only, where it would be contained within 300 m of the alignment), and between Towers S39-S40 (contained within 100 m of the alignment). The construction works would also involve the creation of short sections of temporary and permanent tracks (approximately 220 m temporary track, and 310 m permanent track). The most open views of the works would be focused upon the more open strath floor, where the construction activities would contrast with the existing agricultural landuse. A **Major-Moderate Adverse** (significant) effect is predicted within 600-700 m of the works, due to the open nature of the moorland landscape. At greater distances, the construction activities would be screened / back-clothed by surrounding tree cover and woodland, and represent more discreet elements in the background landscape. Accordingly, across the wider LCT, the effects would be **Moderate-Minor Adverse** (not significant).

7.5.8 Once operational, the Section D alignment would introduce two towers to this LCT, and represent a new element within views along the valley. However, the Section D alignment would extend directly across the strath (rather than along it), thereby limiting the number of towers required. The strath landform would essentially screen parts of the Section D alignment south of Strathcarron. In summary, **a Major-Moderate Adverse** (significant) effect is predicted within 600-700 m of the alignment. At greater distances, the alignment would typically represent a more discreet element in the background landscape. Accordingly, across the wider LCT 142, the effects would be **Moderate-Minor Adverse** (not significant).

LCT 139 – Rugged Mountain Massif - Caithness & Sutherland

7.5.9 This LCT comprises high rugged mountains that rise up on the southern side of Strathcarron, at the northern end of Section D. This coincides with a very localised part of the Section D alignment, approximately 900 m in length, comprising three towers (Towers S43-S45).

7.5.10 Construction works would extend across open moorland on the eastern edge of this LCT. The vehicular movement and works activities would contrast with the more natural and wild characteristics of this LCT. However, they would be experienced within a large-scale landscape context. The influence of the construction

activities would diminish across central and western parts of this LCT (west of Carn a' Chlaiginn). The key effects would be focused on the eastern edge of this LCT, accounting for a linear area within approximately 700-800 m of the works, where a **Major Adverse** (significant) effect is predicted. At greater distances, the influence of the construction activities would be reduced due to the screening influence of the intervening slopes and summits. Accordingly, across the wider LCT 139, the effects would be **Moderate-Minor Adverse** (not significant).

7.5.11 Once operational, the steel lattice towers would combine to form a new linear element within the landscape, along the eastern edge of this LCT. The Proposed Development would also exert an indirect influence on landscape character based on views of the alignment in the wider landscape to the north-east and south-east. The towers would contrast with the more natural and wild characteristics of this LCT. However, the intervening slopes and summits would restrict views of the towers across more distant parts of the LCT 139 further to the west, (as illustrated by the fragmented ZTV coverage). Potential visibility from the lower-lying slopes and glens would be extremely limited. In summary, a **Major Adverse** (significant) effect is predicted within 700-800 m of the alignment. At greater distances, west of Carn a' Chlaiginn, the alignment would be subject to screening based on the intervening slopes and summits. Accordingly, across the wider LCT 139, the effects would be **Moderate-Minor Adverse** (not significant).

LCT 330 – Rounded Hills and Moorland Slopes - Ross & Cromarty

7.5.12 This LCT encompasses extensive parts of Caithness and Sutherland, and coincides with the majority of the Proposed Development within Section D (comprising a total length of approximately 25.6 km (including Towers S68-S95, S98-S111, and S114-S149).

7.5.13 Construction works would involve localised forestry felling at intervals along Section D to create a wayleave for the alignment, and additional felling to ensure a wind-firm edge to the retained forestry in the surrounding area. As described within **Annex 1**, this additional felling would be focused at Towers S76-S77, S79-S80, and S88-S90 (where it would be contained within 500-600 m of the alignment), and intermittent parcels between Towers S93-S94 and S114-S122 (typically contained within 100-200 m of the alignment, extending out to a maximum of approximately 250 m). The construction works would also involve the establishment of temporary and permanent access tracks to facilitate construction of the new towers. Existing forestry tracks would be utilised where practicable to reduce the extent of new tracks required. The works would be screened along lengthy parts of Section D by retained forestry in the surrounding area, in combination with the characteristic 'rounded hills'. The key effects would be along a linear area within approximately 700 m of the works, where a **Major-Moderate Adverse** (significant) effect is predicted. At greater distances, the influence of the construction activities would be reduced due to the intervening screening. Accordingly, across the wider LCT 330, the effects would be **Moderate-Minor Adverse** (not significant).

7.5.14 Once operational, the steel lattice towers would represent a new linear element extending approximately 25.6 km north-south through this LCT. The towers would be spatially separate from the more remote interior parts of this LCT where 'wildness characteristics' are more prevalent. The surrounding forestry and rounded hills that characterise this LCT would restrict views of the towers across more distant parts of the LCT 330. In summary, a **Major-Moderate Adverse** (significant) effect is predicted within approximately 700 m of the alignment. Accordingly, across the wider LCT 330, the effects would be **Moderate-Minor Adverse** (not significant).

LCT 341 – Forest Edge Farming

7.5.15 This LCT encompasses spatially separate parts of the Section D Study Area. This includes the LCT area on the northern side of the Cromarty Firth that coincides with a 590 m section near Boath (including Towers S96 and S97), as well as 580 m section at Glen Glass (including Towers S112 and S113), and a 130 m section between

Towers S122 and S123 at Fannyfield (the towers would be located outside of this LCT). Refer to Viewpoints 7-64 Ardross (east) to 7-63 Ardross Distillery, 7-65 Boath, 7-68 Redburn, 7-70 Milton Lodge, 7-76 Loch Kinellan and 7-87 Aultgowrie.

7.5.16 Construction works would include tree felling within areas of forestry and woodland to create a wayleave for the alignment, as well as additional felling to ensure a wind-firm edge to the retained forestry in the surrounding area. As described within **Annex 1**, this additional felling would be focused at Towers S112 and S113 on the outer edges of Glen Glass, and an extremely localised parcel between Towers S122 and S123 near Fannyfield (contained within 100 m of the alignment in each case). The construction works would also involve the introduction of temporary and permanent access tracks. This would occur in localised areas south-west of Boath, on the northern slopes at Glen Glass, and west of Fannyfield. The construction activities and vehicle movements would contrast with the traditional agricultural landuse within this LCT and the more natural characteristics of the local landscape. However, the influence of these activities on the wider LCT 341 would be restricted by intervening tree cover and landform. The key effects would be focused across three localised areas of this LCT; those located within 700-800 m of the alignment on its north-eastern side near Boath, and those within 400 – 700 m of the alignment north of Glen Glass, due to the screening effect of forestry and tree cover . The effects on these areas during construction would be **Major-Moderate Adverse** (significant). Across the wider LCT 341, the effects would be **Moderate-Minor Adverse** (not significant).

7.5.17 During operation, the Proposed Development would introduce two towers on the northern slopes at Glen Glass, as well as two towers and approximately 2.1 km of permanent access track south-west of Boath. Within these areas, there would also be views of adjoining towers, extending north / south along the wider Section D alignment (outside this LCT, but exerting indirect effects on local landscape character). As above, the key effects would be focused across localised areas of the LCT 341; those located within 700-800 m of the alignment on its north-eastern side near Boath, and those within 400 – 700 m of the alignment north of Glen Glass, due to the screening effect of forestry and tree cover. The effects on these areas during operation would be **Major-Moderate Adverse** (significant). The influence of the Section D alignment upon other parts of this LCT would be reduced based on the increasing separation distance and intervening screening. Across the wider LCT 341, the effects would be **Minor Adverse** (not significant).

LCT 329 – Rounded Mountain Massif

7.5.18 This LCT occurs in two spatially separate parts of the Section D Study Area. The larger LCT area encompasses Glen Glass and the surrounding mountains to the south, within 170m to the west of the alignment (Tower S103). The other LCT area is centred on Carn an Lochan / Carn Maire, 3.8 km to the west of Section D. The effects on this LCT would be **indirect**, based on views. Refer to Viewpoints 7-66 Loch Glass and 7-67 Ben Wyvis.

7.5.19 The key effects would be focused on the eastern edge of the LCT area at Glen Glass (in closest proximity to the Proposed Development). There would be views of the construction activities from the summits of Meall an Leathaid, including localised forestry felling and vehicle movements. There would also be views of construction activities from the summits of Cnoc Gille Mo Bhrianaig and Bendeallt, although these parts of the LCT are already influenced by the operational Novar Wind Farm, which would remain a prominent element within the locality. The influence of construction activities would diminish across wider parts of this LCT, where they would represent a minor component within the vast scale of the receiving landscape. The key effects would be focused on the eastern edge of this LCT, comprising localised areas within approximately 900 m of the works, where a **Major Adverse** (significant) effect is predicted. Across the wider LCT 329, the effects would be **Moderate-Minor Adverse** (not significant).

7.5.20 Once operational, the key effects would remain focused on the eastern edge of this LCT, comprising the summits east of Glen Glass (Meall an Leathaid, Cnoc Gille Mo Bhrianaig and Bendeallt). The Proposed Development would introduce steel lattice towers to the nearby landscape (just outside the LCT), which would form new components within the local landscape. There would also be views of the wider Section D alignment extending north and south from elevated vantage points. The influence of the Proposed Development would diminish across more distant westerly parts of the LCT based on the increasing distance of view, the intervening landform, and the presence of Novar Wind Farm in front of the Section D alignment. In summary, from the summits and slopes east of Glen Glass, within approximately 900 m of the alignment (Towers S92-S109), the effects during operation would be **Major Adverse** (significant). Across the wider LCT 329 the effects would be **Moderate-Minor Adverse** (not significant).

Assessment of Effects on Landscape Character – Effects likely to be Not Significant

7.5.21 Landscape effects for all other LCTs within the Study Area have been identified as not significant during construction and operation. This includes:

- LCT 335 – Wooded Glens and Rocky Moorland;
- LCT 345 – Farmed and Forested Slopes - Ross & Cromarty;
- LCT 145 – Farmed and Forested Slopes with Crofting;
- LCT 347 – Open Steep Farmed Slopes;
- LCT 346 – Open Farmed Slopes;
- LCT 331 – Rounded Rocky Hills - Ross & Cromarty;
- LCT 340 – Strath - Ross & Cromarty;
- LCT 339 – Inland Strath; and
- LCT 342 – Farmed River Plains LCT.

7.5.22 In each case, these LCTs are spatially separate from the Proposed Development within Section D, and would undergo no direct, physical change. Indirect effects based on potential views of the Proposed Development would be limited based on their spatial separation from the construction activities and the new alignment, in combination with the presence of intervening screening elements, and / or existing OHL in the foreground.

7.5.23 During construction and operation, **Moderate-Minor Adverse** (not significant) effects are predicted for LCT 345 – Farmed and Forested Slopes - Ross & Cromarty, LCT 346 – Open Farmed Slopes, LCT 331 – Rounded Rocky Hills - Ross & Cromarty, and LCT 342 – Farmed River Plains. **Moderate-Minor Adverse** (not significant) effects are predicted for LCT 145 – Farmed and Forested Slopes with Crofting,

7.5.24 During construction and operation **Moderate-Minor Adverse** (not significant) effects are predicted for the LCT 347 – Open Steep Farmed Slopes, and, LCT 339 – Inland Strath. Whilst the construction activities and new alignment would represent recognisable new features in the wider landscape, they would be unlikely to alter the overriding landscape characteristics of these LCTs. **Moderate-Minor Adverse** (not significant) effects are also predicted during operation for LCT 335 – Wooded Glens and Rocky Moorland; whilst those during construction would be **Negligible** (not significant).

7.5.25 A **Minor Adverse** (not significant) effect is predicted for LCT 340 – Strath - Ross & Cromarty, which is located at a minimum distance of 6.0 km from the Proposed Development. ZTV coverage is very limited across this LCT, meaning that large areas would be completely unaffected as a result of the construction activities or the new alignment.

Assessment of Effects on Designated and Protected Landscapes

7.5.26 The detailed assessment of designated and protected landscapes has considered four distinct areas (one NSA, one WLA, and two SLAs), as illustrated in **Volume 3, Figures 7.2-5 and 7.2-6: Section D Designated and Protected Landscapes**. This includes consideration of potential effects with reference to their Special Qualities. The identified effects are summarised below.

Dornoch Firth NSA

7.5.27 The Dornoch Firth NSA is located on the north-eastern part of the Study Area, 4.0 km east of the Proposed Development in Section D. The NSA encompasses the linear landscape along the firth, comprising a series of bays and sandy beaches, as well as areas of farmland enclosed by rounded hills with a ground cover consisting of woodland / forestry, heather moor and scree. The landscape sensitivity of this NSA is considered to be **High-Medium**, as identified in the sensitivity analysis for the coinciding LCTs. This is reflective of the high value of the NSA, coupled with the slightly reduced susceptibility to change based on intervening forestry and OHLs.

7.5.28 There would be no direct, physical change to the landscape within the NSA as a result of the Proposed Development. Instead, potential effects would be indirect based upon the availability of views of the construction activities and new alignment (refer to Viewpoints 7-56 Bonar Bridge to 7-59 A836 Kincardine). The construction activities would be experienced at distance and would be subject to screening by forestry extending across the upper slopes around the Firth. Once operational, the tops of the towers at the northern end of Section D would be visible on the skyline from more open vantage points within the NSA on the northern side of the Firth. The towers would represent relatively discreet additions to the background landscape enclosing the wider firth and would be geographically separate from the coastline.

7.5.29 During construction and operation, **Moderate-Minor Adverse** (not significant) effects are predicted for the north-western parts of the Dornoch Firth NSA. These effects would steadily diminish across more easterly parts of the NSA (at greater distance from the Proposed Development) and on the southern side of the Firth (where views would be restricted by the intervening landform). Large parts of the NSA in these areas would be completely unaffected. In summary, there would be no significant effects upon the Special Qualities of the NSA and its integrity would not therefore be compromised.

Rhiddoroch - Beinn Dearg - Ben Wyvis WLA

7.5.30 The Rhiddoroch - Beinn Dearg - Ben Wyvis WLA is located 450 m west of the Proposed Development in Section D at the closest point (Tower S50). The WLA encompasses a complex composition of high and steep mountains within central parts, which transitions to cnocan and open peatland hills in the north. The challenging terrain and quiet, uninhabited glens are recognised for their sense of isolation and wildness. The landscape sensitivity of this WLA is considered to be High, with reference to the sensitivity analysis for the coinciding LCTs. This is reflective of the high susceptibility to change of the type proposed, particularly across more remote interior areas. Refer to Viewpoint 7-67 Ben Wyvis.

7.5.31 There would be no direct, physical change to the landscape within the WLA as a result of the Proposed Development. Potential views of the construction activities and new steel lattice towers would be focused on the eastern edge of the WLA, in particular the slopes and summits of Cnoc a' Bhreac Leathaid, Carn a Chlaiginn and Carn an Laith-bhaid. From these areas the construction works / vehicle movements and the introduction of the towers would contrast with the wild and remote qualities of the landscape. However, the Proposed Development would be experienced in the context of commercial forestry, within a receiving landscape of vast scale. The influence of the Proposed Development would diminish steadily across other parts of the WLA at increased distance.

7.5.32 During construction and operation, a **Major-Moderate Adverse** (significant) effect is predicted for the outer-most 400-500 m of the WLA to the east of Cnoc a' Bhreac Leathaid, Carn a Chlaiginn and Carn an Laith-bhaid. This would account for an area of approximately 250 ha, within a WLA that encompasses a total landmass of 90,466 ha (equating to less than 0.3%). The effects would diminish steadily across western parts of the WLA at increased distance from the Section D alignment. The overall effect would be **Moderate-Minor Adverse** (not significant) during construction and operation. The effects upon more remote interior parts of the WLA (comprising the majority of the WLA) would be extremely limited, and completely absent across lower lying slopes and glens, where there would be no views and no effect. Accordingly, it is assessed that the integrity of the WLA would not be compromised.

Fannichs, Beinn Dearg and Glencalvie SLA

7.5.33 The Fannichs, Beinn Dearg and Glencalvie SLA covers an extensive area of mountains and moorland, 6.4 km west of the Proposed Development in Section D at the closest point (Tower S50). This encompasses rugged terrain, high summits enclosing sheltered glens with plantation and native woodland, as well as upland lochans. The lack of habitation and access within the SLA is recognised as contributing to its sense of remoteness and solitude. The landscape sensitivity of the SLA is considered to be High-Medium, with reference to the sensitivity analysis for the coinciding LCTs.

7.5.34 ZTV coverage across the SLA is extremely limited, and focused on a small number of isolated summits. From these very localised areas, potential views of the temporary construction activities and the towers during the operational phase would be restricted by the distance of view, in combination with the screening influence of intervening mountains and the scale of the receiving landscape. The effect on the Fannichs, Beinn Dearg and Glencalvie SLA would be **Minor Adverse** (not significant) during construction and operation. Across the vast majority of the SLA there would be no views and no effect. In summary, there would be no significant effects upon the Special Qualities of the SLA, and its integrity would not be compromised.

Ben Wyvis SLA

7.5.35 The Ben Wyvis SLA is located 2.6 km west of the Proposed Development in Section D at the closest point (Tower S149). The SLA is centred on the summit of Ben Wyvis, and encompasses the surrounding summits and foothills. Its spatial separation from the other mountains to the north means that it stands out as a key feature in the wider landscape, and forms the backdrop to many views.

7.5.36 ZTV coverage across the SLA is fragmented and focused on the slopes and summits on its eastern side including Glas Leathad Beag, Meall na Drochaide, Meall nan Tunn, and Meall an t-Slugain Duibh, as well as the highest summits further west including Ben Wyvis and Little Wyvis. From these areas the construction works / vehicle movements and the introduction of the towers would contrast with the more remote qualities of the landscape (refer to Viewpoint 7-67 Ben Wyvis). However, the Proposed Development would be located in the spatially separate, lower-lying forested landscape to the east, and would be experienced within wide-sweeping panoramas within a receiving landscape of vast scale. The influence of the Proposed Development would diminish further across western parts of the SLA, where views would be increasingly screened by the intervening landform.

7.5.37 The main effects would be focused across the eastern edge of the SLA, in closest proximity to the Proposed Development. The effect would be **Moderate-Minor Adverse** (not significant) during construction and operation. The effects upon western parts of the SLA, west of Ben Wyvis, would reduce abruptly. With reference to the ZTV, there would be no views of the Proposed Development from these areas, and no effect. In summary, there would be no significant effects upon the Special Qualities of the SLA, and its integrity would not be compromised.

Summary of Landscape Effects

7.5.38 A summary of effects on LCTs, and designated and protected landscapes within the Study Area is presented in **Table 7.3** during construction and **Table 7.4** during operation. The symbol 'L' is used to denote effects that would be localised in nature.

Table 7.3: Summary of Effects During Construction

Landscape Effector	Beneficial Effect					Adverse Effect					
	Major	Major-Mod	Mod	Mod-Minor	Minor	Neg	Minor	Mod-Minor	Mod	Major-Mod	Major
LCT 135 – Rounded Hills - Caithness & Sutherland								•		L	
LCT 142 – Strath - Caithness & Sutherland								•		L	
LCT 139 – Rugged Mountain Massif - Caithness & Sutherland								•			L
LCT 330 – Rounded Hills and Moorland Slopes - Ross & Cromarty								•		L	
LCT 341 – Forest Edge Farming LCT								•		L	
LCT 335 – Wooded Glens and Rocky Moorland							•				
LCT 345 – Farmed and Forested Slopes - Ross & Cromarty								•			
LCT 145 – Farmed and Forested Slopes with Crofting								•			
LCT 329 – Rounded Mountain Massif								•			L
LCT 347 – Open Steep Farmed Slopes								•			
LCT 346 – Open Farmed Slopes						•	•				
LCT 331 – Rounded Rocky Hills - Ross & Cromarty							•	•			
LCT 340 – Strath - Ross & Cromarty							•				
LCT 339 – Inland Strath								•			
LCT 342 – Farmed River Plains								•			
Dornoch Firth NSA								•			
Rhiddoroch - Beinn Dearg - Ben Wyvis WLA								•		L	
Fannichs, Beinn Dearg and Glencalvie SLA							•				
Ben Wyvis SLA								•			

Table 7.4: Summary of Effects during Operation

Landscape Effector	Beneficial Effect					Adverse Effect					
	Major	Major-Mod	Mod	Mod-Minor	Minor	Neg	Minor	Mod-Minor	Mod	Major-Mod	Major
LCT 135 – Rounded Hills - Caithness & Sutherland								•		L	
LCT 142 – Strath - Caithness & Sutherland								•		L	
LCT 139 – Rugged Mountain Massif - Caithness & Sutherland								•			L
LCT 330 – Rounded Hills and Moorland Slopes - Ross & Cromarty								•		L	
LCT 341 – Forest Edge Farming LCT								•		L	
LCT 335 – Wooded Glens and Rocky Moorland							•				
LCT 345 – Farmed and Forested Slopes - Ross & Cromarty								•			
LCT 145 – Farmed and Forested Slopes with Crofting								•			
LCT 329 – Rounded Mountain Massif								•			L
LCT 347 – Open Steep Farmed Slopes								•			
LCT 346 – Open Farmed Slopes						•	•				
LCT 331 – Rounded Rocky Hills - Ross & Cromarty							•	•			
LCT 340 – Strath - Ross & Cromarty							•				
LCT 339 – Inland Strath								•			
LCT 342 – Farmed River Plains								•			
Dornoch Firth NSA								•			
Rhiddoroch - Beinn Dearg - Ben Wyvis WLA								•		L	
Fannichs, Beinn Dearg and Glencalvie SLA						•					
Ben Wyvis SLA							•				

7.6 Assessment of Likely Significant Effects: Visual

7.6.1 The detailed assessment of likely effects on the visual amenity of residential settlements, transport routes, recreational routes, and individuals at outdoor viewing locations is presented in **Annex 2**. Predicted effects are summarised below with an emphasis on predicted significant effects.

Settlements (Residential Receptors)

7.6.2 With reference to **Figure 7.4i-j: Section D Visual Receptors**, nine isolated properties and seven settlements were included in the visual assessment. Likely significant effects are identified for all nine of the residential

properties assessed. The effects at all seven settlements are assessed as not significant. The key effects are summarised below.

SD-01: Sonnycroft

7.6.3 View of the construction works and introduction of the steel lattice towers would be experienced at close proximity to the west, filtered by intervening scrub vegetation. Tower S38 is the closest and would be viewed at an oblique angle at approx. 210 m distance. There would be views of Proposed Development at close range to the west, partially visible against the background landscape. In views to the south-west the Proposed Development would be visible predominantly against the background landscape, within Strathcarron. This would result in **Major-Adverse** effects (significant).

SD-02: West End

7.6.4 Views of the construction works and introduction of the steel lattice towers would be experienced at close proximity and at an oblique angle, in views to the west and south-west, Towers S112 and S133 are the closest, at approx. 270 m and 290 m distance respectively. Views of ground-based construction activity to the north-west would be filtered by intervening tree cover. There would be views of the Proposed Development at close range, predominantly against the background landscape, in views to the west and south-west. There would be filtered and partially screen views of the Proposed Development to the north and north-west, against the combination of the background sky and landscape. This would result in **Major-Adverse effects** (significant).

SD-03: Cnoc Cluaran

7.6.5 There would be oblique views of the construction works and introduction of the steel lattice towers to the east. Tower S38 is the closest, at approx. 290 m. The Proposed Development would be visible at close range, predominantly against the background sky in views to the east, filtered by a curtilage vegetation. In wider views to the south-east, beyond Strathcarron (up to distances of 2.5 km), there would be Proposed Development would be visible predominantly against the background sky, filtered by intervening tree cover and would consist of the upper parts of the transmission towers, greater visibility within areas of moorland. This would result in **Major-Adverse effects** (significant).

SD-04: Glaik Croft

7.6.6 The construction works and introduction of the steel lattice towers would be experienced at close range, on elevated ground to the south, south-east and south-west. (Tower S96 is the closest at 290 m). The Proposed Development would be visible at close range predominantly against the background sky, due to the nature of the elevated landform to the south, south-east and south-west. Views to the south-west would partial screened by an adjacent shed building and curtilage vegetation. Views to the west and north-west would be partially screened by intervening landform, with the Proposed Development predominately visible against the background sky. This would result in **Major-Adverse effects** (significant).

SD-05: Fannyfield

7.6.7 Views of the construction works and introduction of the steel lattice towers would be experienced at close proximity, partially screened by forestry, to the west, south-west and north-west. (Tower S123 is the closest at approx. 315 m to the west). Views of ground-based construction work to the north-west would be limited due to screening effect of plantation forestry in the foreground. The Proposed Development would be visible to west and north-west, partially screened by adjacent shed building and forestry, against the background sky. To the south-west, the Proposed Development would be visible against a combination of background landscape and sky and to the north-west against the background sky, partial screened by planation forestry. This would result in **Major-Moderate** Adverse effects (significant).

SD-06: Tighnacriag

7.6.8 The construction works and introduction of the steel lattice towers would be experienced at close proximity, in views to the east, north-east and south-east. (Tower S113 is the closest at 340 m). Views of ground-based construction work to the north-east and south-east be more limited due to screening effect of intervening plantation forestry in the foreground. The Proposed Development would be visible to east and south, against both the background landscape and sky, partially screened by intervening forestry. In views to the north-west, the Proposed Development would be visible predominantly against the background sky and to the south-east against a combination of the background landscape and sky. This would result in **Major-Moderate Adverse** effects (significant).

SD-07: Culeave Cottage

7.6.9 There would be oblique views of the construction works and introduction of the steel lattice towers in views to the east. Tower S38 is the closest, at approx. 375 m. The Proposed Development would be visible predominantly against the sky in views to the east, filtered by a curtilage vegetation and intervening tree cover in farmland. In views to the south-east, the Proposed Development would be visible against the combination of the background landscape and sky, filtered by intervening tree cover. The clearest views would be experienced during winter months due to leaf fall. This would result in **Major -Moderate Adverse** effects (significant).

SD-08: Cairn View

7.6.10 There would be oblique views of the construction works and introduction of the steel lattice towers in views to the east. Tower S38 is the closest, at approx. 380 m. The Proposed Development would be visible at close range, predominantly against the background sky in views to the east, filtered by a curtilage vegetation. In wider views to the south-east, beyond Strathcarron (up to distances of 2.5 km), the Proposed Development would be visible predominantly against the background sky, filtered by intervening tree cover. The clearest views would be experienced during winter months due to leaf fall. This would result in **Major-Moderate Adverse** effects (significant).

SD-09: Leac Dubh Mor

7.6.11 There would be oblique views of the construction works and introduction of the steel lattice towers in views to the east. Tower S38 is the closest, at approx. 460 m. The Proposed Development would be visible at close range, predominantly against the background sky in views to the east, filtered by a curtilage vegetation. In wider views to the south-east, beyond Strathcarron (up to distances of 2.5 km), the Proposed Development would be visible predominantly against the background sky. The clearest views would be experienced during winter months due to leaf fall. This would result in **Major -Moderate Adverse** effects (significant).

Other Settlements

7.6.12 **No significant effects** are identified from any settlements within the Study Area due to their spatial separation from the Proposed Development, in combination with the screening influence of intervening landform and tree cover. The visual effect experienced by residents within the settlements of Strathpeffer (SD-10), Swordale (SD-11), Dingwall (SD-12), Ardgay (SD-13), and Evanton (SD-14) would be **Moderate-Minor** at most (not significant) in each case during construction and operation (refer to Viewpoint 7-69 Evanton (west). Effects on residents at Jamestown (SD-15) would be extremely limited due to the combination of landform and tree cover, hence would be **Moderate-Minor** at most (not significant), with the majority of residents completely unaffected (refer to Viewpoint 7-78 Jamestown on the outer edge of the settlement). Residents at Contin (SD-16) would experience no views of the Proposed Development and no effect.

Transport Routes

7.6.13 With reference to **Figure 7.4k-l: Section D Visual Receptors**, eleven key transport routes have been included in the visual assessment. Likely significant effects are identified for localised sections of two of these routes, during both construction and operation. Of these two routes, both are minor roads that would be located directly under the alignment (extending between the towers, at a distance of 100 m – 270 m from the closest tower). The key effects are summarised below.

A-roads and B-roads

7.6.14 Views from all of the A-roads within the Study Area, including the A9, A832, A834, A835 and A836 would be limited due to a combination of distance, intervening landform, roadside vegetation and intervening tree cover (refer to Viewpoints 7-79 A834 (south west of Jamestown) and 7-80 on the A834 (east of Contin), viewpoints 7-50 A837 Invershin, 7-52 A836 (west of Balblair), 7-56 Bonar Bridge and 7-59 A836 Kincardine on the A836, viewpoints 7-81 A835 (south-east of Contin) and 7-82 Moy Rock on the A835, as well as viewpoint 7-83 Marybank Road on the A832). Accordingly, the construction activities and steel lattice towers would exert very limited influence upon existing views, and would typically represent discreet elements in the background landscape. As a result, the level of effect experienced by road users would be **Minor Adverse** (not significant) during construction and operation.

7.6.15 Similarly, potential views of the Proposed Development from the B817 would be limited due to its spatial separation in combination with intervening screening. The level of effect experienced by road users would be **Minor Adverse** (not significant) during construction and operation.

Minor Roads

7.6.16 Four key minor roads have been identified within the Study Area for inclusion in the visual assessment. Two of these minor roads have been included on the basis the Proposed Development would extend directly across them. These comprise Cadh' an Tartair Road (RD-01) and the minor road to the south of the River Carron (RD-02), which are both located within Strathcarron. The key views from these routes would be limited to localised sections within 700 m of the Proposed Development, where road users would experience a **Major-Moderate Adverse** (significant) effect during construction and operation (refer to Viewpoint 7-60 Gruinards (west of Dounie) on the minor road to the south of the River Carron).

7.6.17 Across wider parts of these minor roads (accounting for the majority of these routes) the potential views of the Proposed Development would be restricted by roadside vegetation / intervening tree cover, in combination with the landform enclosing each strath, and the increasing distance of view. Accordingly, at distances greater than 700 m the construction activities and steel lattice towers would represent relatively discreet components in the background landscape, filtered by intervening vegetation. As a result, across the wider sections of the roads, the effects would be **Minor Adverse** (not significant) during construction and operation.

7.6.18 The other two minor roads included in the assessment are located at greater distance from the Proposed Development (1.4 km or more), comprising Smoogro Road (RD-04) and Old Evanton Road (RD-06). In each case, potential views of the construction activities and steel lattice towers would be restricted by roadside vegetation / intervening tree cover, in combination with the intervening landform, and the increasing distance of view (refer to Viewpoints 7-72 Heights of Brae and 7-74 Heights of Inchvannie on Smoogroo Road). Accordingly, the Proposed Development would be fully screened along parts of these routes. Within the clearest views the construction activities and steel lattice towers would represent discreet elements in the background landscape. The resultant effect experienced by road users would be **Negligible** (not significant) during construction and operation.

Rail Lines - Dingwall to Kyle of Lochalsh Rail Link

7.6.19 Potential views of the Proposed Development from this railway corridor would be screened by the intervening landform, in combination with intervening tree cover and track-side vegetation. Accordingly, rail users would experience a **Negligible** (not significant) effect during construction and operation.

Recreational Routes

7.6.20 With reference to **Figure 7.4-11 and 7.4-12: Section D Visual Receptors**, thirty-eight recreational routes have been identified in the visual assessment. Likely significant effects have been identified at three routes (localised sections), during both construction and operation. Of these paths, one would be located directly under the alignment. The key effects are summarised below.

RD-12 Core Path River Carron (SU03.06)

7.6.21 The Proposed Development would extend across this path and the construction works and steel lattice towers would be experienced at close proximity from sections of the route within 700 m, filtered by intervening tree cover. The Proposed Development would be visible in views to the west and east against the background landscape, heavily filtered by tree cover within Strathcarron valley (refer to Viewpoint 7-60 Gruinards (west of Dounie)). From wider sections of the route, views would be intermittent and subject to screening by tree cover within river corridor and intervening farmland. From localised sections of the route within 700 m of the Proposed Development, the close proximity views would result in **Major Adverse** (significant) effects during construction and operation. This accounts for a limited extent of the footpath and would be experienced by route users for a short duration. The effects experienced by walkers on other sections of the path would reduce to **Moderate-Minor Adverse** (not significant) during construction and operation.

RD-19 Swordale Hill (RC16.01)

7.6.22 Where there are breaks in the forestry there would be views construction works and new steel lattice towers from western sections of the path (Tower S121 would be the closest at 670 m). The Proposed Development would be visible from closest section of path (western path sections) in views to west, south-west and north-west, predominantly against the background landscape. Views from other sections of path in the south and north would be limited by intervening forestry. Views from eastern path sections would be limited due to intervening landform (Swordale Hill). The clearest views would be experienced from western path sections where there are breaks in the forestry, and would result in **Moderate Adverse** effects (significant) during construction and operation. This accounts for a limited extent of the footpath. The effects experienced by walkers on other sections of the path would reduce to **Moderate-Minor Adverse** (not significant) during construction and operation.

RD-22 Cornhill Curling Pond Circuit (SU03.14)

7.6.23 Views of construction works and the steel lattice towers to the south-west would be perceptible, subject to screening by intervening tree cover (Tower S38 would be the closest to the footpath at 980 m). There would be views of the Proposed Development to the west and south-west, against a combination of background sky and landscape (within Strathcarron), subject to screening by tree cover within the forest and intervening farmland. In wider views to the south-west beyond Strathcarron up to distances of 2.5 km, the Proposed Development would be visible predominantly against the background sky within areas of moorland. This would result in **Moderate Adverse** (significant) effects during construction and operation. This accounts for a limited extent of the footpath and would be experienced by route users for a short duration. Due to the broadleaved nature of surrounding tree cover, there would a reduction in the filtering effects of tree cover in winter months Overall, the visibility would be more apparent in winter months during leaf fall.

Other Recreational Routes

7.6.24 For all other paths, potential views of the construction activities and steel lattice towers would be restricted by a combination of intervening landform, tree / forest cover and the increasing distance of the view. Accordingly, the influence of the construction activities and new steel lattice towers would reduce and the Proposed Development would represent a discreet element within wider views. Accordingly, the visual effect experienced by recreational receptors using these paths would be **Moderate-Minor Adverse** (not significant) or less during construction and operation. There would be no views of the Proposed Development from three Core Paths (RD-23, RD-24 and RD-27).

Outdoor Locations

7.6.25 With reference to **Figure 7.4i-j: Section D Visual Receptors**, nine outdoor locations have been identified in the visual assessment. Likely significant effects are identified at one location, during both construction and operation. The key effects are summarised below.

OD-03 Dounie Estate

7.6.26 The construction works and introduction of steel lattice towers would be visible at distances of between 900 m and 1.5 km. The Proposed Development would be partially visible in views to the west against the background landscape, heavily filtered by tree cover within Strathcarron valley. Within wider views to the south-west, the Proposed Development would be experienced at greater distance. Views would be intermittent and subject to screening by intervening tree cover within the river corridor and intervening farmland. As a result, the construction activities and new steel lattice towers would exert limited influence on existing views (particularly during summer months). Based on the clearest views during winter months, visitors would experience **Moderate Adverse** (significant) effects during construction and operation.

Summary of Visual Effects

7.6.27 A summary of effects on visual receptors is presented in **Table 7.5** during construction and **Table 7.6** during operation. The symbol 'L' is used to denote effects that would be experienced from localised sections of routes.

Table 7.5: Summary of Effects during Construction

Visual Receptor	Beneficial Effect					Adverse Effect					
	Major	Major-Mod	Mod	Mod-Minor	Minor	Neg	Minor	Mod-Minor	Mod	Major-Mod	Major
Isolated Dwellings										6	3
Settlements								6			
Transport Routes							9			2L	
Recreational Routes: NCR/NC500								2			
Recreational Routes: Core Paths								32	3L		1L
Outdoor Locations							2	6	1		

Table 7.6: Summary of Effects during Operation

Visual Receptor	Beneficial Effect					Adverse Effect					
	Major	Major-Mod	Mod	Mod-Minor	Minor	Neg	Minor	Mod-Minor	Mod	Major-Mod	Major
Isolated Dwellings										6	3
Settlements								6			
Transport Routes							9			2L	
Recreational Routes: NCR/NC500								2			
Recreational Routes: Core Paths								32	3L		1L
Outdoor Locations							2	6	1		

7.7 Cumulative Effects

7.7.1 As this LVIA covers only a localised Section of the route of the Proposed Development, consideration has also been given to potential combined effects with other Sections of the Proposed Development. In addition, this assessment of cumulative effects has also included consideration of other grid infrastructure or other energy projects currently consented or proposed within the Study Area (including those at Scoping Stage). These developments are illustrated in **Figure 7.5e-f: Section D Cumulative Sites**. Those located at distances greater than 10 km from the Proposed Development are 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).

7.7.2 The cumulative assessment has been set out considering two different scenarios:

- Scenario 1: Including other parts of the Proposed Development and other related development proposals. For Section D, this includes:
  - Section C and Section E of the Proposed Development (steel lattice tower OHL).
- Scenario 2: Including, in addition, other unrelated development proposals (considered during the operation phase only). For Section D, this includes:
  - Consented Meall Buidhe Wind Farm (20/02659/FUL / PPA-270-2277) (eight turbines, 144.5 – 149.9m);
  - Consented Strathrory Wind Farm Redesign (22/02442/FUL) (seven turbines, 149.5 – 180 m to tip);
  - Proposed Abhainn Dubh Wind Farm (23/02754/S36) (nine turbines, up to 149.9 m to tip);
  - Proposed Knockbain Wind Turbine Repowering (24/03379/FUL) (one turbine, 89.5 m to tip);
  - Scoping-stage Balblair Wind Farm (24/01500/SCOP) (nine turbines, 180 m to tip);
  - Scoping-stage Inveroykel Wind Farm (24/04326/SCOP) (up to 29 turbines, max height undisclosed);
  - Scoping-stage Braelangwell Wind Farm (24/04752/SCOP) (17 turbines, 220 m to tip);
  - Scoping-stage Ceislein Wind Farm (24/03524/SCOP) (20 turbines, 250 m to tip);
  - Scoping-stage Creachan Wind Farm (24/03825/SCOP) (21 turbines, 220 m to tip);
  - Scoping-stage Carn Fearna Wind Farm (23/03238/SCOP) (nine turbines, 200 m to tip);
  - Scoping-stage Tarvie Wind Farm (23/03044/SCOP) (five turbines, 200 m to tip);
  - Screening-stage Carn Fearna 132 kV OHL (25/00219/SCRE) (linking the scoping stage Carn Fearna Wind Farm to the existing Corriemoillie Substation);

- Screening-stage Abhainn Dubh 132 kV OHL (25/00218/SCRE) (linking the proposed Abhainn Dubh Wind Farm to the existing Fyrish Substation); and
- Pre-app Western Isles HVDC Link (80km of onshore underground HVDC cable from Dundonnell to a mainland HVDC Converter Station near Beauly).

