Scottish & Southern Electricity Networks

TRANSMISSION

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

Appendix 7.9 | LVIA of Section E

July 2025

Scottish & Southern Electricity Networks
TRANSMISSION

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7. LANDSCAPE AND VISUAL ASSESSMENT OF SECTION E

7.1 Introduction

7.1.1 This appendix presents the findings of the Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment (LVIA) for Section E 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 **Volume 2, 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 Glen Strathfarrar National Scenic Area (NSA), Rhiddoroch - Beinn Dearg - Ben Wyvis Wild Land Area (WLA), Central Highlands WLA, Ben Wyvis Special Landscape Area (SLA) and Strathconon, Monar and Mullardoch 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 E, this includes effects associated with:
  - Section D of the Proposed Development (steel lattice tower OHL);
  - Proposed Fanellan 400 kV Substation (25/00826/FUL);
  - Proposed Abhainn Dubh Wind Farm (23/02754/S36);
  - Proposed Knockbain Wind Turbine Repowering (24/03379/FUL);
  - Scoping-stage Carn Fearna Wind Farm (23/03238/SCOP);

[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 Tarvie Wind Farm (23/03044/SCOP);
- Scoping-stage Fairburn Extension (22/03143/SCOP);
- Scoping-stage Ballach Wind Farm (24/04177/SCOP);
- Scoping-stage Beauly to Blackhillock to New Deer to Peterhead 400kV OHL (24/03064/SCOP);
- Screening-stage Carn Fearna 132 kV OHL (25/00219/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 24 visualisations that show 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.**.

Table 7.1: Viewpoint Locations (Section E)

Number	Location	Grid Reference		
Viewpoint 7-67	Ben Wyvis	NH	49838	71132
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
Viewpoint 7-87	Aultgowrie	NH	47645	51560
Viewpoint 7-88	Muir of Ord	NH	51427	50680
Viewpoint 7-89	Cnoc Croit	NH	49182	49205
Viewpoint 7-90	A831	NH	46993	42807
Viewpoint 7-91	Kiltarlity	NH	50156	41427
Viewpoint 7-92	Femnock	NH	49871	40606
Viewpoint 7-93	Rhevackin	NH	52058	39671

Number	Location	Grid Reference		
Viewpoint 7-94	Teavarran	NH	52962	37904

7.2.5 Two sets of visualisations have been produced, which comply with NatureScot 2017[3] guidelines and The Highland Council (THC) 2016[4] 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];
- 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

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

- 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 susceptibility to accommodate change, which often varies 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 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 E have been identified or made.

7.3 Baseline Conditions: Landscape

Landscape Overview

7.3.1 Section E would be located inland from the Beauly Firth, extending from Near Strathpeffer in the north (where it adjoins Section D), to Beauly in the south. The landscape is characterised by areas of farmland within the lower-lying straths at the northern end of the alignment, which transitions to areas of forestry on the adjoining slopes, and areas of open moorland across the more elevated plateau further south. At its southern end, the Section E alignment transitions back down towards lower-lying farmland, through areas of forestry and woodland. Built form comprises scattered dwellings and farmsteads within lower-lying areas, as well as localised infrastructure elements on the elevated hillsides and summits, including transmission masts and wind

turbines. In addition, existing 132 kV OHLs extend through the local landscape at the southern end of Section E.

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 7.2g: Section E 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:
  - Rhiddoroch - Beinn Dearg - Ben Wyvis WLA;
  - Central Highlands WLA; and
  - Glen Strathfarrar NSA.
- Regional / Local Context:
  - Ben Wyvis SLA; and
  - Strathconon, Monar and Mullardoch 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.

Rhiddoroch - Beinn Dearg - Ben Wyvis WLA

7.3.5 The Rhiddoroch - Beinn Dearg - Ben Wyvis WLA extends between Ullapool in the north-west to the mountain of Ben Wyvis in the south-east, 2.9 km north-west of the Proposed Development within Section E. 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.