7.7.3 In addition to the above, the consented Garvary Wind Farm (21/01921/S36) (comprising 25 turbines, up to 180 m to tip) will be located to the north of the Proposed Development. The wind farm site boundary extends into the Study Area. However, the closest turbine will be located > 10 km from the Section D alignment and is therefore not considered further.

7.7.4 As it is likely that Scenario 1 development would be constructed concurrently with the Proposed Development in Section D, this scenario considers cumulative effects during both construction and operation. However, as it is difficult to predict the timing and nature of construction works for other unrelated developments within Scenario 2, this Scenario considers operational effects only.

Cumulative Scope: Scenario 1

7.7.5 LVIAs of Section C and Section E of the Proposed Development have been completed and are included in this EIA Report as **Volume 5, Appendix 7.7 and Volume 5, Appendix 7.9**. These LVIAs identified effects to the following receptors which have been identified within the Study Area for Section D.

- Landscape effects
  - LCT 135 – Rounded Hills - Caithness & Sutherland;
  - LCT 142 – Strath - Caithness & Sutherland;
  - LCT 139 – Rugged Mountain Massif - Caithness & Sutherland;
  - LCT 330 – Rounded Hills and Moorland Slopes - Ross & Cromarty;
  - LCT 341 – Forest Edge Farming;
  - LCT 335 – Wooded Glens and Rocky Moorland;
  - LCT 345 – Farmed and Forested Slopes - Ross & Cromarty;
  - LCT 145 – Farmed and Forested Slopes with Crofting;
  - LCT 329 – Rounded Mountain Massif;
  - LCT 347 – Open Steep Farmed Slopes;
  - LCT 346 – Open Farmed Slopes;
  - LCT 331 – Rounded Rocky Hills - Ross & Cromarty;
  - LCT 340 – Strath - Ross & Cromarty;
  - LCT 339 – Inland Strath;
  - LCT 342 – Farmed River Plains;
  - Dornoch Firth NSA;
  - Rhiddoroch - Beinn Dearg - Ben Wyvis WLA;
  - Fannichs, Beinn Dearg and Glencalvie SLA; and
  - Ben Wyvis SLA.
- Visual effects
  - Residential receptors SD-10 Strathpeffer, SD-12 Dingwall, SD-13 Ardgay, SD-15 Jamestown, and SD-16 Contin;
  - Road and Rail users RD-01 Cadh an Tartair, RD-03 Dingwall to Kyle of Lochalsh Rail Link, RD-05 the A834, RD-07 the A836, RD-08 the A835, and RD-11 the A832;

- Recreational Route receptors RD-12 – 18, RD-20 – 28, RD-31, RD-33 – 34, RD-36, RD-41, RD-46, RD-48 – 49; and
- Receptors at Outdoor Locations OD1 Strathpeffer Golf Course, OD-03 Dounie Estate, OD-04 Gledfield House and Estate, and OD-05 Neil Gunn Memorial.

7.7.6 The predicted effects on these receptors, as identified within the **Section C LVIA (Volume 5, Appendix 7.7), Section E LVIA (Volume 5, Appendix 7.9)**, and **Section D LVIA (this Appendix**) are detailed in **Table 7.7** below. It is considered that where Negligible effects have been identified for individual Sections of the Proposed Development, these would not meaningfully contribute or lead to a significant cumulative effect. As such, receptors where Minor effects or less have been identified have not been included further in the cumulative assessment

Table 7.7: Section D Cumulative Effects

LCT / Designated or Protected Landscape	Section D Effect Rating	Section C or E Effect Rating	Included in Cumulative
LCT 135 – Rounded Hills - Caithness & Sutherland	Construction and Operation: **Moderate-Minor Adverse** (not significant) (locally **Major-Moderate Adverse**, significant)	Construction and Operation: **Moderate-Minor Adverse** (not significant) (locally **Major-Moderate Adverse**, significant)	Yes
LCT 142 – Strath - Caithness & Sutherland	Construction and Operation: **Moderate-Minor Adverse** (not significant) (locally **Major-Moderate Adverse**, significant)	Construction and Operation: **Moderate-Minor Adverse** (not significant) (locally **Major-Moderate Adverse**, significant)	Yes
LCT 139 – Rugged Mountain Massif - Caithness & Sutherland	Construction and Operation: **Moderate-Minor Adverse (**not significant) (locally **Major Adverse**, significant)	Construction and Operation: **Moderate-Minor Adverse** (not significant)	Yes
LCT 330 – Rounded Hills and Moorland Slopes - Ross & Cromarty	Construction and Operation: **Moderate-Minor Adverse** (not significant) (locally **Major-Moderate Adverse**, significant)	Construction and Operation: **Minor Adverse** (not significant) (locally **Major-Moderate Adverse**, significant)	Yes
LCT 341 – Forest Edge Farming	Construction and Operation: Moderate-**Minor Adverse** (not significant) (locally **Major-Moderate Adverse**, significant)	Construction and Operation: **Moderate-Minor Adverse** (not significant) (locally **Major-Moderate Adverse**, significant)	Yes
LCT 335 – Wooded Glens and Rocky Moorland	Construction: **Minor** (not significant) Operation**: Moderate-Minor Adverse** (not significant)	Construction: **Negligible** (not significant) Operation**: Moderate-Minor Adverse** (not significant)	Yes
LCT 345 – Farmed and Forested Slopes - Ross & Cromarty	Construction and Operation: **Moderate-Minor Adverse** (not significant)	Construction and Operation: **Moderate-Minor Adverse** (not significant) (locally **Major-Moderate Adverse**, significant)	Yes

LCT 145 – Farmed and Forested Slopes with Crofting	Construction and Operation: **Moderate-Minor Adverse** (not significant)	Construction and Operation: **Minor Adverse** (not significant)	Yes
LCT 329 – Rounded Mountain Massif	Construction and Operation: **Moderate-Minor Adverse** (not significant) (locally **Major Adverse**, significant)	Construction and Operation: **Negligible**	No
LCT 347 – Open Steep Farmed Slopes	Construction and Operation: **Minor Adverse** (not significant)	Construction and Operation: **Minor Adverse** (not significant)	Yes
LCT 346 – Open Farmed Slopes	Construction and Operation: **Moderate-Minor Adverse** (not significant)	Construction and Operation: **Moderate-Minor Adverse** (not significant) (locally **Major-Moderate Adverse**, significant)	Yes
LCT 331 – Rounded Rocky Hills - Ross & Cromarty	Construction and Operation: **Moderate-Minor Adverse** (not significant)	Construction and Operation: **Minor Adverse** (not significant) (locally **Major-Moderate Adverse**, significant)	Yes
LCT 340 – Strath - Ross & Cromarty	Construction and Operation: **Minor Adverse** (not significant)	Construction and Operation: **Minor Adverse** (not significant)	No
LCT 339 – Inland Strath	Construction and Operation: **Moderate-Minor Adverse** (not significant)	Construction and Operation: **Minor Adverse** (not significant)	Yes
LCT 342 – Farmed River Plains	Construction and Operation: **Minor Adverse** (not significant) (locally **Moderate-Minor Adverse**, not significant)	Construction and Operation: **Moderate-Minor Adverse** (not significant) (locally **Major-Moderate Adverse**, significant)	Yes
Dornoch Firth NSA	Construction and Operation: **Moderate-Minor Adverse** (not significant)	Construction and Operation: **Minor Adverse** (not significant)	Yes
Rhiddoroch - Beinn Dearg - Ben Wyvis WLA	Construction and Operation: **Moderate-Minor Adverse** (not significant) (locally **Major-Moderate Adverse**, significant)	Construction and Operation: **Minor Adverse** (not significant) (locally **Moderate-Minor Adverse**, not significant based on Section C)	Yes
Fannichs, Beinn Dearg and Glencalvie SLA	Construction and Operation: **Negligible**	Construction and Operation: **Negligible**	No
Ben Wyvis SLA	Construction and Operation: **Minor Adverse** (not significant)	Construction and Operation: **Moderate-Minor Adverse** (not significant)	Yes
Visual Receptor	**Section D Effect Rating**	**Section C or E Effect Rating**	**Included in Cumulative**
Strathpeffer (SD-10)	Construction and Operation: **Moderate-Minor Adverse** (significant)	Construction and Operation: **Moderate Adverse** (significant)	Yes
Dingwall (SD-12)	Construction and Operation: **Moderate-Minor Adverse** (not significant)	Construction and Operation: **Minor Adverse** (not significant)	Yes

Ardgay (SD-13)	Construction and Operation: **Moderate-Minor Adverse** (not significant)	Construction and Operation: **Minor Adverse** (not significant)	Yes
Jamestown (SD-15)	Construction and Operation: **Moderate-Minor** (not significant)	Construction and Operation: **Moderate-Minor Adverse** (not significant) (locally **Major-Moderate Adverse**, significant)	No
Contin (SD-16)	Construction and Operation: **No effect**	Construction and Operation: **Minor Adverse** (not significant) (locally **Major-Moderate Adverse**, significant)	No
Cadh an Tartair (RD-01)	Construction and Operation: **Minor Adverse** (not significant) (locally **Major-Moderate Adverse,** significant)	Construction and Operation: **Moderate-Minor Adverse** (not significant)	Yes
Dingwall to Kyle of Lochalsh Rail Link (RD-03)	Construction and Operation: **Negligible** (not significant)	Construction and Operation: **Minor Adverse** (not significant) (locally **Major-Moderate Adverse**, significant)	No
A834 (RD-05)	Construction and Operation: **Minor** (not significant)	Construction and Operation: **Minor Adverse** (not significant) (locally **Major-Moderate Adverse**, significant)	No
A836 (RD-07)	Construction and Operation: **Minor** (not significant)	Construction and Operation: **Minor Adverse** (not significant) (locally **Major-Moderate Adverse**, significant)	No
A835 (RD-08)	Construction and Operation: **Minor** (not significant)	Construction and Operation: **Minor Adverse** (not significant) (locally **Major-Moderate Adverse**, significant)	No
A832 (RD-11)	Construction and Operation: **Minor** (not significant)	Construction and Operation: **Moderate Adverse** (significant)	No
Core Path SU03.06: River Carron (RD-12)	Construction and Operation: **Minor Adverse** (not significant) (locally **Major Adverse**, significant)	Construction and Operation: **Moderate Adverse** (significant)	Yes
Strathpeffer Walking Route: Torrachilty Forest (RD-13)	Construction and Operation: **Moderate-Minor** (not significant)	Construction and Operation: **Minor Adverse** (not significant) (locally **Major Adverse**, significant)	No
Strathpeffer Walking Route: North of Strathpeffer (RD-14)	Construction and Operation: **Moderate-Minor** (not significant)	Construction and Operation: **Minor Adverse** (not significant) (locally **Major Adverse**, significant)	Yes
Core Path RC10.03: Mains of Coul (RD-15)	Construction and Operation: **Moderate-Minor** (not significant)	Construction and Operation: **Moderate Adverse** (significant) (locally **Major Adverse**, significant)	No

Core Path RC10.07: Kinellan Link (RD-16)	Construction and Operation: **Moderate-Minor** (not significant)	Construction and Operation: **Minor** (not significant) (locally **Major Adverse**, significant)	No
Core Path RC45.01:Loch Kinellan circuit (RD-17)	Construction and Operation: **Moderate-Minor** (not significant)	Construction and Operation: **Minor Adverse** (not significant) (locally **Major Adverse**, significant)	No
Core Path RC10.01: View Rock (RD-18)	Construction and Operation: **Moderate-Minor** (not significant)	Construction and Operation: **Major-Moderate Adverse** (significant)	No
Core Path RC45.05: Strathpeffer - Jamestown (Blackmuir Woods) (RD-20)	Construction and Operation: **Moderate-Minor** (not significant)	Construction and Operation: **Moderate Adverse** (significant)	No
Core Path RC45.03: Ord Wood west - Kinellan (RD-21)	Construction and Operation: **Moderate-Minor** (not significant)	Construction and Operation: **Moderate Adverse** (significant)	No
Core Path SU03.14: Cornhill Curling Pond (RD-22)	Construction and Operation: **Moderate Adverse** (significant)	Construction and Operation: **Moderate Adverse** (significant)	Yes
Core Path RC10.06: Contin to Strathgarve (RD-23)	Construction and Operation: No effect	Construction and Operation: **Minor Adverse** (not significant)	No
Core Path RC10.04: Torrachilty Woods (RD-24)	Construction and Operation: No Effect	Construction and Operation: **Minor Adverse** (not significant)	No
Core Path RC45.07: Golf course - Ord Wood east (RD-25)	Construction and Operation: **Moderate-Minor Adverse** (not significant)	Construction and Operation: **Moderate Adverse** (significant)	Yes
Core Path RC45.04: Blackmuir Woods - maze circular (RD-26)	Construction and Operation: **Moderate-Minor Adverse** (not significant)	Construction and Operation: **Moderate Adverse** (significant)	Yes
Core Path RC10.02: Rogie Falls (RD-27)	Construction and Operation: No effect	Construction and Operation: **Minor Adverse** (not significant)	No
Core Path RC45.10: Eagle Stone Path (RD-28)	Construction and Operation: **Moderate-Minor** (not significant)	Construction and Operation: **Negligible** (not significant)	No
Core Path RC45.09: Ardival - Catsback - Loch Ussie (RD-31)	Construction and Operation: **Moderate-Minor Adverse** (not significant)	Construction and Operation: **Moderate Adverse** (significant)	Yes
Core Path SU03.01: Cornhill – Culrain (RD-33)	Construction and Operation: **Moderate-Minor Adverse** (not significant)	Construction and Operation: **Minor Adverse** (not significant) (locally **Major Adverse**, significant)	Yes
Core Path SU03.11: River Carron (RD-34)	Construction and Operation: **Moderate-Minor Adverse** (not significant)	Construction and Operation: **Negligible** (not significant)	No
Core Path RC45.02: Knockfarrel (maze to hill) (RD-36)	Construction and Operation: **Moderate-Minor Adverse** (not significant)	Construction and Operation: **Moderate-Minor Adverse** (not significant)	Yes
Core Path RC13.05: Knockfarrel to Fodderty (RD-41)	Construction and Operation: **Moderate-Minor Adverse** (not significant)	Construction and Operation: **Minor Adverse** (not significant)	Yes

Core Path RC13.06: Knockfarrel (RD-46)	Construction and Operation: **Moderate-Minor Adverse** (not significant)	Construction and Operation: **Minor Adverse** (not significant)	Yes
North Coast 500 (RD-48)	Construction and Operation: **Moderate-Minor Adverse** (not significant)	Construction and Operation: **Minor Adverse** (not significant)	No
Inverness to John O' Groats Cycle Trail (RD-49)	Construction and Operation: **Moderate-Minor Adverse** (not significant)	Construction and Operation: **Minor Adverse** (not significant)	No
Strathpeffer Golf Course (OD-01)	Construction and Operation: **Minor Adverse** (not significant)	Construction and Operation: **Moderate Adverse** (significant)	Yes
Dounie Estate (OD-03)	Construction and Operation: **Moderate Adverse** (significant)	Construction and Operation: **Moderate Adverse** (significant)	Yes
Gledfield House and Estate (OD-04)	Construction and Operation: **Minor** (not significant)	Construction and Operation: **Negligible**	No
Neil Gunn Memorial (OD-05)	Construction and Operation: **Moderate-Minor** (not significant)	Construction and Operation: **Minor Adverse** (not significant)	No

Cumulative Scope: Scenario 2

7.7.7 Assumptions have been made regarding the likely visual effects of the developments associated with Scenario 2, based on available information from March 2025. The final layouts of these developments are subject to change.

Assessment of Cumulative Effects

7.7.8 The cumulative assessment for the above receptors is presented below in **Table 7.8**. The description of effects should be read in conjunction with the baseline descriptions for these receptors and landscape effects described in **Sections 7.5 and Annex 1** respectively.

Table 7.8: Cumulative Effects

Landscape Receptor	Cumulative Developments	Predicted Cumulative Effects
LCT 135 – Rounded Hills - Caithness & Sutherland	Scenario 1: • Section C of the Proposed Development.	Section C and Section D of the Proposed Development would both extend through upland parts of the LCT. The construction activities and new steel lattice towers would represent notable linear features within parts of the LCT in closest proximity. However, the influence would diminish at increased distance. Across wider parts of the LCT, the construction works and new towers would represent relatively discreet elements within a broad scale landscape context. On balance, the cumulative effect would be **Major-Moderate Adverse** (significant) across localised parts on the LCT in closest proximity to the Proposed Development during construction and operation (typically within approximately 700 m). The effects would reduce across the wider LCT and would be **Moderate-Minor Adverse** (not significant).
	Scenario 2: • Consented Meall Buidhe Wind Farm; • Consented Strathrory Wind Farm Redesign • Proposed Abhainn Dubh Wind Farm; • Scoping-stage Inveroykel Wind Farm; • Scoping-stage Braelangwell Wind Farm; • Scoping-stage Balblair Wind Farm; • Scoping-stage Ceislein Wind Farm; • Scoping-stage Creachan Wind Farm.	The consented Meall Buidhe Wind Farm will be located within LCT 135 and exert significant effects on local landscape character in its own right due to the vertical scale of the turbines (at 144.5 m to 149.9 m to tip) and the movement of the rotors. However, these effects would be focused across the western edge of the Study Area and will diminish at greater distance. These effects would be augmented by the scoping-stage Inveroykel Wind Farm, Braelangwell Wind Farm, and Balblair Wind Farm, which would extend across additional geographic areas of LCT 135 (east of Meall Buidhe) and also result in significant direct effects in their own right. The other Scenario 2 developments would result in indirect effects. The scoping-stage Creachan Wind Farm would be located in the landscape to the south of the LCT (outside the LCT). Due to the vertical scale of the turbines, this would exert a notable effect in its own right across localised parts of the LCT. There would also be views of the consented Strathrory Wind Farm Redesign to the south-east, as well as long distance views of the proposed Abhainn Dubh Wind Farm and scoping-stage Ceislein Wind Farm in the distant landscape to the south. Due to the spatial separation from the LCT, these schemes would exert limited influence on landscape character. Should all of the proposals go ahead, the cumulative effect across the LCT as a whole is predicted to be **Moderate Adverse** (significant). This is based primarily on the combined presence of large-scale wind turbines across the LCT. As noted above for Scenario 1, the effects of the Proposed Development would be more localised, and accordingly its contribution to cumulative effects across the LCT would be relatively limited.
LCT 142 – Strath - Caithness & Sutherland	Scenario 1: • Section C of the Proposed Development.	Section C and Section D of the Proposed Development would extend through very localised parts of the LCT, where the alignment extends across intervening straths. in each case, the Proposed Development extends directly across each strath, rather than along it, thereby limiting the footprint of the associated construction works, as well as the number of new steel lattice towers. Given the enclosed nature of the straths, these elements would represent notable elements from parts of the LCT in closest proximity. However, the influence of construction activities and the new alignment would reduce at greater distance within the strath due to the screening influence of intervening tree cover and the landform enclosing the valley.

Landscape Receptor	Cumulative Developments	Predicted Cumulative Effects
		On balance, the cumulative effect would be **Major-Moderate Adverse** (significant) across localised parts on the LCT in closest proximity to the Proposed Development during construction and operation (typically within approximately 700 m). The effects would reduce across the wider LCT and would be **Moderate-Minor Adverse** (not significant).
	Scenario 2: • Consented Meall Buidhe Wind Farm; • Scoping-stage Inveroykel Wind Farm; • Scoping-stage Braelangwell Wind Farm; • Scoping-stage Balblair Wind Farm. •	There are no other energy-related proposals within the LCT. Potential indirect effects based on views of cumulative developments within the surrounding uplands would be restricted by the landform along the strath sides. Within the most open views, the wind turbines would represent elements in a geographically separate landscape context, outside the strath. Accordingly, there would be no change to the cumulative effect described in relation to Scenario 1.
LCT 139 – Rugged Mountain Massif - Caithness & Sutherland	Scenario 1: • Section C of the Proposed Development.	Section C of the Proposed Development would extend across the landscape to the north of the LCT, on the spatially separate northern side of the intervening valley at Strathcarron. The construction activities and new steel lattice towers would represent recognisable new features in the wider landscape, albeit within a broad scale landscape context, and accordingly would exert limited influence on existing landscape characteristics. Section D would exert greater influence, particularly where it extends within the LCT. On balance, the cumulative effect would be **Major Adverse** (significant) across localised parts on the LCT within approximately 700-800 m of the Proposed Development during construction and operation. This is based primarily on direct effects and close proximity views of Section D during construction and operation. The effects would reduce across the wider LCT, and would be **Moderate-Minor Adverse** (not significant).
	Scenario 2: • Consented Strathrory Wind Farm Redesign; • Consented Meall Buidhe Wind Farm; • Proposed Abhainn Dubh Wind Farm; • Scoping-stage Inveroykel Wind Farm; • Scoping-stage Braelangwell Wind Farm; • Scoping-stage Balblair Wind Farm; • Scoping-stage Ceislein Wind Farm; • Scoping-stage Creachan Wind Farm.	There are no energy-related proposals within the LCT. However, from the more elevated slopes and summits on the northern edge of the LCT there would be views of these wind farms. In particular, the consented Meall Buidhe Wind Farm, scoping-stage Braelangwell Wind Farm, and scoping-stage Inveroykel Wind Farm would be located in the landscape to the north (on the opposite side of Strathcarron). The scoping-stage Creachan Wind Farm would be located in the landscape to the south. Due to the vertical scale of the turbines, these developments would exert notable effects in their own right across localised parts of the LCT. The other wind farms would be located at greater distance. From open, elevated vantage points there would also be views of the consented Strathrory Wind Farm Redesign to the south-east, as well as long distance views of the proposed Abhainn Dubh Wind Farm and scoping-stage Ceislein Wind Farm in the distant landscape to the south. In each case, these schemes would exert limited influence on landscape character due to the spatial separation from the LCT.

Landscape Receptor	Cumulative Developments	Predicted Cumulative Effects
		In summary, the cumulative effects on the LCT would be slightly increased from those described above in relation to Scenario 1, due to the addition of proposed wind farms to the view (in combination with partial views of the Proposed Development). Accordingly, across the LCT within the Study Area, the cumulative effect is predicted to be **Moderate Adverse** (significant).
LCT 330 – Rounded Hills and Moorland Slopes - Ross & Cromarty	Scenario 1: • Section E of the Proposed Development.	Section D would extend broadly north-south through a lengthy section of this LCT, through areas of upland moorland and foresty. Conversely, Section E of the Proposed Development would extend through very localised parts of the LCT on its southern edge (north of the River Peffery). In both cases, the construction activities and steel lattice towers would represent notable linear features within parts of the LCT in closest proximity. However, the influence would diminish at increased distance, and would be restricted by surrounding forestry in some areas. Across wider parts of the LCT, the construction works and towers would represent relatively discreet elements within a large scale landscape context. On balance, the cumulative effect would be **Major-Moderate Adverse** (significant) across localised parts on the LCT in closest proximity to the Proposed Development during construction and operation (within approximately 700 m). The cumulative effects would reduce across the wider LCT, and would be **Moderate-Minor Adverse** (not significant).
	Scenario 2: • Consented Strathrory Wind Farm Redesign; • Proposed Abhainn Dubh Wind Farm; • Scoping-stage Creachan Wind Farm; • Scoping-stage Ceislein Wind Farm; • Scoping-stage Carn Fearna Wind Farm; • Scoping-stage Tarvie Wind Farm; • Screening-stage Carn Fearna 132 kV OHL; • Pre-app Western Isles HVDC Link.	The consented Strathrory Wind Farm Redesign, proposed Abhainn Dubh Wind Farm, and scoping-stage Creachan Wind Farm and Ceislein Wind Farm would be located (partly) within LCT 330 and exert significant effects on local landscape character in their own right due to the vertical scale of the turbines. In addition, the screening-stage Carn Fearna 132 kV OHL and Pre-app Western Isles HVDC Link would extend through a spatially separate part of the LCT on the western edge of the Study Area (north of Loch Luichart). There would also be views of the scoping-stage Carn Fearna Wind Farm and scoping-stage Tarvie Wind Farm in the landscape to the south (outside this LCT area) from more open, elevated vantage points there. In each case, these developments would be spatially separate from the Proposed Development, and exert their primary influence across a geographically different part of the LCT. In summary, the Scenario 2 developments would contribute towards cumulative effects on parts the LCT, which would be significant in their own right. However, these would diminish at greater distance across this expansive LCT. The overall cumulative level of effect would remain **Moderate-Minor Adverse** (not significant).
LCT 341 – Forest Edge Farming	Scenario 1: • Section E of the Proposed Development.	Section E of the Proposed Development would extend through two separate parts of the LCT (within the LCT areas on the north and south sides of Strathconon). Section D would extend through a spatially separate part of the LCT further north, extending broadly parallel to the Cromarty Firth. In both cases, the construction activities and steel lattice towers would represent notable linear features within parts of the LCT in closest proximity. However, the

Landscape Receptor	Cumulative Developments	Predicted Cumulative Effects
		influence would diminish at increased distance. Across wider parts of the LCT, the construction works and new towers would represent relatively discreet elements within a broad scale landscape context. On balance, the cumulative effect would be **Major-Moderate Adverse** (significant) across localised parts on the LCT in closest proximity to the Proposed Development during construction and operation (typically within 700-800 m). This includes separate parts of the LCT on the northern and southern sides of Strathconon, and further north. The cumulative effects would reduce across the wider LCT, and would be **Moderate-Minor Adverse** (not significant).
	Scenario 2: • Consented Strathrory Wind Farm Redesign; • Proposed Abhainn Dubh Wind Farm; • Proposed Knockbain Wind Turbine Repowering • Scoping-stage Ceislein Wind Farm.	From more open, elevated vantage points within the LCT there would be views of views of the proposed Abhainn Dubh Wind Farm within the context of forestry, beyond the Section D alignment. This would contribute towards cumulative effects in the vicinity of Fannyfield, albeit would exert diminishing influence at greater distance. There would also be views of the consented Strathrory Wind Farm Redesign and scoping-stage Ceislein Wind Farm from northern parts of the LCT. These views would be restricted by the intervening landform at greater distances. The proposed Knockbain Wind Turbine Repowering would be experienced in a different sector of view (to the south / east of the LCT). This would exert limited cumulative influence based on the narrow angle of view and the presence of an existing turbine (albeit smaller) at the site. In summary, the cumulative effect would be **Major-Moderate Adverse** (significant) across localised parts on the LCT, comprising areas at Fannyfield (based on the proposed Abhainn Dubh Wind) and within 700-800 m of the Section D and E alignments. The effects would reduce across the wider LCT and would be **Moderate-Minor Adverse** (not significant).
LCT 335 – Wooded Glens and Rocky Moorland	Scenario 1: • Section E of the Proposed Development.	Section D would be located in the landscape to the north of the LCT. There would be no direct effects, albeit the construction activities and new steel lattice towers would represent recognisable new features in views from more open vantage points. However, these elements would be subject to screening by woodland within the LCT, and accordingly would exert limited influence on existing landscape characteristics. Section E would extend through a localised part of the LCT on its eastern edge. Again, the effects of the construction activities and steel lattice towers would be restricted by surrounding areas of tree cover within the LCT. On balance, the cumulative effect would be **Major-Moderate Adverse** (significant) across localised parts of the LCT within approximately 300-400 m of the Proposed Development during construction and operation. This is based primarily on direct effects and close proximity views of Section E during construction and operation. The effects would reduce across the wider LCT, and would be **Negligible** (not significant) during construction, and **Moderate-Minor Adverse** (not significant) during operation.

Landscape Receptor	Cumulative Developments	Predicted Cumulative Effects
	Scenario 2: • Proposed Knockbain Wind Turbine Repowering; • Scoping-stage Carn Fearna Wind Farm; • Scoping-stage Tarvie Wind Farm; • Pre-app Western Isles HVDC Link.	The scoping-stage Tarvie Wind Farm would be located partly within the western edge of the LCT, and would result in significant effects in its own right. In addition, the Pre-app Western Isles HVDC Link would extend through a localised part of the LCT (on its south-western edge). Residual effects based on localised clearance of trees to accomodate the underground cable would be spatially separate from the Proposed Development, and accordingly would exert limited cumulative influence. The proposed Knockbain Wind Turbine Repowering would be located on higher ground at Knockfarrel, to the east of the LCT. Potential views would be very limited due to the extent of woodland within the LCT. Similarly, the scoping-stage Carn Fearna Wind Farm would be located in the hills to the north of the LCT. Potential indirect effects based on views would be also restricted by extensive tree cover wthin the LCT. In summary, the cumulative effect would be **Moderate Adverse** (significant) based primarily on the scoping-stage Tarvie Wind Farm. The Proposed Development would also contribute to localised effects as described above.
LCT 345 – Farmed and Forested Slopes - Ross & Cromarty	Scenario 1: • Section E of the Proposed Development.	Section E of the Proposed Development would extend through two separate parts of the LCT (within the LCT areas on the north and south sides of Strathconon). The construction activities and steel lattice towers would represent notable linear features within parts of the LCT in closest proximity. However, the influence would diminish at increased distance. Section D would extend through the adjoining landscape (outside the LCT), limiting its influence to indirect effects based on potential views, which would be subject to screening by landform and tree cover. Accordingly, across wider parts of the LCT, the construction works and towers would represent relatively discreet elements within a broad scale landscape context. On balance, the cumulative effect would be **Major-Moderate Adverse** (significant) across localised parts on the LCT in closest proximity to the Proposed Development during construction and operation (typically within 700-800 m). The cumulative effects would be primarily due to Section E (with Section D exerting lesser influence). The cumulative effects would reduce across the wider LCT, and would be **Moderate-Minor Adverse** (not significant).
	Scenario 2: • Consented Strathrory Wind Farm Redesign; • Proposed Abhainn Dubh Wind Farm; • Proposed Knockbain Wind Turbine Repowering; • Scoping-stage Ceislein Wind Farm.	From more open, elevated vantage points within the LCT west of Evanton (on the northern edge of the Cromarty Firth), there would be views of views of the proposed Abhainn Dubh Wind Farm in the context of forestry, beyond the Section D alignment. There would also be potential views of the consented Strathrory Wind Farm Redesign and scoping-stage Ceislein Wind Farm, subject to screening by the intervening landform. In each case, the cumulative influence of the wind turbines would diminish at greater distance. The proposed Knockbain Wind Turbine Repowering would be experienced in a different sector of view and exert limited cumulative influence based on the narrow angle of view and the presence of an existing turbine (albeit smaller) at the site.

Landscape Receptor	Cumulative Developments	Predicted Cumulative Effects
		The influence of the Proposed Development from parts of the LCT on the northern edge of the Cromarty Firth would be limited. Instead, the effects would be focused on a geographically separate LCT areas to the south (on the northern and southern side of Strath Conon as described above). In summary, the cumulative effect would be **Major-Moderate Adverse** (significant) across localised parts on the LCT, comprising areas in the vicinity of Evanton (based on the proposed Abhainn Dubh Wind) and within 700-800 m of the Section D and E alignments. The effects would reduce across the wider LCT and would be **Moderate-Minor Adverse** (not significant).
LCT 145 – Farmed and Forested Slopes with Crofting	Scenario 1: • Section C of the Proposed Development.	Potential cumulative effects on this LCT would be indirect. The influence of Section C would be very limited due to the intervening landform and presence of forestry / woodland, in combination with the distance of view. The construction activities and new steel lattice towers would represent background elements within wider vistas across the Dornoch Firth and surrounding hillsides. There would be no notable increase in relation to the effects described within the main assessment. The cumulative effect would be **Minor Adverse** (not significant) during construction an operation.
	Scenario 2: • Scoping-stage Inveroykel Wind Farm; • Scoping-stage Braelangwell Wind Farm; • Scoping-stage Balblair Wind Farm.	There are no other energy-related proposals within the LCT. However, from the elevated, northern edge of the LCT there would be potential views of the scoping-stage wind farms, resulting in potential indirect effects on landscape character. The scoping-stage Balblair Wind Farm would be located in the hills to the north, and the scoping-stage Inveroykel Wind Farm and Braelangwell Wind Farm would be located in the distant hills to the west. From wider parts of the LCT, potential views would be restricted by their spatial separation, in combination with the screening influence of the intervening landform and tree cover. As such, the effects on the existing characteristics would be limited. In summary, the cumulative effect across the LCT is predicted to be **Moderate-Minor Adverse** (not significant) based on partial views of the Proposed Development in combination with views of the scoping-stage wind farms located across the wider surrounding hillsides.
LCT 347 – Open Steep Farmed Slopes	Scenario 1: • Section E of the Proposed Development.	Section E of the Proposed Development would extend across the landscape to the south-west of the LCT. It would exert limited influence on landscape character due to its spatial separation from the LCT, in combination with intervening landform / vegetation screening. Section D is also located outside the LCT, extending across the hills to the north. Potential indirect effects would also be part screened by landform and tree cover. In summary, the cumulative effect would be **Minor Adverse** (not significant) across the LCT. Eastern parts would be completely unaffected.

Landscape Receptor	Cumulative Developments	Predicted Cumulative Effects
	Scenario 2: • Proposed Knockbain Wind Turbine Repowering.	From open vantage points within western parts of the LCT there would be views of the proposed Knockbain Wind Turbine Repowering. This would exert limited cumulative influence based on the narrow angle of view and the presence of an existing turbine (albeit smaller) at the site. As such, the cumulative effect is not predicted to vary from that described in relation to Scenario 1.
LCT 346 – Open Farmed Slopes	Scenario 1: • Section E of the Proposed Development.	Section E of the Proposed Development would extend through localised parts of the LCT, west of Jamestown (on the northern side of Strathconon). The construction activities and steel lattice towers would represent notable linear features within parts of the LCT in closest proximity. The Section E alignment would also exert notable indirect effects on a separate LCT area on the southern side of Strathconon, based on close proximity views of the Proposed Development from the valley floor. However, the influence of Section E would diminish at increased distance. Section D would extend through the adjoining landscape (outside the LCT), limiting its influence to indirect effects based on potential views, which would be subject to screening by landform and tree cover. Across wider parts of the LCT, the construction works and new towers would represent relatively discreet elements within a broad scale landscape context. On balance, the cumulative effect would be **Major-Moderate Adverse** (significant) across localised parts on the LCT in closest proximity to the Proposed Development during construction and operation (within approximately 900 m). The cumulative effects would be primarily due to Section E (with Section D exerting lesser influence). The cumulative effects would reduce across the wider LCT, and would be **Moderate-Minor Adverse** (not significant).
	Scenario 2: • Proposed Abhainn Dubh Wind Farm; • Proposed Knockbain Wind Turbine Repowering; • Scoping-stage Carn Fearna Wind Farm; • Scoping-stage Tarvie Wind Farm.	The proposed Knockbain Wind Turbine Repowering would be located within the LCT and exert direct effects on local landscape character. However, these effects would be focused on the north-eastern side of Knockfarrel, spatially separate from the Proposed Development. The influence would be limited due to the presence of an existing turbine (albeit smaller) at the site. From the more open vantage points, there would also be views of the proposed Abhainn Dubh Wind Farm, on the forested hills above the Cromarty Firth. The clearest views would be experienced from the Black Isle, which represents the LCT area furthest from the Section D and E alignments. The proposed wind turbines would be experienced in the distance, beyond Section D. The scoping-stage wind farms would also be visible from more open elevated vantage points, albeit would represent distant elements in the background landscape to the west and exert very limited cumulative influence. In summary, the proposed wind turbines would contribute towards localised effects on the LCT. However, the overall cumulative level of effect would remain consistent with that described in relation to Scenario 1.