Central Highlands WLA

7.3.6 The Central Highlands WLA encompasses a very large area of mountains, peatlands and glens, 2.3 km to the west of the Proposed Development within Section E. The area is largely uninhabited and used mainly for deer stalking and fishing, although there are hydro-electric reservoirs and forest plantations around the margins. The area also attracts recreational visitors, with Kintail, Glen Affric and Glen Strathfarrar tending to attract the highest number. It is typically experienced in views from outside its edges, including along the A890, A887 and A87 main roads and the Dingwall to Kyle railway.

Glen Strathfarrar NSA

7.3.7 The Glen Strathfarrar NSA is located on the south-western part of the Study Area, 7.9 km south-west of the Proposed Development within Section E. This encompasses a long, steep-sided glen, extending east-west and focused on Loch Beannacharan and the River Farrar. The strath drops eastwards, from high mountains to the

west, towards the Culligran Falls and lower strath in the east. The glen sides incorporate extensive natural pine woodland.

Ben Wyvis SLA

7.3.8 This SLA covers the summit and foothills of Ben Wyvis, 2.6 km to the north-west of the Proposed Development within Section E. The area comprises ridges and coiries, 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.

Strathconon, Monar and Mullardoch SLA

7.3.9 The Strathconon, Monar and Mullardoch SLA covers an extensive area of remote interior hills between Strathconon, Glen Strathfarrar and Glen Cannich. At its closest point, it is located 9.2 km south-west of the Proposed Development within Section E. The area includes large scale open mountain ridges and deep sinuous glens with smaller scale birch and pine woods, rivers and waterbodies, which results in strongly contrasting scenery. The limited extent of habitation and access means that the area is typically viewed by a small number of residents, estate workers and recreational visitors.

7.3.10 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	
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.**
Central Highlands WLA	• **An extensive and awe-inspiring range of large scale, high and rugged mountains.** • **An extensive, remote mountain interior with strong qualities of sanctuary and solitude.** • Deep glens that have steep, arresting side slopes as well as rivers and waterfalls, with some containing lochs and some revealing human land use. • **Small and extensive areas of native woodland that contribute to the sense of naturalness and highlight some arresting landscape features.**
Glen Strathfarrar NSA	• **An archetypal Highland glen.** • Ancient Caledonian pine forest amidst rocky slopes. • A sinuous, fast-moving river emerging out of a peaceful loch. • **The contrasts in colour, light and views.**

Designation	
	• **A sense of peace and tranquillity.**
Ben Wyvis SLA	• **Dominant landmark and uninterrupted panoramas.**
Strathconon, Monar and Mullardoch SLA	• Grand mountain ridges, long glens and wide strath. • **Wildness and Remoteness.**

Landscape Character

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

- 330 – Rounded Hills and Moorland Slopes - Ross & Cromarty LCT;
- 335 – Wooded Glens and Rocky Moorland LCT;
- 341 – Forest Edge Farming LCT;
- 345 – Farmed and Forested Slopes – Ross & Cromarty LCT;
- 346 – Open Farmed Slopes LCT;
- 342 – Farmed River Plains LCT;
- 331 – Rounded Rocky Hills – Ross & Cromarty LCT;
- 220 – Rugged Massif – Inverness LCT;
- 227 – Farmed Strath – Inverness LCT; and
- 229 – Enclosed Farmland LCT.

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

- 329 – Rounded Mountain Massif LCT;
- 340 – Strath - Ross & Cromarty LCT;
- 347 – Open Steep Farmed Slopes LCT;
- 339 – Inland Strath LCT;
- 328 – Rugged Mountain Massif - Ross & Cromarty LCT;
- 226 – Wooded Glen – Inverness LCT;
- 228 – Rolling Farmland and Woodland LCT; and
- 222 – Rocky Moorland Plateau – Inverness LCT.

7.3.13 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 7.1g: Section E Zone of Theoretical Visibility**, which illustrates potential visibility across the 10 km Study Area, ZTV coverage is relatively widespread within 5 km of the Proposed Development. However, potential views of the Section E alignment within this corridor would be restricted by areas of established woodland and forestry.

7.4.2 At distances beyond 5 km, there would continue to be views from areas of higher ground to the east. However, ZTV coverage is increasingly fragmented towards to the west, and is completely absent across areas of lower-

lying ground. Accordingly, across more distant western parts of the Study Area, potential views of the Proposed Development would be limited to localised summits and easterly-facing slopes, and typically comprise a lesser number of towers.

Visual Receptors

7.4.3 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.

7.4.4 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 7.4m-n: Section E Visual Receptors**.

Settlements

7.4.5 Residential settlements within the Study Area are predominantly concentrated along the farmland around the Cromarty Firth and the Beauly Firth. With reference to **Volume 3, Figure 7.4m: Section E Visual Receptors**, those located within the ZTV, where there may be views of the Proposed Development are as follows:

- Jamestown (SE-20), 540 m to the east of the Section E alignment;
- Contin (SE-21), 580 m to the west;
- Strathpeffer (SE-22), 1.1 km to the east;
- Kiltarlity (SE-23), 2.6 km to the south-east;
- Marybank (SE-24), 2.1 km to the east;
- Muir of Ord (SE-25), 4.0 km to the east;
- Beauly (SE-26), 4.6 km to the east; and
- Dingwall (SE-27), 5.8 km to the east.

7.4.6 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 550m of the Alignment) are listed below.

- Bridge Park Cottage (SE-01), located west of Aultgowrie, near Falls of Orrin, 200 m to the north-east;
- Mid Lodge (SE-02), located near Coul House Hotel, 225 m to the south of the Proposed Development;
- Heights of Kinnahaird (SE-03), located on the A834, 228 m to the north-west of the Section E alignment;
- Bruaich Cottages (SE-04), located adjacent to the A835, 230 m to the east;
- Ben View (SE-05), located on the A835, 240 m to the north-west;
- Grieve's Cottage (SE-06), located in farmland near the River Conon, 250 m to the east;
- Broompark (SE-07), property located to the south-east of the Coul House Hotel grounds, 260 m to the south-east of the Proposed Development;
- Wester Newton (SE-08), located at the edge of Strath Conon, near the River Conon, 280 m to the west;

- Kinnahaird (SE-09), located adjacent to the A835, 300 m to the east;
- Achnacoul (SE-10), property located near Coul House Hotel, 340 m to the south-west of the Proposed Development;
- Oakmor (SE-11), located adjacent to the A834, 370 m to the north-west;
- Jackson Cottage (SE-12), located within the grounds of Fairburn GDL, 320 m to the north-east;
- Orrin Cottage (SE-13), located within the grounds of Fairburn GDL, 275 m to the north-east;
- Sawmill Cottage (SE-14), located within the grounds of Fairburn GDL, 380 m to the north-east;
- Coul Garden Cottage (SE-15), property located near Coul House Hotel, 460 m to the south-west of the Proposed Development;
- Auchederson Farmhouse (SE-16), located north of Allt Goibhre River, 470 m to the south-west;
- Gas Street Cottage (SE-17), located near Muirton Mains Farm, 520 m to the south-east;
- Wester Kinellan (SE-18), property located to west of Strathpeffer, near Loch Kinellan, 520 m to the east of the Proposed Development; and
- Upper Weston Fanellan Croft (SE-19), located near the SSE depot at Fanellan, 550 m to the east.

Transport Routes

7.4.7 Similar to residential settlements, the main transportation routes across the Study Area are generally aligned to the lower lying farmland around the Cromarty Firth and Beauly Firth. With reference to **Volume 3, Figure 7.4n: Section E Visual Receptors**, those located within the ZTV, from which there may be views of the Proposed Development are as follows:

- A834 (RE-01), which connects the A835 (Contin) with Dingwall via Strathpeffer. The Section E alignment would extend directly over this route between properties at Heights of Kinnahaird and Broompark;
- Achonachie Road (RE-02), which connects the Marybank (A834) with Strath Conon. The Section E alignment would extend directly over this route between Muirton Mains and Loch Achonachie;
- A835 (RE-03), which connects the Contin with Maryburgh. The Section E alignment would extend directly over this route between Ben View and Brauch Cottage;
- A831 (RE-04), which connects the A862 near Beauly with Strathglass in the south-west. The Section E alignment would extend directly over this route between Aigas Dam Power Station and Crask of Aigas;
- Dingwall to Kyle of Lochalsh Rail Link (RE-05). The Section E alignment would extend directly over this railway corridor to the north-west of Achterneed, within the River Peffery valley;
- A832 (RE-08), which connects the A835 with Muir of Ord, 1.6 km to the east;
- A833 (RE-09), which connects Easter Milton with the A862 at Meikle Phoineas, 3.5 km to the east, and
- A862 (RE-10), which connects the A833 with Inverness, 4.9 km to the east.