Landscape Receptor	Cumulative Developments	Predicted Cumulative Effects
LCT 331 – Rounded Rocky Hills - Ross & Cromarty	Scenario 1: • Section E of the Proposed Development.	Section E of the Proposed Development would extend through a very localised part of the LCT at Cnoc Beinn na Lice. It would also extend through adjoining forestry to the east (just outside the LCT) where it would exert an indirect influence on landscape character. Due to their proximity, the construction activities and new steel lattice towers associated with Section E would represent notable linear features within parts of the LCT in closest proximity. The influence of these elements would diminish at increased distance. Across wider parts of the LCT, the construction works and new towers would represent discreet elements within a broad scale landscape context. Section D would exert lesser influence, based on its increased spatial separation from the LCT. On balance, the cumulative effect would be **Major-Moderate Adverse** (significant) across localised parts of the LCT, primarily focused upon areas in closest proximity to Section E (Section D would exert lesser influence). The cumulative effects would reduce across the wider LCT, and would be **Moderate-Minor Adverse** (not significant).
	Scenario 2: • Proposed Abhainn Dubh Wind Farm; • Scoping-stage Carn Fearna Wind Farm; • Scoping-stage Tarvie Wind Farm; • Screening-stage Carn Fearna 132 kV OHL; • Pre-app Western Isles HVDC Link.	The scoping-stage Carn Fearna Wind Farm, scoping-stage Tarvie Wind Farm, screening-stage Carn Fearna 132 kV OHL, and Pre-app Western Isles HVDC Link would all be located partly within this LCT, resulting in direct effects on the existing landscape fabric. The effects of the wind farms and the 132kV OHL would be significant in their own right within the surrounding locality, with the scoping-stage Carn Fearna Wind Farm and scoping-stage Tarvie Wind Farm exerting the greater influence based on their vertical scale. These developments would primarily exert their influence across the LCT areas on the northern and southern sides of Loch Garve (on the western edge of the Study Area), which are spatially separate from the Proposed Development. Potential views of the Proposed Abhainn Dubh Wind Farm would be restricted by its spatial separation from the LCT, in combination with the screening influence of the intervening landform and tree cover. On balance, the cumulative effect would be **Major Adverse** (significant) across localised parts of the LCT, primarily based upon the scoping-stage Carn Fearna Wind Farm and Tarvie Wind Farm. The Proposed Development would also contribute towards cumulative effects, albeit in a more limited and localised manner. The cumulative effects would reduce across the wider parts of the LCT, in particular the LCT area south of Strathconon, and would be **Moderate-Minor Adverse** (not significant).
LCT 339 – Inland Strath	Scenario 1: • Section E of the Proposed Development;	Section E of the Proposed Development would be located to the east of the LCT, where it extends across Strathconon. There would be no direct effects, albeit the construction activities and new steel lattice towers would represent recognisable new features in views from more open vantage points. These elements would be subject to screening by woodland within the LCT, and accordingly would exert limited influence on existing landscape characteristics. Section D would also avoid direct impacts on this LCT. Indirect effects based on views would be restricted by the intervening landform and tree cover / forestry. As such, this would also exert limited influence on existing landscape

Landscape Receptor	Cumulative Developments	Predicted Cumulative Effects
		character within the LCT. Section D would also exert indirect effects on geographically separate LCT areas located further north (outside the Section E Study Area, at the north-western end of Strathrusdale). On balance, the cumulative effect would be **Moderate-Minor Adverse** (not significant) across localised parts of the LCT within closest proximity to the Proposed Development. For Section D, this primarily coincides with the north-western end of Strathrusdale. For Section E, this coincides with the spatially separate LCT area, at the south-eastern end of Strathconon, Accordingly, there would be no coalescence of these effects. Across the wider LCT, the cumulative effect would be **Negligible** (not significant) during construction and operation.
	Scenario 2: • Scoping-stage Creachan Wind Farm; • Scoping-stage Tarvie Wind Farm; • Pre-app Western Isles HVDC Link.	The Pre-app Western Isles HVDC Link would extend through a localised part of the LCT on the southern side of Strathconon. Residual effects based on localised clearance of trees to accommodate the underground cable would exert limited cumulative influence. The scoping-stage Tarvie Wind Farm would be located in the nearby landscape (outside the LCT) to the north of Strathconon, occupying an area of higher ground. Potential indirect effects based on views would be partly contained by the intervening landform that encloses the strath. However, within more open views, the turbines would form recognisable elements on the skyline, resulting in significant effects in their own right across localised parts of the LCT. From the geographically separate LCT area further north, at Strathrusdale, potential views of the scoping-stage Creachan Wind Farm would be subject to screening by the intervening landform. Accordingly, it would exert limited cumulative influence. On balance, the cumulative effect would be **Moderate Adverse** (significant) across localised parts of the LCT, primarily based on views of the scoping-stage Tarvie Wind Farm north of Strathconon. The Proposed Development would exert lesser influence on views to the east of Strathconon (within a different field of view).
LCT 342 – Farmed River Plains	Scenario 1: • Section E of the Proposed Development.	Section E of the Proposed Development would extend through localised parts of the LCT, across Strathconon. The construction activities and steel lattice towers would represent notable linear features within parts of the LCT in closest proximity. However, the influence of Section E would diminish at increased distance. Across wider parts of the LCT, the construction works and towers would represent relatively discreet elements within a broad scale landscape context. Section D would extend through the adjoining landscape north of Strath Peffer, resulting in potential indirect effects. However, potential views would be limited due to the intervening landform. Accordingly, Section D would exert lesser cumulative influence than Section E on this LCT. In summary, the cumulative effect would be **Major-Moderate Adverse** (significant) across localised parts on the LCT in closest proximity to the Proposed Development. These effects would be primarily associated with Section E,

Landscape Receptor	Cumulative Developments	Predicted Cumulative Effects
		where it extends through Strathconon. The cumulative effects would reduce across the wider LCT, and would be **Moderate-Minor Adverse** (not significant) during construction and operation.
	Scenario 2: • Proposed Abhainn Dubh Wind Farm; • Proposed Knockbain Wind Turbine Repowering; • Scoping-stage Ceislein Wind Farm; • Scoping-stage Carn Fearna Wind Farm; • Scoping-stage Tarvie Wind Farm.	There would be views of the proposed Knockbain Wind Turbine Repowering from localised parts of the LCT on the north-eastern side of Knockfarrel. This would exert an indirect effect upon local landscape character, albeit the influence would be limited due to the presence of an existing turbine (albeit smaller) at the site. The effects would be focused within a part of the LCT that is spatially separate from the Proposed Development, and there would be no coalescence of effect. The proposed Abhainn Dubh Wind Farm would be located at greater distance and exert limited influence on the LCT due to the screening influence of the existing landform. Potential views of the consented Strathrory Wind Farm Redesign and scoping-stage Ceislein Wind Farm (further to the north), and the scoping-stage Carn Fearna Wind Farm and Tarvie Wind Farm (further to the west) would be subject to screening by the intervening landform. In summary, the proposed Knockbain Wind Turbine Repowering would contribute towards localised effects on the LCT. However, the overall cumulative level of effect would remain consistent with that described in relation to Scenario 1.
Dornoch Firth NSA	Scenario 1: • Section C of the Proposed Development.	Potential cumulative effects on the NSA would be indirect. The influence of Section C would be very limited due to the intervening landform and presence of forestry / woodland, in combination with the distance of view. The construction activities and new steel lattice towers would represent background elements within wider vistas across the Dornoch Firth and surrounding hillsides. There would be no notable increase in relation to the effects described within the main assessment. In summary, the cumulative effect would be **Moderate-Minor Adverse** (not significant) during construction and operation.
	Scenario 2: • Scoping-stage Inveroykel Wind Farm; • Scoping-stage Braelangwell Wind Farm; • Scoping-stage Balblair Wind Farm.	There are no energy-related proposals within the NSA. From the northern edge of the NSA there would be potential views of the scoping-stage wind farms; the Balblair Wind Farm would be located in the hills to the north, whilst Inveroykel Wind Farm and Braelangwell Wind Farm would be located in the hills to the west. However, from wider parts of the NSA, visibility would be restricted by the spatial separation of these developments from the NSA, in combination with the screening influence of the intervening landform and tree cover. As such, the effects on the existing characteristics and special qualities are predicted to be limited. In summary, the cumulative effect across the NSA is predicted to be **Moderate-Minor Adverse** (not significant) based on the partial views of the Proposed Development and scoping-stage wind farms located across the wider surrounding hillsides.

Landscape Receptor	Cumulative Developments	Predicted Cumulative Effects
Rhiddoroch - Beinn Dearg - Ben Wyvis WLA	Scenario 1: • Section C and E of the Proposed Development.	Potential cumulative effects on the WLA would be indirect. The influence of Section C and Section E would be limited due to their spatial separation from the WLA, on the opposite sides of Strathcarron to the north, and Strathconon to the south respectively. Section D would exert greater influence, particularly where it extends in close proximity (< 1 km) to the eastern edge of the WLA. As described in the main assessment, the key influence would be focused on the outer-most 400-500 m of the WLA to the east of Cnoc a' Bhreac Leathaid, Carn a Chlaiginn and Carn an Laith-bhaid. The cumulative effect would be **Major-Moderate Adverse** (significant) across this very localised area on the outer eastern edge of the WLA during construction and operation. This is based primarily on close proximity views of Section D. The effects would reduce across the wider WLA, in particular the more remote interior. On balance, the cumulative effect across parts of the WLA within the Study Area would be **Moderate-Minor Adverse** (not significant).
	Scenario 2: • Consented Meall Buidhe Wind Farm; • Proposed Abhainn Dubh Wind Farm; • Proposed Knockbain Wind Turbine Repowering; • Scoping-stage Inveroykel Wind Farm; • Scoping-stage Braelangwell Wind Farm; • Scoping-stage Balblair Wind Farm; • Scoping-stage Creachan Wind Farm; • Scoping-stage Ceislein Wind Farm; • Scoping-stage Carn Fearna Wind Farm; • Scoping-stage Tarvie Wind Farm; • Screening-stage Carn Fearna 132 kV OHL.	The scoping-stage Creachan Wind Farm would be located on the north-eastern edge of the WLA and result in significant effects on the local landscape in its own right due to the vertical scale of the turbines (currently proposed at up to 220 m to tip) and the movement of the rotors. However, these effects would diminish at greater distance, and accordingly would account for a relatively focused geographic area on the northern edge of the WLA. In addition, the scoping-stage Carn Fearna Wind Farm and associated screening-stage Carn Fearna 132 kV OHL would be located in the landscape at the southern edge of the WLA. Due to their proximity and scale, they would also exert significant effects in their own right upon localised parts of the WLA (focused on the summits along the southern edge). From the most open vantage points, there would also be views of the consented Meall Buidhe Wind Farm and scoping-stage Braelangwell Wind Farm, which would be located in the landscape to the north (on the opposite side of Strathcarron). The scoping-stage Tarvie Wind Farm at greater distance to the south. Potential views of Knockbain Wind Turbine Repowering to the east would be very limited due to its spatial separation, and presence of intervening forestry. Accordingly, this would exert very limited influence on the WLA. From the more elevated slopes and summits on the eastern edge of the WLA there would be views of the proposed Abhainn Dubh Wind Farm within the forested hills to the east, in front of the Section D alignment. Based on the vertical scale of the turbines, this would exert a notable indirect effect on parts of the WLA in closest proximity to it. The scoping-stage Ceislein Wind Farm would also be located in the landscape to the east, beyond Section D of the Proposed Development. The proposed Knockbain Wind Turbine Repowering (in the landscape to the south-east) would exert very limited influence due to its distance from the WLA.

Landscape Receptor	Cumulative Developments	Predicted Cumulative Effects
		In summary, the cumulative effect would be **Major Adverse** (significant) across localised north-eastern and southern parts of the WLA, primarily based on views of the scoping-stage Creachan Wind Farm and Carn Fearna Wind Farm respectively due to their proximity and vertical scale. In addition, the proposed Abhainn Dubh Wind Farm would contribute towards localised **Major-Moderate Adverse** (significant) effects in combination with the Section D alignment across the eastern edge of the WLA. The effects would steadily diminish further north across more remote, central parts of the WLA. Across wider parts of the WLA the cumulative effect would be **Moderate-Minor Adverse** (not significant).
Ben Wyvis SLA	Scenario 1: • Section E of the Proposed Development.	Potential cumulative effects on the SLA would be indirect. The influence of Section E would be limited due to its spatial separation from the SLA, on the opposite side of Strathconon, and intervening forestry. Similarly, Section D would exert limited influence due to its spatial separation from the SLA, in combination with intervening forestry, as well as the intervening Novar Wind Farm further north (outside the Section E Study Area). In summary, the cumulative effect would be **Minor Adverse** (not significant) during construction and operation. The cumulative effects would reduce across the more remote interior of the SLA.
	Scenario 2: • Proposed Abhainn Dubh Wind Farm; • Proposed Knockbain Wind Turbine Repowering; • Scoping-stage Ceislein Wind Farm; • Scoping-stage Carn Fearna Wind Farm; • Scoping-stage Tarvie Wind Farm; • Screening-stage Carn Fearna 132 kV OHL.	The scoping-stage Carn Fearna Wind Farm and associated screening-stage Carn Fearna 132 kV OHL would be located in the landscape at the southern edge of the SLA. Due to their proximity and scale, they would exert significant effects in their own right upon localised parts of the SLA (focused on the summits along the southern edge). From the most open vantage points, there would also be views of the scoping-stage Tarvie Wind Farm at greater distance to the south. From the more elevated slopes and summits on the eastern edge of the WLA there would be views of the proposed Abhainn Dubh Wind Farm within the forested hills to the east, in front of the Section D alignment. Based on the vertical scale of the turbines, this would exert a notable indirect effect on parts of the WLA in closest proximity to it. The scoping-stage Ceislein Wind Farm would also be located in the landscape to the east, beyond Section D of the Proposed Development. Potential views of Knockbain Wind Turbine Repowering to the south-east would be very limited due to its spatial separation, and presence of intervening forestry. Accordingly, this would exert very limited influence on the SLA. In summary, the cumulative effect would be **Major Adverse** (significant) across localised southern parts of the SLA, primarily based on views of the Scoping Stage Carn Fearna Wind Farm due to its proximity and vertical scale. In addition, the proposed Abhainn Dubh Wind Farm would contribute towards localised **Major-Moderate Adverse** (significant) effects upon the eastern edge of the SLA. The effects would steadily diminish further north across more remote, central parts of the SLA. Across wider parts of the SLA the cumulative effect would be **Moderate-Minor Adverse** (not significant). The Proposed Development would exert limited cumulative influence due to its spatial separation from the SLA and intervening forestry.

Landscape Receptor	Cumulative Developments	Predicted Cumulative Effects
Strathpeffer (SD-10)	Scenario 1: • Section E of the Proposed Development.	Section E would be located in the landscape to the west of the Strathpeffer. Views of the construction activities and steel lattice towers would be subject to screening by intervening landform and tree cover, and accordingly would be limited to the outer edges of the settlement. Section D would be located at greater distance in the landscape to the north, in the background beyond intervening woodland. Accordingly, it would exert limited cumulative influence on views from the settlement. In summary, the cumulative effect would be **Moderate Adverse** (significant) during construction and operation, based primarily on views of Section E.
	Scenario 2: • Proposed Knockbain Wind Turbine Repowering.	Potential views of the proposed Knockbain Wind Turbine Repowering would be restricted by the intervening landform and tree cover. Potential views of other wind farms would be restricted by the intervening landform and separation distance. In summary, there would be no change to the cumulative effect described in relation to Scenario 1.
Dingwall (SD-12)	Scenario 1: • Section E of the Proposed Development.	Section D and Section E would be located in the landscape to the north and west of Dingwall respectively. In each case, potential views of the construction activities and steel lattice towers would be subject to screening by intervening landform and tree cover. Within the clearest views from the outer edges of the settlement, the Proposed Development would represent a distant element in the background landscape. In summary, the cumulative effect would be **Minor Adverse** (not significant) during construction and operation.
	Scenario 2: • Proposed Knockbain Wind Turbine Repowering.	Potential views of the proposed Knockbain Wind Turbine Repowering would be restricted by the intervening landform and tree cover. Potential views of other wind farms would be restricted by the intervening landform and separation distance. In summary, there would be no change to the cumulative effect described in relation to Scenario 1.
Ardgay (SD-13)	Scenario 1: • Section C of the Proposed Development.	Section C would be partly visible in the distance in northerly views across the Dornoch Firth. The construction activities and new steel lattice towers would represent relatively discreet linear elements on the distant hillsides and skylines within the wider landscape around the Firth. There would be no notable change to the level of effect reported within the main assessment. The cumulative effect would be **Minor Adverse** (not significant) during construction and operation.
	Scenario 2: • Scoping-stage Inveroykel Wind Farm; • Scoping-stage Braelangwell Wind Farm; • Scoping-stage Balblair Wind Farm.	Potential views of the scoping-stage wind farms in the landscape to the north and west would be restricted by the intervening landform. Based on partial views of the Proposed Development and the scoping-stage wind farms, the cumulative effect is predicted to be **Moderate-Minor Adverse** (not significant).
Cadh an Tartair (RD-01)	Scenario 1: • Section C of the Proposed Development.	There would be close proximity views of the construction activities and new steel lattice towers associated with the southern end of Section C (where it adjoins Section D). These elements would be experienced within the strath, and

Landscape Receptor	Cumulative Developments	Predicted Cumulative Effects
		the slopes that enclose its northern side. Views would gradually diminish at greater distance from Section C due to the screening influence of intervening tree cover and landform. The cumulative effect would be **Major-Moderate Adverse** (significant) on views from localised parts on the road in closest proximity to the Proposed Development during construction and operation. As per the main assessment, these effects would reduce in views from more distant sections of the route. Across the wider route, the effects would be **Moderate-Minor Adverse** (not significant).
	Scenario 2: • Consented Meall Buidhe Wind Farm; • Scoping-stage Braelangwell Wind Farm.	Views of the consented Meall Buidhe Wind Farm and scoping-stage Braelangwell Wind Farm would be focused across western parts of the route between Amatnatua and Culeave (west of the Proposed Development). The wind turbines would be subject to partial screening by the rising landform along the northern side of the strath in combination with intervening forestry. However, in more open views the turbines would form recognisable elements on the skyline to the north / north-west. Potential views of all other Scenario 2 cumulative developments would be restricted by the intervening landform. Based on partial views of the Proposed Development in combination with the consented Meall Buidhe Wind Farm and scoping-stage Braelangwell Wind Farm, the cumulative effect on views from this route is predicted to be **Major-Moderate Adverse** (significant).
Core Path SU03.06: River Carron (RD-12)	Scenario 1: • Section C of the Proposed Development.	From the western end of the path there would be close proximity views of the construction activities and steel lattice towers associated with the southern end of Section C (where it adjoins Section D). These elements would be experienced within the strath, and the slopes that enclose its southern side. Across eastern parts of the path, views would be restricted by intervening woodland and riparian tree cover. The cumulative effect would be **Major-Moderate Adverse** (significant) on views from localised parts on the path in closest proximity to the Proposed Development during construction and operation. As per the main assessment, these effects would reduce in views from more distant easterly sections of the route. Across the wider route, the effects would be **Moderate-Minor Adverse** (not significant).
	Scenario 2: • Consented Meall Buidhe Wind Farm; • Scoping-stage Braelangwell Wind Farm.	Views of the consented Meall Buidhe Wind Farm and scoping-stage Braelangwell Wind Farm would be restricted by the landform on the northern side of Strathcarron in combination with woodland and riparian tree cover along the path. Within more open views, experienced from localised areas at the western end of the path, Braelangwell Wind Farm would be experienced on the opposite (northern) side of Strathcarron. The wind turbines would form recognisable elements on the skyline to the north. Meall Buidhe Wind Farm would be located at greater distance in the hills to the north-west and exert lesser influence on the view. Potential views of all other Scenario 2 cumulative developments would be restricted by the intervening landform. Based on partial views of the Proposed Development in combination with Meall Buidhe Wind Farm and Braelangwell Wind Farm, the cumulative effect on views from this route is predicted to be Major-Moderate Adverse (significant).

Landscape Receptor	Cumulative Developments	Predicted Cumulative Effects
		However, there would be no effect across more enclosed parts of the path, where the route extends though more dense woodland.
Strathpeffer Walking Route: North of Strathpeffer (RD-14)	Scenario 1: • Section E of the Proposed Development.	There would be close proximity views of the construction activities and steel lattice towers associated with the northern end of Section E, where it would extend across this series of paths. However, views would be limited to localised sections of the path in close proximity, due to the screening influence of surrounding forestry. Section D would be located in the landscape to the north, and would also be filtered by intervening tree cover, restricting views to more open sections of the path. In summary, the cumulative effect would be **Major Adverse** (significant) across localised sections of the path within closest proximity to Section E. The overall cumulative effect across wider parts of the path network would be **Minor Adverse** (not significant). Section D would exert limited influence.
	Scenario 2: • Scoping-stage Carn Fearna Wind Farm; • Scoping-stage Tarvie Wind Farm.	The scoping-stage Carn Fearna Wind Farm and scoping-stage Tarvie Wind Farm would be located in the hills to the west / south-west of the path network. However, potential views of these schemes would be restricted by surrounding tree cover. Based on glimpsed views through localised gaps in tree cover, the cumulative level of effect would be **Moderate-Minor Adverse** (not significant).
Core Path SU03.14: Cornhill Curling Pond (RD-22)	Scenario 1: • Section C of the Proposed Development.	Views of Section C would be restricted by surrounding forestry / tree cover along the path. This would limit visibility and temper cumulative simultaneous visibility with Section D. As such, the cumulative effects during construction and operation would be **Moderate Adverse** (significant).
	Scenario 2 • Scoping-stage Inveroykel Wind Farm; • Scoping-stage Braelangwell Wind Farm; • Scoping-stage Balblair Wind Farm.	Potential views of the scoping-stage Inveroykel Wind Farm and Braelangwell Wind Farm in the landscape to the west would be subject to screening by intervening tree cover / woodland. The clearest views would be experienced from the western-most part of the path (250 m in length) where there would be a more open outlook beyond areas of forestry felling. The wind turbines would be visible in the landscape beyond the Proposed Development, albeit exerting a notable influence on views in their own right due to their vertical scale. Potential views of the scoping-stage Balblair Wind Farm would be experienced at greater distance to the north-east, on the opposite side of the Kyle of Sutherland. Accordingly, they would exert limited influence on the view. Based on partial views of the Proposed Development and the scoping-stage Inveroykel Wind Farm and Braelangwell Wind Farm, the cumulative effect is predicted to be **Major Adverse** (significant). These cumulative views would be limited to very localised western parts of the path. The cumulative effects would be reduced along other parts of the route due to increased levels of intervening screening.
	Scenario 1: • Section E of the Proposed Development.	Section E would be located in the landscape to the west / south-west of the path. Views of the associated construction activities and steel lattice towers would be subject to screening by the intervening landform and tree

Landscape Receptor	Cumulative Developments	Predicted Cumulative Effects
Core Path RC45.07: Golf course - Ord Wood east (RD-25)		cover. Section D would be located to the north. The associated construction works and steel lattice towers would represent distant elements in the background landscape. Accordingly, it would exert extremely limited cumulative influence. In summary, the cumulative effect would be **Moderate Adverse** (significant) based primarily of views of Section E.
	Scenario 2: • Proposed Knockbain Wind Turbine Repowering.	There would be partial views of the proposed Knockbain Wind Turbine Repowering in the landscape to the east (within a different sector of view to Sections D and E). Views would be subject to screening by the intervening landform, and accordingly it would exert very limited influence on existing views. In summary, there would be no change to the cumulative effect described in relation to Scenario 1.
Core Path RC45.04: Blackmuir Woods - maze circular (RD-26)	Scenario 1: • Section E of the Proposed Development.	Section E would be located in the landscape to the west / south-west of the path. Views of the associated construction activities and steel lattice towers would be subject to screening by intervening tree cover. Where there are gaps in the surrounding tree cover, Section E would be visible on the hillsides to the west against a combination of the background landscape and sky. Views to the south-west would be screened by the intervening landform. Section D would be located in the landscape to the north, at greater distance. Potential views of the construction works and steel lattice towers would also be limited due to the combination of intervening landform and forestry. In summary, the overall cumulative effect would be **Moderate Adverse** (significant) based primarily of views of Section E.
	Scenario 2: • Proposed Knockbain Wind Turbine Repowering.	There would be partial views of the proposed Knockbain Wind Turbine Repowering in the landscape to the east (within a different sector of view to Sections D and E). Views would be subject to screening by the intervening landform at Knockfarrel, and accordingly it would exert very limited influence on existing views. Potential views of other wind farms would be restricted by the intervening landform and separation distance. In summary, there would be no change to the cumulative effect described in relation to Scenario 1.
Core Path RC45.09: Ardival - Catsback - Loch Ussie (RD-31)	Scenario 1: • Section E of the Proposed Development.	Section E would be located in the landscape to the west / south-west of the path. Views of the associated construction activities and steel lattice towers would be subject to screening by the intervening landform, which would restrict views to the south-west. Section D would be located in the landscape to the north, at slightly greater distance. Potential views of the construction works and steel lattice towers would also be limited due to the combination of intervening landform and forestry. Within the clearest views the Proposed development would be visible on the hillsides to the west / north-west against a combination of the background landscape and sky. In summary, the overall cumulative effect would be **Moderate Adverse** (significant) based on combined views of Sections D and E.

Landscape Receptor	Cumulative Developments	Predicted Cumulative Effects
	Scenario 2: • Proposed Knockbain Wind Turbine Repowering; • Proposed Abhain Dubh Wind Farm; • Scoping-stage Carn Fearna Wind Farm; • Scoping-stage Tarvie Wind Farm.	There would be views of the proposed Knockbain Wind Turbine Repowering from more elevated (southern) sections of the path. The influence of the turbine would be relatively limited due to the narrow angle of view, and the presence of an existing turbine (albeit smaller) at the site. Potential views of other wind farms would be restricted by the intervening landform and separation distance. The cumulative effect would remain **Moderate Adverse** (not significant).
Core Path SU03.01: Cornhill - Culrain (RD-33)	Scenario 1: • Section C of the Proposed Development.	There would be close proximity views of the construction activities and steel lattice towers associated with Section C, where it would extend across this path. However, views would be limited to localised sections of the path in close proximity, due to the screening influence of surrounding forestry. Section D would be located in the landscape to the south, and would also be filtered by intervening tree cover, restricting views to more open sections of the path. In summary, the cumulative effect would be **Major Adverse** (significant) across localised sections of the path within closest proximity to Section C. The overall cumulative effect across wider parts of the path network would be **Minor Adverse** (not significant). Section D would exert limited influence.
	Scenario 2: • Consented Meall Buidhe Wind Farm; • Scoping-stage Inveroykel Wind Farm; • Scoping-stage Braelangwell Wind Farm; • Scoping-stage Balblair Wind Farm; • Scoping-stage Creachan Wind Farm.	There would be potential views of the scoping-stage Inveroykel Wind Farm and Braelangwell Wind Farm in the landscape to the west. These views would be subject to screening by intervening tree cover / woodland, particularly across eastern sections of the route. The consented Meall Buidhe Wind Farm would be located within the same field of view, albeit at greater distance, and exerting more limited influence on the experience of walkers. Potential views of the other wind farms would be experienced at greater distance, subject to screening by landform and tree cover. Accordingly, they would exert limited influence on the view. Based on partial views of the Proposed Development and the scoping-stage Inveroykel Wind Farm and Braelangwell Wind Farm, the cumulative effect is predicted to be **Major-Moderate Adverse** (significant) based on the most open views. The cumulative effects would be reduced along other parts of the route due to increased levels of intervening screening.
Core Path RC45.02: Knockfarrel (maze to hill) (RD-36)	Scenario 1: • Section E of the Proposed Development.	Section E would be located in the landscape to the west / south-west of the path. Views of the associated construction activities and steel lattice towers would be subject to screening by the intervening landform, which would fully screen views of the south-west. Section D would be located in the landscape to the north, at greater distance. Potential views of the construction works and steel lattice towers would also be limited due to the combination of intervening landform and forestry. Within the clearest views the Proposed development would be visible on the hillsides to the west / north-west against a combination of the background landscape and sky.

Landscape Receptor	Cumulative Developments	Predicted Cumulative Effects
		In summary, the overall cumulative effect would be **Moderate Adverse** (significant) based on combined views of Sections D and E.
	Scenario 2: • Proposed Knockbain Wind Turbine Repowering.	Potential views of the proposed Knockbain Wind Turbine Repowering from more elevated sections of the path would be limited due to the narrow angle of view, and the presence of an existing turbine (albeit smaller) at the site. Potential views of other Scenario 2 developments would be limited by landform and separation distance. There would be no change to the cumulative effect described in relation to Scenario 1.
Core Path RC13.05: Knockfarrel to Fodderty (RD-41)	Scenario 1: • Section E of the Proposed Development.	Section E would be located in the landscape to the west / south-west of the path. Views of the associated construction activities and steel lattice towers would be subject to screening by the intervening landform, which would fully screen views of the south-west. Section D would be located in the landscape to the north, at greater distance. Potential views of the construction works and steel lattice towers would also be limited due to the combination of intervening landform and forestry. Within the clearest views the Proposed development would be visible on the hillsides to the west / north-west against a combination of the background landscape and sky. In summary, the overall cumulative effect would be **Moderate Adverse** (significant) based on combined views of Sections D and E.
	Scenario 2: • Proposed Knockbain Wind Turbine Repowering.	There would be views of the proposed Knockbain Wind Turbine Repowering from more elevated (southern) sections of the path. The influence of the turbine would be relatively limited due to the narrow angle of view, and the presence of an existing turbine (albeit smaller) at the site. Potential views of other Scenario 2 developments would be limited by landform and separation distance. The cumulative effect would remain **Moderate Adverse** (not significant).
Core Path RC13.06: Knockfarrel (RD-46)	Scenario 1: • Section E of the Proposed Development.	Section E would be located in the landscape to the west / south-west of the path. Views of the associated construction activities and steel lattice towers would be subject to screening by the intervening landform and tree cover. Section D would be located in the landscape to the north. Potential views of the construction works and steel lattice towers would also be limited due to the combination of intervening landform and forestry. Within the clearest views the Proposed development would be visible on the hillsides to the west / north-west / north, against a combination of the background landscape and sky. In summary, the overall cumulative effect would be **Moderate Adverse** (significant) based on combined views of Sections D and E.
	Scenario 2: • Proposed Knockbain Wind Turbine Repowering.	There would be views of the proposed Knockbain Wind Turbine Repowering to the south of the path (in the opposite field of view to the Proposed Development). The influence of the turbine would be relatively limited due to the narrow angle of view, and the presence of an existing turbine (albeit smaller) at the site. Potential views of other

Landscape Receptor	Cumulative Developments	Predicted Cumulative Effects
		Scenario 2 developments would be limited by landform and separation distance. The cumulative effect would remain **Moderate Adverse** (not significant).
Strathpeffer Golf Course (OD-01)	Scenario 1: • Section E of the Proposed Development.	Section E would be located in the landscape to the west / south-west / north-west of the golf course. Potential views of the construction works and steel lattice towers would be limited by the intervening landform and tree cover. Section D would be located at greater distance in the landscape to the north. Potential views of Section D would be limited by the landform at Creag Ulladail, and limited to localised parts of the course where the construction works and towers would represent distant elements in the background landscape. In summary, the cumulative effect would be **Moderate Adverse** (significant) based primarily on Section E.
	Scenario 2: • None.	There would be no views of Scenario 2 developments, and no change to the cumulative effect described in relation to Scenario 1.
Dounie Estate (OD-03)	Scenario 1: • Section C of the Proposed Development.	Section D would be located in the landscape to the west of the Estate. Section C of the Proposed Development would be experienced in the landscape to the north-west. In both cases the construction activities and steel lattice towers would be subject to partial screening by intervening tree cover. As a result, views of the Section C and D construction activities would be relatively limited. Once operational, the Section C towers would extend northwards from those in Section D, extending the influence of the alignment across a wider angle of view. The cumulative effects during construction would be **Moderate Adverse** (significant). The cumulative effects during operation would be **Major-Moderate Adverse** (significant).
	Scenario 2: • Consented Meall Buidhe Wind Farm; • Scoping-stage Braelangwell Wind Farm; • Scoping-stage Inveroykel Wind Farm; • Scoping-stage Balblair Wind Farm; • Scoping-stage Creachan Wind Farm.	The scoping stage Braelangwell Wind Farm would be experienced on the opposite (northern) side of Strathcarron. The wind turbines would form recognisable elements on the skyline to the north, behind the Proposed Development. The consented Meall Buidhe Wind Farm and scoping-stage Inveroykel Wind Farm would be located at greater distance in the hills to the north / north-west and exert lesser influence on the view. The scoping-stage Balblair Wind Farm would be located to the north-east and exert very limited cumulative influence due to the distance of view and intervening tree cover. The scoping-stage Creachan Wind Farm would be located in the hills to the south of the Estate. However, potential views of these turbines would be restricted by the intervening landform. Based on views of the Proposed Development and the scoping-stage Braelangwell Wind Farm, consented Meall Buidhe Wind Farm and scoping-stage Inveroykel Wind Farm, the cumulative effect is predicted to be **Major-Moderate Adverse** (significant).

7.8 Mitigation

7.8.1 Principal mitigation measures throughout Section D have been embedded in the design process and relate to the identification of a preferred alignment, to reduce as far as possible, landscape and visual effects. The requirement for, and location of, permanent access tracks has also been carefully reviewed with these being limited to the minimum required for longer term maintenance.

7.8.2 The following section summarises key mitigation elements during the construction and operational phase.

Design Mitigation during Construction Phase

7.8.3 Construction of the Proposed Development would follow an agreed construction method statement that would include arrangements for implementation of various aspects of the works to mitigate local adverse impacts during construction (to be agreed with The Highland Council and other statutory agencies). 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 would 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 would be undertaken as soon as construction work is completed.

Design Mitigation During Operational Phase

7.8.4 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 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 would involve replacement of topsoil, grading and installation of drainage as required. Graded areas would 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 would occur rapidly following cessation of construction activities.

7.9 Residual Effects

7.9.1 The assessment of operational effects takes into account the likely benefits of the embedded and implementation stage mitigation measures which are proposed and therefore the operational effects identified should be considered representative of residual effects.

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

7.10 Summary and Conclusions

Landscape Effects

The landscape assessment has identified that there would be temporary significant adverse effects on localised parts of six LCTs during the construction phase, namely:

- LCT 135 – Rounded Hills - Caithness & Sutherland;
- LCT 142 – Strath - Caithness & Sutherland;
- LCT 139 – Rugged Mountain Massif - Caithness & Sutherland;
- LCT 330 – Rounded Hills and Moorland Slopes - Ross & Cromarty;
- LCT 341 – Forest Edge Farming; and
- LCT 329 – Rounded Mountain Massif.

7.10.1 In each case, these effects would be based upon the focussed corridor of construction activity throughout valued and sensitive landscape areas. However, due to the generally low-lying nature of construction activities, these temporary effects would be primarily focused within 800 m of the Proposed Development (or less where contained by adjoining tree cover).

7.10.2 During operation, when construction works are complete and vegetation has re-established, there would continue to be significant adverse effects upon localised parts of the same ten LCTs. These effects would be based upon the addition of the proposed steel lattice towers, which would represent new vertical features within the local landscape (directly within seven of these LCT, and located in the nearby landscape outside the other three LCTs). The key effects would remain focussed within 800 m of the Proposed Development (or less based on localised screening). At greater distances, the influence of the Proposed Development would reduce, and the effects would not be significant.

7.10.3 In terms of landscape designations, the landscape assessment has concluded that there would be very localised significant adverse effects upon the outer-most eastern edge of the Rhiddoroch - Beinn Dearg - Ben Wyvis WLA, where Section D extends within the nearby landscape within 450 m to the east of the WLA. This accounts for an area of approximately 250 ha, within a WLA that encompasses a total landmass of 90,466 ha (equating to less than 0.3%). The effects would diminish steadily across western parts of the WLA, and would not be significant overall.

7.10.4 There would be no significant effects on the character or Special Qualities of any other designations or protected landscapes within the Section D Study Area and as a result the integrity of these designations would not be compromised. This includes the Dornoch Firth NSA, the Fannichs, Beinn Dearg and Glencalvie SLA, and the Ben Wyvis SLA.

Visual Effects

7.10.5 During construction likely significant adverse effects were identified for seven residential properties (all located within 500 m of the Proposed Development). There would be no significant effects in views from settlements due to their spatial separation from the Proposed Development and / or intervening screening due to landform and tree cover. There would also be significant effects applicable to localised sections of three recreational routes (RD-12, RD-19, and RD-22) and one outdoor location (OD-03 Dounie Estate). In terms of road users, there would be significant effects on localised sections of two minor roads (RD-01 and RD-02), which would extend directly under the Proposed Development.

7.10.6 During operation, when vegetation has re-established there would continue to be significant effects.

Cumulative Effects

7.10.7 The LVIA has identified that there would be likely significant effects on localised parts of the landscape and select visuals receptors as a result of Section D of the Proposed Development, in combination with other parts of the Proposed Development (Sections C and E), related works, and / or other proposed unrelated developments.

7.10.8 In terms of landscape character, the LVIA has identified that there would be likely significant cumulative effects applicable to 11 Landscape Character Types at a local level:

- LCT 135 – Rounded Hills - Caithness & Sutherland;
- LCT 142 – Strath - Caithness & Sutherland;
- LCT 139 – Rugged Mountain Massif - Caithness & Sutherland;
- LCT 330 – Rounded Hills and Moorland Slopes - Ross & Cromarty;
- LCT 341 – Forest Edge Farming;
- LCT 335 – Wooded Glens and Rocky Moorland;
- LCT 345 – Farmed and Forested Slopes - Ross & Cromarty;
- LCT 346 – Open Farmed Slopes;
- LCT 331 – Rounded Rocky Hills - Ross & Cromarty;
- LCT 339 – Inland Strath; and
- LCT 342 – Farmed River Plains.

7.10.9 In terms of landscape designations, the LVIA has identified that there would be significant cumulative effects applicable to very localised parts of the Rhiddoroch - Beinn Dearg - Ben Wyvis WLA.. These would be focused on the north-eastern edge due to the scoping-stage Creachan Wind Farm, the southern edge due to the scoping-stage Carn Fearna Wind Farm, and on the outer-most easter edge (to the east of Cnoc a' Bhreac Leathaid, Carn a Chlaiginn and Carn an Laith-bhaid) based on views of the proposed Abhainn Dubh Wind Farm in combination with parts of the Section D alignment. These effects would diminish across the wider WLA and would not be significant across other parts, including the more remote interior. As such, across the majority of the WLA the effects would not be significant. Similarly, there would also be significant cumulative effects applicable to very localised parts of the Ben Wyvis SLA. These would be focused on the southern edge due to the Scoping Stage Carn Fearna Wind Farm, and the eastern edge due to the proposed Abhainn Dubh Wind Farm.

7.10.10 In terms of visual receptors, significant cumulative effects would be applicable to one settlement (SD-10: Strathpeffer), localised sections of one minor road (RD-01: Cadh an Tartair), localised sections of ten recreational paths (RD-12, RD-14, RD-22, RD-25, RD-26, RD-31, RD-33, RD-36, RD-41 and RD-46) and two outdoor locations (OD-01: Strathpeffer Golf Course, and OD-03: Dounie Estate).

7.10.11 There would be no significant cumulative effects on other receptors within the Section D Study Area.

Conclusions

7.10.12 The LVIA has concluded that there would be temporary significant landscape and visual effects occurring during the construction of the Proposed Development. These effects would be localised in nature and primarily focused upon receptors in closest proximity to the Site. Localised landscape and visual effects would continue to occur in the longer term, particularly at close range, where due to the absence of screening the proposed steel lattice towers would form noticeable new elements within the landscape. There would be likely significant cumulative effects on localised landscape character, and views from a small number of residential dwellings, transport routes, paths, and outdoor destinations.

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TRANSMISSION

VOLUME 5: APPENDIX 7.8: ANNEX 1 – LANDSCAPE CHARACTER ASSESSMENT SECTION D

1. LANDSCAPE CHARACTER ASSESSMENT: SECTION D

1.1.1 This Annex provides the detailed assessment of potential effects on landscape character as a result of the Proposed Development (Section D). Landscape Character Types (LCTs) that have been identified for consideration within the Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment (LVIA), that fall within the Study Area, are listed below. The location and extents of the LCTs relative to the Proposed Development are illustrated in **Volume 3, Figures 7.3-5 and 7.3-6: Section D Landscape Character**.

1.1.2 LCTs that host parts of Section D (direct effects):

- 135 – Rounded Hills - Caithness & Sutherland LCT;
- 142 – Strath - Caithness & Sutherland LCT;
- 139 – Rugged Mountain Massif - Caithness & Sutherland LCT;
- 330 – Rounded Hills and Moorland Slopes - Ross & Cromarty LCT; and
- 341 – Forest Edge Farming LCT.