7.4.8 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:

- Minor road between Marybank and Muir of Ord (RE-06), 330 m to the north-east at the closest point; and
- Minor road between Blackbridge and Struy (A831) (RE-07), 630 m to the east.

Recreational Routes

7.4.9 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 7.4n: Section E Visual Receptors**.

Core Paths

- Orrin Dam track RC30.01 (RE-11), located south-east of Fairburn GDL. The Section E alignment would extend directly over this route;
- Mains of Coul RC10.03, (RE-12), located at the northern extent of Section E, connecting the A834 at Jameston with Contin in the west, via the Coul House Hotel estate. At its closest point, the Proposed Development would extend directly over this route (near Tower S168);
- Kinellan link path RC10.07 (RE-13), located to the north-west of Loch Kinellan and extends north-west to Torrachilty Forest. At its closest point, the Proposed Development would extend directly over this route (near Tower S163);
- Loch Kinellan circuit RC45.01 (RE-14), forms a loop around Loch Kinellan, to the west of Strathpeffer. The Proposed Development would be located 120 m to the west at the closest point (Tower S163);
- Orrin circular - Fairburn RC30.02 (RE-15), which forms a loop around the River Orrin, 200 m to the east of the Section E alignment at the closest point;
- View Rock RC10.01 (RE-16), forms a loop within Torrachilty Forest, with access gained from the A834 at Black Water, 260 m to the west of the Proposed Development at the closest point (Tower S164);
- Strathpeffer - Jamestown (Blackmuir Woods) RC45.05 (RE-17), which connects Strathpeffer with Jamestown, at the western edge of Blackmuir Woods, 690 m to the east of the Proposed Development at the closest point (Tower S168);
- Ord Wood west - Kinellan RC45.03 (RE-18), which connects Ord Wood East path with Loch Kinellan circuit, to the north-west of Strathpeffer, 940 m to the east of the Proposed Development at the closest point (Tower S159);
- Contin Island RC10.05 (RE-19), which forms a loop near the Black Water at the southern edge of Contin, 950 m to the north-west of the Proposed Development at the closest point (Tower S174);
- Home Farm to Hughton by Lonbuie IN20.11 (RE-20), which connects Hughton with footpath near Beaufort Castle, 930 m to the south of the Proposed Development at the closest point (Tower S232);
- Contin to Strathgarve RC10.06 (RE-21), which connects the View Rock path in Torrachilty Forest to footpath RC10.02, 1.0 km to the west of the Proposed Development at the closest point (Tower S164);
- Ord Hill RC32.07 (RE-22), which connects the summit of Cnoc Croit with Aultvaich, 1.1 km to the east of the Proposed Development at the closest point;
- Torrachilty woods RC10.04 (RE-23), which forms a loop adjacent to Black Water and A835, 1.3 km to the west of the Proposed Development at the closest point (Tower S164);
- Golf course - Ord Wood east RC45.07 (RE-24), which forms a loop between the golf course and the north-western edge of Strathpeffer, 1.3 km to the south-east of the Proposed Development at its closest point (Tower S157);
- Blackmuir Woods - maze circular RC45.04 (RE-25), which extends through Blackmuir Woods, Strathpeffer, 1.3 km to the east (Tower S165);
- Rogie Falls RC10.02 (RE-26), forms a loop between the A835 (car park) and the Kinellan to Strathgarve path (within Torrachilty Forest), 1.4 km to the west of the Proposed Development at its closest point (Tower S161);
- Eagle Stone Path RC45.10 (RE-27), located at the northern edge of Strathpeffer, 1.8 km to the south-east of the Proposed Development at its closest point (Tower S156);
- Ardival - Catsback - Loch Ussie RC45.09 (RE-28), connects Strath View (at eastern edge of Strathpeffer) with footpath RC45.02, 2.2 km to the south-east of the Proposed Development (Tower S156);
- Knockfarrel (maze to hill) RC45.02 (RE-29), located on the northern slopes of Knockfarrel, forming an access to the Knockfarrel viewpoint, 2.4 km to the east (Tower S168);

- Knockfarrel to Fodderty RC13.05 (RE-30), which is located on the northern slopes of Knockfarrel, linking with the A834, 3.6 km to the east (Tower S152);
- Knockfarrel RC13.06 (RE-31), 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.

Strathpeffer Walking and Cycling Routes

- RE-32 forms a series of serpentine paths within Torrachilty Forest. The Section E alignment would extend directly over this route at four locations, near Towers S159, S160, S161 and S163; and
- RE-33 comprises paths within forested areas to the north of Strathpeffer Golf Course, extending northwards towards Peffrey Burn. The Section E alignment would extend directly over this route at two locations, near Towers S152 and S157.

Other Recreational Routes

- North Coast 500 (RE-34), extends between Muir of Ord in the south-west and Alness in east, 5.0 km to the east of the Section E alignment at the closest point; and
- Inverness to John O' Groats National Cycle Trail (RE-35), which is routed through the Study Area near Conon Bridge, 7.0 km to the east of the Proposed Development at the closest point.

Outdoor Locations

7.4.10 Outdoor visitor attractions / destinations have been included where views of the landscape is considered to be 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 7.4m Section E Visual Receptors**, as listed below:

- Coul House Hotel (OE-01), located at the eastern edge of Contin, near Torrachilty Forest, 480 m to the north of the Section E alignment at the closest point;
- Falls of Orrin (OE-02), located on the edge of Fairburn GDL, 420 m to the north-east;
- Fairburn Activity Centre (OE-03), located in woodland within Fairburn GDL, 560 m to the north-east;
- Fairburn Tower (OE-04), historic building located within Fairburn GDL estate, 740 m to the north-east;
- Strathpeffer Golf Course (OE-05), located at the north-western edge of Strathpeffer, 800 m to the east;
- Torrachilty Forest – Car Park and Picnic Area (OE-06), located near Contin, 1.2 km to the west;
- Riverside Chalets and Caravan Park (OE-07), located at the south-western edge of Contin, near Black Water, 1.2 km to the west; and
- Neil Gunn Memorial (OE-08), located at the Heights of Brae, north-east of Strathpeffer, 4.1 km to the north-east.

Future Baseline

7.4.11 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.

7.4.12 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 the proposed Abhainn Dubh Wind Farm (23/02754/S36), comprising nine turbines, up to 149.9 m to tip, and the proposed Knockbain Wind Turbine Repowering (24/03379/FUL), which comprises one turbine, 89.5 m to tip, on the hillside south-west of Dingwall. 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

7.5.3 The detailed assessment of landscape character has considered 18 separate LCTs, as illustrated in **Volume 3, Figure 7.3g: Section E Landscape Character**. Likely significant effects have been identified across localised parts of the following:

- LCT 330 – Rounded Hills and Moorland Slopes - Ross & Cromarty LCT;
- LCT 335 – Wooded Glens and Rocky Moorland LCT;
- LCT 341 – Forest Edge Farming;
- LCT 345 – Farmed and Forested Slopes – Ross & Cromarty;
- LCT 346 – Open Farmed Slopes;
- LCT 342 – Farmed River Plains;
- LCT 331 – Rounded Rocky Hills – Ross & Cromarty;
- LCT 220 – Rugged Massif – Inverness;
- LCT 227 – Farmed Strath – Inverness; and
- LCT 229 – Enclosed Farmland.

<u>LCT 330 – Rounded Hills and Moorland Slopes – Ross & Cromarty</u>

7.5.4 This LCT encompasses extensive parts of Caithness and Sutherland, and coincides with the northern end of the Proposed Development within Section E (comprising a total length of approximately 600 m (including Towers S150-S151).