1.1.3 Other LCTs within the Study Area (indirect effects):

- 335 – Wooded Glens and Rocky Moorland LCT;
- 345 – Farmed and Forested Slopes - Ross & Cromarty LCT;
- 145 – Farmed and Forested Slopes with Crofting LCT;
- 329 – Rounded Mountain Massif LCT;
- 347 – Open Steep Farmed Slopes LCT;
- 346 – Open Farmed Slopes LCT;
- 331 – Rounded Rocky Hills - Ross & Cromarty LCT;
- 340 – Strath - Ross & Cromarty LCT;
- 339 – Inland Strath LCT; and
- 342 – Farmed River Plains LCT.

1.1.4 The assessment of potential effects on these LCTs is set out in Tables 1 – 15. The assessment makes reference to the key characteristics specific to each LCT as described within the National Landscape Character Assessment[1].

[1] NatureScot. 2019. National Landscape Character Assessment in Scotland

Table 1: Effects on LCT 135 – Rounded Hills – Caithness & Sutherland

Baseline Description	
Description	This LCT encompasses extensive parts of Caithness and Sutherland,and coincides with the northern-most part of Section D (between Strathcarron and Meall Bhenneit). This equates to approximately 8.1 km of the Section D alignment (Towers S40-S42 and S46-S67). This area of the LCT comprises large swathes of open, rolling moorland, with large parcels of forestry.
Designated / Protected Landscapes within / adjacent to the LCT	The Dornoch Firth NSA encompasses the low-lying landscape along the Firth at the northern end of Section D. This coincides with a very localised area of the LCT at Church Hill on the southern side of the Firth (east of the Section D alignment). The vast majority of the LCT is outside this NSA. In addition, the Rhiddoroch - Beinn Dearg - Ben Wyvis WLA, and the Fannichs, Beinn Dearg and Glencalvie SLA encompass areas of higher ground within the LCT to the west of Section D. The Section D alignment would not extend though these areas.
Key Characteristics	• Rolling hills forming broad, subtly rounded summits but with some more pronounced hills also occurring, these often featuring steeper slopes along the coast or where truncated by deep glens. • Hills cut by numerous narrow burns and small lochans lie within dips, corries and on plateau summits. • Predominantly dense heather ground cover and moorland grasses, but also some areas of bog. • Fragments of broadleaf woodland in inaccessible locations. • Scarcely settled with a largely uninhabited interior and widely scattered crofts and farms on lower slopes adjoining straths and farmed landscapes. • Narrow glens and lower hill slopes often rich in archaeology with features such as standing stones, brochs and medieval townships. • Wind farms located in more accessible and generally lower rolling hills, either close to extensive forestry or the high voltage transmission line aligned broadly parallel to the south-east Sutherland coast. • Convex character of hill slopes limiting distant visibility and views of the hill tops when travelling through the landscape. • Views into the interior of the hills very restricted. • Strong sense of wild character can be experienced within the more remote and little modified parts of this landscape.
Landscape Value	The LCT is sparsely settled and incorporates several historical and archaeological sites. The rolling hills and natural features contribute towards its aesthetic qualities. It is also valued for its strong wild character and sense of remoteness, which are most pronounced across areas to the west of Section D. Its combination of natural beauty and remoteness contribute towards its perceived value. On balance, Landscape Value is High-Medium.

Assessment of Effects	
Possible Landscape Receptors	**Potential Effects**
• Rolling hills forming broad, subtly rounded summits but with some more pronounced hills also occurring.	• Construction works or the steel lattice towers could interrupt the existing skyline in the vicinity of more 'pronounced hills' forming a new focus.
• Fragments of broadleaf woodland in inaccessible locations.	• The Proposed Development extends through areas of existing plantation forestry at West Dounie (on the southern edge of Strathcarron). There would be localised felling of forestry in this area to facilitate construction of Section D. However, this primarily avoids broadleaved woodland. Section D also extends past large areas of forestry at Blar Garvary further south, which would be unaffected.
• Scarcely settled with a largely uninhabited interior.	• Construction works and the steel lattice towers would represent new elements of human activity / presence within the landscape.
• Rich in archaeology with features such as standing stones, brochs and medieval townships	• The alignment avoids direct impacts upon archaeological features, albeit may be visible from some archaeological points of interest.
• Wind farms located in more accessible and generally lower rolling hills, either close to extensive forestry or the high voltage transmission line aligned broadly parallel to the south-east Sutherland coast	• Construction works and the steel lattice towers would represent new elements of human activity / presence within the landscape.
• Convex character of hill slopes limiting distant visibility and views of the hill tops when travelling through the landscape.	• The landform would temper views of the Proposed Development from wider parts, and lower-lying areas within the LCT.
• Views into the interior of the hills very restricted.	• As above, the landform would temper views of the Proposed Development from lower-lying surrounding areas.
• Strong sense of wild character.	• Section D is located 450 m west of the Rhiddoroch - Beinn Dearg - Ben Wyvis WLA, which represents a part of the LCT where wild character is specifically recognised. Construction works and the steel lattice towers would represent new elements of human activity / presence within the landscape, with the potential to erode the sense of wildness across localised areas.
Landscape Sensitivity	The LCT encompasses extensive geographic areas. Localised parts of the LCT coincide with nationally and regionally valued landscapes. Section D would extend within 450 m of the Rhiddoroch - Beinn Dearg - Ben Wyvis WLA at the closest point. However, the Proposed Development avoids direct encroachment into the WLA, and would extend across areas of moorland that are influenced by large-scale plantation forestry to the east at Blar Garvary. This forestry represents a human influence within the landscape that suggests the local landscape is tolerant of some degree of change of the type proposed. Section D is spatially remote from all other protected landscapes within the LCT, which are located at greater distance.

	On balance, the susceptibility of the LCT in the locality of Section D is assessed as High-Medium Landscape sensitivity to development of the type proposed is assessed as **High-Medium**.
Nature of change and Impact Magnitude	Refer to viewpoints 7-46 Loch Laro, 7-53 Lower Hilton and 7-54 (A and B) Clashcoig (Lochbuidhe Road). Construction works would involve very localised forestry felling at West Dounie to create a wayleave for the alignment, and the establishment of temporary access tracks to facilitate construction of the new towers. Further south, Section D would extend across open moorland, albeit the Proposed Development would extend past the swathe of forestry at Blar Garvary (on its western side). Existing forestry tracks would be utilised where practicable to reduce the extent of new tracks required. The existing forestry would form a backdrop / screening element to the construction activities nearby. In addition, the characteristic 'rolling hills' would restrict views of the construction activities, reflecting the 'convex character of hill slopes limiting distant visibility and views of the hill tops when travelling through the landscape'. Once operational, the Proposed Development would introduce a total of 24 steel lattice towers to the LCT, representing a new linear element within the landscape. The towers would predominantly extend across open moorland, albeit would be partly contained by the forestry at Blar Garvary to the east. There would also be views of wider parts of the alignment extending to the south (outside the LCT). Within the most open views from the 'scarcely settled' and 'largely uninhabited interior' of the LCT, the Proposed Development would represent a new element of human influence within the landscape. However, as described above, the rolling hill slopes would restrict views of the towers across more distant parts of the LCT. In summary, the key effects would be focused within a linear corridor along the alignment. Given the open nature of the local moorland landscape, this would extend out to approximately 700-800 m from the Section D alignment, where the impact magnitude would typically be **High** during construction and operation. This represents a localised section of the LCT, and would be curtailed within 300-400 m where the alignment extends past forestry at Blar Garvary. The influence of the Proposed Development would diminish at greater distances. Across the wider LCT (representing the vast majority of the LCT) the impact magnitude would typically be **Low** during construction and operation.
Significance of Effect	The construction stage activities, including vehicular movement and the presence of people, would reduce the sense of remoteness. These works would be partly screened / back-clothed by forestry at Blar Garvary from surrounding parts of the LCT. The main influence of these activities would therefore account for a localised, linear part of Section D. During operation, the level of human activity and vehicle movement would reduce. The new towers and sections of permanent access track would form new components within the landscape. The increase in built form and accessibility would contrast with the more remote / uninhabited characteristics of the LCT and the sense of wildness which is recognised across the Rhiddoroch - Beinn Dearg - Ben Wyvis WLA to the west of the alignment. However, views of Section D would be partially restricted by the rolling nature of the upland landform. In summary, within 700-800 m of the Section D alignment the effects during construction and operation would be **Major-Moderate Adverse** (significant). Across the wider 135 – Rounded Hills – Caithness & Sutherland LCT, the effects would be **Moderate-Minor Adverse** (not significant) during construction and operation.

Table 2: Effects on LCT 142 – Strath – Caithness & Sutherland

Baseline Description	
Description	This LCT is focused upon the low-lying river valley of Strathcarron, at the northern-most end of Section D (where it adjoins Section C). This coincides with a very localised part of the Section D alignment, approximately 900 m in length, comprising two towers (Towers S38 and S39). The local landscape comprises an enclosed strath, with areas of woodland, farmland and scattered settlement (primarily isolated dwellings and farmsteads) aligned along the central watercourse.
Designated / Protected Landscapes within / adjacent to the LCT	The eastern-most edge of the LCT abuts the Dornoch Firth NSA. Across wider western parts of the LCT, there is a very localised overlap with the Fannichs, Beinn Dearg and Glencalvie SLA within Strathcarron. However, the vast majority of the LCT is outside any landscape designation.
Key Characteristics	• Straths range from fairly straight deeply incised troughs to more winding valleys with a number of minor side glens. • River terraces and hummocky lower side slopes a common feature. • Water is a key characteristic with straths accommodating a central river meandering across the floodplain, often traced by clumps of birch and alder. • Lochs in some straths, where a string of small lochs add to the scenic richness of the lower strath. • Areas of wetland often present on the strath floors. • Smooth and fairly large pastures the predominant land cover on the floodplains of the straths, commonly enclosed by wire fences. • Semi-improved pastures, heather and grass moorland and coniferous plantations covering lower side slopes. • Increasing extent of moorland and woodland generally further up the straths, where the floodplain narrows and settlement is sparser. • Smaller strip-fields present on often hummocky, lower side slopes and associated with croft houses arranged in linear groups raised on terraces above the floodplain and sometimes backed by woodland. • Some crofts within the Straths more randomly dispersed or staggered on lower hill slopes. • Occasional small farms located in the broader and more fertile parts of the straths. • Settlement generally denser within the lower reaches of many straths, especially at bridging points, on the coast and close to major roads. • Many areas rich in archaeology with cairns, roundhouses, brochs and old field systems, usually found on side slopes. • Abandoned crofts, particularly within the upper straths and in narrow side glens. • Focus in views from roads provided by a number of estate shooting lodges, and clustered, predominantly 19th Century, often estate style buildings. • Narrow roads, commonly aligned along the edge of the floodplain, from which views are strongly channelled by the side slopes. • Rounded Hills often forming prominent edges to the straths with shapely well-defined hills, providing a distinctive skyline and scenic backdrop. • Highly scenic backdrop of mountains often revealed in some of the upper reaches of these straths.

Landscape Value	The LCT comprises a mix of natural features, including meandering rivers, wetlands, lochs and woodlands. These elements are complemented by cultural features such as archaeological sites, crofting landscapes, and estate shooting lodges, and experienced within a backdrop created by the rounded hills that envelope the LCT to either side. These features contribute towards its aesthetic value, albeit the LCT is almost entirely undesignated. On balance, Landscape Value is Medium.

Assessment of Effects	
Possible Landscape Receptors	**Potential Effects**
• Lochs in some straths, where a string of small lochs add to the scenic richness of the lower strath.	• Section D of the Proposed Development would extend across the landscape, directly above the existing watercourse within Strathcarron. Based on the height of the towers, the Proposed Development would potentially form a new focus within views along the strath.
• Semi-improved pastures, heather and grass moorland and coniferous plantations covering lower side slopes.	• The steel lattice towers would represent new elements of infrastructure within the landscape. The existing landscape features would represent potential scale indicators. • There would be localised felling of forestry to facilitate construction of Section D. This includes clearance of existing plantation forestry to facilitate the alignment, as well as additional felling to ensure a wind-firm edge to the retained forestry in the surrounding area. Within Strathcarron, this additional felling would be focused at Tower S38 (on its northern side only), and between Towers S39-S40. However, the alignment aims to avoid broadleaved woodland.
• Settlement generally denser within the lower reaches of many straths, especially at bridging points, on the coast and close to major roads.	• The steel lattice towers would represent new elements of infrastructure within the local landscape. Existing settlement is primarily limited to scattered farmsteads / dwellings, linked by a minor road (Cadh' an Tain Road).
• Many areas rich in archaeology with cairns, roundhouses, brochs and old field systems, usually found on side slopes.	• The alignment avoids direct impacts upon archaeological features, albeit may be visible from some archaeological points of interest.
• Focus in views from roads provided by a number of estate shooting lodges, and clustered, predominantly 19th Century, often estate style buildings.	• Construction works or the steel lattice towers could form new elements within such views.
• Narrow roads, commonly aligned along the edge of the floodplain, from which views are strongly channelled by the side slopes.	• The enclosing landform at either side of the Strath would temper views of wider sections of the Proposed Development. Views would be predominantly focused on the short sections extending across / within the Strath.
• Rounded Hills often forming prominent edges to the straths with shapely well-defined hills, providing a distinctive skyline and scenic backdrop.	• Construction works or the steel lattice towers within Section D could interrupt the existing skyline on the southern side of the Strath, forming a new focus against the existing backdrop.

• Highly scenic backdrop of mountains often revealed in some of the upper reaches of these straths.	• Construction works and the steel lattice towers would represent new elements of human activity / presence within the landscape, with the potential to encroach upon more distant views to the higher ground outside the Strath.
Landscape Sensitivity	The LCT exhibits scenic qualities based upon its combination of natural features, albeit is predominantly undesignated. Its susceptibility to the Proposed Development would be increased by the smaller-scale enclosed nature of the strath. However, this is tempered by the presence of tree cover within Strathcarron that restricts visibility in localised areas and suggests the LCT is tolerant of some degree of change based on the type proposed. On balance, Landscape Susceptibility is Medium. Landscape sensitivity to Proposed Development is **Medium**.
Nature of change and Impact Magnitude	Refer to viewpoints 7-47 A837 (near Inveran) to 7-52 A836 (west of Balblair) (within the Kyle of Sutherland), and 7-60 Gruinards (west of Dounie) (in Strathcarron). Construction works would include localised forestry felling on the upper slopes of Strathcarron, as well as additional felling to ensure a wind-firm edge to the retained forestry in the surrounding area. As described above, this additional felling would be focused at Tower S38 (on its northern side only, where it would be contained within 300 m of the alignment), and between Towers S39-S40 (contained within 100 m of the alignment). The construction works would also involve the creation of short sections of temporary and permanent tracks. The influence of the tracks would be limited based on their relatively short length (approximately 220m temporary track, and 310m permanent track), in combination with surrounding tree cover / woodland, which would screen / back-cloth the associated vehicle movements. The most open views of the works would be focused upon the more open strath floor. Within these areas, the construction activities and vehicle movements would contrast with the existing agricultural landuse. However, the influence of these activities on the wider LCT would be restricted by the low-lying nature of the landscape, and the screening of views based on intervening tree cover and the landform enclosing the valley sides. Once operational, the Section D alignment would introduce two towers to the LCT, west of Dounie (Towers S38 and S39), as well as the short sections of permanent access track described above, which would be located in the context of existing tree cover on the north and south sides of the valley. The Proposed Development would form a new element within views along the valley. However, the Section D alignment would extend directly across the LCT, rather than along its length, thereby limiting its influence to localised areas. As the Section D alignment extends southwards, beyond the upper slopes that enclose the LCT, the towers would be located on the skyline. However, the same landform would essentially screen parts of the Section D alignment south of Strathcarron. On balance, the key effects would be focused within a linear corridor across Strathcarron, within approximately 600-700 m of the alignment. Within this localised part of the LCT the impact magnitude would be **High** during construction and operation. Across the wider LCT, at greater distance from the Proposed Development, the impact magnitude would be **Low** during construction and operation.
Significance of Effect	As described above, the construction stage activities and vehicle movements would contrast with the agricultural landuse within the strath floor. However, this would be focused within a very localised area within Strathcarron. During operation, the level of human activity and vehicle movement would reduce. The towers and sections of permanent access track would form new components within the landscape. The towers would represent new elements in views channelled along the strath that would contrast with the more rural / natural characteristics of the LCT. However, the alignment would take the shortest route across the strath, reducing its physical footprint upon the LCT to two towers. The influence of the Proposed Development would diminish across wider parts of the LCT at greater distance.

	In summary, within 600-700 m of the Section D alignment the effects during construction and operation would be **Major-Moderate Adverse** (significant). Across the wider 142 – Strath – Caithness & Sutherland LCT, the effects would be **Moderate-Minor Adverse** (not significant) during construction and operation.

Table 3: Effects on LCT 139 – Rugged Mountain Massif – Caithness & Sutherland

Baseline Description	
Description	The LCT comprises high rugged mountains that rise up on the southern side of Strathcarron, at the northern end of Section D. This coincides with a very localised part of the Section D alignment, approximately 900 m in length, comprising three towers (Towers S43-S45). The local landscape comprises open, exposed moorland with rocky outcrops.
Designated / Protected Landscapes within / adjacent to the LCT	The LCT coincides with the Rhiddoroch - Beinn Dearg - Ben Wyvis WLA to the west of the Section D alignment. In addition, the Fannichs, Beinn Dearg and Glencalvie SLA extend across western parts of the LCT. Together, these designations encompass the majority of the LCT within the Study Area. The Section D alignment would not extend though these areas.
Key Characteristics	• Mountains with very steep slopes which are often covered in scree and commonly feature narrow rocky ridges, buttresses, crags and pronounced peaks. • High, generally lying above 800m. • Different geology associated with each mountain group influencing their character. • Deeply indented sea lochs of Lochs Glendhu and Glencoul and a number of sheer sided glens, cut into the mountains of north-west Sutherland, generally orientated on long north-west to south-east fault lines. • Dark, narrow lochs within some of the north-west Sutherland mountain glens. • Mountain peaks form landmarks, rising above the interlocking mass of lower slopes and distinguished by their height, distinctive and recognisable profile. • Largely uninhabited and difficult to access. The small number of settlements and roads which do exist tend to be located at the edges of this character type and at the intersection of a strath or loch. • Interior of this landscape is mainly visited by hill walkers and deer stalkers. • Limited visibility within the glens which lie between or at the foot of these mountains, due to their steepness of slope and immense size. • Extensive views of the surrounding landscape and an exhilarating experience of openness and exposure from mountain ridges and summits. • Natural unmodified character of the high mountains, with their remoteness, ruggedness, and difficulty of access, creating a strong wild character.
Landscape Value	The LCT is defined by its mountainous terrain and untamed natural character. The rugged peaks, narrow ridges, scree slopes, and deep glens create a wild and remote environment, underpinned by a complex geological heritage. The underlying landform results in panoramic views from mountain summits and ridges, contrasting with the enclosed steep-sided glens. The scenic nature and relative rarity of these characteristics contribute towards the value of this landscape. This is underpinned by its widespread inclusion within the Rhiddoroch - Beinn Dearg - Ben Wyvis WLA, and the Fannichs, Beinn Dearg and Glencalvie SLA. Accordingly, Landscape Value is High.

Assessment of Effects	
Possible Landscape Receptors	**Potential Effects**
• Mountain peaks form landmarks, rising above the interlocking mass of lower slopes and distinguished by their height, distinctive and recognisable profile.	• From open vantage points, the construction works and steel lattice towers would represent new elements of human activity / presence on the eastern edge of the LCT. The direct effects would be limited to three towers, and localised sections of access track. All other parts of the Section D alignment would be spatially separate from the mountain peaks within the LCT.
• Largely uninhabited and difficult to access.	• The Section D alignment and associated access tracks would represent new elements of built form and means of access across the landscape on the eastern edge of the LCT. As described above, the footprint of the Proposed Development within the LCT would be limited, hence would predominantly be experienced in wider views towards the east.
• Interior of this landscape is mainly visited by hill walkers and deer stalkers.	• There would be views of the construction works and the steel lattice towers from elevated vantage points, representing new elements of human activity / presence within the landscape to the east.
• Extensive views of the surrounding landscape and an exhilarating experience of openness and exposure from mountain ridges and summits.	• As above, from elevated vantage points there would be views of the construction works and the steel lattice towers. These would account for a wide angle of view within the most open panoramic views, albeit experienced within a large-scale landscape context.
• Natural unmodified character of the high mountains, with their remoteness, ruggedness, and difficulty of access, creating a strong wild character.	• Construction works and the steel lattice towers associated with Section D would represent new elements of human activity / presence on the eastern edge of the LCT, and adjacent landscape to the north-east and south-east. This would contrast with the sense of remoteness and wildness.
Landscape Sensitivity	Within the Study Area, this LCT is located almost entirely within the Rhiddoroch - Beinn Dearg - Ben Wyvis WLA. Its susceptibility to the Proposed Development is increased by the wild character of the LCT, based on the absence of existing settlement / infrastructure, and limited access. Accordingly, the landscape exhibits reduced tolerance to change of the type proposed. On balance, Landscape Susceptibility is High, and the landscape sensitivity to development of the type proposed is assessed as being **High**.
Nature of change and Impact Magnitude	Construction works for Section D would extend across open moorland on the eastern edge of the LCT. The vehicular movement and works activities would contrast with the more natural and wild characteristics of the LCT. However, they would be experienced within a large-scale landscape context. The influence of the construction activities would diminish across central and western parts of the LCT (west of Carn a' Chlaiginn) due to the screening influence of the intervening landform. Once operational, Section D of the Proposed Development would extend along the eastern edge of the LCT, and also exert an indirect influence on landscape character based on views of the alignment in the wider landscape to the north-east and south-east. The steel lattice towers would combine to form a new linear element within the landscape, which would contrast with the more natural and wild characteristics of the LCT. From parts of the LCT in closest vicinity to the alignment, this would represent a

	new element within the 'extensive views of the surrounding landscape'. However, as described above, the intervening slopes and summits would restrict views of the towers across more distant parts of the LCT further to the west, as illustrated by the fragmented ZTV coverage across western parts of the LCT. Potential visibility from the 'sheer sided glens' and 'interlocking mass of lower slopes' would be extremely limited, reflecting the 'limited visibility within the glens which lie between or at the foot of these mountains, due to their steepness of slope and immense size'. In summary, the key effects would be focused on the eastern edge of the LCT within approximately 700-800m from the Section D alignment, where the impact magnitude would typically be **High** during construction and operation. This represents a localised part of the LCT. The influence of the Proposed Development would diminish at greater distances across central and western parts of the LCT (west of Carn a' Chlaiginn), particularly across lower lying, sheltered slopes and glens where views would be fully screened. Accordingly, the impact magnitude across the wider LCT would be typically **Low-Negligible** during construction and operation.
Significance of Effect	The construction stage activities, including vehicular movement and the presence of people, would reduce the existing sense of remoteness and 'strong wild character'. The main influence of these activities would be focused within the eastern edge of the LCT, accounting for a localised linear area. During operation, the level of human activity and vehicle movement would reduce. The new towers and sections of permanent access track would form new components within the landscape on the eastern edge of the LCT, where they would contrast with the more remote characteristics of the LCT and the sense of wildness. There would also be indirect effects based on views of the Section D alignment extending across the surrounding landscape to the north-east and south-west. However, the effects would diminish across parts of the LCT at greater distance from the alignment (west of Carn a' Chlaiginn) due to the screening influence of the intervening slopes and summits. In summary, within 700-800 m of the Section D alignment the effects during construction and operation would be **Major Adverse** (significant). Across the wider 139 – Rugged Mountain Massif – Caithness & Sutherland LCT, the effects would be **Moderate-Minor Adverse** (not significant) during construction and operation.

Table 4: Effects on LCT 330 – Rounded Hills and Moorland Slopes – Ross & Cromarty

Baseline Description	
Description	This LCT encompasses extensive parts of Caithness and Sutherland, and coincides with the majority of the Proposed Development within Section D (comprising a total length of approximately 25.6 km (including Towers S68-S95, S98-S111, and S114-S149). Along Section D, the LCT comprises rounded hill summits, with areas of open moorland broken up by parcels of forestry. There are also existing elements of infrastructure, including wind energy development, in the landscape east of the alignment.
Designated / Protected Landscapes within / adjacent to the LCT	Within the Study Area, northern parts of the LCT coincide with the Dornoch Firth NSA in the vicinity of Western Fearn and Easter Fearn. In addition, the LCT encompasses parts of the Rhiddoroch - Beinn Dearg - Ben Wyvis WLA to the west of the Section D alignment. Further south, the LCT extends along the outer edge of the Ben Wyvis SLA, to the west of the Section D alignment. This accounts for an extremely small area of the LCT. The Section D alignment would not extend though these areas.
Key Characteristics	• Broad, rounded hills and upland moorlands with smooth, gentle slopes down to broad straths, creating an undulating skyline. • Occurs in a large tract which weaves around and between the adjoining Rounded Mountain Massif and Rugged Mountain Massif – Ross & Cromarty and unifies the mountain groups. • Large areas of uniform moorland vegetation with occasional surface detail of rivers, lochs, riparian woodland, woodland patches, and regenerating trees. • Large coniferous forests on accessible lower slopes. • Broad straths with natural, meandering rivers and occasionally highlighted by green, unenclosed, improved pastures and riparian trees. • Occasional major trunk roads curve through the lowest major straths, with very little associated service development. • Small groups of mainly traditional buildings around road junctions and at rail stations. • Man-made structures of pylons, wind farms and reservoirs occur as occasional features within a large-scale landscape. • Many archaeological features on lower ground from prehistoric, medieval and later periods. • Large, remote interior areas of vast scale with wildness characteristics.
Landscape Value	The LCT encompasses very large areas of moorland and forestry, with scattered archaeological features, spread across rolling, rounded hills. These characteristics are relatively common in the local context. The aesthetic qualities of the LCT are recognised in the national-level designation (Dornoch Firth NSA) that encompasses localised northern parts, as well as the Ben Wyvis SLA located further to the south-west. In addition, the wild characteristics of more remote interior areas to the west are recognised by the overlap with the Rhiddoroch - Beinn Dearg - Ben Wyvis WLA. However, the sense of wildness is diminished across surrounding parts of the LCT by the presence of large-scale commercial forestry. This is augmented by the presence of Coire na Cloiche Wind Farm and Beinn Tharsuinn Wind Farm east of the alignment, as well as the B9176 and existing 132kV OHL within more distant eastern parts of the LCT. On balance, Landscape Value is Medium.

Assessment of Effects	
Possible Landscape Receptors	**Potential Effects**
• Broad, rounded hills and upland moorlands with smooth, gentle slopes down to broad straths, creating an undulating skyline.	• The alignment would result in direct impacts upon the existing moorland landscape. The construction works or the steel lattice towers could potentially interrupt the skyline.
• Large coniferous forests on accessible lower slopes.	• The Section D alignment would extend through parcels of forestry, resulting in localised felling. This includes clearance to facilitate the alignment, as well as additional felling to ensure a wind-firm edge to the retained forestry in the surrounding area. This additional felling would be focused at Towers S76-S77, S79-S80, and S88-S90, as well as intermittent parcels between Towers S93-S94 and S114-S122. Conversely, the retained tree cover in the surrounding landscape would restrict potential views of the Proposed Development from localised areas.
• Small groups of mainly traditional buildings around road junctions and at rail stations.	• The Proposed Development would contrast with the more traditional elements of built form within the LCT. However, in views from the more settled parts of the LCT, Section D of the alignment would typically represent a distant element, located in a geographically separate upland landscape context.
• Man-made structures of pylons, wind farms and reservoirs occur as occasional features within a large-scale landscape.	• Existing wind farms, OHL and road infrastructure is most prevalent in parts of the LCT to the east of the Section D alignment. Construction works and the steel lattice towers associated with the Proposed Development would represent additional elements of human activity / presence within the landscape.
• Large, remote interior areas of vast scale with wildness characteristics.	• Construction works and the steel lattice towers would represent new elements of human activity / presence within the local landscape. These would be spatially separate from the most remote interior areas (which coincide with the Rhiddoroch - Beinn Dearg - Ben Wyvis WLA. The potential influence upon the sense of wildness would be further tempered by the presence of existing wind turbines in the landscape to the east of Section D, as well as existing commercial forestry in other areas.
Landscape Sensitivity	The LCT encompasses extensive geographic areas. Localised parts of the LCT coincide with national-level designations / protected landscapes. However, the Section D alignment would not extend through these areas. The susceptibility of the local landscape to the Proposed Development is tempered by existing forestry and wind energy development. Accordingly, the LCT is assessed as being tolerant of some degree of change of the type proposed. On balance, Landscape Susceptibility is Medium. Landscape sensitivity to development of the type proposed is **Medium**.
Nature of change and Impact Magnitude	Construction works would involve localised forestry felling at intervals along Section D to create a wayleave for the alignment, and additional felling to ensure a wind-firm edge to the retained forestry in the surrounding area. As described above, this additional felling would be focused at Towers S76-S77, S79-S80, and S88-S90 (where it would be contained within 500-600 m of the alignment), and intermittent parcels between Towers S93-S94 and S114-S122 (typically contained within 100-200 m of the alignment, extending out to a maximum of approximately 250 m). The construction works would also involve the establishment of temporary and permanent access tracks

	to facilitate construction of the new towers. Existing forestry tracks would be utilised where practicable to reduce the extent of new tracks required. In other areas, Section D would extend across open moorland, negating the requirement for tree felling. The retained tree cover / forestry within the LCT would form a backdrop / screening element to the construction activities nearby. In addition, the characteristic 'rounded hills' would restrict views of the construction activities from wider surrounding areas. Once operational, the Proposed Development would introduce steel lattice towers, representing a new linear element extending approximately 25.6 km north-south through the LCT. The Proposed Development would represent a new element of human influence within the landscape, albeit this would be spatially separate from the more remote interior parts of the LCT where 'wildness characteristics' are more prevalent (comprising parts of the LCT that coincide with the Rhiddoroch - Beinn Dearg - Ben Wyvis WLA to the west of Section D). The surrounding forestry and rounded hills that characterise this LCT would restrict views of the towers across more distant parts of the LCT, particularly from parts of the LCT located more than 3-4 km from the alignment, where ZTV coverage drops off. In summary, the key effects would be focused within a linear corridor along the alignment. This would be approximately 25.6 km in length (north-south). The width would be restricted by surrounding forestry along lengthy parts of Section D. Across more open parts, where the alignment extends across moorland, the key effects would extend out to approximately 700 m from the Section D alignment. Within this area, the impact magnitude would typically be **High** during construction and operation The influence of the Proposed Development would diminish at greater distances. Across the wider LCT, the impact magnitude would be **Low** during construction and operation.
Significance of Effect	The construction stage activities, including localised forestry felling, vehicular movement and the presence of people, would exert a direct effect upon existing landscape fabric within the LCT and reduce the sense of remoteness in the locality. These works would be screened along lengthy parts of Section D by retained forestry in the surrounding area. The main influence of these activities would therefore be focused within a localised, linear part of the LCT. During operation, the level of human activity and vehicle movement would reduce. The new towers and sections of permanent access track would form new components within the landscape. These elements would be spatially separate from the more remote interior parts of the LCT (to the west of the alignment) where the sense of wildness is most prevalent. In summary, within approximately 700 m of the Section D alignment the effects during construction and operation would be **Major-Moderate Adverse** (significant). Across the wider 330 – Rounded Hills and Moorland Slopes – Ross & Cromarty LCT, the effects would be **Moderate-Minor Adverse** (not significant) during construction and operation.

Table 5: Effects on LCT 341 – Forest Edge Farming

Baseline Description	
Description	This LCT encompasses areas of sloping farmland and forestry. The settlement pattern is primarily limited to scattered dwellings / farmsteads, and minor roads, as well as localised infrastructure that includes existing OHL. It occurs in three spatially separate parts of the Section D Study Area. This includes an area along the northern side of the Cromarty Firth, encompassing a linear, meandering area of the landscape between Dingwall and Strathrusdale. This LCT area incorporates several spurs that extend inland, and which coincide with localised parts of Section D. This includes a 590 m section near Boath (including Towers S96 and S97), a 580 m section at Glen Glass (including Towers S112 and S113), and a 130 m section between Towers S122 and S123 at Fannyfield (these towers would be located outside the LCT). The other two LCT areas are spatially separate from Section D, and located in the landscape to the south. This includes an area west of Strathpeffer, 1.9 km south of Section D at the closest point (Tower S149), and an area extending between Fairburn and Beauly, 7.8 km to the south of Tower S149.
Designated / Protected Landscapes within / adjacent to the LCT	The LCT area between Dingwall and Strathrusdale encompasses a larger geographic area that coincides with Ardross Castle GDL in the north, as well as the northern edge of Novar GDL further south. The LCT area west of Strathpeffer is completely undesignated. The LCT area between Fairburn and Beauly coincides with southern parts of Fairburn GDL.
Key Characteristics	• Gentle to moderately steep convex slopes, occasional minor straths and glens with sinuous burns and rivers, and occasional high level, flatter undulating moorlands. • Rocky, steeper slopes occur in the southern part of the type. • Mix of agriculture and farming, varying from an equal balance to marginally more agriculture. • A patchwork of semi-improved and improved pasture, arable fields, conifer forestry blocks, woodlands, shelterbelts, trees and hedges. • The topography and geometric pattern of enclosure are emphasised by walls, hedges and hedgerow trees. • Variable field sizes, many are large and open and dominate the landscape; others are smaller and create diverse patterns and textures. • The contrasting upland character of higher ground emphasised by stone walls, rough grassland and less tree cover. • The scale of woodlands is in keeping with the geometry of fields and narrow roads. • Conifer forests vary in size, the larger ones superimposed on the field pattern. • The edge of forestry blocks creates enclosed spaces around fields and buildings, and forms a dark background to enclosed features. • Tree cover creates enclosed or intermittent distant views and helps to screen structures such as pylons and masts. • Far reaching views to the south and east from high ground or open areas, often framed and enhanced by foreground trees.
Landscape Value	The LCT encompasses farmland, forestry and woodland, some of which is associated with historic houses / castles and gardens (including GDLs). The natural features and historic elements contribute towards the LCT's aesthetic qualities, albeit these are tempered in places by built form and infrastructure. In summary, Landscape Value is High-Medium.

Assessment of Effects	
Possible Landscape Receptors	**Potential Effects**
• Gentle to moderately steep convex slopes, occasional minor straths and glens with sinuous burns and rivers, and occasional high level, flatter undulating moorlands.	• The Proposed Development would be located within three spatially separate parts of the LCT, primarily across more elevated hill slopes / at higher elevations. It would avoid the lower-lying, smaller scale straths and glens.
• A patchwork of semi-improved and improved pasture, arable fields, conifer forestry blocks, woodlands, shelterbelts, trees and hedges.	• As above, the construction activities and steel lattice towers would be focused within localised parts of the LCT that coincide with more elevated hill slopes. These areas predominantly coincide with tree cover / forestry, and are spatially separate from the improved pasture / arable fields and associated field trees. As such, potential changes to the existing landscape pattern would be limited.
• The contrasting upland character of higher ground emphasised by stone walls, rough grassland and less tree cover.	• The Proposed Development would be located within areas of higher ground within the LCT. Potential views of the construction activities and steel lattice towers from lower lying areas would be restricted by intervening tree cover.
• The scale of woodlands is in keeping with the geometry of fields and narrow roads. • The edge of forestry blocks creates enclosed spaces around fields and buildings, and forms a dark background to enclosed features.	• As above, there would be localised loss of tree cover and forestry where Section D extends though the LCT. This includes clearance of existing plantation forestry to facilitate the alignment, as well as additional felling to ensure a wind-firm edge to the retained forestry in the surrounding area. Within Glen Glass, this additional felling would be focused at Tower S112 (on its northern side only), and Tower S113 (on its southern side only). There would also be extremely localised additional felling between Towers S122 and S123 at Fannyfield. From wider parts of the surrounding LCT, potential views of the Proposed Development would be restricted by intervening woodland and forestry.
• Tree cover creates enclosed or intermittent distant views and helps to screen structures such as pylons and masts.	• The construction activities and steel lattice towers would be subject to screening by the same landscape features. Accordingly, potential views would be limited to the tops of the towers in many places.
• Far reaching views to the south and east from high ground or open areas, often framed and enhanced by foreground trees.	• The LCT is primarily located on the eastern side of Section D. As such, the Proposed Development would be experienced primarily within westerly views, and would exert little influence on existing longer-distance views towards the south and east.
Landscape Sensitivity	The LCT coincides with several GDLs within the Study Area (Ardross Castle GDL, Novar GDL, and Fairburn GDL). Whilst Novar GDL and Fairburn GDL are currently traversed by existing OHLs, in each case the local landscapes are considered to be of greater susceptibility to change, based on the addition of further modern elements within the context of their more traditional / historic landscapes. However, these GDLs accounts for a very small proportion of the landscape within the LCT, and furthermore, Section D would avoid encroachment on these areas.