7.5.5 Construction works would involve localised forestry felling along Section E to create a wayleave for the alignment. Existing forestry tracks would be utilised where practicable to reduce the extent of new tracks required. 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. The key effects would be focused within a linear corridor along the works, approximately 600 m in length (north-south) and 100-200 m in width due to containment by surrounding forestry. Within this area 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).

7.5.6 Once operational, the steel lattice towers would represent a new linear element extending approximately 600 m 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 areas. In summary, the key effects

would be focused in a linear corridor, 600 m in length (north-south) and 100-200 m in width due to containment by surrounding forestry. Within this area a **Major-Moderate Adverse** (significant) effect is predicted. Across the wider LCT 330, the effects would be **Moderate-Minor Adverse** (not significant).

LCT 335 – Wooded Glens and Rocky Moorland

7.5.7 This LCT coincides with a 1.7 km length of Section D, close to its northern end (including Towers S152-S157). The LCT comprises large swathes of forestry and native woodland north of Strathconon. Refer to Viewpoint 7-77 (A and B) View Rock, Contin.

7.5.8 Construction works would include tree felling along the length of the alignment (approximately 1.7 km in length) 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 S154-S155, as well as a small area north-east of Tower S153. The additional felling would typically be contained within 200-300 m of the alignment (extending out to a maximum of approximately 350 m from the alignment). The construction works would also involve the creation of temporary access tracks (approximately 1.0 km length in total). The activities would be focused on the eastern side of this LCT, where Section E would extend across forestry north of Creag Ulladail. The influence of the construction activities would be limited based on the use of existing forestry tracks to limit the extent of temporary tracks required, and visual containment by the retained forestry to either side of the alignment. The key effects would be focused along a linear area within 300-400 m of the works, where a **Major-Moderate Adverse** (significant) effect is predicted. At greater distances, the influence of the construction activities would be substantially reduced due to the intervening vegetation. Accordingly, across the wider LCT 335, the effects would be **Minor Adverse** (not significant).

7.5.9 Once operational, Section E would introduce six towers to the eastern part of this LCT. There would be no permanent access track. The towers would be experienced in the context of surrounding forestry, which would screen the lower parts of the towers from view. Indirect effects based on potential views of wider parts of the Section E alignment (extending further north and south, outside the LCT 335) would also be restricted by tree cover and woodland. In summary, a **Major-Moderate Adverse** (significant) effect is predicted within 300-400 m of the alignment. The influence of the Proposed Development would diminish across central and western parts of this LCT, at greater distance from the Section E alignment. Accordingly, across the wider LCT 335 the effects would be **Moderate-Minor Adverse** (not significant).

LCT 341 – Forest Edge Farming

7.5.10 This LCT occurs in three spatially separate parts of the Section E Study Area. This includes an area west of Strathpeffer, which coincides with a 3.0 km length of Section E, close to its northern end (including Towers S158 and S167), and a second LCT area between Fairburn and Beauly, which coincides with a 5.9 km length of Section E (including Towers S181-S201). The other LCT area is spatially separate from Section E. Refer to Viewpoints 7-68 Redburn, 7-70 Milton Lodge, 7-76 Loch Kinellan, 7-87 Aultgowrie and 7-89 Cnoc Croit.

7.5.11 Construction works would include tree felling across the hill slopes to the west of Strathpeffer and on the southern side of Strathconon 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 S158, and S161-S164 to the west of Strathpeffer (comprising very localised parcels within 100-200 m of the alignment) and Towers S182-S189 and S198-S199 on the southern side of Strathconon (typically contained within 100-200 m of the alignment, extending out to a maximum of approximately 400 m). The construction works would also involve the creation of short sections of temporary and permanent access tracks. The extent of track required would be limited due to use of existing forestry tracks within the locality. The influence of the works and vehicle movements on landscape character would be limited based on their low height and the visual containment by surrounding tree cover / forestry. The key

effects would be focused within approximately 600-700 m of the works, albeit would be retained within 100-200m where the construction activities extend through denser areas of forestry. Within this localised part of the LCT the effects would be **Major-Moderate Adverse** (significant). Across the wider LCT, the effects would be **Moderate-Minor Adverse** (not significant).