	The LCT does not encompass any landscape designations or other protected landscapes within the Study Area. Its susceptibility to the Proposed Development is tempered by the actively managed character of the farmland and forestry that predominate, as well as infrastructure in the form of existing OHLs. As a result, Landscape Susceptibility is Medium. On balance, the landscape sensitivity to development of the type proposed is assessed as being **Medium**.
Nature of change and Impact Magnitude	Refer to viewpoints 7-64 Ardross (east) to 7-63 Ardross Distillery, 7-65 Boath, 7-68 Redburn, 7-69 Evanton (west), 7-76 Loch Kinellan and 7-87 Aultgowrie. The key effects would be focused on localised, spatially separate parts of the LCT, which are all located within the LCT area between Dingwall and Strathrusdale. This reflects the sinuous shape of the LCT, with several spurs extending inland where the Proposed Development would exert direct effects on the existing landscape fabric and local character. Construction works would include tree felling within areas of forestry and woodland, as well as additional felling to ensure a wind-firm edge to the retained forestry in the surrounding area. As described above, this additional felling would be focused at Towers S112 and S113 on the outer edges of Glen Glass (comprising very localised parcels within 100 m of the alignment) and an extremely localised area between Towers S122 and S123 (also contained within 100 m of the alignment). The construction works would also involve the introduction of temporary and permanent access tracks. This would occur in localised areas south-west of Boath, on the northern slopes at Glen Glass, and west of Fannyfield. The influence of the tracks and vehicle movements would typically be limited due to surrounding tree cover, which would screen / back-cloth these elements. However, these elements would be more visible in the area near Boath, which is more open in character. In each case, the presence of construction activities and vehicle movements would contrast with the more natural characteristics of the local landscape. However, the influence of these activities on the wider LCT would be restricted by intervening tree cover and landform. As above, once operational, the key effects would be focused on localised parts of the LCT. The Section D alignment would introduce two towers on the northern slopes at Glen Glass, as well as two towers and approximately 2.1 km of permanent access track south-west of Boath. Within these areas, there would also be views of adjoining towers, extending north / south along the wider Section D alignment (outside the LCT, but exerting indirect effects on local landscape character). The permanent tracks would link with existing forestry access routes to minimise the overall extent required. The towers and tracks would primarily be experienced as part of the inland landscape towards the west, hence would be in the opposite field of view to the 'far reaching views to the south and east'. Views from wider surrounding parts of the LCT would be partly contained by intervening tree cover. The influence of the Section D alignment upon the spatially separate LCT area west of Strathpeffer and the LCT area between Fairburn and Beauly (south of Section D) would be reduced based on the distance of view. On balance, the key effects would be focused across spatially separate, localised areas on the western edges of the LCT. This includes: • The area near Boath located within 700-800 m of the alignment on its north-eastern side, and • The area on the north slopes of Glen Glass within 400 – 700 m of the alignment. Within these localised parts of the LCT the impact magnitude would be **High** during construction and operation. Across the wider LCT, at greater distance from the Proposed Development, the impact magnitude would be **Low-Negligible** during construction and operation.
Significance of Effect	The construction stage activities and vehicle movements would contrast with the traditional agricultural landuse within the LCT. However, this would be focused within a series of spatially separate, localised areas on the western edge of the LCT. During operation, the level of human activity and vehicle movement would reduce. A total of four

	towers would form new components within the landscape. There would also be indirect effects based on views of the Section D towers extending north and south along the wider Section D alignment (outside the LCT). The towers would contrast with the more rural characteristics of the LCT, albeit in the context of commercial forestry and a LCT that already incorporates elements of modern infrastructure in the form of OHLs. The influence of the Proposed Development would diminish across wider parts of the LCT. In summary, the key effects would be focused across two discrete areas of the LCT (those located within 700-800 m of the alignment on its north-eastern side near Boath, and those within 400 – 700 m of the alignment north of Glen Glass). The effects on these areas during construction and operation would be **Major-Moderate Adverse** (significant). Across the wider 341 – Forest Edge Farming LCT, the effects would be **Moderate-Minor Adverse** (not significant) during construction and operation. This includes the spatially separate LCT areas to the west of Strathpeffer and between Fairburn and Beauly, 1.9 km and 7.8 km to the south of Section D at the closest point respectively.

Table 6: Effects on LCT 335 – Wooded Glens and Rocky Moorland

Baseline Description	
Description	This LCT comprises large swathes of forestry and native woodland, with localised water courses and lochs, across an undulating landform. It is focused on the landscape north of Strathconon, where it extends into the hills to the west of Strathpeffer. The LCT is located 610 m to the south of Section D at the closest point (Tower S149).
Designated / Protected Landscapes within / adjacent to the LCT	The LCT is almost entirely undesignated. However, the north-eastern edge abuts the Castle Leod GDL, and the north-western tip extends into the edge of the Ben Wyvis SLA.
Key Characteristics	• Low lying, mainly rocky moorlands, with sinuous glens and narrow gorges. • Mainly complex, deeply undulating landform with rocky knolls, lochans and small sinuous burns. • Glens and occasional gorges with steep rocky sides, uneven, descending central floor and central burn or river with water falls. • A high proportion of native tree cover consisting of relatively large patches of broadleaf trees, Caledonian pine woods, regenerating trees and new planting, interspersed with moorland and grassland. • Small conifer forests in the west relate to the scale of native woodlands. • Large conifer forests in the east mask the underlying landforms in the east. • Low levels of settlement consisting of occasional estate buildings and cottages fitted into the landscape. • Sinuous roads avoid high ground and follow natural features such as rivers, loch shores, and curving glens. • Infrequent and low-key road side facilities absorbed by landform and tree cover. • Historic relics of former periods of settlement, including numerous indications of prehistoric settlement.

	• Enclosed views focussing attention on foreground detail, occasionally opening to views of glens, lochs and mountains. • A back drop of mountains and lochs often glimpsed through tree cover. • Extensive stands of native pines in the west add to the sense of grandeur.
Landscape Value	The LCT encompasses a high proportion of native tree cover within its areas of woodland and forestry. These elements combine with the complex landform, with scattered lochs and sinuous watercourses, which contribute towards its aesthetic qualities. The woodlands are traversed by parts of the Core Path network, which marks the underlying recreational value of the LCT. However, the LCT is predominantly undesignated (other than at its outermost edges where it abuts Castle Leod GDL and the Ben Wyvis SLA), and is also influenced by parts of the road and rail network, and an existing OHL between Strathconon and Loch Luichart. In summary, Landscape Value is Medium.

Assessment of Effects	
Possible Landscape Receptors	**Potential Effects**
• Mainly complex, deeply undulating landform with rocky knolls, lochans and small sinuous burns.	• The Proposed Development would extend through areas of higher ground to the north of the LCT. Potential views of the construction activities and steel lattice towers would be restricted by the complex undulating landform within the LCT. Views would be particularly limited from lower-lying areas associated with the watercourses / lochans that are focused across the landscape within more distant central parts of the LCT to the south-west.
• A high proportion of native tree cover consisting of relatively large patches of broadleaf trees, Caledonian pine woods, regenerating trees and new planting, interspersed with moorland and grassland.	• Section D would be located to the north of the LCT. It would not result in any felling or effect upon areas of native woodland within the LCT, and no effect on areas of moorland / grassland.
• Large conifer forests in the east mask the underlying landforms in the east.	• As above, Section D would be located to the north, and would not result in any felling of characteristic forestry within this LCT. The widespread presence of forestry across eastern parts of this LCA would aid screening of the Proposed Deveopment and restrict potential indirect effects.
• Low levels of settlement consisting of occasional estate buildings and cottages fitted into the landscape.	• Potential views of the Proposed Development from scattered dwellings within the LCT would be limited by intervening forestry.
• Infrequent and low-key road side facilities absorbed by landform and tree cover.	• Potential views of the construction activities and steel lattice towers in the landscape to the north would be restricted by the same elements. Potential views of the tops of the towers, beyond intervening landform and tree cover, would be more widespread due to their height.
• Historic relics of former periods of settlement, including numerous indications of prehistoric settlement.	• There would be no direct effects on these features. Potential views of construction works and the steel lattice towers from heritage assets would be restricted by intervening woodland and tree cover.

• Enclosed views focussing attention on foreground detail, occasionally opening to views of glens, lochs and mountains.	• As above, potential views of the Proposed Development would be restricted by woodland / tree cover. Section D extends through the landscape to the north of the LCT. As such it would be located in a different field of view to the mountains and lochs (Loch Luichart and Loch Garve) expereinced in views towards the west.
• A back drop of mountains and lochs often glimpsed through tree cover.	• As above, Section D would be experienced in the landscape to the north, in a separate field of view to more prominent mountains and nearby lochs.
• Extensive stands of native pines in the west add to the sense of grandeur.	• The Proposed Development would be located outside (to the north) of the LCT, spatially separate from the stands of native pines in the west.
Landscape Sensitivity	The LCT does not encompass any landscape designations or other protected landscapes, other than its outermost edges where it abuts Castle Leod GDL and the Ben Wyvis SLA). Its susceptibility to the Proposed Development is tempered by the extent of managed forestry within the eastern part of the LCT, which coincides with the Section D alignment. Susceptibility across wider parts of the LCT would be tempered by the extent of tree cover, which encloses views in some areas. In addition, the presence of road, rail and OHL suggest that the LCT is tolerant of some degree of change of the type proposed. As a result, Landscape Susceptibility is Medium. On balance, the landscape sensitivity to development of the type proposed is assessed as being **Medium**.
Nature of change and Impact Magnitude	Refer to viewpoint 7-77 View Rock, Contin (A and B). Section D would be located 610 m to the north of LCT 335 – Wooded Glens and Rocky Moorland, and would exert no direct effects upon the existing landscape fabric within this LCT. Indirect effects would be focused on north-eastern parts of the LCT in closest proximity to the Proposed Development, albeit would be limited by the presence of widespread forestry and the undulating landform that form key characteristics of the local landscape. The potential influence of construction works in particular would be limited due to their low height, and containment by surrounding tree cover. Once operational, potential views of the towers would also remain limited due to their spatial separation from the LCT, in combination with intervening tree cover and landform. Within the clearest views, the tops of the towers at the southern end of Section D would be experienced in the landscape to the north, where they would account for a narrow angle of view in the context of surrounding forestry that would screen the lower parts of the towers. On balance, the impact magnitude would be **Negligible** during construction and **Low** during operation.
Significance of Effect	As described above, the construction stage activities and steel lattice towers would be located outside the LCT, in the landscape to the north. There would be no direct effect upon the existing landscape fabric within the LCT. Potential indirect effects would be limited due to intervening forestry and the undulating landform, which would screen views of the construction activities and the towers. The influence of the Proposed Development would diminish further across central and western parts of the LCT, at greater distance from the Section D alignment. In summary, the effects would be **Minor Adverse** (not significant) during construction, and **Moderate-Minor Adverse** (not significant) during operation.

Table 7: Effects on LCT 345 – Farmed and Forested Slopes - Ross & Cromarty

Baseline Description	
Description	This LCT encompasses areas of sloping farmland, with scattered settlement and parcels of woodland. It occurs in four spatially separate parts of the Section D Study Area. All four of these LCT areas are spatially separate from Section D. The LCT area at Knockfarrel is located 1.2 km south-east of Section D at the closest point (Tower S149). The LCT area between Fairburn and Muir of Ord is located 7.3 km to the south of Section D at the closest point (Tower S149). The LCT area extending along the northern side of the Cromarty Firth is located 2.9 km to the east of Section D at the closest point (Tower S120). The fourth LCT area is located on the Black Isle, 8.6 km to the south-east of Section D at the closest point (Tower S124).
Designated / Protected Landscapes within / adjacent to the LCT	The LCT area at Knockfarrel coincides with parts of the Brahan GDL and Castle Leod GDL, as well as a very localised part of The Spa Gardens, Strathpeffer GDL In addition, Fairburn GDL overlaps with the LCT area between Fairburn and Muir of Ord, and Novar GDL coincides with the LCT area on the northern side of the Cromarty Firth.
Key Characteristics	• Complex pattern of farmland, tree cover, forests and woodland on sloped, often terraced land rising from firths or river plains to mid-elevations and often backed by large scale forest plantations where there are adjacent hills. • Overall impression of a well-treed landscape, but within which farming is the dominant land use. • Generally higher proportion of trees, woodland and forest plantations in upper slopes, forming a well-connected network within which fields are located. • Terraces of open land, interspersed with forest plantations and woodlands on mid slopes. • Gradual change to more open landscapes at lower levels. • Wide range and distribution of archaeological sites indicating a long history of human settlement. • Occasional large settlements in a predominantly rural landscape. • Views from more open, terraced areas across lowlands or firth to hills or out to sea.
Landscape Value	The LCT encompasses farmland and woodland, some of which are associated with historic houses / castles and gardens (including GDLs). The natural features and historic elements contribute towards the LCT's aesthetic qualities, albeit these are tempered in places by built form and infrastructure. In summary, Landscape Value is High-Medium.

Assessment of Effects	
Possible Landscape Receptors	**Potential Effects**
• Complex pattern of farmland, tree cover, forests and woodland on sloped, often terraced land rising from firths or river plains to mid-elevations and often backed by large scale forest plantations where there are adjacent hills.	There would be no direct effect on these landscape elements, or the existing landscape pattern within the LCT. The Proposed Development would extend through areas of higher ground to the north / north-west / west of the LCT. Potential views of the construction activities and steel lattice towers would be restricted by intervening tree cover / plantations and the landform.
• Overall impression of a well-treed landscape, but within which farming is the dominant land use. • Generally higher proportion of trees, woodland and forest plantations in upper slopes, forming a well-connected network within which fields are located.	• As described above, there would be no loss of trees within this LCT. Potential views of construction works and the steel lattice towers would be subject to screening by existing trees / woodland / forestry.
• Wide range and distribution of archaeological sites indicating a long history of human settlement.	• Potential views of the Proposed Development from heritage assets (including GDLs) would be restricted by intervening woodland and tree cover, in combination with landform and the separation distance from the Proposed Development.
• Occasional large settlements in a predominantly rural landscape.	• Potential views from settlements would be restricted by tree cover, landform and separation distance. The settlement pattern within the LCT would remain unchanged.
• Views from more open, terraced areas across lowlands or firth to hills or out to sea	• The Proposed Development is primarily located to the north / north-west / west of the LCT areas. As such, there would be potential views of the construction activities and steel lattice towers from open vantage points, when facing towards the inland hills. Conversely, the potential influence of the Proposed Development on views along the Firth and out to sea would be limited.
Landscape Sensitivity	The LCT coincides with several GDLs within the Study Area. Whilst the local landscapes in the vicinity of the GDLs are considered to be of greater susceptibility to change, based on the addition of modern elements within the context of traditional / historic landscapes, this accounts for a very small proportion of the landscape within the LCT. The LCT does not encompass any landscape designations or other protected landscapes within the Study Area. Its susceptibility to the Proposed Development is tempered by the actively managed character of the farmland, as well as the settlements, roads, rail and infrastructure that area dispersed throughout the LCT. This includes existing OHL (which currently extend through Fairburn GDL, Brahan GDL, and Novar GDL). As a result, Landscape Susceptibility is Medium. On balance, the landscape sensitivity to development of the type proposed is assessed as being **Medium**.
Nature of change and Impact Magnitude	Refer to viewpoints 7-69 Evanton (west), 7-78 Jamestown to 7-80 A834 (east of Contin), and 7-82 Moy Rock.

	Section D would be located 1.2 km north-west of LCT 345 – Farmed and Forested Slopes - Ross & Cromarty at the closest point, specifically the LCT area at Knockfarrel. Accordingly, it would exert no direct effects upon the existing landscape fabric within this LCT. Indirect effects based on views of the Proposed Development would be restricted by its spatial separation from the LCT (all four LCT areas), in combination with the intervening landform and tree cover. The construction stage activities and vehicle movements would contrast with the agricultural landuse within the LCT. However, potential view of the construction works in the landscape to the north / north-west / west of the LCT would be limited due to their low height, and containment by tree cover / forestry that covers extensive parts of the surrounding hillsides. Once operational, the steel lattice towers would contrast with the more rural characteristics of the LCT. However, potential views of the towers would also be limited. Within the clearest views, the towers would be experienced on the skyline to the north / north-west / west (outside the LCT). The influence of the proposed alignment upon the spatially separate LCT areas would be limited in each case based on the distance of view in combination with intervening screening due to landform and tree cover. On balance, the impact magnitude would be **Low** during construction and operation.
Significance of Effect	As described above, the Section D alignment would be located in the landscape to the north / north-west / west of the LCT, and would exert no direct effects upon the existing landscape fabric within any of the four discrete LCT areas. The influence of the Proposed Development within views of the surrounding landscape would be limited due to its spatial separation from the LCT, and screening by the intervening landform and tree cover. The effects on LCT 345 – Farmed and Forested Slopes - Ross & Cromarty would be **Moderate-Minor Adverse** (not significant) at most during construction and operation.

Table 8: Effects on LCT 145 – Farmed and Forested Slopes with Crofting

Baseline Description	
Description	Within the Study Area this LCT encompasses two separate areas on the slopes along the Dornoch Firth. The LCT area at Kincardine (on the southern side of the Firth) is located 3.8 km to the east of Section D at the closest point (Tower S42). The LCT area on the north side of the Firth is located 5.5 km east of Section D (Tower S39). This landscape comprises a mosaic of conifer plantations, semi-natural woodlands, moorland, farmland, and occasional elevated basins. Loch Migdale is a key feature, nestled between parallel ridges. Settlement is sparse, with crofts and small farms clustered in valleys and broader basins, including the area around Bonar Bridge. Historic features include cairns, battlefields, and ancient field systems. The wooded nature of this landscape influences the visual experience and creates attractive glimpses of the surrounding hills and Dornoch Firth. Infrastructure within the LCT includes an existing 132 kV OHL, which extends across its western edge in the vicinity of Bonar Bridge (on the northern side of the firth), and Kincardine (on the southern side).
Designated / Protected Landscapes within / adjacent to the LCT	The Dornoch Firth NSA encompasses the low-lying landscape along the firth. This coincides with the full extent of the LCT area at Kincardine, and the western parts of the LCT area on the north side of the Firth, encompass Loch Migdale and the surrounding slopes.
Key Characteristics	• Rolling hill slopes and ridges cut by a number of valleys which radiate down from the Rounded Hills – Caithness and Sutherland to the coast. • North-west/south-east grain of the landform of ridges and valleys. • Loch Migdale sitting within a dip between parallel steep-sided ridges in the west of this Landscape Character Type. • Elevated undulating basins lie at the foot of the Rounded Hills – Caithness & Sutherland above Lairg and Bonar Bridge. • High proportion of woodland cover, with extensive conifer forest on ridges. • Particularly rough and coarse-textured landscape on upper hill slopes, comprising extensive mixed semi-natural woodland and fragments of heath and wetter moss. • Small farms and crofts located in the broader valleys in the east, commonly set above long strip pastures, fenced or occasionally enclosed by boulder walls. • Numerous prehistoric and historic environment features. • The pattern of crofts and access roads reflecting the grain of the landform of ridges and valleys with croft houses located on valley sides below the lower forest margin. • Pockets of pasture appear as if ‘carved out’ of woodlands in places. • Density of housing increasing close to the larger settlements. • Semi-enclosed character of this well-wooded landscape with occasional views. • Attractive views from small roads high up the slopes, giving views to the Rounded Hills – Caithness & Sutherland and glimpses of the Dornoch Firth.

Landscape Value	The coastal landscape, comprising extensive areas of woodland, backed by rounded hill slopes contribute towards the aesthetic quality of this landscape. This is recognised in the national-level designation (Dornoch Firth NSA) that encompasses a large proportion of the LCT. The natural features of the landscape are augmented by its recreational potential as evident by the network of Core Paths that are focused along Loch Migdale and the nearby landscape further to the east. Accordingly, the LCT also has added value as a destination for outdoor activities. As a result, Landscape Value is High.

Assessment of Effects	
Possible Landscape Receptors	**Potential Effects**
• North-west/south-east grain of the landform of ridges and valleys.	• Based on the grain of the landscape, views to the north-west are focused along the Dornoch Firth towards the Kyle of Sutherland. Section D would be located towards the west / south-west, beyond the slopes that rise on the southern side of the Firth. As such potential views of construction works and the steel lattice towers would be predominantly restricted to more open vantage points on the northern side of the Firth in views across, rather than along the Firth. Views of these elements would be subject to screening by the intervening landform and forestry and experienced at distance.
• Loch Migdale sitting within a dip between parallel steep-sided ridges in the west of this Landscape Character Type.	• The ZTV illustrates potential views of the Proposed Development from the open waters of Loch Migdale, albeit these would be subject to screening by intervening woodland and restricted by spatial separation from Section D.
• Elevated undulating basins lie at the foot of the Rounded Hills – Caithness & Sutherland above Lairg and Bonar Bridge.	• From more open, elevated vantage points (primarily on the northern side of the Firth), the construction works and steel lattice towers would represent new elements of human activity / presence within the landscape to the west / south-west.
• High proportion of woodland cover, with extensive conifer forest on ridges.	• There would be no impacts upon woodland within this LCT. Conversely, the existing tree cover would restrict potential views of the Proposed Development from localised areas.
• Density of housing increasing close to the larger settlements.	• From residential settlement at Bonar Bridge, the construction works and steel lattice towers would represent new elements of human activity / presence within the landscape to the south-west. Views of Section D from Kincardine would be screened by landform and forestry.
• Semi-enclosed character of this well-wooded landscape with occasional views.	• The landform that encloses the Firth would temper views of Section D.
• Attractive views from small roads high up the slopes, giving views to the Rounded Hills – Caithness & Sutherland and glimpses of the Dornoch Firth.	• As above, the landform would temper views of the Proposed Development to the west / south-west. However, the Proposed Development would be visible in some longer-distance, elevated view across the Dornoch Firth from the hill slopes on its northern side.

Landscape Sensitivity	As described above, the scenic qualities of this LCT contribute towards its underlying value. However, its susceptibility to the Proposed Development is tempered by the presence of extensive woodland that restricts outward views from many areas, in combination with the existing 132 kV OHL that extends across parts of the LCT in the vicinity of Bonar Bridge (on the northern side of the firth), and Kincardine (on the southern side). This OHL exerts an existing influence on localised parts of the LCT, and would be present in the foreground of the Proposed Development from parts of the LCT in closest proximity to it. As a result, Landscape Susceptibility is Medium. On balance, the LCT is assessed as being tolerant of some degree of change of the type proposed. Landscape sensitivity to development of the type proposed is **High-Medium**.
Nature of change and Impact Magnitude	Refer to viewpoints 7-55 Airdens, and 7-56 Bonar Bridge to 7-59 A836 Kincardine. The Proposed Development would be located in the context of the wider landscape to the west of the LCT, beyond the rising landform that encloses the Firth. Due to the intervening landform and vegetative screening, the Section D construction activities would exert no discernible influence on the LCT area at Kincardine (on the southern side of the Firth). From the LCT area on the northern side of the Firth, the construction activities, including felling of forestry and temporary site traffic, would be partly visible. However, these elements would be located in a geographically separate part of the background landscape outside the Firth. The influence on landscape character would be tempered by the distance of view (>5.5 km at the closest point), and intervening screening elements in the form of woodland / tree cover within the LCT and the surrounding landform. Similarly, once operational, the effects of the Section D alignment would be primarily limited to the LCT area on the northern side of the Firth. The steel lattice towers would represent a relatively distant addition to the wider landscape to the west / south-west. Views of the Proposed Development would be fragmented across the LCT due to the screening influence of intervening woodland / tree cover that forms a key characteristic of the landscape. Within more open views, the alignment would typically be experienced beyond the existing OHL that extends along the southern side of the Firth (through the LCT area at Kincardine). The Proposed Development would be broadly similar in terms of design, with taller towers, albeit more distant. In summary, the Proposed Development would exert limited influence upon the existing landscape character within the LCT. The Impact Magnitude would be **Low** during construction and during operation.
Significance of Effect	As described above, effects on the existing characteristics of the 145 – Farmed and Forested Slopes with Crofting LCT would be limited. This is due to its spatial separation from the Proposed Development, in combination with screening influence of the landform that encloses the Firth, and the presence of woodland and tree cover within the LCT, as well as the presence of an existing OHL in the intervening landscape. The overall effect would be **Moderate - Minor Adverse** (not significant) during construction and operation.

Table 9: Effects on LCT 329 – Rounded Mountain Massif

Baseline Description	
Description	The LCT comprises high rugged mountains that rise up to the west of Section D. The landscape comprises open, exposed mountain summits, with rocky outcrops, moorland slopes and enclosed straths and valleys between the peaks. The landform, in combination with very limited access / settlement, results in a very wild and very large scale landscape. The LCT occurs in two spatially separate parts of the Section D Study Area. The larger LCT area encompasses Glen Glass and the surrounding mountains to the south. The eastern edge of this LCT area extends broadly parallel to Section D between Towers S92-S109. At its closest point it extends within 170m to the west of the alignment (Tower S103). The landscape on the eastern edge of this LCT area incorporates the 50 wind turbines at Novar Wind Farm. The other LCT area is centred on Carn an Lochan (at 646 m AOD), and Carn Maire (736 m AOD), and is located 3.8 km to the west of Section D at the closest point (Tower S50).
Designated / Protected Landscapes within / adjacent to the LCT	The LCT area at Glen Glass coincides with parts of the Rhiddoroch - Beinn Dearg - Ben Wyvis WLA, and the Ben Wyvis SLA. The LCT area at Carn an Lochan is located entirely within the Rhiddoroch - Beinn Dearg - Ben Wyvis WLA, and also abuts the eastern edge of the Fannichs, Beinn Dearg and Glencalvie SLA in the landscape to the west.
Key Characteristics	• High, broad-based, smooth sided, lobed mountains found in discrete groups set within, and sweeping down to, smooth, lower hills and high level straths and U-shaped valleys, giving a sense of grandeur. • Well-defined summits with either a rounded or angular profile. Often both occur on the same summit where rounded tops have been sculpted by glacial activity into corries and cliff faces. • Similar height to Rugged Mountain Massif – Ross & Cromarty, but appear lower due to their landform. • Fresh snow lines disclose the true height of the mountains. • Rugged or stony summits and extensive moorland groundcover. • Strong relationship with adjoining Rounded Hills and Moorland Slopes – Ross & Cromarty type which unifies the mountain groups into a vast landscape. • Limited settlement, few footpaths or other structures, and little evidence of historic or current land use. • Far reaching views from upper reaches to the mountains, plains and firths in adjacent areas. • Vastness of the landscape due to simple lines of mountain profile, sweeping horizons, undifferentiated ground cover, and few man-made structures to indicate scale. • Wild character over much of the area.
Landscape Value	The LCT is very remote, with limited access and no settlement within the Study Area. In addition to its strong wild character and sense of remoteness, the underlying topography, sense of scale and opportunity for far reaching views also contribute towards the value of the landscape within the LCT. In summary, Landscape Value is High.

Assessment of Effects	
Possible Landscape Receptors	**Potential Effects**
• High, broad-based, smooth sided, lobed mountains found in discrete groups set within, and sweeping down to, smooth, lower hills and high level straths and U-shaped valleys, giving a sense of grandeur.	• The alignment avoids direct impacts upon the LCT, albeit the Proposed Development would be visible in the nearby landscape from the eastern edge of the LCT area at Glen Glass, as well as more elevated peaks at greater distance from Section D.
• Strong relationship with adjoining Rounded Hills and Moorland Slopes – Ross & Cromarty type which unifies the mountain groups into a vast landscape.	• The adjoining Rounded Hills and Moorland Slopes – Ross & Cromarty LCT is located on the landscape between the two LCT areas and also extends in an easterly and southerly direction around the LCT area at Glen Glass. Section D extends though the Rounded Hills and Moorland Slopes – Ross & Cromarty LCT, hence there would be potential views of the construction works and the steel lattice towers within.
• Limited settlement, few footpaths or other structures, and little evidence of historic or current land use.	• Potential views of construction works and the steel lattice towers would represent new elements of human activity / presence within the landscape. From parts of the LCT area at Glen Glass, the Proposed Development would be located beyond the operational Novar Wind Farm.
• Far reaching views from upper reaches to the mountains, plains and firths in adjacent areas.	• There would be open views of Section D from the higher summits, and parts of the LCT in closest proximity to the Proposed Development. However, the landform would restrict views of the Proposed Development from lower lying areas between the upper-most mountain summits, and westerly-facing slopes, as reflected by the reduced ZTV coverage across such areas.
• Vastness of the landscape due to simple lines of mountain profile, sweeping horizons, undifferentiated ground cover, and few man-made structures to indicate scale.	• Potential views of construction works and the steel lattice towers would represent new elements of human activity / presence within the landscape. However, these elements would be experienced within a landscape of vast scale. The presence of the existing Novar Wind Farm on the eastern edge of the LCT area at Glen Glass would temper the influence of Section D, which would be located at greater distance, beyond the turbines.
• Wild character over much of the area.	• Construction works and the steel lattice towers would represent new elements of human activity / presence within the landscape to the east, with the potential to erode the sense of wildness across localised areas.
Landscape Sensitivity	Large geographic areas of the LCT coincide with the Rhiddoroch - Beinn Dearg - Ben Wyvis WLA, as well as the Ben Wyvis SLA. There is also an overlap with the Fannichs, Beinn Dearg and Glencalvie SLA. Its susceptibility to the Proposed Development is increased by the wild character of the LCT, which is predominantly void of settlement and infrastructure. However, the eastern edge of the LCT in closest proximity to Section D incorporates the operational Novar Wind Farm (and lies outside of any

	landscape designation). The presence of existing large-scale infrastructure reduces local landscape susceptibility to change of the type proposed. On balance, Landscape Susceptibility is High-Medium. Landscape sensitivity to development of the type proposed is assessed as being **High**.
Nature of change and Impact Magnitude	Refer to viewpoints 7-66 Loch Glass and 7-67 Ben Wyvis. The key effects would be focused on the eastern edge of the LCT area at Glen Glass, which extends within 170 m of the Proposed Development. There would be views of the construction activities from the summits of Meall an Leathaid, including localised forestry felling, as well as vehicle movements across areas of open moorland. There would also be views of construction activities from the summits of Cnoc Gille Mo Bhrianaig and Bendeallt, although these parts of the LCT are already influenced by the operational Novar Wind Farm, which would remain a prominent element within the locality, with a strong influence on local landscape character. From more central and western parts of this LCT area, the influence of construction activities on existing landscape character would diminish, based on spatial separation from the works, intervening landform screening, and the intervening presence of Novar Wind Farm. Similarly, effects upon the spatially separate LCT area at Carn an Lochan would be limited based on the distance of view and vast scale of the receiving landscape, in which the construction activities would represent a minor component. Once operational, the key effects would remain focused on the eastern edge of the LCT area at Glen Glass, where there would be close proximity views of Towers S92-S109. There would also be views of wider parts of the Section D alignment as it extends away to the north and south. Views from central and western parts of the LCT area (which coincide with the Rhiddoroch - Beinn Dearg - Ben Wyvis WLA and the Ben Wyvis SLA) would be more restricted due to the intervening landform and presence of Novar Wind Farm in front of the Section D alignment. Accordingly, the Proposed Development would exert limited influence on the 'wild character' of the LCT. From the other LCT area at Carn an Lochan, there would also be views of the Section D alignment. However, the influence of the Proposed Development on landscape character would be limited based on the separation distance, and screening based on the intervening landform. On balance, the key effects would be focused within localised parts of the LCT, comprising the eastern edge of the LCT area at Glen Glass within approximately 900 m of Section D. This encompasses the easterly-facing slopes and summits at Meall an Leathaid, Cnoc Gille Mo Bhrianaig and Bendeallt, Within this localised part of the LCT the impact magnitude would be **High** during construction and operation. The effects would diminish across parts of the LCT to the west, across the other, spatially separate LCT area. Across the wider LCT, at greater distance from the Proposed Development, the impact magnitude would typically be **Low-Negligible** during construction and operation. Large parts of the LCT to the west of Glen Glass are entirely outside the ZTV and would be completely unaffected.
Significance of Effect	As described above, the main influence of the construction stage activities and vehicle movements would be focused upon the localised eastern edge of the LCT, comprising the summits east of Glen Glass. During operation, the level of human activity and vehicle movement in the adjoining landscape to the east would reduce. However, the Proposed Development would introduce steel lattice towers to the nearby landscape (just outside the LCT), which would form new components within the local landscape. There would also be views of the wider Section D alignment extending north and south from elevated vantage points. The towers would be experienced in the hillside to the east in the context of open moorland and swathes of forestry. The influence of the Proposed Development would diminish across more distant westerly parts of the LCT. In summary, across the summits and slopes on the eastern edge of the LCT east of Glen Glass, within approximately 900 m of the alignment (Towers S92-S109) the effects during construction and operation would be **Major Adverse** (significant). Across the wider 329 – Rounded Mountain Massif, the effects would be **Moderate-Minor Adverse** (not significant) during construction and operation. Large parts of the LCT further to the west, are entirely outside the ZTV and would be completely unaffected.

Table 10: Effects on LCT 347 – Open Steep Farmed Slopes

Baseline Description	
Description	This LCT is located 920 m to the south-east of the Section D alignment at the closest point (Tower S149). The LCT encompasses an area of farmland on the northern side of the Cromarty Firth, which extends inland, around the northern side of Dingwall. The LCT encompasses localised sections of the A9 and A862, and is also partly influenced by built form on the edge of Dingwall.
Designated / Protected Landscapes within / adjacent to the LCT	The 347 – Open Steep Farmed Slopes LCT does not coincide with any designated or protected landscapes within the Study Area.
Key Characteristics	• Very steep convex slopes with a range of distinct farming patterns, including crofting, enclosed farmed landscapes of estates, unenclosed high-level pastures, and open farmed slopes of larger farms. • Pattern of croft buildings located along the mid-slope minor road following the contour line. • Geometric pattern of fields, and contrasting scales, with narrow, long fields divided by incised burns, associated with crofts; and wider fields of larger farms to the east. • Continuation of openness and smooth textures from open farmed slopes below to the unenclosed rolling pastures above. • Abrupt junction between the convex landform and the flat strath, and Cromarty Firth to the south. • Contrast between the open smooth sloping pastures and the adjacent flat, intensively farmed straths with dark soils and textures of ploughed fields, hedges and trees. • Lack of any significant development other than farms and crofts in open parts of this landscape. • Visibility of these slopes and historic farming patterns from Knockfarrel. • Extensive uninterrupted views of a wide range of Landscape Character Types in the near, middle and far distances, including the farmed strath, Strathpeffer and Dingwall settlements, Knockfarrel, Cromarty Firth, the Black Isle, and the mountains to the south and west.
Landscape Value	The LCT encompasses areas of farmland, with a geometric field pattern, augmented by localised tree cover and dispersed dwellings / farmsteads. Its geographic location between the uplands to the north-west, and the open water of the Cromarty Firth to the south-east contribute towards its aesthetic qualities. However, the LCT is completely undesignated. In summary, Landscape Value is Medium.

Assessment of Effects	
Possible Landscape Receptors	**Potential Effects**
• Very steep convex slopes with a range of distinct farming patterns, including crofting, enclosed farmed landscapes of estates, unenclosed high-level pastures, and open farmed slopes of larger farms.	• There would be no impacts upon the landscape features within this LCT. Conversely, the sloping nature of the landform focuses views towards the south / south-east across the Cromarty Firth, and away from the Proposed Development (located in the higher ground to the north / north-west).
• Continuation of openness and smooth textures from open farmed slopes below to the unenclosed rolling pastures above.	• As above, there would be no direct effect on these landscape elements. Instead, the Proposed Development would be located in the spatially separate upland landscape outside the LCT, beyond intervening tree cover and forestry.
• Abrupt junction between the convex landform and the flat strath, and Cromarty Firth to the south.	• As described above, the landform promotes views to the south / south-east across the Cromarty Firth, away from the Proposed Development.
• Lack of any significant development other than farms and crofts in open parts of this landscape.	• The construction works and steel lattice towers would represent elements of infrastructure within the wider landscape, outside the LCT. However, potential views would be restricted by the intervening landform.
• Visibility of these slopes and historic farming patterns from Knockfarrel.	• Within more open views from Knockfarrel, the Proposed Development would be visible in views towards the north / north-west. The construction works and steel lattice towers would represent distant elements in the upland landscape beyond the sloping farmland within the LCT.
Landscape Sensitivity	The LCT exhibits scenic qualities based upon its geometric field pattern and associated natural features, albeit is completely undesignated and is influenced by built form at Dingwall and nearby parts of the road network. Its susceptibility to the Proposed Development is further tempered by the grain of the underlying landform, which promotes views towards the south / south-east across the Cromarty Firth (in the opposite direction to the Proposed Development). Potential views of Section D from the LCT would be restricted by the intervening landform. On balance, Landscape Susceptibility is Low. Landscape sensitivity to Proposed Development is **Medium-Low**.
Nature of change and Impact Magnitude	The construction activities would be located in geographically separate parts of the background landscape to the north / north-west. Views of these activities would be restricted by the intervening landform. Similarly, the steel lattice towers associated with the operational stage of the Section D alignment would represent a spatially separate element in the background landscape to the north / north-west. The influence of the towers would be restricted by the distance of view and would not impact on outwards views across the Cromarty Firth to the south / south-east. In summary, the Proposed Development would exert limited influence upon the existing landscape character within the LCT. The Impact Magnitude would be **Low** during construction and during operation.

Significance of Effect	As described above, effects on the existing characteristics of the 347 – Open Steep Farmed Slopes LCT would be limited based on its spatial separation from the Proposed Development in combination with the south / south-east focus of views. The overall effect would be **Moderate-Minor Adverse** (not significant) during construction and operation.

Table 11: Effects on LCT 346 – Open Farmed Slopes

Baseline Description	
Description	This LCT encompasses areas of sloping farmland, with scattered villages, farmsteads, tree cover and parcels of woodland. It occurs in four spatially separate parts of the Section D Study Area. This includes the LCT area between Strathpeffer and Dingwall, 2.8 km south-east of Section D at the closest point (Tower S149), LCT area south of Jamestown, 4.6 km south of Section D (Tower S149), the LCT area at Coul of Fairburn, 7.3 km south of Section D (Tower S149), and the LCT area extending along the southern side of the Cromarty Firth, 7.0 km to the east of Section D (Tower S124).
Designated / Protected Landscapes within / adjacent to the LCT	The LCT area between Strathpeffer and Dingwall coincides with a very small part of The Spa Gardens, Strathpeffer GDL at its western edge. Similarly, the LCT area at Coul of Fairburn extends along the northern edge of Fairburn GDL. The vast majority of the landscape within the LCT is undesignated / not protected.
Key Characteristics	• Open, convex, generally north-east facing farmed slopes. • Smooth slopes of arable and pasture fields forming a regular pattern, lined with occasional small trees, fences or gorse hedges. • Mix of crofting, small holdings and large farms giving rise to a patchwork of rectangular fields of different sizes. • Areas of distinctive crofting patterns with generally smaller fields and regularly scattered croft buildings. • Areas of distinctive, large, regular fields of large farms, with occasional small patches of birch woodland and conifer plantations and lines of trees descending the slopes. • Scattered settlement patterns and network of minor roads running along contour lines, with few groupings in villages or towns. • Ever present views which are open, expansive and outward looking.
Landscape Value	The LCT encompasses sloping farmland with localised shelterbelt and tree cover, which contribute towards the LCT's aesthetic qualities. In addition, the sloping nature of the landform allows for expansive views of the surrounding area from more elevated, open vantage points. However, other than some extremely localised areas that coincide with GDLs, the LCT is undesignated. Landscape value is tempered in some areas by transport routes and the presence of localised infrastructure elements, including existing OHL. In summary, Landscape Value is Medium.
Assessment of Effects	
Possible Landscape Receptors	**Potential Effects**
• Open, convex, generally north-east facing farmed slopes.	• There would be potential views of the construction works and the steel lattice towers in the landscape to the north / north-west from more open, elevated vantage points. This includes the summit of Knockfarrel (within the LCT area between Strathpeffer and Dingwall), at a distance of 3.8 km to the south-east of

	Section D at the closest point (Tower S149). From many parts of the LCT, potential visibility would be restricted by the distance of view, as well as the intervening landform and forestry on the skyline.
• Smooth slopes of arable and pasture fields forming a regular pattern, lined with occasional small trees, fences or gorse hedges.	• There would be no direct effect on these landscape elements. Instead, the existing landscape pattern within the LCT would remain unchanged.
• Areas of distinctive, large, regular fields of large farms, with occasional small patches of birch woodland and conifer plantations and lines of trees descending the slopes.	• As above, there would be no direct effect on existing landscape fabric or pattern within the LCT. Potential views of construction works and the steel lattice towers would be restricted in localised areas where the birch woodland and conifer plantations predominate.
• Scattered settlement patterns and network of minor roads running along contour lines, with few groupings in villages or towns.	• The settlement pattern within the LCT would remain unchanged. However, the Proposed Development would introduce additional elements of human influence to the wider surrounding landscape.
• Ever present views which are open, expansive and outward looking.	• There would be potential views of the construction works and the steel lattice towers in the landscape to the north-east from more open, elevated vantage points (including Knockfarrel). Within these views, these elements would be experienced within an expansive landscape context, spatially separate from the LCT.
Landscape Sensitivity	An extremely small part of the LCT coincides with The Spa Gardens, Strathpeffer GDL (1.4 Ha) and Fairburn GDL (1.4 Ha). Whilst the local landscapes in the vicinity of the GDLs are considered to be of greater susceptibility to change, based on the addition of modern elements within the context of traditional / historic landscapes, this accounts for an extremely small proportion of the landscape within the LCT. The LCT does not encompass any landscape designations or other protected landscapes within the Study Area. Its susceptibility to the Proposed Development is tempered by the actively managed character of the farmland, which incorporates scattered settlement including roads and existing OHLs. As a result, Landscape Susceptibility is Medium. On balance, the landscape sensitivity to development of the type proposed is assessed as being **Medium**.
Nature of change and Impact Magnitude	Refer to viewpoints 7-75 Knockfarrel, 7-81 A835 (south-east of Contin), 7-85 Fairburn Drive (west) and 7-86 Fairburn Drive (east). There would be no direct effects on the landscape fabric within this LCT. In terms of indirect effects on the four discrete LCT areas, the clearest views would be experienced from the summit of Knockfarrel within the LCT area between Strathpeffer and Dingwall. However, potential views of construction activities from this summit would be limited by the distance of view (approximately 3.8 km), in combination with intervening forestry that is widespread across the hillsides at the southern end of Section D (in closest proximity to this LCT). Potential views from all other LCT areas would be subject to increased screening, and experienced at greater distance. Once operational, the clearest views would continue to be experienced from the summit of Knockfarrel (within the LCT area between Strathpeffer and Dingwall). Within these views the Section D alignment would extend across the hills to the north / north-west (outside the LCT). The towers would be experienced in the distance, spatially separated from the LCT by the River Peffer valley, in the context of intervening forestry. Accordingly, the influence of the Proposed Development on landscape character would be limited. Potential effects on the other LCT areas would be very limited due to increased screening and spatial separation from the Proposed Development.

	On balance, the impact magnitude on the LCT area between Strathpeffer and Dingwall would be **Low** during construction and operation. This would reduce to **Negligible** for the other three LCT areas located at greater distance from Section D.
Significance of Effect	As described above, the Section D alignment would be located in the landscape to the north / north-west of LCT 346 – Open Farmed Slopes, and would exert no direct effects upon the existing landscape fabric within any of the four discrete LCT areas. The influence of the Proposed Development within views of the surrounding landscape would be limited due to its spatial separation from the LCT, and screening by the intervening landform and tree cover. The effects on the LCT area between Strathpeffer and Dingwall would be **Minor Adverse** (not significant) during construction and operation. This would reduce to **Negligible** (not significant) for all other LCT areas.

Table 12: Effects on LCT 331 – Rounded Rocky Hills - Ross & Cromarty

Baseline Description	
Description	This LCT encompasses a series of rounded hills, which coincide with three spatially distinct areas within the Study Area. The closest area is centred on Carn Loch an Tuirc, north of Loch Garve, 2.8 km north-west of Section D at the closest point (Tower S149). The other areas of the LCT are focused on the landscape around Loch Luichart (7.2 km south-west of Tower S149), and the hills between Strathconon and Glen Orrin (8.0 km south-west of Tower S149).
Designated / Protected Landscapes within / adjacent to the LCT	The LCT area at Carn Loch an Tuirc coincides with the Rhiddoroch - Beinn Dearg - Ben Wyvis WLA and Ben Wyvis LLA across its northern edge. The LCT area between Strathconon and Glen Orrin overlaps with the Central Highlands WLA across its western parts.
Key Characteristics	• Moderate scale, well-defined hills with rounded and domed profiles, relatively steep sides and rocky moorland surface texture. • Hills separated by low, curving glens, lochs and straths. • High proportion of exposed, glaciated rock at upper levels, with perched lochans, bogs and burns. • Mosaic of vegetation and variety of textures at lower levels consisting of heather, rough grassland, pockets of broad leaved woodland and regenerating trees, and coniferous forests. • Rocky landform and low, moorland land cover contrasts with surrounding sheltered wooded glens and smoother moorlands. • Low intensity land use and limited access contrasts with adjacent farmed plains and straths. • Extensive views of adjoining plains, firths and mountains from higher levels. • Occasional masts and pylons tend to be visually absorbed by rocky landforms and vegetation. • Wild character in the south-west area, which is more remote and has few built structures.
Landscape Value	The LCT encompasses rounded hills, of open moorland and parcels of tree cover with limited access / human influences. These elements contribute towards its aesthetic qualities, and the sense of wild character, which is recognised across parts of the LCT within the Rhiddoroch - Beinn Dearg - Ben Wyvis WLA, Ben Wyvis LLA, and Central Highlands WLA. Its scenic qualities are tempered in other areas by built structures including masts, and the operational Fairburn Wind Farm within the LCT area between Strathconon and Glen Orrin (on the intervening landscape between the Central Highlands WLA and the Proposed Development). In summary, Landscape Value is High-Medium.

Assessment of Effects	
Possible Landscape Receptors	**Potential Effects**
• Moderate scale, well-defined hills with rounded and domed profiles, relatively steep sides and rocky moorland surface texture.	• There would be potential views of the construction works and the steel lattice towers from the upper slopes and summits in the wider landscape to the east / north-east. The closest parts of Section D would extend through areas of forestry. As such, these views of construction works and the steel lattice towers would be restricted by intervening tree cover, in combination with landform and separation distance.
• Hills separated by low, curving glens, lochs and straths.	• Views from lower lying parts of the LCT would be restricted by the intervening landform.
• Mosaic of vegetation and variety of textures at lower levels consisting of heather, rough grassland, pockets of broad leaved woodland and regenerating trees, and coniferous forests.	• There would be no direct effect on these landscape elements. Instead, the existing mosaic of ground cover within the LCT would remain unchanged.
• Low intensity land use and limited access contrasts with adjacent farmed plains and straths.	• Potential views of the Proposed Development would represent an increase in landuse and access within the context of existing forestry in the landscape to the east / north-east.
• Extensive views of adjoining plains, firths and mountains from higher levels.	• As above, there would be potential views of the construction works and the steel lattice towers from the upper slopes and summits within the LCT, in the context of forestry.
• Occasional masts and pylons tend to be visually absorbed by rocky landforms and vegetation.	• The Proposed Development would introduce additional infrastructure to the landscape to the east / north-east. The towers and tracks would be subject to screening / back-clothing by the same existing elements.
• Wild character in the south-west area, which is more remote and has few built structures.	• As above, the Proposed Development would introduce additional 'built structures' to the landscape to the east / north-east. The potential influence of the construction works and the steel lattice towers would be restricted by intervening forestry and spatial separation from the areas of wild character.
Landscape Sensitivity	Within the Study Area, parts of the LCT coincide with the Rhiddoroch - Beinn Dearg - Ben Wyvis WLA and Ben Wyvis LLA (which extend across a similar geographic area), as well as the Central Highlands WLA. The limited presence of built form, and sense of wild character, suggest greater susceptibility to development of the type proposed. However, the susceptibility of the LCT to the Proposed Development is tempered by its spatial separation from Section D and the extent of intervening forestry. As a result, Landscape Susceptibility is High-Medium. On balance, the landscape sensitivity to development of the type proposed is assessed as being **High-Medium**.

Nature of change and Impact Magnitude	There would be no direct effects on the landscape within any of the three distinct areas of the 331 – Rounded Rocky Hills - Ross & Cromarty LCT within the Study Area. Instead, the construction activities, including felling of forestry and vehicle movements, would be located in a geographically separate part of the landscape to the east / north-east. The influence of these activities would be tempered by the distance of view, in combination within intervening forestry. Similarly, once operational, the steel lattice towers would represent spatially separate elements in the surrounding landscape. The clearest views of the Proposed Development would be experienced from the LCT area at Carn Loch an Tuirc (located within 2.8 km of the closest tower). The Section D alignment would be experienced in more open views from upper slopes and summits within the LCT, in the context of intervening forestry. Accordingly, the associated permanent access tracks would exert very limited influence. There would be no views, and no influence across lower-lying glens within the LCT, or on southerly / westerly facing slopes (as evident in the lack of ZTV coverage across such areas). In relation to the other geographically separate LCT areas; potential effects on the LCT area at Loch Luichart would be restricted by the increasing distance of view. Potential effects on the LCT area between Strathconon and Glen Orrin would be tempered by separation distance and the presence of the operational Fairburn Wind Farm within the northern part of the LCT area (the Proposed Development would represent a minor element in the background landscape from parts of the LCT to the south of the turbines). In summary, the Proposed Development would exert limited influence upon the existing landscape character within the LCT. Based on potential views from the eastern edge of the LCT area at Carn Loch an Tuirc, the Impact Magnitude would be **Low** at most during construction and during operation, albeit this would reduce across central and western parts of the LCT area, located at greater distance from the Proposed Development. From the separate LCT areas at Loch Luichart, and the hills between Strathconon and Glen Orrin, the Impact Magnitude would be **Negligible**.
Significance of Effect	As described above, effects on the existing characteristics of the 331 – Rounded Rocky Hills - Ross & Cromarty LCT would be limited based on its spatial separation from the Proposed Development, the underlying landform that would fully screen views of the Proposed Development from lower-lying and south / west facing slopes, and the extent of intervening forestry that would partly screen / back-cloth the alignment. The LCT encompasses three distinct areas within the Study Area. The main effects would be focused on the LCT area at Carn Loch an Tuirc, where the overall effect would be **Moderate-Minor Adverse** (not significant) during construction and operation. Effects on the existing characteristics of the separate areas at Contin and Strathconon would be **Minor Adverse** (not significant) during construction and operation.

Table 13: Effects on LCT 340 – Strath - Ross & Cromarty

Baseline Description	
Description	This LCT is located 6.0 km to the west of the Section D alignment at the closest point (Tower S149), encompassing Loch Garve and the adjoining low-lying strath that extends north-west towards Gorstan and Lochluichart. The strath includes meandering watercourses including the Black Water and Allt a' Mhuilinn, as well as farmland and scattered settlement.
Designated / Protected Landscapes within / adjacent to the LCT	The 340 – Strath - Ross & Cromarty LCT does not coincide with any designated or protected landscapes.
Key Characteristics	• Sinuous or curved channels with steep sides channelling through upland and mountainous landscapes. • Wide flat strath floor at the coast or terminating water body, where the presence of water dominates. • Narrowing channel inland, with a rising strath floor, terminating at a narrow glen or mountain pass. • Meandering central river, becoming broad and braided at the lower end, terminating in wetlands and pebbly beaches. • Abrupt change in topography from strath to slope emphasised by change from regular field patterns to forest, woodland and moorland. • Riparian woodland and patches of native woodlands on the strath floor and lower slopes. • Limited settlement, usually located at inland bridging points at the entrance to straths. • Rural estate landscapes including broad, green, regular fields of pasture, large estate houses and associated features such as farm buildings, stone walls and policy woodlands. • Occasional small linear crofting townships and small holdings on slopes adjoining the road access. • Through-road along the strath length located on the edge of the strath floor. • Historic land use evidence in abandoned 19th and early 20th Century settlements. • Restricted views in upper reaches, channelled along the strath, contrasting with openness of the wide strath at the lower end, the latter enhanced by reflection of light on the sea or terminal loch. • Intriguing views along curved straths which are enhanced on un-improved roads which closely follow the curving landform of the strath sides.
Landscape Value	The LCT encompasses Loch Garve, watercourses, farmland and tree cover within the strath which contribute towards its aesthetic qualities. However, the LCT is entirely undesignated, and incorporates existing elements of built form / infrastructure in the form of road and rail links, and existing OHL. On balance, Landscape Value is Medium.

Assessment of Effects	
Possible Landscape Receptors	**Potential Effects**
• Sinuous or curved channels with steep sides channelling through upland and mountainous landscapes.	• The steep strath sides provide visual containment. Potential views of the construction activities and steel lattice towers in the landscape to the east would be further restricted by intervening summits and areas of forestry.
• Abrupt change in topography from strath to slope emphasised by change from regular field patterns to forest, woodland and moorland.	• The landform enclosing the strath would restrict potential views of the Proposed Development. The screening influence of the landform would be augmented by woodland / forestry.
• Riparian woodland and patches of native woodlands on the strath floor and lower slopes.	• There would be no impacts upon woodland within this LCT. Conversely, the existing tree cover would restrict potential views of the Proposed Development from localised areas.
• Limited settlement, usually located at inland bridging points at the entrance to straths.	• The settlement pattern within the LCT would remain unchanged. Potential views of the Proposed Development from settlements within the LCT would be restricted by tree cover, landform and separation distance.
• Rural estate landscapes including broad, green, regular fields of pasture, large estate houses and associated features such as farm buildings, stone walls and policy woodlands.	• Potential views of construction works and the steel lattice towers from heritage assets would be restricted by the landform around the strath, in combination with intervening woodland and tree cover.
• Restricted views in upper reaches, channelled along the strath, contrasting with openness of the wide strath at the lower end.	• From parts of the LCT within the Study Area the strath remains enclosed by the landform around Loch Garve. This would restrict potential views of the Proposed Development.
• Intriguing views along curved straths which are enhanced on un-improved roads which closely follow the curving landform of the strath sides.	• The curved nature of the strath would restrict potential views of the Proposed Development, particularly further west.
Landscape Sensitivity	The LCT is completely undesignated. Its susceptibility to the Proposed Development would be increased by the smaller-scale enclosed nature of the strath. However, this is tempered by its spatial separation from Section D, the visual containment of the strath based on its steep slopes and curved form, as well as the presence of the existing OHL within the LCT. On balance, Landscape Susceptibility is Medium. Landscape sensitivity to Proposed Development is **Medium**.
Nature of change and Impact Magnitude	ZTV coverage across the LCT is almost entirely absent and limited to a very localised area at Loch Garve (at the eastern end of the LCT). Potential views of the construction activities and steel lattice towers from this area would be limited by the intervening landform and forestry. The Proposed Development would represent a distant element in the background landscape to the east, spatially separate from the low-lying strath. From all other parts of the LCT (comprising the vast majority of the strath) there would be no views. The Impact Magnitude would be **Negligible** during construction and operation. The vast majority of the LCT would be completely unaffected.

Significance of Effect	As described above, views of the Proposed Development would be extremely limited across the 340 – Strath - Ross & Cromarty LCT. Accordingly, there would be no discernible influence on existing landscape character. The overall effect would be **Minor Adverse** (not significant) during construction and operation.

Table 14: Effects on LCT 339 – Inland Strath

Baseline Description	
Description	This LCT encompasses three spatially separate straths within the Study Area. From north to south, these are Strathrusdale (540 m east of Section D, Tower S78), Contin (4.7 km south-west of Section D, Tower S149), and Strathconon (7.0 km south-west of Section D, Tower S149). In each case, the strath landscapes comprise a watercourse with areas of farmland with scattered tree cover / riparian woodland, as well as isolated farmsteads and dwellings linked by local roads within the strath floor. The strath sides comprise coniferous forestry and open moorland. In addition, the area at Contin is traversed by the A835, which represents a key transport corridor. The area at Strathconnon incorporates large water bodies in the form of Loch Achonachie at its eastern end and Loch Meig to the west.
Designated / Protected Landscapes within / adjacent to the LCT	The 339 – Inland Strath LCT does not coincide with any designated or protected landscapes within the Study Area.
Key Characteristics	• Landlocked, sinuous or curved channels through upland hills and moorlands. • Strath floors rise up to a strath head and peter out into upland moorlands. • Lower ends of straths weakly enclosed and may pass through rocky moorlands into the adjoining farmed landscapes. • Natural, meandering, central river often flowing through long, narrow lochs which are confined by landform. • Relatively sheltered with green pastures divided into fields, often low intensity, and mixed with patches of native woodlands, riparian woodlands, trees and rough grassland. • Small conifer forests which merge with larger scale forests in surrounding moorlands. • Character varies along the length of straths, from high exposed rough pasture to lower, more sheltered and improved pastures. • Central minor road or track runs along strath sides and terminates at upper end of strath. • Estate houses and associated buildings, walls, enclosures and policy woodlands give an historic character. • Contrast with surrounding exposed, uninhabited, upland moorland and hills, and the more intensely farmed or settled areas beyond the lower end of the strath. • Confined views which direct attention towards the foreground details on the surrounding slopes and enclosing skyline. • Landlocked, enclosed upland setting, and low use, cul-de-sac minor roads and tracks, which give a sense of isolation.

Landscape Value	The LCT comprises a mix of natural features, including meandering rivers, wetlands, lochs and riparian woodland. These elements are complemented by features such as estate houses and policy woodland, experienced in the backdrop of the forestry and moorland on the upper slopes enclosing the strath. However, the LCT is entirely undesignated. On balance, Landscape Value is Medium.

Assessment of Effects	
Possible Landscape Receptors	**Potential Effects**
• Landlocked, sinuous or curved channels through upland hills and moorlands.	• There would be no discernible views of Section D from the LCT areas at Contin and Strathconon due to the visual containment by the strath sides. Potential views of the Proposed Development would be restricted to the LCT area at Strathrusdale, where the construction activities and steel lattice towers would be experienced in the spatially separate hills outside the strath. Based on the height of the towers, the Proposed Development would potentially form a new focus within views of the surrounding upland hills and moorlands.
• Natural, meandering, central river often flowing through long, narrow lochs which are confined by landform.	• There would be no direct effect on these landscape elements. Instead, the Proposed Development would be located in the surrounding uplands, spatially separate from the strath floor within the LCT.
• Relatively sheltered with green pastures divided into fields, often low intensity, and mixed with patches of native woodlands, riparian woodlands, trees and rough grassland.	• Potential views of construction works and the steel lattice towers would be limited to the LCT area at Strathrusdale. From this area, views would be restricted by woodland and tree cover within the strath floor, and across the strath sides, in combination with the surrounding landform.
• Small conifer forests which merge with larger scale forests in surrounding moorlands.	• As above, potential views would be restricted by tree cover / forestry in combination with the strath landform. There would be no impacts upon forestry within this LCT.
• Estate houses and associated buildings, walls, enclosures and policy woodlands give an historic character.	• Section D avoids direct impacts upon enclosures / policy woodland associated with estate houses, albeit may be visible from Strathrusdale.
• Contrast with surrounding exposed, uninhabited, upland moorland and hills, and the more intensely farmed or settled areas beyond the lower end of the strath.	• From the LCT area at Strathrusdale, the Proposed Development would represent an element of human influence on the surrounding 'uninhabited' upland moorland and hills. There would be no discernible views of Section D from the LCT areas at Contin and Strathconon. The settlement pattern within the LCT would remain unchanged.
• Confined views which direct attention towards the foreground details on the surrounding slopes and enclosing skyline.	• Based on the height of the towers, the Proposed Development would potentially form a new element on the enclosing skyline from parts of Strathrusdale. However, the confined views within the strath would

	fully screen the Proposed Development in some areas. There would be no discernible views of Section D from the LCT areas at Contin and Strathconon.
• Landlocked, enclosed upland setting, and low use, cul-de-sac minor roads and tracks, which give a sense of isolation.	• Potential views of the Proposed Development within the surrounding uplands at Strathrusdale would reduce the sense of isolation, albeit such views would be tempered by the enclosed nature of the Strath. There would be no discernible views from the LCT areas at Contin and Strathconon.
Landscape Sensitivity	The LCT exhibits scenic qualities based upon its combination of natural features, albeit is completely undesignated. Its susceptibility to the Proposed Development would be increased by the smaller-scale enclosed nature of the strath. However, this is tempered by its spatial separation from Section D, and the presence of tree cover and forestry, in combination with the intervening landform, which would restrict potential views of the Proposed Development. On balance, Landscape Susceptibility is Medium. Landscape sensitivity to Proposed Development is **Medium**.
Nature of change and Impact Magnitude	Refer to viewpoint 7-61 Strath Rusdale. The Proposed Development would be located in the context of the surrounding upland landscape, outside each of the three distinct areas of the 339 – Inland Strath LCT within the Study Area. With reference to the ZTV, potential views would be limited to the LCT area at Strathrusdale; there would be no discernible views of Section D from the LCT areas at Contin and Strathconon. From Strathrusdale, the construction activities, including felling of forestry and temporary access track / site traffic, would be located in geographically separate parts of the background landscape. The influence of these activities would be tempered by the distance of view, and the presence of intervening screening elements in the form of woodland / tree cover within the LCT and the intervening landform. Similarly, the steel lattice towers associated with the operational stage of the Section D alignment would represent spatially separate elements in more open views along the strath landscape. There would be views of towers at the western end of the Strathrusdale area, at a minimum distance of 540 m (Tower S78). These towers would be experienced in the context of intervening forestry. In summary, the Proposed Development would exert limited influence upon the existing landscape character within the LCT. Based on potential views from the Strathrusdale area, the Impact Magnitude would be **Low** during construction and during operation. There would be no discernible effects on the separate LCT areas at Contin and Strathconon.
Significance of Effect	As described above, effects on the existing characteristics of the 339 – Inland Strath LCT would be limited based on its spatial separation from the Proposed Development, in combination with the enclosing nature of the strath landform, and intervening woodland / tree cover that would restrict potential views of the alignment. The LCT encompasses three distinct areas within the Study Area. The main effects would be focused on the western end of the Strathrusdale area, where the overall effect would be Moderate-**Minor Adverse** (not significant) during construction and operation. There would be no discernible effects on the LCT areas at Contin and Strathconon.

Table 15: Effects on LCT 342 – Farmed River Plains

Baseline Description	
Description	This LCT is located 1.5 km to the south / south-east of the Section D alignment at the closest point (Tower S149), encompassing the low-lying agricultural landscape on the northern side of Knockfarrel. The LCT also extends around Knockfarrel, across the south-western end of the Cromarty Firth, and around the southern side of Knockarrel. Further south, the LCT encompasses Beauly and the shores of the Beauly Firth (outside the Study Area). As such, the LCT forms two distinct spurs within the Study Area, comprising landscape areas to the north of Knockfarrel, and south of Knockfarrel.
Designated / Protected Landscapes within / adjacent to the LCT	The LCT area south of Knockfarrel coincides with the southern edge of the Brahan GDL across a localised area. Similarly, the area north of Knockfarrel encompasses the eastern edge of Castle Leod GDL across a localised area. All other parts of the 342 – Farmed River Plains LCT (comprising almost its full extent) are undesignated.
Key Characteristics	• Broad expanse of mainly flat, connected river valley flood plains, with central meandering rivers. • Contrast of the flat, open plain and the adjacent surrounding concave slopes rising to steep hill and mountain edges to the north, west and south. • Meandering and mainly natural course of rivers and associated wetlands and salt marshes at lower reaches. • Woodland and tree cover of roadside and field-side trees lines, shelterbelts and small plantations interspersed with large scale fields. • Relatively sparse settlement, mainly of estate farms and cottages which avoid wetter areas, with occasional and relatively contained larger settlements on low plains as well as elevated sandy gravel deposits. • Important prehistoric ceremonial monuments consisting of standing stones and henges.
Landscape Value	The LCT encompasses areas of farmland, with meandering rivers, parcels of woodland and tree cover, as well as localised cultural heritage features (including the outer edges of two GDLs), which contribute towards landscape value. This is tempered in places by settlement and associated parts of the road and rail network, and existing OHL between Muir of Ord, Dingwall and Strathpeffer. In summary, Landscape Value is Medium.

Assessment of Effects	
Possible Landscape Receptors	**Potential Effects**
• Contrast of the flat, open plain and the adjacent surrounding concave slopes rising to steep hill and mountain edges to the north, west and south.	• There would be no direct impacts upon the flat plain within this LCT. Conversely, the construction works and steel lattice towers would be located in the geographically separate upland landscape towards the north / north-west of the LCT.
• Woodland and tree cover of roadside and field-side trees lines, shelterbelts and small plantations interspersed with large scale fields.	• There would be no direct effect on these landscape elements. Instead, areas of woodland and tree cover would restrict potential views of the Proposed Development.

• Relatively sparse settlement, mainly of estate farms and cottages which avoid wetter areas, with occasional and relatively contained larger settlements on low plains as well as elevated sandy gravel deposits.	• The settlement pattern within the LCT would remain unchanged. Instead, the Proposed Development would represent an element of human influence on the surrounding uplands, further to the north / north-west. Potential views of the construction works and the steel lattice tower from the main settlements would be subject to partial screening by tree cover, landform and separation distance. In particular, the landform at Cnoc Mor and Knockfarrel would screen views of the Proposed Development from southern parts of the LCT.
• Important prehistoric ceremonial monuments consisting of standing stones and henges.	• Potential views of construction works and the steel lattice towers from heritage assets would be restricted by intervening woodland and tree cover. This includes views from parts of the Castle Leod GDL and Brahan GDL that coincide with the LCT. Potential views from Brahan GDL would also be restricted by the intervening landform at Cnoc Mor and Knockfarrel.
Landscape Sensitivity	Localised areas of the LCT within the Study Area coincide with the outer edges of the Brahan GDL and Castle Leod GDL, which are susceptible to landscape change. However, across wider parts of the LCT, landscape susceptibility to the Proposed Development is tempered by the presence of existing human influences, including settlements, road and rail routes, and existing OHL. As a result, Landscape Susceptibility is Medium. On balance, the landscape sensitivity to development of the type proposed is assessed as being **Medium**.
Nature of change and Impact Magnitude	Refer to viewpoints 7-83 Marybank Road, 7-84 Achonochie Road (west of Marybank) and 7-85 Fairburn Drive (west). The construction activities, including felling of forestry and temporary access track / site traffic, would be located outside the LCT, in the context of the surrounding upland landscape to the north / north-west of the LCT. The influence of these activities would be tempered by the distance of view and screening elements in the form of the intervening landform and tree cover / forestry on the slopes that extend around the farmed plains. In particular, potential views from southern parts of the LCT (to the south of Knockfarrel) would be extremelely limited due to the intervening landform. Similarly, the steel lattice towers associated with the operational stage of the Section D alignment would represent spatially separate elements, outside the farmed plains. From the northern edge of the LCT (north of Knockfarrel), the upper parts of the towers would be visible in the uplands to the north-west beyond intervening forestry (at distances of >1.5 km). From parts of the LCT south of Knockfarrel, views of Section D would be restricted by the intervening landform. In summary, the effects would be focused across very localised parts of the LCT on the northern side of Knockfarrel (in closest proximity to the southern end of Section D). However, potential views of the construction works and steel lattice towers from this part of the LCT would be restricted by distance and screening. Accordingly, the impact magnitude would be **Low** during construction and operation. Potential views of the Proposed Development would diminish across southern parts of the LCT due to the intervening landform, including the summits of Cnoc Mor and Knockfarrel. Across the wider LCT, the impact magnitude would be **Negligible** during construction and operation.
Significance of Effect	As described above, effects on the 342 – Farmed River Plains LCT would be limited based on its spatial separation from the Proposed Development, in combination with the intervening landform, and forestry / tree cover.

	From very localised parts of the LCT north of Knockfarrel, the effects during construction and operation would be **Moderate-Minor Adverse** (not significant). Across all other parts of the LCT (comprising the majority of the LCT), the effects would reduce and would be **Minor Adverse** (not significant) during construction and operation.

Scottish & Southern Electricity Networks

TRANSMISSION

VOLUME 5: APPENDIX 7.8: ANNEX 2 – VISUAL RECEPTOR ASSESSMENT SECTION D

1. VISUAL RECEPTOR ASSESSMENT SECTION D

Table D.1: Residential

Reference	Location / Type / Context	Nature of Main View	Sensitivity	Nature of Change	Distance	Magnitude		Effect	
						Construction	Operational (after 10yrs)	Construction	Operational (after 10yrs)
SD-01 (Refer to Figure 7.4-9)	**Sonnycroft** Residents and visitors to a property located within Strathcarron and accessed via a track from a minor road (Cahd an Tartair).	The front of the property faces south, over Strathcarron. There are also views to the south-east and south-west along the strath floor, filtered by intervening tree cover. Wider views to the south are contained by landform at higher elevation (forested hills to south of Strathcarron). Based on the value of existing views from this property and susceptibility to proposed development change the sensitivity of the receptor is adjudged to be High.	**High**	View of the construction works and introduction of the steel lattice towers would be experienced at close proximity, to the west, filtered by intervening scrub vegetation. Tower S38 would be the closest, and would be viewed at an oblique angle at approx. 210 m distance. During construction, there would be filtered views of vehicle movements within Strathcarron. There would also be partial views of felling activities to a wayleave for the alignment, and additional forestry felling on the northern strath slopes to create a wind-firm edge to the retained forestry. Once operational, there would be views of Proposed Development at close range to the west, where the towers would be partially visible against the background landscape. In views to the south-west the Proposed Development would be visible predominantly against the background landscape, within Strathcarron. In wider, longer distance views to the south-west, beyond Strathcarron (up to distances of 1.8 km), the Proposed Development would be visible predominantly against the background sky and would consist of the upper parts of the	210 m	**High**	**High**	**Major based on proximity and angle of view occupied in winter months.**	**Major based on proximity and angle of view occupied in winter months.**

Reference	Location / Type / Context	Nature of Main View	Sensitivity	Nature of Change	Distance	Magnitude		Effect	
						Construction	Operational (after 10yrs)	Construction	Operational (after 10yrs)
				transmission towers, experienced with greater visibility within areas of moorland.					
SD-02 (Refer to Figure 7.4-10)	**West End** Residents and visitors to a property located near Glen Glass, accessed via a track from minor road to the south west (within Glen Glass).	The main orientation of views is to the south-east towards over Glen Glass, with plantation forestry in the foreground. Views to the west and south-west are partially contained by landform, including Meall an Tuirc hill. Views to the north are partially contained by higher landform at Srath Mor. Based on the value of existing views from this property and susceptibility to proposed development change the sensitivity of the receptor is adjudged to be High.	**High**	Views of the construction works and introduction of the steel lattice towers would be experienced at close proximity and at an oblique angle, in views to the west and south-west, Towers S112 and S133 would be the closest, at approx. 270 m and 290 m distance respectively. Views of ground-based construction activity to the north-west would be filtered by intervening tree cover, although there would be partial views of vehicle movements and associated forestry felling along the alignment (including very localised areas of felling beyond the wayleave to create a wind-firm edge). Once operational, there would be views of the Proposed Development at close range, predominantly against the background landscape, in views to the west and south-west. There would be filtered and partially screen views of the Proposed Development to the north and north-west, against the combination of the background sky and landscape. There would be wider views of the Proposed Development to the south-west, out to distances of 1.7 km, partially screened by plantation forestry.	270 m	**Medium**	**Medium**	**Major / Moderate (adverse) based on proximity and angle of view occupied in winter months.**	**Major / Moderate (adverse) based on proximity and angle of view occupied in winter months.**

Reference	Location / Type / Context	Nature of Main View	Sensitivity	Nature of Change	Distance	Magnitude		Effect	
						Construction	Operational (after 10yrs)	Construction	Operational (after 10yrs)
SD-03 (Refer to Figure 7.4-9)	**Cnoc Cluaran** Residents and visitors to a property located within Strathcarron and accessed via track from a minor road (Cahd an Tartair).	The front of the property faces south, over Strathcarron. There are also views the south-east and south-west along the strath floor, filtered by intervening tree cover. Wider views beyond the strath to south, south west and are contained by hills Wider views to the north are contained by landform at higher elevation (forested hills to south of Strathcarron). Based on the value of existing views from this property and susceptibility to proposed development change the sensitivity of the receptor is adjudged to be High.	**High**	There would be oblique views of the construction works and introduction of the steel lattice towers to the east. Tower S38 would be the closest, at approx. 290 m. During construction, there would be filtered views of vehicle movements within Strathcarron. There would also be partial views of felling activities to create a wayleave for the alignment, and additional forestry felling on the northern strath slopes to create a wind-firm edge to the retained forestry. Once operational, the Proposed Development would be visible at close range, predominantly against the background sky in views to the east, filtered by a curtilage vegetation. In wider, longer-distance views to the south-east, beyond Strathcarron (up to distances of 2.5 km), the Proposed Development would be visible predominantly against the background sky, filtered by intervening tree cover and would consist of the upper parts of the transmission towers, with greater visibility within areas of moorland.	290 m	**High**	**High**	**Major (adverse) based on proximity and angle of view occupied in winter months.**	**Major (adverse) based on proximity and angle of view occupied in winter months.**
SD-04 (Refer to Figure 7.4-9 and Figure	**Glaik Croft** Residents and visitors to a property located near Boath (south of	The front of the property faces north toward the River Averon, contained by forested hills Views to the west and north west are contained forested hills.	**High**	The construction works and introduction of the steel lattice towers would be experienced at close range, on elevated ground to the south, south-east and south west. (Tower S96 would be the closest at 290 m).	290 m	**High**	**High**	**Major (adverse) based on proximity and angle of view**	**Major (adverse) based on proximity and angle of view**

Reference	Location / Type / Context	Nature of Main View	Sensitivity	Nature of Change	Distance	Magnitude		Effect	
						Construction	Operational (after 10yrs)	Construction	Operational (after 10yrs)
7.4-10)	Strathrusdale) south of the River Alness.	Views to the east and south along the Strah floor (Boath) are contained by forestry with hills in the background (An Corrin). There are partially screened views of Novar Wind farm to the south and south-west. Based on the value of existing views from this property and susceptibility to proposed development change the sensitivity of the receptor is adjudged to be High.		During construction, there would be clear views of vehicle movement along the alignment. Once operational, the Proposed Development would be visible at close range predominantly against the background sky, due to the nature of the elevated landform to the south, south-east and south -west. Views to the south-west would partial screened by an adjacent shed building and curtilage vegetation Views to the west and north-west would be partially screened by intervening landform, with the Proposed Development predominately visible against the background sky.					
SD-05 (Refer to Figure 7.4-10)	**Fannyfield** Residents and visitors to a property located to the west of Evanton, north of the River Sgitheach	The front of the property faces south east, with views over the River Sgitheach against a backdrop of forested hills at Cnoc Mhabairn Views are contained in part to the east and north east by Swordale Hill. Views to the north and west are contained by plantation forestry. There two existing OHL visible to the south east, at approx. 2.4 km. Based on the value of existing views from this property and susceptibility to proposed development change	**High**	Views of the construction works and introduction of the steel lattice towers would be experienced at close proximity, partially screened by forestry, to the west, south-west and north-west. (Tower S123 would be the closest at approx. 315 m to the west). Views of ground-based construction work to the north-west would be limited due to screening effect of plantation forestry in the foreground, although there would be partial views of vehicle movements and associated forestry felling along the alignment wayleave. Once operational, the Proposed Development would be visible to west and north-west, partially screened by adjacent shed building and forestry against the background sky. To the south-west,	315 m	**Medium**	**Medium**	**Major / Moderate (adverse) based on proximity and angle of view occupied in winter months.**	**Major / Moderate (adverse) based on proximity and angle of view occupied in winter months.**

Reference	Location / Type / Context	Nature of Main View	Sensitivity	Nature of Change	Distance	Magnitude		Effect	
						Construction	Operational (after 10yrs)	Construction	Operational (after 10yrs)
		the sensitivity of the receptor is adjudged to be High.		the Proposed Development would be visible against a combination of background landscape and sky, and to the north-west against the background sky, partially screened by plantation forestry.					
SD-06 (Refer to Figure 7.4-10)	**Tighnacraig** Residents and visitors to a property located near Glen Glass, accessed via a track from minor road to the south west (within Glen Glass).	The main orientation of views is to the south and south-east, with views partially contained by coniferous woodland at the northern edge of Glen Glass. Views to west and north-west are limited due landform (Meall an Tuirc) Views to the south-west and contained by forestry. Based on the value of existing views from this property and susceptibility to proposed development change the sensitivity of the receptor is adjudged to be High.	**High**	The construction works and introduction of the steel lattice towers would be experienced at close proximity, in views to the east, north-east and south-east. (Tower S113 would be the closest at 340 m). Views of ground-based construction work to the north-east and south-east would be limited due to screening effect of intervening plantation forestry in the foreground, although there would be partial views of vehicle movements and associated forestry felling along the alignment wayleave. Once operational, the Proposed Development would be visible to east and south, against both the background landscape and sky, partially screened by intervening forestry. In views to the north-west, the Proposed Development would be visible predominantly against the background sky and to the south-east against a combination of the background landscape and sky.	340 m	**Medium**	**Medium**	**Major / Moderate (adverse) based on proximity and angle of view occupied in winter months.**	**Major / Moderate (adverse) based on proximity and angle of view occupied in winter months.**
SD-07 (Refer to	**Culeave Cottage** Residents and visitors to a property within Strathcarron on	The front of the property faces south, over Strathcarron. There are views to west and east along the strath floor, filtered by a	**High**	There would be oblique views of the construction works and introduction of the steel lattice towers in views to the east. Tower S38 would be the closest, at approx. 375 m.	375 m	**Medium**	**Medium**	**Major / Moderate (adverse) based on**	**Major / Moderate (adverse) based on**

Reference	Location / Type / Context	Nature of Main View	Sensitivity	Nature of Change	Distance	Magnitude		Effect	
						Construction	Operational (after 10yrs)	Construction	Operational (after 10yrs)
Figure 7.4-9)	minor road (Cahd an Tartair).	curtilage vegetation and intervening tree cover in farmland. The landform adjacent to strath would restrict wider views in northerly and southerly direction. Based on the value of existing views from this property and susceptibility to proposed development change the sensitivity of the receptor is adjudged to be High.		During construction, there would be filtered views of vehicle movements within Strathcarron. There would also be partial views of felling activities to create a wayleave for the alignment, and additional forestry felling on the northern strath slopes to create a wind-firm edge to the retained forestry. Once operational, the Proposed Development would be visible predominantly against the sky in views to the east, filtered by a curtilage vegetation and intervening tree cover in farmland. In views to the south-east, the Proposed Development would be visible against the combination of the background landscape and sky, filtered by intervening tree cover. Due to the broadleaved nature of surrounding tree cover, there would a reduction in the filtering effects of tree cover in winter months. Overall, the visibility would be more apparent in winter.					
SD-08 (Refer to Figure 7.4-9)	**Cairn View** Residents and visitors to a property located within Strathcarron and accessed via track from a minor road (Cahd an Tartair).	The front of the property faces south, over Strathcarron. Wider views beyond the strath to south, south west and are contained by hills There are also views the south-east and south-west along the strath floor, filtered by intervening tree cover.	**High**	There would be oblique views of the construction works and introduction of the steel lattice towers in views to the east. Tower S38 would be the closest, at approx. 380 m. During construction, there would be filtered views of vehicle movements within Strathcarron. There would also be partial views of felling activities to create a wayleave for the alignment, and additional forestry felling on the northern strath slopes to create a wind-firm edge to the retained forestry.	380 m	**Medium**	**Medium**	**Major / Moderate (adverse) based on proximity and angle of view occupied in winter months.**	**Major / Moderate (adverse) based on proximity and angle of view occupied in winter months.**

Reference	Location / Type / Context	Nature of Main View	Sensitivity	Nature of Change	Distance	Magnitude		Effect	
						Construction	Operational (after 10yrs)	Construction	Operational (after 10yrs)
		Wider views to the north are contained by landform at higher elevation (forested hills to south of Strathcarron). Based on the value of existing views from this property and susceptibility to proposed development change the sensitivity of the receptor is adjudged to be High.		Once operational, the Proposed Development would be visible at close range, predominantly against the background sky in views to the east, filtered by a curtilage vegetation. In wider views to the south-east, beyond Strathcarron (up to distances of 2.5 km), the Proposed Development would be visible predominantly against the background sky, filtered by intervening tree cover. Due to the broadleaved nature of surrounding tree cover, there would a reduction in the filtering effects of tree cover in winter months. Overall, the visibility would be more apparent in winter.					
SD-09 (Refer to Figure 7.4-9)	**Leac Dubh Mor** Residents and visitors to a property at, located within Strathcarron (adjacent to Cairn View property) and accessed via track from a minor road (same entrance).	The main orientation of views is to the south over Strathcarron. Wider views beyond the strath to south, south-west and are contained by hills There are also views the south-east and south-west along the strath floor, filtered by intervening tree cover. Wider views to the north are contained by landform at higher elevation (forested hills to south of Strathcarron).	**High**	There would be oblique views of the construction works and introduction of the steel lattice towers in views to the east. Tower S38 would be the closest, at approx. 460 m. During construction, there would be filtered views of vehicle movements within Strathcarron. There would also be partial views of felling activities to create a wayleave for the alignment, and additional forestry felling on the northern strath slopes to create a wind-firm edge to the retained forestry. Once operational, the Proposed Development would be visible at close range, predominantly against the background sky in views to the east, filtered by a curtilage vegetation.	460 m	**Medium**	**Medium**	**Major / Moderate (adverse) based on proximity and angle of view occupied in winter months.**	**Major / Moderate (adverse) based on proximity and angle of view occupied in winter months.**

Reference	Location / Type / Context	Nature of Main View	Sensitivity	Nature of Change	Distance	Magnitude		Effect	
						Construction	Operational (after 10yrs)	Construction	Operational (after 10yrs)
		Based on the value of existing views from this property and susceptibility to proposed development change the sensitivity of the receptor is adjudged to be High.		In wider views to the south-east, beyond Strathcarron (up to distances of 2.5 km), the Proposed Development would be visible predominantly against the background sky, filtered by intervening tree cover. Due to the broadleaved nature of surrounding tree cover, there would a reduction in the filtering effects of tree cover in winter months. Overall, the visibility would be more apparent in winter.					
SD-10 (Refer to Figure 7.4-10)	**Strathpeffer** Residents and visitors to settlement centred on the A834	The settlement is situated within a valley (Strath Peffer) contained by high ground to the north and south. Views are open and expansive from parts of the settlement located on higher ground at the north, west and south, over Strath Peffer, enclosed by background hills. Views from within the settlement are contained by a combination of buildings, landform and tree cover.	**High**	Strathpeffer is located 2.4 km to the south of Section D at the closest point (Tower S149). The construction works and steel lattice towers would be partially visible from locations at the settlement outer edge and represent distant elements in the background landscape. The construction activities would be predominantly screened due to their low-lying nature, in combination with the intervening landform and tree cover to the north of the settlement. Once operation, views of the towers would remain very restricted. Within the most open views, in particular from the more elevated eastern parts of the settlement, the Proposed Development would be experienced in the hills to the north, against a combination of the background sky and landscape at distances of between 2.4 km and 2.7 km. Views would subject to screening by the intervening	2.4 km	**Negligible**	**Negligible**	**Moderate-Minor Adverse (not significant)**	**Moderate-Minor Adverse (not significant)**

Reference	Location / Type / Context	Nature of Main View	Sensitivity	Nature of Change	Distance	Magnitude		Effect	
						Construction	Operational (after 10yrs)	Construction	Operational (after 10yrs)
				landform and would also be limited by buildings and tree cover within the settlement. Views from other parts of the settlement would be subject to increased screening due to intervening buildings, tree cover and the underlying landform.					
SD-11 (Refer to Figure 7.4-10)	**Swordale** Residents and visitors to settlement located to the west of Evanton, to the north of the River Sgitheach	The settlement is situated within a valley contained by high ground to the north and south. Swordale Hill is located in close proximity to the north west of the settlement. Based on the value of existing views from this property and susceptibility to proposed development change the sensitivity of the receptors is adjudged to be High.	**High**	Swordale is located 2.4 km to the east of Section D at the closest point (Tower S121). The construction works and introduction of steel lattice towers would represent distant elements in the background landscape. The construction activities would be predominantly screened due to their low-lying nature, in combination with the intervening landform and tree cover to the west of the settlement. Once operation, views of the towers would remain very restricted. There would be no views of northerly parts of Section D, in the landscape to the north-west, due to the intervening landform at Swordale Hill. The Proposed Development would be partially visible in views to the south-west, potential views of the towers would be experienced against a combination the background landscape and sky. Views would also be heavily filtered by intervening tree cover.	2.4 km	**Negligible**	**Negligible**	**Moderate-Minor Adverse (not significant)**	**Moderate-Minor Adverse (not significant)**

Reference	Location / Type / Context	Nature of Main View	Sensitivity	Nature of Change	Distance	Magnitude		Effect	
						Construction	Operational (after 10yrs)	Construction	Operational (after 10yrs)
SD-12 (Refer to Figure 7.4-10)	**Dingwall** Residents and visitors to settlement located at the south western end of the Cromarty Firth.	Views from elevated areas are channelled to the north-east towards the Cromarty Firth, and south-west along Strath Peffer.	**High**	Dingwall is located 4.0 km to the south-east of Section D at the closest point (Tower S135). Views of the construction works and introduction of steel lattice towers would represent distant elements in the background landscape, subject to intervening screening. Potential views of the construction activities would be limited due to their low-lying nature, in combination with the screening influence of the intervening landform. Once operation, views of the towers would remain very restricted. Within the clearest views towards the west / north-west from the outer edge of the settlement, the Proposed Development would form an extremely discreet, linear element, with large-scale hills and mountains in the distance.	4.0 km	**Negligible**	**Negligible**	**Moderate-Minor Adverse (not significant)**	**Moderate-Minor Adverse (not significant)**
SD-13 (Refer to Figure 7.4-9)	**Ardgay** Residents and visitors to a small settlement set within farmland at the Kyle of Sutherland / Dornoch Firth estuary.	The principal views are aligned toward the Kyle of Sutherland to the east and south-east, including wider coastal visibility along the Dornoch Firth. There are also wider views to the north-west along Strathcarron. Two existing lattice tower OHL are present within views to the west. Based on the value of existing views from this property and susceptibility to proposed development change	**High**	Ardgay is located 4.1 km to the east of Section D at the closest point (Tower S39). The construction works and introduction of steel lattice towers would represent distant elements in the background landscape. Potential views of the construction activities would be limited due to their low-lying nature, in combination with the screening influence of the intervening landform. Once operation, views of the towers would remain very restricted. The Proposed Development would be partially visible at a minimum distance of 4.1 km	4.1 km	**Negligible**	**Negligible**	**Moderate-Minor Adverse (not significant)**	**Moderate-Minor Adverse (not significant)**

Reference	Location / Type / Context	Nature of Main View	Sensitivity	Nature of Change	Distance	Magnitude		Effect	
						Construction	Operational (after 10yrs)	Construction	Operational (after 10yrs)
		the sensitivity of the receptors is adjudged to be High.		in views to the west and south-west. Views would be more apparent to those residents located at the western and northern edge of the settlement. Views of the Proposed Development would be restricted to upper parts of transmission towers.					
SD-14 (Refer to Figure 7.4-10)	**Evanton** Residents and visitors to settlement located adjacent to the River Glass. near the Cromarty Firth estuary. Refer to viewpoint 7-80 A834 (east of Contin).	The settlement is located on the low lying landform near the Cromarty Firth, which increases in elevation to west.	**High**	Evanton is located 4.2 km to the east of Section D at the closest point (Tower S117). Views of the construction works and introduction of steel lattice towers would represent distant elements in the background landscape from western and southern edges of the settlement. The potential influence of the construction activities would be very limited due to the distance of view, in combination with the screening influence of the intervening landform and tree cover at Evanton Wood. Once operation, views of the towers would remain very restricted. The Proposed Development would be partially visible in views to the west and south-west, from western and southern edges of the settlement, subject to screening by inventing tree cover.	4.2 km	**Negligible**	**Negligible**	**Moderate-Minor Adverse (not significant)**	**Moderate-Minor Adverse (not significant)**
SD-15 (Refer to Figure	**Jamestown** Residents and visitors to a small settlement located adjacent to the A834	The principal views are focused to the south and south-west, encompassing rolling farmland within Strath Conon, with rugged hills in the background.	**High**	Jamestown is located 4.3 km to the south of Section D at the closest point (Tower S149). ZTV coverage is restricted to the northern part of the settlement. Potential views of the construction works and steel lattice towers in the landscape to	4.3 km	**Negligible**	**Negligible**	**Moderate-Minor Adverse**	**Moderate-Minor Adverse**

Reference	Location / Type / Context	Nature of Main View	Sensitivity	Nature of Change	Distance	Magnitude		Effect	
						Construction	Operational (after 10yrs)	Construction	Operational (after 10yrs)
7.4-10)	(south-west of Strathpeffer). Refer to viewpoint 7-78 Jamestown.	Views to the east are contained by the landform, in combination with the planation forestry at Blackmuir Wood, which limits wider views to the north-east. There is also an area of mature woodland to the west of the settlement (adjacent to the A834) which contains wider views in a westerly / north-westerly direction. Based on the value of existing views from this property and susceptibility to proposed development change the sensitivity of the receptors is adjudged to be High.		the north would be extremely limited due to intervening tree cover / woodland. The majority of residents would experience no views and no effect.					
SD-16 (Refer to Figure 7.4-10)	**Contin** Residents and visitors to settlement centred on the A835 adjacent to Black Water	The principal views are focused to the south and south-east and south west, over the River Conan (Strathconon). Expansive views to the south and south east are contained by distant hills at Stath Orrin. Views to east and north east are contained by landform and tree cover.	**High**	Contin is located 4.9 km to the south-west of Section D at the closest point (Tower S149). The settlement is outside the ZTV, residents would experience no views of the construction activities or steel lattice towers, and no effect.	4.9 km	**None**	**None**	**No Effect**	**No Effect**

Reference	Location / Type / Context	Nature of Main View	Sensitivity	Nature of Change	Distance	Magnitude		Effect	
						Construction	Operational (after 10yrs)	Construction	Operational (after 10yrs)
		Based on the value of existing views from this property and susceptibility to proposed development change the sensitivity of the receptors is adjudged to be High.							

Table D.2: Transport Routes

Reference	Location / Type / Context	Nature of Main View	Sensitivity	Nature of Change	Distance	Magnitude		Effect	
						Construction	Operational (after 10yrs)	Construction	Operation (after 10yrs)
RD-01 (Refer to Figure 7.4-11)	**Cadh an Tartair** Travellers on minor road extending along Strathcarron (north of River Carron).	Views are channelled along Strathcarron valley floor which contains a high concentration of tree cover, in the form of mature shelterbelts, pockets of deciduous woodland, scrub and mature hedgerows. The landform adjacent to strath would restrict wider views in northerly and southerly direction. The existing OHL is visible in views to the east along Strathcarron.	**Medium**	The road extends directly under the alignment in the vicinity of the River Carron, where road users travelling east and west would experience close-proximity views. Views of the construction works and new steel lattice towers would be experienced at close range (Tower S39 would be the closest at approx. 270 m from the road). The clearest views would be experienced from sections of the route within approx. 700 m, subject to filtering by intervening tree cover (particularly during summer months). From these sections, the vehicle movement and felling activities within Strathcarron would be experienced at close range during the construction phase. There would also be partial views of additional felling to create a wind-firm edge to the retained forestry on the upper slopes of the strath. Once operational, the Proposed Development would be visible at close range in views to the west and east. The towers would be experienced against the background landscape, heavily filtered by tree cover within Strathcarron valley. From wider sections of the route, views would be intermittent visibility and subject to screening by tree cover within the river corridor and intervening farmland. Due to the broadleaved nature of tree cover within the road corridor and intervening farmland, there would a	0 m	**High within 700 m, Low-Negligible across the wider locations**	**High within 700 m, based on view in winter months, Low-Negligible across the wider locations**	**Major-Moderate Adverse (significant) within 700 m, Moderate-Minor Adverse (not significant) across the wider locations**	**Major-Moderate Adverse (significant) within 700 m, based on view in winter months, Moderate-Minor Adverse (not significant) across the wider locations**

Reference	Location / Type / Context	Nature of Main View	Sensitivity	Nature of Change	Distance	Magnitude		Effect	
						Construction	Operational (after 10yrs)	Construction	Operation (after 10yrs)
				reduction in the filtering effects of tree cover in winter months. Overall, the visibility would be more apparent in winter.					
RD-02 (Refer to Figure 7.4-11)	**Minor road to the south of River Carron** (running parallel with Cadh an Tartair) Travellers on minor road extending along Strathcarron. Refer to viewpoint 7-60 Gruinards (west of Dounie)	Views are channelled along Strathcarron valley floor which contains a high concentration of tree cover in the form of mature shelterbelts, pockets of deciduous woodland, scrub and mature hedgerows. The landform adjacent to the strath would restrict wider views in northerly and southerly direction. The existing OHL is visible in views to the east along Strathcarron.	**Medium**	The road extends directly under the alignment in the vicinity of the River Carron, where road users travelling east and west would experience close-proximity views. Views of the construction works and new steel lattice towers would be experienced at close range, Tower S39 would be the closest at approx. 100 m from the road. During construction there would be close range views of vehicle movement and felling activities within Strathcarron. There would also be partial views of additional felling to create a wind-firm edge to the retained forestry on the upper slopes of the strath. Once operational, the Proposed Development would be visible at close range in views to the west and east. The towers would be experienced against the background landscape, heavily filtered by tree cover within Strathcarron valley (particularly during summer months). From wider sections of the route, views would be intermittent and subject to screening by tree cover within the river corridor and intervening farmland. Due to the broadleaved nature of tree cover within the road corridor and intervening farmland, there would a	0 m	**High within 700 m, Low-Negligible across the wider locations**	**High within 700 m, based on views in winter months. Low-Negligible across the wider locations**	**Major-Moderate Adverse (significant) within 700 m, Moderate-Minor Adverse (not significant) across the wider locations**	**Major-Moderate Adverse (significant) within 700 m, based on winter months. Moderate-Minor Adverse (not significant) across the wider locations**

Reference	Location / Type / Context	Nature of Main View	Sensitivity	Nature of Change	Distance	Magnitude		Effect	
						Construction	Operational (after 10yrs)	Construction	Operation (after 10yrs)
				reduction in the filtering effects of tree cover in winter months. Overall, the visibility would be more apparent in winter.					
RD-03 (Refer to Figure 7.4-11 and Figure 7.4-12)	**Dingwall to Kyle of Lochalsh Rail Link** Travellers, on rail route which connects Dingwall with Kyle of Lochalsh.	The railway corridor extends across the lower-lying landscape to the south of Section D, where it follows the course of the River Peffery. Varying views are experienced based on intervening landform and tree cover. Within Strath Peffer, views are channelled to the south and south west. Views are more enclosed as the corridor extends north west through varied terrain and planation forestry.	**Medium**	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). Potential views of the construction works and steel lattice towers in the landscape to the north would be screened by the rising landform along the northern side of the valley. As such, views would be limited to more distant parts of the route, where the Proposed Development would represent a distant element in the background landscape, subject to screening by intervening tree cover and track-side vegetation.	690 m	**Negligible**	**Negligible**	**Negligible** (not significant)	**Negligible** (not significant)
RD-04 (Refer to Figure 7.4-12)	**Smoogro Road** Travellers, on minor road extending between Bottacks and Dingwall, via the Heights of Docharty. Refer to viewpoints 7-72 Heights of Brae to 7-74 Heights of Inchvannie.	This minor road is located on the northern upper slopes of Strath Peffer, extending across elevated southerly-facing slopes. Views are channelled to south, south-east (Cromarty Firth) and south-west (Strath Conon).	**Medium**	Smoogro Road is located 1.4 km to the south-east of Section D at the closest point (Tower S149). Views of the Proposed Development from the closest section of the road, to the north-west, would be screened by the intervening landform (including Druim Chuitein) and forestry. Accordingly, potential views would be restricted to the more distant eastern section of the road. The construction works and steel lattice towers would represent distant elements in views to the north / north-west. and would remain predominantly screened by the intervening landform.	1.4 km	**Negligible**	**Negligible**	**Minor (not significant)**	**Minor (not significant)**

Reference	Location / Type / Context	Nature of Main View	Sensitivity	Nature of Change	Distance	Magnitude		Effect	
						Construction	Operational (after 10yrs)	Construction	Operation (after 10yrs)
				There would be no effect on key views across the Cromarty Firth to the south-east. (Refer to viewpoints 70 Heights of Brae – 72 Heights of Inchvannie).					
RD-05 (Refer to Figure 7.4-12)	**A834** Travellers, on road which connects the A835 (Contin) with Dingwall via Strathpeffer. Refer to viewpoints 7-79 A834 (south west of Jamestown) and 7-80 A834 (east of Contin).	Views from the western sections of the road are channelled south and south west, with expansive views towards Strath Conon. Views from sections of route between near Strathpeffer and Dingwall are channelled to the east and west along Strath Peffer, contained by higher ground in north and south.	**Medium**	The A834 is located 2.4 km to the south of Section D at the closest point (Tower S149). Potential views of the construction works and steel lattice towers in the landscape to the north would be partly screened by intervening landform in combination with road-side settlement and tree cover. Within the most open views, the Proposed Development would represent a distant element in the background landscape.	2.4 km	**Negligible**	**Negligible**	**Minor (not significant)**	**Minor** (not significant)
RD-06 (Refer to Figure 7.4-12)	**Old Evanton Road** Travellers on localised parts of this minor road between Dingwall and Evanton.	Views are channelled to the south, east and south west, along the Cromarty Firth. Views to the west and north west screened by landform for large sections of the route. There are two existing OHL which run parallel to the road to the north.	**Medium**	Old Evanton Road is located 4.2 km to the south-east of Section D at the closest point (Tower S124). The construction works and introduction of steel lattice towers would represent distant elements in the background landscape. The Proposed Development would be partially visible in views to the west, subject to inventing tree cover.	4.2 km	**Negligible**	**Negligible**	**Minor (not significant)**	**Minor (not significant)**

Reference	Location / Type / Context	Nature of Main View	Sensitivity	Nature of Change	Distance	Magnitude		Effect	
						Construction	Operational (after 10yrs)	Construction	Operation (after 10yrs)
RD-07 (Refer to Figure 7.4-11)	**A836** Travellers on localised parts of this long-distance link that extends from Tain to John o' Groats. Refer to viewpoints 7-50 A837 Invershin, 7-52 A836 (west of Balblair), 7-56 Bonar Bridge and 7-59 A836 Kincardine.	Views from road are variable based on intervening landform and tree cover. From more southerly sections, the road extends along the Kyle of Sutherland / Dornoch Firth between Easter Fearn and Kincardine, where there would be more open views across the open water. From more northerly sections, views would drop-off due to the screening influence of intervening woodland. There are two existing OHL located to the south-west of the road, near Kincardine.	**Medium**	The A836 is located 4.3 km to the east of Section D at the closest point (Tower S39). The construction works and introduction of steel lattice towers would represent distant elements in the background landscape within more open views towards the west. In terms of views from closest sections of the route, near Kincardine, the influence of the construction activities would be very limited due to their low-lying nature in combination with the intervening landform and tree cover. Similarly, once operational the Proposed Development would form a relatively discreet, linear element within wider views across the forestry and large-scale hills to the south-west. From wider sections of the road to the south, the views of Proposed Development would be intermittent, and the towers would be subject to screening by intervening roadside vegetation.	4.3 km	**Negligible**	**Negligible**	**Minor (not significant)**	**Minor (not significant)**
RD-08 (Refer to Figure 7.4-12)	**A835** Travellers, on road which connects the Contin with Maryburgh. Refer to viewpoint 7-81 A835 (south-east of Contin) and 7-82 Moy Rock.	Views from the western sections of the road are channelled south, south west and east, along Strathconon, filtered by tree cover Views to the north are contained by landform for large sections of the route.	**Medium**	The A835 is located 4.4 km to the south of Section D at the closest point (Tower S149). Potential views of the construction works and steel lattice towers in the landscape to the north would be limited based on spatial separation from the Proposed Development, and would be subject to screening by the intervening landform (including Knockfarrel) and tree cover / woodland. As such, the Proposed Development would exert extremely limited influence upon views experienced by road users.	4.4 km	**Negligible**	**Negligible**	**Minor (not significant)**	**Minor (not significant)**

Reference	Location / Type / Context	Nature of Main View	Sensitivity	Nature of Change	Distance	Magnitude		Effect	
						Construction	Operational (after 10yrs)	Construction	Operation (after 10yrs)
		Views to the south and south west are contained by landform at Fairburn Estate.							
RD-09 (Refer to Figure 7.4-12)	**A9** Travellers on road which connects Alness with the Black Isle, within the Study Area.	Views are channelled to the south-east, east and south west, along the Cromarty Firth.	**Medium**	The A9 is located 5.0 km south-east of Section D at the closest point (Tower S124). Views of the construction works and new steel lattice towers would be limited and barely discernible. Within the most open views the Proposed Development would form an extremely discreet, linear element within wider views across to north-west and west, with large-scale hills and mountains in the distance. There would be no views of the Proposed Development for large sections of the route due to screening effect of landform.	5.0 km	**Negligible**	**Negligible**	**Minor (not significant)**	**Minor (not significant)**
RD-10 (Refer to Figure 7.4-12)	**B817** Travellers on road which connects Milton and Evanton.	Views are channelled to the south, south-west and south-east, along the Cromarty Firth. Views to the west and north-west screened by landform for large sections of the route. There are two existing OHL which run parallel to the road to the north, for part of the route.	**Medium**	The B817 is located 5.3 km to the south-east of Section D at the closest point (Tower S120). Views of the construction works and new steel lattice towers would be limited and barely discernible. Within the most open views the Proposed Development would form an extremely discreet, linear element within wider views to the west / south-west, with large-scale hills and mountains in the distance. There would be no views of the Proposed Development for large sections of the route due to screening effect of the intervening landform.	5.3 km	**Negligible**	**Negligible**	**Minor (not significant)**	**Minor (not significant)**

Reference	Location / Type / Context	Nature of Main View	Sensitivity	Nature of Change	Distance	Magnitude		Effect	
						Construction	Operational (after 10yrs)	Construction	Operation (after 10yrs)
RD-11 (Refer to Figure 7.4-12)	**A832** Travellers, on this road which connects user of the A835 with Muir of Ord Refer to viewpoint 7-83 Marybank Road.	Views are channelled across Strath Conon to west, filtered by intervening tree cover, with distant hills forming a backdrop in the west and north-west. There are also open vies to the east along the River Conon. There are two existing OHL in views to the east, near Muir or Ord.	**Medium**	The A832 is located 6.3 km to the south of Section D at the closest point (Tower S149). Potential views of the Proposed Development would be subject to screening by the intervening landform at Knockfarrel / Cnoc Mor. Within the most open views, the construction works and steel lattice towers would represent distant elements in the background landscape.	6.3 km	**Negligible**	**Negligible**	**Minor (not significant)**	**Minor (not significant)**

Table D.3: Recreational Routes

Reference	Location / Type / Context	Nature of Main View	Sensitivity	Angle and Nature of Change	Distance	Magnitude		Effect	
						Construction	Operational (after 10yrs)	Construction	Operation (after 10yrs)
RD-12 (Refer to Figure 7.4-11)	**River Carron** SU03.06 Recreational users of this footpath which follows the route of the River Carron (Dounie Estate). The path is accessed in the east from the minor road near Lon Dialtaig. The path is accessed in the west from the minor road near Dounie. Refer to viewpoint 7-60 Gruinards (west of Dounie).	Views are channelled along Strathcarron valley floor, which contains a high concentration of tree cover in the form of mature shelterbelts, pockets of deciduous woodland, scrub and mature hedgerows. There is also mature tree cover within the river corridor. The existing OHL is visible in views to the east along Strathcarron.	**High**	The path route intersects the Proposed Development, near Tower S39, at approx. 50 m. Views of the construction works and steel lattice towers would be experienced at close proximity from sections of the route within 700 m, filtered by intervening tree cover. During construction, there would be filtered views of vehicle movements and localised felling within Strathcarron. This includes felling to create the wayleave for the alignment, and additional felling to create a wind-firm edge to the surrounding forestry. However, construction works outside the confines of the strath would be screened by the rising landform along its southern side, in combination with the low-lying nature of construction activities. Once operational, views of the towers would be restricted to those at the northern end of Section D. The Proposed Development would be visible in views to the west and east, against the background landscape, heavily filtered by tree cover within Strathcarron valley. From wider sections of the route, views would be intermittent and subject to screening within river corridor and intervening farmland. The degree of tree cover, both along the path and within intervening farmland would filter views from large sections of the route.	0 m	**High within 700 m, Low-Negligible across the wider locations**	**High within 700 m, based on view in winter months, Low-Negligible across the wider locations**	**Major Adverse (significant) within 700 m, Moderate-Minor Adverse (not significant) across the wider locations**	**Major Adverse (significant) within 700 m, based on view in winter months.** Moderate-**Minor Adverse (not significant) across the wider locations**

Reference	Location / Type / Context	Nature of Main View	Sensitivity	Angle and Nature of Change	Distance	Magnitude		Effect	
						Construction	Operational (after 10yrs)	Construction	Operation (after 10yrs)
RD-13 (Refer to Figure 7.4-12)	**Strathpeffer Walking and Cycling Routes** (Torrachilty Forest). Recreational users of this series of serpentine paths within Torrachilty Forest. The routes also extend to east, to the north side of Loch Kinellan. Refer to viewpoint 7-77 (A and B) View Rock, Contin.	The views are variable based on the level of forest cover and elevation. Views from sections of the footpath within Torrachilty Forest are heavily influenced by forest cover. Where there are gaps in the forest, there would be filtered views to the south-east, south and south west.	**High**	The footpath is located 3.3 km to the south of Section D at the closest point (Tower S149). Potential views of the construction activities and steel lattice towers in the background landscape to the north would be well-screened by intervening landform and forestry. As a result, there would be no views of the Proposed Development from the majority of the route.	3.3 km	**Negligible**	**Negligible**	**Moderate-Minor (not significant)**	**Moderate-Minor (not significant)**
RD-14 (Refer to Figure 7.4-12)	**Strathpeffer Walking and Cycling Routes** (North of Strathpeffer Golf Course) Recreational users of this series of paths located with forested areas to the north of Strathpeffer Golf Course, extending towards Peffrey Burn	Views from the eastern path section, are channelled to the west along Strath Peffer. There are also wider views to south and south-west, subject to forest screening. Views from other sections of path are variable and subject to intervening landform and forestry. Where there are gaps in the forest, there would be filtered views to the	**High**	The northern-most section of the path is located within 810 m of Section D at the closest point (Tower S149), where it extends along the southern side of the Peffery Valley. Potential views of the construction activities and steel lattice towers would be subject to screening by surrounding woodland. Within the most open views, experienced through localised gaps in tree cover, the southern-most end of the Proposed Development would be visible on the hillside on the opposite (northern) side of the Peffery Valley. The Proposed Development would account for a narrow angle of	810 m	**Negligible**	**Negligible**	**Moderate-Minor (not significant)**	**Moderate-Minor (not significant)**

Reference	Location / Type / Context	Nature of Main View	Sensitivity	Angle and Nature of Change	Distance	Magnitude		Effect	
						Construction	Operational (after 10yrs)	Construction	Operation (after 10yrs)
	(north-east of Torrachilty Forest).	south-east, south and south-west, subject screening.		view, spatially separated by the valley landform. The northern parts of the route (north of Tower S147) would be screened by the intervening landform. Views of the Proposed Development from more distant, southern sections of the path would be screened by a combination of landform and tree cover. Accordingly, from the majority of the route, there would be no views.					
RD-15 (Refer to Figure 7.4-12)	**Mains of Coul** (RC10.03) Recreational users of this footpath near Jameston. The path is accessed in the east from the A834 at the northern edge of Jameston and forms a link to Contin in the west, via the Coul House Hotel estate.	Views are focused to the south, south west over Strathconon contained by distant hills near the River Orrin. The nature of the tree cover, along the path route, including mature woodland within the estate of Coul House Hotel, limits views to the north and north east.	**High**	This path is located 4.8 km to the south of Section D at the closest point (Tower S149). Potential views of the construction activities and steel lattice towers in the background landscape to the north would be well-screened by the intervening landform and tree cover. The Proposed Development would be barely discernible.	4.8 km	**Negligible**	**Negligible**	**Moderate-Minor (not significant)**	**Moderate-Minor (not significant)**
RD-16 (Refer to Figure	**Kinellan link path** (RC10.07) Recreational users of this footpath located to	The elevation of the path increases to the north-west, and joins core path RC10.01. Views are restricted by surrounding tree cover. The most open views,	**High**	This path is located 3.7 km to the south-west of Section D at the closest point (Tower S149). Potential views of the construction activities and steel lattice towers in the background landscape to the north-east would be well-screened by the landform at	3.7 km	**Negligible**	**Negligible**	**Moderate-Minor (not significant)**	**Moderate-Minor (not significant)**

Reference	Location / Type / Context	Nature of Main View	Sensitivity	Angle and Nature of Change	Distance	Magnitude		Effect	
						Construction	Operational (after 10yrs)	Construction	Operation (after 10yrs)
7.4-12)	the north-west of Loch Kinellan The path is accessed via Loch Kinellan Circuit path (RC RC45.01) and extends north-west to Torrachilty Forest.	experienced in areas of forest clearing, are focused to the south, south-east and south-west.		Creag Ulladail in combination with intervening tree cover. The Proposed Development would be barely discernible.					
RD-17 (Refer to Figure 7.4-12)	**Loch Kinellan circuit** (RC45.01) Recreational users of this footpath, which forms a loop around Loch Kinellan. The path is accessed from the north western edge of Strathpeffer. Refer to viewpoint 7-76 Loch Kinellan.	Views are more open to the south-west, from sections of the path adjacent to the loch, towards Strathconon, contained by distant hills near the River Orrin. Fairburn Windfarm is partially visible in the distance to the south-west. Views to the north from the loch are contained by landform. The northern sections of the path (to north of Loch Kinellan) are partially located within mature woodland. Views are focused to the south and south-west in areas of forest clearing.	**High**	This path is located 3.0 km to the south of Section D at the closest point (Tower S149). Potential views of the construction activities and steel lattice towers in the background landscape to the north would be well-screened by the intervening landform and tree cover. The Proposed Development would be barely discernible.	3.0 km	**Negligible**	**Negligible**	**Moderate-Minor (not significant)**	**Moderate-Minor (not significant)**

Reference	Location / Type / Context	Nature of Main View	Sensitivity	Angle and Nature of Change	Distance	Magnitude		Effect	
						Construction	Operational (after 10yrs)	Construction	Operation (after 10yrs)
RD-18 (Refer to Figure 7.4-12)	**View Rock** RC10.01 Recreational users of this footpath, which forms a loop within Torrachilty Forest. Access to path is gained from the A834 at Black Water, where there are parking and picnic facilities. Promoted as the View Rock Trail by Forestry & Land Scotland. Refer to viewpoint 7-77 (A and B) View Rock, Contin.	Large sections of the footpath are located within mature plantation forestry. Where there are gaps in the forestry there are views to the south and south-west towards Strath Conon. There is a promoted viewpoint at View Rock, with filtered views to the east, south-east, south and south-west. Views to the north are foreshortened by tree cover and landform.	**High**	This path is located 3.8 km to the south-west of Section D at the closest point (Tower S149). Potential views of the construction activities and steel lattice towers in the background landscape to the north-east would be screened by the intervening landform and tree cover. The Proposed Development would be barely discernible.	3.8 km	**Negligible**	**Negligible**	**Moderate-Minor (not significant)**	**Moderate-Minor (not significant)**
RD-19 (Refer to Figure 7.4-12)	**Swordale Hill** RC16.01 Recreational users of this footpath, which forms a loop around Swordale Hill, to the west of Evanton. There is an access point to path at the	Large sections of the footpath are located within plantation forestry. Where there are localised gaps in the forestry, from southern parts of the path, there wider are views to the south, south-east and south-west. Views from eastern path section are more focused to the east and south-west, with landform limiting views in a westerly direction.	**High**	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). During construction, there would be partial views of vehicle movements and localised felling to create the wayleave for the alignment. These views would be predominantly limited to localised western sections of	670 m	**Low**	**Low**	**Moderate Adverse (significant) from short section in the west. Minor Adverse (not significant) from other**	**Moderate Adverse (significant) from short section in the west. Minor Adverse (not significant) from other**

Reference	Location / Type / Context	Nature of Main View	Sensitivity	Angle and Nature of Change	Distance	Magnitude		Effect	
						Construction	Operational (after 10yrs)	Construction	Operation (after 10yrs)
	eastern edge of Swordale.	There are views of the existing OHL to east and south-east from southern and eastern path sections (at distance of between 500 m and 2.5 km).		the path, through gaps in intervening tree cover / forestry. Once operational the Proposed Development would be visible from the same localised section of path (western path sections). The towers would be partially visible within views to west, south-west and north-west, where they would be predominantly experienced against the background landscape. Views from other sections of path in the south and north would be limited by intervening forestry. Views from eastern path sections would be limited due to intervening landform (Swordale Hill).					
RD-20 (Refer to Figure 7.4-12)	**Strathpeffer - Jamestown (Blackmuir Woods)** RC45.05 Recreational users of this footpath, which connects the southern edge of Strathpeffer with Jamestown, at the western edge of Blackmuir Woods.	Views from northern section of the path, at the southern edges of Strathpeffer, are contained by woodland (Blackmuir Woods), buildings and settlement tree cover. Views to west and south-west are heavily filtered by intervening tree cover in farmland and along the A834 road corridor. The concentration of existing woodland would limit any views to the east.	**High**	This path is located 3.6 km to the south of Section D at the closest point (Tower S149). Potential views of the construction activities and steel lattice towers in the background landscape to the north would be screened by the intervening landform, built form and tree cover. The Proposed Development would be barely discernible.	3.6 km	**Negligible**	**Negligible**	**Moderate-Minor (not significant)**	**Moderate-Minor (not significant)**

Reference	Location / Type / Context	Nature of Main View	Sensitivity	Angle and Nature of Change	Distance	Magnitude		Effect	
						Construction	Operational (after 10yrs)	Construction	Operation (after 10yrs)
		Views from southern section of path (north of Jameston) are heavily filtered by tree cover.							
RD-21 (Refer to Figure 7.4-12)	**Ord Wood west – Kinellan** (RC45.03) Recreational users of this footpath, which connects Ord Wood East path with Loch Kinellan circuit.	Views from the southern sections of path are channelled to the south and south-east over Strathpeffer. Views from the western and north-western path sections are limited in easterly and southerly directions by woodland. Views to west and north are partially contained by landform.	**High**	This path is located 2.9 km to the south of Section D at the closest point (Tower S149). Potential views of the construction activities and steel lattice towers in the landscape to the north would be screened by the landform at Creag Ulladail in combination with intervening tree cover. The Proposed Development would be barely discernible in northerly views.	2.9 km	**Negligible**	**Negligible**	**Moderate-Minor (not significant)**	**Moderate-Minor (not significant)**
RD-22 (Refer to Figure 7.4-12)	**Cornhill Curling Pond Circuit** (SU03.14) Recreational users of this footpath which forms a loop within East Strathcarron Forest. The route is accessed via Cornhill near the River Carron. The eastern parts of the route are located	Views are open and extensive from elevated sections of the route, to the south and south-west over Strathcarron. There are also views to the south-east channelled along Strathcarron. Views to the north are north-east are contained by Invercharron Hill. The existing OHL are visible in views to the east and south east, subject to intervening screening.	**High**	This path is located 980 m to the north-east of Section D at the closest point (Tower S38). The construction works and introduction of steel lattice towers to the south-west would be perceptible, albeit subject to screening by surrounding forestry / intervening tree cover from central sections. From the western-most end of the loop (approximately 250 m in length), there would be more open views of the construction activities. This includes areas of associated forestry management felling to create a wind-firm edge to the retained forestry following creation of the wayleave.	980 m	**Low**	**Low**	**Moderate Adverse (significant)**	**Moderate Adverse (significant)**

Reference	Location / Type / Context	Nature of Main View	Sensitivity	Angle and Nature of Change	Distance	Magnitude		Effect	
						Construction	Operational (after 10yrs)	Construction	Operation (after 10yrs)
	within a combination of open moorland and forest management			Once operational, there would be views of the Proposed Development to the west and south-west. The towers would be experienced against a combination of background sky and landscape (within Strathcarron), subject to screening by intervening tree cover within the forest and intervening farmland. In wider, longer-distance views to the south-west, beyond Strathcarron (up to distances of 2.5 km), the Proposed Development would be visible predominantly against the background sky within areas of moorland. Due to the broadleaved nature of surrounding tree cover, there would a reduction in the filtering effects of tree cover in winter months. Overall, the visibility would be more apparent in winter months during leaf fall.					
RD-23 (Refer to Figure 7.4-12)	**Contin to Strathgarve** (RC10.06) Recreational users of this footpath, which connects the View Rock path in Torrachilty Forest to footpath RC10.02.	Views are heavily filtered by surrounding forest tree cover. Where there are localised breaks in the forest cover there are filtered views to the south and south-west. Views to east are limited by intervening landform. Potential views to the north are foreshortened by landform and tree cover.	**High**	This path is located 4.2 km to the south-west of Section D at the closest point (Tower S149). With reference to the ZTV, potential views of the construction activities and steel lattice towers in the distant landscape to the north-east would be fully screened by the intervening landform.	4.2 km	**None**	**None**	**No Effect**	**No Effect**

Reference	Location / Type / Context	Nature of Main View	Sensitivity	Angle and Nature of Change	Distance	Magnitude		Effect	
						Construction	Operational (after 10yrs)	Construction	Operation (after 10yrs)
RD-24 (Refer to Figure 7.4-12)	**Torrachilty woods** (RC10.04) Recreational users of this footpath, which forms a loop adjacent to Black Water and A835.	Views are predominantly contained by mature woodland. Where there are gaps in the woodland from more elevated path sections, there would views to south east, south and south west. Views to the north are foreshortened by landform and tree cover.	**High**	This path is located 4.3 km to the south-west of Section D at the closest point (Tower S149). With reference to the ZTV, potential views of the construction activities and steel lattice towers in the distant landscape to the north-east would be fully screened by the intervening landform.	4.3 km	**None**	**None**	**No Effect**	**No Effect**
RD-25 (Refer to Figure 7.4-12)	**Golf course - Ord Wood east** (RC45.07) Recreational users of this footpath, which forms a loop between the golf course and north-western edge of Strathpeffer, around the perimeter of An t-Ord Wood.	Principal views from the eastern and southern sections of path are focused to the south and south-east over Strath Peffer. Views from the western and north-western path sections are limited in easterly and southerly directions by woodland. Views to west and north are partially contained by landform.	**High**	This path is located 2.4 km to the south of Section D at the closest point (Tower S149). Potential views of the construction works and steel lattice towers to the north would be restricted by the intervening landform. The most open views of the Proposed Development (from the western and north-western sections of the path) would be predominantly screened by landform, visible in the distance against the combination of background sky and landscape, beyond intervening tree cover.	2.4 km	**Negligible**	**Negligible**	**Moderate-Minor Adverse (not significant)**	**Moderate-Minor Adverse (not significant)**
RD-26 (Refer to Figure 7.4-12)	**Blackmuir Woods - maze circular** RC45.04 Recreational users of this footpath, which connects to path RC45.05 Knockfarrel	Large sections of the footpath are located within plantation forestry, which limits outward views. The nature of the topography to the south and east combined with the tree cover results in the principal views being to the north and north-east,	**High**	This path is located 3.5 km to the south of Section D at the closest point (Tower S149). Views of the construction works and steel lattice towers in the landscape to the north would be primarily limited to the western and north-western path sections. The influence of the construction works would be extremely limited due to their low-lying nature, in	3.5 km	**Negligible**	**Negligible**	**Moderate-Minor Adverse (not significant)**	**Moderate-Minor Adverse (not significant)**

Reference	Location / Type / Context	Nature of Main View	Sensitivity	Angle and Nature of Change	Distance	Magnitude		Effect	
						Construction	Operational (after 10yrs)	Construction	Operation (after 10yrs)
	(maze to hill) via a loop in Blackmuir Woods south east of Strathpeffer (promoted by Forestry and Land Scotland). There is car park located at the western end of the path near Fir Lodge, and Touchstone Maze feature is located at the north-eastern path section.	subject to screening / filtering by tree cover. More open views are experienced from the south-eastern loop path, which is more elevated and within an area of forest management.		combination with the screening influence of the intervening landform, and distance of view. Similarly, once operational, the Proposed Development would be partially screened by landform, visible against the combination of background sky and landscape, and would represent a distant element in the background landscape subject to intervening tree cover. Accordingly, it would exert very limited influence on views experienced by walkers.					
RD-27 (Refer to Figure 7.4-12)	**Rogie Falls** (RC10.02) Recreational users of this footpath, which forms a loop between the A835 (car park) and Kinellan to Strathgarve path within Torrachilty Forest.	The footpath is within mature forestry. Where there are gaps in the tree cover, there would be views in westerly and southerly directions towards Strathconon, from elevated sections of the path. Views to the east are limited due to intervening landform. Views to the north are foreshortened by landform and tree cover.	**High**	This path is located 4.0 km to the south-west of Section D at the closest point (Tower S149). With reference to the ZTV, potential views of the construction activities and steel lattice towers in the distant landscape to the north-east would be screened by the intervening landform.	4.0 km	**None**	**None**	**No Effect**	**No Effect**

Reference	Location / Type / Context	Nature of Main View	Sensitivity	Angle and Nature of Change	Distance	Magnitude		Effect	
						Construction	Operational (after 10yrs)	Construction	Operation (after 10yrs)
RD-28 (Refer to Figure 7.4-12)	**Eagle Stone Path** (RC45.10) Recreational users of this footpath, located at the northern edge of Strathpeffer.	Views are primarily channelled to the east and north-east along Strath Peffer, albeit are heavily filtered by mature trees extending along the side of the footpath.	**High**	This path is located 2.6 km to the south of Section D at the closest point (Tower S149). Potential views of the construction activities and steel lattice towers in the landscape to the north would be screened by intervening tree cover and landform. The Proposed Development would form a discreet element in the distant landscape, with very limited influence on existing northerly views.	2.6 km	**Negligible**	**Negligible**	**Moderate-Minor (not significant)**	**Moderate-Minor (not significant)**
RD-29 (Refer to Figure 7.4-12)	**Badvoon Forest, Allt Eiteachan Path** (SU03.05) Recreational users of this footpath, located to south west of Kincardine within Blar Garvary Forest.	Views are influenced by the concentration of surrounding forestry and underlying landform. Where there are localised gaps in the forestry, there are wider views to the east, north-east and west.	**High**	This path is located 2.0 km to the east of Section D at the closest point (Tower S48). Potential views of the construction works and steel lattice towers would be fully screened along the majority of the route due to surrounding forestry. Within the most open views, the construction works and steel lattice towers would represent distant elements in the background landscape, in views to the west and south-west, subject to screening by intervening tree cover. Views of Proposed Development would also be partially screened by the intervening landform, which rises in views to the west and south-west.	2.0 km	**Negligible**	**Negligible**	**Moderate-Minor Adverse (not significant)**	**Moderate-Minor Adverse (not significant)**
RD-30 (Refer to Figure	**Badvoon Forest, Forest Road** (SU03.03) Recreational users of this footpath, located	Views are influenced by the concentration of surrounding forestry and underlying landform.	**High**	This path is located 2.0 km to the east of Section D at the closest point (Tower S48). Potential views of the construction works and steel lattice towers would be fully screened along the majority of the route due to surrounding forestry.	2.0 km	**Negligible**	**Negligible**	**Moderate-Minor Adverse (not**	**Moderate-Minor Adverse (not**

Reference	Location / Type / Context	Nature of Main View	Sensitivity	Angle and Nature of Change	Distance	Magnitude		Effect	
						Construction	Operational (after 10yrs)	Construction	Operation (after 10yrs)
7.4-12)	to south west Kincardine within Blar Garvary Forest.	Through gaps in tree cover there are views to the west and south west, contained in part by upland hills. Where are gaps in the forestry, there are wider views to the east, north east and west.		Within the most open views, the construction works and steel lattice towers would represent distant elements in views to the west and south-west, subject screening by intervening tree cover. Views of Proposed Development would also be partially screened by the intervening landform, which rises in views to the west and south west.					
RD-31 (Refer to Figure 7.4-12)	**Ardival - Catsback - Loch Ussie** (RC45.09) Recreational users of this footpath, which connects Strath View (eastern edge of Strathpeffer) with footpath RC45.02 Knockfarrel (maze to hill).	The principal views from the northern sections of footpath near the settlement edge, are to the north, north-west and north-east, over Strath Peffer, with distant hills in the background. At the southern end of the footpath, near Loch Ussie, there are open and panoramic views to the south-east, with the landform (at Knockfarrel) limiting views to the north.	**High**	This path is located 3.0 km to the south of Section D at the closest point (Tower S149). Within the most open views the construction works and steel lattice towers would represent distant elements in the background landscape, in views to the north. The Proposed Development would be experienced in the context of open and panoramic views, often partially screened by rugged landform. The construction works (primarily comprising vehicle movements, with very limited felling required at the south end of Section D) would exert limited influence on existing views. This is due to their low-lying nature, in combination with the intervening landform and distance of view. Once operational the Proposed Development would continue to exert a limited influence on northerly views. The towers would account for a relatively limited proportion of these panoramic views, and would be experienced in the distance against a combination of background landscape and sky.	3.0 km	**Negligible**	**Negligible**	**Moderate-Minor Adverse (not significant)**	**Moderate-Minor Adverse (not significant)**

Reference	Location / Type / Context	Nature of Main View	Sensitivity	Angle and Nature of Change	Distance	Magnitude		Effect	
						Construction	Operational (after 10yrs)	Construction	Operation (after 10yrs)
RD-32 (Refer to Figure 7.4-12)	**Tollie to Lealty** (RC05.02) Recreational users of this footpath located within Ardross Garden & Designed Landscape.	Views are channelled to west and north-west toward Strathrusdale and Loch Morie, albeit heavily filtered by tree cover from sections of path within Ardross estate. Views to the north-east and east, are more contained by surrounding landform.	**High**	This path is located 2.6 km to the east of Section D at the closest point (Tower S100). In the clearest views, the construction works and steel lattice towers would represent distant elements in the background landscape, in views to the west and south-west, subject to screening by intervening tree cover, back-clothed by the background landscape.	2.6 km	**Negligible**	**Negligible**	Moderate-**Minor Adverse (not significant)**	Moderate-**Minor Adverse (not significant)**
RD-33 (Refer to Figure 7.4-12)	**Culrain, via Invercharron Hill/Carbisdale** (SU03.01) Recreational users of this footpath which connects Cornhill (near the River Carron) with Core Path SU08.02: Carbisdale.	Views from southern sections of footpath are channelled along Strathcarron to the south-west and west. Views are heavily influenced by the concentration of plantation forestry, with large areas affected by forest management measures (Hilton Wood). Views are varied across the route and influenced by route elevation, intervening landform and degree of forest cover. The existing steel lattice OHL are located at close proximity to eastern path section, is visible in views to the north-east and south-east.	**High**	This path is located 2.5 km to the north-east of Section D at the closest point (Tower S38). There would be views of the construction works and steel lattice towers from southern sections of the path, representing distant elements in the background landscape to the west and south-west, subject to screening by intervening landform and tree cover. Views from northern sections would be more limited due to intervening landform at Invercharron Hill.	2.5 km	**Negligible**	**Negligible**	**Moderate-Minor Adverse (not significant)**	**Moderate-Minor Adverse (not significant)**

Reference	Location / Type / Context	Nature of Main View	Sensitivity	Angle and Nature of Change	Distance	Magnitude		Effect	
						Construction	Operational (after 10yrs)	Construction	Operation (after 10yrs)
RD-34 (Refer to Figure 7.4-12)	**River Carron** (SU03.11) Recreational users of this footpath which partially follows the route of the River Carron (Dounie Estate) to north of Lower Gledfield.	Views are channelled along Strathcarron valley floor which contains a high concentration of intervening tree cover within farmland. There is also mature tree cover within the river corridor. The path intersects the existing OHL and is visible at close range in views to the east and west along Strathcarron.	**High**	This path is located 2.9 km to the east of Section D at the closest point (Tower S38). The construction works and steel lattice towers would represent distant elements in the background landscape, in views to the south-west. The low-lying nature of the construction activities means that they would be partly screened by existing woodland within the river corridor and forestry extending across the intervening hillsides. Once operational, the towers would be visible to south-west, heavily filtered by tree cover within the valley. The existing OHL would be visible in the foreground at close range, as walkers travel west near the railway corridor. Views would be heavily filtered subject to intervening screening levels. Within the most open views the Proposed Development would partially visible against the background sky in views south-west, as the route increases in elevation, subject to intervening screening, and would represent a relatively discreet, linear element within wider views along the hills around the strath.	2.9 km	**Negligible**	**Negligible**	**Moderate-Minor Adverse (not significant)**	**Moderate-Minor Adverse (not significant)**
RD-35 (Refer to Figure	**Carron Bridge** (SU03.09) This path is located to the east of Lower	Views within Strathcarron to the west and east are characterised by mature broadleaved woodland with a filtered backdrop of hills around the strath.	**High**	This path is located 2.9 km to the east of Section D at the closest point (Tower S39). Potential views of the construction activities and steel lattice towers would be heavily filtered in a westerly	2.9 km	**Negligible**	**Negligible**	**Moderate-Minor Adverse (not**	**Moderate-Minor Adverse (not**

Reference	Location / Type / Context	Nature of Main View	Sensitivity	Angle and Nature of Change	Distance	Magnitude		Effect	
						Construction	Operational (after 10yrs)	Construction	Operation (after 10yrs)
7.4-12)	Gledfield, adjacent to the River Carron.	Wider views to the north over the River Carron are contained by landform at Inver Charron Hill (East Strathcarron Wood). With reference to the methodology in Volume 5, Appendix 7.2, receptors at this location are of High sensitivity, given the context of receptor activity adjudged against susceptibility.		direction by intervening tree cover, located both within the estate and intervening farmland. Accordingly, the construction works would exert very limited influence on existing views. Once operational, views of the towers would remain limited. Where there are breaks in the woodland, the Proposed Development would represent a relatively discreet, linear element within wider views along the hills around the strath. The Proposed Development would account for a relatively narrow angle of view, with a limited overall number of towers visible. The clearest views would be more apparent in winter during leaf fall.					
RD-36 (Refer to Figure 7.4-12)	**Knockfarrel (maze to hill)** (RC45.02) This footpath is located on the slopes of Knock Farril between Blackmuir Woods - maze circular and Knockfarrel to Fodderty The path provides access to the Knockfarrel viewpoint.	There are open and expansive views to north, west and north-east, with the rising landform limiting views to the south.	**High**	This path is located 3.5 km to the south of Section D at the closest point (Tower S149). The construction works and steel lattice towers would represent distant elements in the background landscape to the north. The low-lying nature of the construction activities in combination with the intervening landform and spatial separation, means that they would exert very limited influence on existing views. Views of the Proposed Development to the north, would be experienced in the context of open and panoramic views. The towers would be predominantly viewed against the background landscape and exert limited influence on wider vistas.	3.5 km	**Negligible**	**Negligible**	**Moderate-Minor Adverse (not significant)**	**Moderate-Minor Adverse (not significant)**

Reference	Location / Type / Context	Nature of Main View	Sensitivity	Angle and Nature of Change	Distance	Magnitude		Effect	
						Construction	Operational (after 10yrs)	Construction	Operation (after 10yrs)
	Refer to viewpoint 7-75 Knockfarrel.								
RD-37 (Refer to Figure 7.4-12)	**Dam Wood** (RC05.03) Recreational users of this footpath, located within woodland, near Ardross distillery	Views are channelled to south and south west, where there are breaks in the woodland. Landform to the north west, limits wider views in this direction. There is two existing OHL to the east, at approx. 2.5 km. There are partially screened views of Novar Windfarm to the south west.	**High**	This path is located 3.2 km to the east of Section D at the closest point (Tower S99). The construction works and introduction of steel lattice towers would represent distant elements in the background, to the west / south-west. Views of Proposed Development would be partially screened by intervening landform, experienced against a combination of background sky and landscape.	3.2 km	**Negligible**	**Negligible**	**Moderate-Minor Adverse (not significant)**	**Moderate-Minor Adverse (not significant)**
RD-38 (Refer to Figure 7.4-12)	**Ardgayhill** (SU03.10) Recreational users of this footpath, which forms a loop to the west of Ardgayhill.	The principal views are aligned toward the Kyle of Sutherland to the east and south-east, including wider coastal visibility along the Dornoch Firth. There are also wider views to the north-west towards Strathcarron. Two existing lattice tower OHL are present within views to the west and east.	**High**	This path is located 3.3 km to the east of Section D at the closest point (Tower S40). The construction works and steel lattice towers would represent distant elements in the background landscape. The Proposed Development would be partially visible in views to the west and south-west, against a combination of the background sky and landscape.	3.3 km	**Negligible**	**Negligible**	**Moderate-Minor Adverse (not significant)**	**Moderate-Minor Adverse (not significant)**

Reference	Location / Type / Context	Nature of Main View	Sensitivity	Angle and Nature of Change	Distance	Magnitude		Effect	
						Construction	Operational (after 10yrs)	Construction	Operation (after 10yrs)
RD-39 (Refer to Figure 7.4-12)	**Oldtown – Badvoon** (SU03.08) Recreational users of this footpath, located to south west of Kincardine, providing a link to Badvoon Forest, Link Path.	Views are partially contained by surround landform, with more open views to the east, towards Dornoch Firth. There are views of existing OHL at close range, which intersects the route. A further OHL is visible to the north east and east.	**High**	This path is located 3.3 km to the east of Section D at the closest point (Tower S44). Within the clearest views, the constructions works and steel lattice towers would represent distant elements in the background landscape in views to the west. The Proposed Development would form a relatively discreet, linear element within wider views to the south-west.	3.3 km	**Negligible**	**Negligible**	**Moderate-Minor Adverse (not significant)**	**Moderate-Minor Adverse (not significant)**
RD-40 (Refer to Figure 7.4-12)	**Badvoon Forest, Link Path** (SU03.04) Recreational users of this footpath, located to south west Kincardine within Blar Garvary Forest, linking to SU03.05 (Badvoon Forest, Allt Eiteachan Path).	Views are influenced by the concentration of surrounding forestry and intervening landform. Where there are localised gaps in the forestry there are wider views to the east, north-east and west. There are views of the existing OHL to the north-east, east and south-east.	**High**	This path is located 3.3 km to the east of Section D at the closest point (Tower S44). In the clearest views, the construction works and steel lattice towers would represent distant elements in the background landscape, in views to the west and south-west, subject to intervening screening by tree cover. The Proposed Development would form a relatively discreet, linear element within wider views to the south-west. However, there would be no views of the Proposed Development for large sections of the route due to screening effect of forestry.	3.3 km	**Negligible**	**Negligible**	**Moderate-Minor Adverse (not significant)**	**Moderate-Minor Adverse (not significant)**
RD-41 (Refer to Figure	**Knockfarrel to Fodderty** (RC13.05) Recreational users of this footpath, which is accessed off the	Views from elevated sections of the footpath are open and panoramic to the north west, north and north-east, over Strath Peffer.	**High**	This path is located 3.2 km to the south-east of Section D at the closest point (Tower S144). The construction works and steel lattice towers would represent distant elements in the landscape to the north from elevated (southern) sections of route.	3.2 km	**Negligible**	**Negligible**	**Moderate-Minor Adverse (not significant)**	**Moderate-Minor Adverse (not significant)**

Reference	Location / Type / Context	Nature of Main View	Sensitivity	Angle and Nature of Change	Distance	Magnitude		Effect	
						Construction	Operational (after 10yrs)	Construction	Operation (after 10yrs)
7.4-12)	A834, near Fodderty, connecting to other local paths near Knockfarrel to the south.	Based on the value of existing views from this property and susceptibility to proposed development change the sensitivity of the receptor is adjudged to be High.		There would be partially screened views of Proposed Development to the north, appearing against the background sky.					
RD-42 (Refer to Figure 7.4-12)	**Black Rock Gorge** (RC16.05) Recreational users of this footpath, located within Evanton Wood, adjacent to the River Glass.	Views are contained by mature woodland within Evanton Wood. There are views of the existing OHL, to west, from northern sections of footpath, near Glenglass Road. Views of the existing OHL, south west and north are limited due to the concentration of tree cover.	**High**	This path is located 3.8 km to the east of Section D at the closest point (Tower S114). There would be limited views of the construction works and steel lattice towers due the concentration of woodland tree cover, which contains outward views from the path. There would be partially screened views of the Proposed Development to the west, from northern sections of footpath, near Glenglass Road.	3.8 km	**Negligible**	**Negligible**	**Moderate-Minor Adverse (not significant)**	**Moderate-Minor Adverse (not significant)**
RD-43 (Refer to Figure 7.4-12)	**Dublin to Ardross Mains** (RC05.04) This is a short section of footpath located at the northern edge of Ardross GDL.	Views are channelled to south and south-west, where there are breaks in the woodland. Landform to the north-west, limits wider views in this direction. There are two existing OHL to the east, approx. 2.5 km from the path. There are partially screened views of Novar Windfarm to the south-west.	**High**	This path is located 4.1 km to the east of Section D at the closest point (Tower S99). The construction works and steel lattice towers would represent distant elements in the background landscape, to the south-west. Views of Proposed Development to the south-west, would be partially screened by intervening landform, against a combination of background sky and landscape.	4.1 km	**Negligible**	**Negligible**	**Moderate-Minor Adverse (not significant)**	**Moderate-Minor Adverse (not significant)**

Reference	Location / Type / Context	Nature of Main View	Sensitivity	Angle and Nature of Change	Distance	Magnitude		Effect	
						Construction	Operational (after 10yrs)	Construction	Operation (after 10yrs)
RD-44 (Refer to Figure 7.4-12)	**Evanton Woods** RC16.06 Recreational users of this footpath, located within Evanton Wood, adjacent to the River Glass. The footpath connects to Black Gorge footpath.	Views are contained by mature woodland within Evanton Wood. Views of the existing OHL, south-west and north are limited due to the concentration of tree cover.	**High**	This path is located 4.0 km to the east of Section D at the closest point (Tower S115). There would be limited views of the construction works and steel lattice towers due the concentration of woodland tree cover in the surrounding area, which contains outward views from the path. Where there are localised gaps in the tree cover, there would heavily filtered views of the Proposed Development to the south-west.	4.0 km	**Negligible**	**Negligible**	**Moderate-Negligible (not significant)**	**Moderate-Negligible (not significant)**
RD-45 (Refer to Figure 7.4-12)	**Tulloch Lane-Dingwall** RC13.02 This path is located at the northern settlement edge of Dingwall	Views are channelled to south and south west to Strathpeffer. There are also longer views top the south east to the Cromarty Firth. Two existing OHL are visible at close range to the west and east.	**High**	This path is located 4.0 km to the south-east of Section D at the closest point (Tower S135). Within open views, the construction works and steel lattice towers would represent distant elements in the background landscape, subject to screening by intervening tree cover and landform. The Proposed Development would form an extremely discreet, linear element within wider views across to the north-west and west, with large-scale hills and mountains in the distance.	4.0 km	**Negligible**	**Negligible**	**Moderate-Minor Adverse (not significant)**	**Moderate-Minor Adverse (not significant)**

Reference	Location / Type / Context	Nature of Main View	Sensitivity	Angle and Nature of Change	Distance	Magnitude		Effect	
						Construction	Operational (after 10yrs)	Construction	Operation (after 10yrs)
RD-46 (Refer to Figure 7.4-12)	**Knockfarrel** RC13.06 Recreational users of this footpath, located to the west of Dingwall, linking to the Knockfarrel to Fodderty path.	Views are channelled west and north-west along Strath Peffer. The settlements of Alness and Invergordon are visible to the east, whilst parts of Evanton can be seen to the south. Existing OHL intersect the path at the western edge of Dingwall.	**High**	This path is located 4.2 km to the south-east of Section D at the closest point (Tower S144). The construction works and steel lattice towers would represent distant elements in the background landscape to the north-west. Within the most open, elevated views to the north-west, the Proposed Development would be partially visible, against a combination of the background landscape and sky, subject to intervening screening.	4.2 km	**Negligible**	**Negligible**	**Moderate-Minor Adverse (not significant)**	**Moderate-Minor Adverse (not significant)**

Reference	Location / Type / Context	Nature of Main View	Sensitivity	Angle and Nature of Change	Distance	Magnitude		Effect	
						Construction	Operational (after 10yrs)	Construction	Operation (after 10yrs)
RD-47 (Refer to Figure 7.4-12)	**Fyrish Path** RC05.01 The path is located to the north west of Alness.	A large section of the path is located within plantation forestry which limits views. Views from the summit of the hill are open and panoramic, encompassing the full extent of the Cromarty Firth, and parts of the Black Isle. There are also open and expansive views to the west, north-west and south-west	**High**	This path is located 4.1 km to the east of Section D at the closest point (Tower S105). Views of the construction works and steel lattice towers would be primarily limited to the hill summit. The construction works and steel lattice towers would represent distant elements in the background landscape towards the west. The Proposed Development would be partially visible in views to the south-west predominantly against the background landscape. To the west and north-west, the Proposed Development would be partially visible, against a combination of the background landscape and sky. From the majority of the path, potential views of the Proposed Development would be fully screened by surrounding woodland. There would be no effect on key views over the Cromarty Firth (towards the east).	4.1 km	**Negligible**	**Negligible**	**Moderate/Minor Adverse (not significant)**	**Moderate/Minor Adverse (not significant)**
RD-48 (Refer to Figure 7.4-12)	**North Coast 500** The North Coast 500 is routed with the Study Area between Muir of Ord in the south-west and Alness in east.	Views from sections of the path between Dingwall and Alness are channelled to the south, east and south-west, towards the Cromarty Firth.	**High**	Views of the construction works and new steel lattice towers would be limited and barely discernible. Within the clearest views, the Proposed Development would form an extremely discreet, linear element within wider views across to north-west and west, with large-scale hills and mountains in the distance.	5.0 km	**Negligible**	**Negligible**	**Moderate-Minor Adverse (not significant)**	**Moderate-Minor Adverse (not significant)**

Reference	Location / Type / Context	Nature of Main View	Sensitivity	Angle and Nature of Change	Distance	Magnitude		Effect	
						Construction	Operational (after 10yrs)	Construction	Operation (after 10yrs)
				There would be no views of the Proposed Development for large sections of the route due to the screening effect of the intervening landform.					
RD-49 (Refer to Figure 7.4-12)	**Inverness to John O' Groats National Cycle Trail** This path is routed through the Study Area between Alness and Conon Bridge.	In the north there are a range of views. These are generally channelled along the Dornoch Firth and Kyle of Sutherland. From more southerly sections, the trail extends along the Kyle of Sutherland / Dornoch Firth, where there are more open views across the open water. Views from sections of path in the south and west of the Study Area, between Tain and Dingwall are channelled to the south, east and south-west, towards the Dornoch Firth.	**High**	The construction works and steel lattice towers would represent distant elements in the background landscape within more open views from sections of the path near Kincardine. In terms of views of the Proposed Development from closest sections of the path, near Kincardine, it would form a relatively discreet, linear element within wider views across the forestry and large-scale hills to the south-west. Views from sections of the path in the vicinity of Alness and Dingwall would be at longer distances and barely discernible.	5.0 km	**Negligible**	**Negligible**	**Moderate-Minor Adverse (not significant)**	**Moderate-Minor Adverse (not significant)**

Table D.3: Receptors at Outdoor Locations

Reference	Location / Type / Context	Nature of Main View	Sensitivity	Nature of Change	Distance	Magnitude		Effect	
						Construction	Operational (after 10yrs)	Construction	Operation (after 10yrs)
OD-01 (Refer to Figure 7.4-10)	**Strathpeffer Golf Course** Recreational users of this golf course, located at the north-western edge of Strathpeffer.	Views are expansive to the east, south and west over Strath Peffer. Receptors at this location are of Medium sensitivity, given the context of receptor activity adjudged against susceptibility.	**Medium**	The golf course is located 2.1 km to the south of Section D at the closest point (Tower S149). Views of the construction works and steel lattice towers to the north from the closest parts of the golf course would be limited due to intervening landform (which rises steadily to the north, towards the summit of Creag Ulladail) in combination with intervening tree cover. As such, the Proposed Development would represent a very discreet element in the background landscape.	2.1 km	**Negligible**	**Negligible**	**Minor Adverse (not significant)**	**Minor Adverse (not significant)**
OD-02 (Refer to Figure 7.4-9 and Figure 7.4-10)	**Loch Morrie** Recreational users of this loch, promoted for angling by Kildermorie Estate. Located within open moorland, south-west of Strathrusdale.	Views are channelled to south-east and north-west along associated river glens. Views to the north and south of the loch are contained by hills. Receptors at this location are of medium sensitivity, given the context of receptor activity adjudged against susceptibility.	**Medium**	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 would be the closest at approx. 890 m). During construction, there would be views of vehicle movements, and localised felling. This includes felling to create wayleave for the alignment, as well as localised areas of additional forestry felling to create a wind-firm edge to the surrounding forestry. These activities would be part-screened by the intervening landform and tree cover. Once operational, the Proposed Development would be partially visible in views to the north-west against a combination of the background sky and landscape. In	890 m	**Low**	**Low**	**Moderate-Minor Adverse (not significant)**	**Moderate-Minor Adverse (not significant)**

Reference	Location / Type / Context	Nature of Main View	Sensitivity	Nature of Change	Distance	Magnitude		Effect	
						Construction	Operational (after 10yrs)	Construction	Operation (after 10yrs)
				views to the west and south-west, the Proposed Development would be predominantly visible against the background sky. Views to the north would be screened by intervening landform.					
OD-03 (Refer to Figure 7.4-9)	**Dounie Estate** This estate is located near the River Carron and is a promoted angling and leisure destination.	Views are channelled along Strathcarron valley floor which contains a high concentration of intervening tree cover within farmland. This includes tree cover within the estate and riparian tree cover along the river corridor. Receptors at this location are of High sensitivity, given the context of their activity (promoted within a scenic location) adjudged against susceptibility	**High**	The construction works and steel lattice towers would be visible at distances of between 900 m and 1.5 km (Tower S39 would be the closest at 900 m). Ground based construction activities would be partly screened by the intervening landform and tree cover. There would be partial views of felling activities on the upper slopes at either side of Strathcarron (including felling along the wayleave for the alignment, and additional felling to create a wind-firm edge to the retained forestry). These works would be spatially separated from Dounie Estate by the intervening strath and / or parcels of woodland, thereby limiting the influence on existing views. Once operational, the Proposed Development would be partially visible in views to the west against the background landscape, heavily filtered by tree cover within Strathcarron valley. Within wider views to the south-west, the Proposed Development would be experienced at greater distance. Views would be intermittent and subject to screening by tree intervening cover. As a result, the construction activities and steel lattice towers would	900 m	**Low**	**Low**	**Moderate Adverse (significant)**	**Moderate Adverse (significant)**

Reference	Location / Type / Context	Nature of Main View	Sensitivity	Nature of Change	Distance	Magnitude		Effect	
						Construction	Operational (after 10yrs)	Construction	Operation (after 10yrs)
				exert limited influence on existing views (particularly during summer months). Due to the broadleaved nature of surrounding tree cover, there would a reduction in the filtering effects of tree cover in winter months. Overall, the visibility would be more apparent in winter, with the Proposed Development occupying a wide extent of the view to the west / south-west.					
OD-04 (Refer to Figure 7.4-9)	**Gledfield House and Estate** Visitors and tourists to Gledfield House, a leisure and holiday destination. The house estate is located within Strathcarron, set within mature woodland, adjacent to the River Carron.	Views are channelled along Strathcarron valley floor which contains a high concentration of intervening tree cover within farmland. This includes mature riparian tree cover along the river corridor. With reference to the methodology in Volume 5, Appendix 7.2, receptors at this location are of High sensitivity, given the context of their activity (promoted within a scenic location) adjudged against susceptibility.	**High**	The Estate is located to the east of Section D. Potential views of the construction works and steel lattice towers would be heavily filtered by intervening tree cover both within the estate and intervening farmland. Westerly views towards the Proposed Development would be heavily filtered and experienced at approx. 2 km distance (Tower S39 would be the closest). Where there are localised breaks in the woodland, the Proposed Development would represent a relatively discreet, linear element within wider views along the hills around the strath. Views would be more apparent in winter during leaf fall. However, the overall number of towers visible would remain limited.	2.0 km	**Negligible**	**Negligible**	**Minor Adverse (not significant)**	**Minor Adverse (not significant)**

Reference	Location / Type / Context	Nature of Main View	Sensitivity	Nature of Change	Distance	Magnitude		Effect	
						Construction	Operational (after 10yrs)	Construction	Operation (after 10yrs)
OD-05 (Refer to Figure 7.4-10)	**Neil Gunn Memorial** Visitors and tourists to a memorial and promoted viewpoint at Heights of Brae, to the north east of Strathpeffer. Refer to viewpoint 7-73 Neil Gunn Memorial.	Views are channelled to south, south-east (Cromarty Firth) and south-west (Strath Conon). With reference to the methodology in Volume 5, Appendix 7.2, receptors at this location are of High sensitivity, given the context of their activity (promoted within a scenic location) adjudged against susceptibility.	**High**	The memorial is located 2.3 km to the south-east of Section D at the closest point (Tower S138). The construction works and steel lattice towers would represent distant elements in views to the north and north-west. Views of the Proposed Development, to the north-west, would be partially screened by the intervening landform, and would be experienced against the background landscape.	2.3 km	**Negligible**	**Negligible**	**Moderate-Minor (not significant)**	**Moderate-Minor (not significant)**
OD-06 (Refer to Figure 7.4-9 and Figure 7.4-10)	**Loch Glass** Recreation users visiting the loch for angling. Located to the north-east of Ben Wyvis. Promoted by the Evanton Angling Club. Refer to viewpoint 7-66 Loch Glass.	Views are channelled to the south-east and north-west along associated river glens. Views to the north and south are contained by hills. There are partial views (to the south-east) of Novar Windfarm from southern edges of the loch. Receptors at this location are of Medium sensitivity, given the context of receptor activity adjudged against susceptibility	**Medium**	The loch is located 3.0 km to the west of Section D at the closest point (Tower S112). There would be views of construction works and steel lattice towers (from the eastern edge of the Loch) to the south-east. The influence of the construction works would be limited due to their low-lying nature, in combination with the distance of view. Potential views of felling activities along the alignment (and additional felling to create a wind-firm edge) would be restricted by intervening forestry. Once operational, the Proposed Development would be partially visible in views to the south-east against the background sky. Views to the north-east and south would be screened landform.	3.0 km	**Low**	**Low**	**Moderate-Minor (not significant)**	**Moderate-Minor (not significant)**

Reference	Location / Type / Context	Nature of Main View	Sensitivity	Nature of Change	Distance	Magnitude		Effect	
						Construction	Operational (after 10yrs)	Construction	Operation (after 10yrs)
OD-07 (Refer to Figure 7.4-9 and Figure 7.4-10)	**Ardross Castle** Visitors to Ardross Castle, which is a venue used for weddings and events. Refer to viewpoints 7-64 Ardross (east) to 7-63 Ardross Distillery within the Ardross Estate.	Views are channelled to south and south-west, where there are breaks in the woodland. Landform to the north-west, limits wider views in this direction. There are two existing OHL to the east, approx. 2.5 km. There are partially screened views of Novar Windfarm to the south-west. Based on the value of existing views and susceptibility to proposed development change, the sensitivity of the receptor is adjudged to be High.	**High**	Ardross Castle is located 3.6 km to the east of Section D at the closest point (Tower S99). The construction works and steel lattice towers would represent distant elements in the background, to the south-west. Views of Proposed Development to the south-west, would be restricted by tree cover within the castle grounds and surrounding landscape. In the most open views, the Proposed Development would remain partially screened by the intervening landform and experienced against a combination of background sky and landscape.	3.6 km	**Negligible**	**Negligible**	**Moderate-Minor Adverse (not significant)**	**Moderate-Minor Adverse (not significant)**
OD-08 (Refer to Figure 7.4-10)	**Pink House (Loch Glass)** Visitors to the Pink House, which is a promoted tourist attraction on the banks of Loch Glass.	Views are channelled to south-east and north-west along associated river glens. Views to the north and south are contained by hills. There are partial views (to the south-east) of Novar Windfarm. With reference to the methodology in Volume 5, Appendix 7.2, receptors at this location are of High sensitivity, given the context of receptor activity adjudged against susceptibility	**High**	Pink House is located 3.8 km to the west of Section D at the closest point (Tower S112). There would be views of construction works and introduction of steel lattice towers to the south-east. These elements would be experienced in the distance, beyond intervening infrastructure at Novar Wind Farm. The influence of the construction works would be limited due to their low-lying nature, in combination with the distance of view. Potential views of felling activities along the alignment (and additional felling to create a wind-firm edge) would be restricted by intervening forestry.	3.8 km	**Low/Negligible**	**Low/Negligible**	**Moderate/Minor Adverse (not significant)**	**Moderate/Minor Adverse (not significant)**

Reference	Location / Type / Context	Nature of Main View	Sensitivity	Nature of Change	Distance	Magnitude		Effect	
						Construction	Operational (after 10yrs)	Construction	Operation (after 10yrs)
				Once operational, the Proposed Development would be partially visible in views to the south-east against the background sky. Views to the north-east and south would be screened by the intervening landform.					
OD-09 (Refer to Figure 7.4-10)	**Cnoc Fyrish Monument** Recreational walkers and visitors.	The existing vistas encompass the full extent of the Cromarty Firth, and parts of the Black Isle towards the east. There are also open and expansive views to the west, north-west and south-west from the hill summit. The settlements of Alness and Invergordon are visible to the east, whilst parts of Evanton can be seen to the south. Based on the value of existing views from this location and susceptibility to proposed development change the sensitivity of the receptor is adjudged to be High.	**High**	The monument is located 4.2 km to the east of Section D at the closest point (Tower S105). The construction works and steel lattice towers would represent distant elements in the background landscape towards the west. The low-lying nature of the construction activities in combination with the spatial separation from the monument, means that they would exert very limited influence on existing views. Once operational, the Proposed Development would be partially visible in views to the south-west predominantly against the background landscape. To the west and north-west, the Proposed Development would be partially visible, against a combination of the background landscape and sky. There would be no effect on key views out over the Cromarty Firth to the east and south.	4.2 km	**Low/Negligible**	**Low/Negligible**	**Moderate/Minor Adverse (not significant)**	**Moderate/Minor Adverse (not significant)**