7.5.12 During operation, the Section E alignment would introduce a total of 31 towers to the LCT, as well as short sections of permanent access tracks (approximately 1,670 m in total length) spread across two geographically discrete LCT areas). From surrounding areas, the towers would be experienced in the context of tree cover / forestry. In terms of the characteristic 'far reaching views to the south'; the towers and tracks within the LCT area west of Strathpeffer would primarily be experienced as part of the inland landscape towards the west outside the southerly field of view. The towers and tracks within the LCT area between Fairburn and Beauly would typically be back-clothed by the rising landform along the upper sides of Strathconon (including Cul Mor, Cul Beag, and Cnoc Udais), thereby also exerting limited influence on characteristic 'far reaching views to the south'. As above, the key effects would be focused within 600-700 m of the alignment, although this would be contained within 100-200 m where surrounding tree cover is more continuous / dense. The effects on these areas would be **Major-Moderate Adverse** (significant). The influence of the Section E alignment upon other parts of the LCT would be reduced based on the increasing separation distance and intervening screening. Across the wider LCT, the effects would be **Moderate-Minor Adverse** (not significant).

LCT 345 – Farmed and Forested Slopes – Ross & Cromarty

7.5.13 This LCT occurs in three spatially separate parts of the Section E Study Area. This includes the LCT area at Knockfarrel, which coincides with a 550 m length of Section E (including Towers S168 and S169), and the LCT area between Fairburn and Muir of Ord, which coincides with a 680 m length of Section E (including Towers S179 and S180) south of the River Conon. There would also be a Diamond Duck Under Arrangement in this area, where the Proposed Development crosses an existing 132 kV OHL north of Muirton Wood. In addition, the LCT area at Knockfarrel is located 50m north of Section E at the closest point (Tower S170). The other LCT area is spatially separate from Section E. Refer to Viewpoints 7-69 Evanton (west), 7-78 Jamestown to 7-80 A834 (east of Contin), 7-82 Moy Rock and 7-88 Muir of Ord.

7.5.14 Construction works would include localised tree felling within areas of farmland west of Jameston, and west of Muirton Mains, as well as the creation of short sections of temporary access tracks. The influence of the tracks would be limited based on their relatively short length (approximately 1,480 m temporary track in total across two discrete areas), in combination with surrounding tree cover / woodland, which would screen / back-cloth the associated vehicle movements. The presence of construction activities and vehicle movements within the LCT and adjoining landscape would contrast with the existing agricultural landuse within the LCT. However, the influence of these activities on the wider LCT would be restricted by intervening tree cover and landform. A **Major-Moderate Adverse** (significant) effect is predicted within 700-800 m of the works (subject to greater containment in places by tree cover). The influence of the construction works would diminish across other parts of the LCT at greater distance, where the effects would be **Moderate-Minor Adverse** (not significant).

7.5.15 Once operational, the key effects would be focused on western parts of the LCT area at Knockfarrel and the western edge of the LCT area between Fairburn and Muir of Ord (where the effects would be direct). The Section E alignment would introduce a total of four towers to the LCT (across two discrete areas), as well as short sections of permanent access tracks (approximately 390 m in length). The towers would contrast with the more rural characteristics of the LCT, albeit in the context of a working agricultural landscape with existing infrastructure, including OHL. In summary, a **Major-Moderate Adverse** (significant) effect is predicted within 700-800 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, the effects would be **Moderate-Minor Adverse** (not significant). Effects on the distant LCT area on the Black Isle would be **Minor Adverse** (not significant).

LCT 346 – Open Farmed Slopes

7.5.16 This LCT occurs in five spatially separate parts of the Section E Study Area. This includes the LCT area south of Jamestown, which coincides with 830 m of the Section E alignment at its northern end (Towers S170-S172). The other LCT area are spatially separate from Section E, albeit the LCT area at Coul of Fairburn is located within relatively close proximity (340 m to the east of Tower S178). Refer to Viewpoints 7-75 Knockfarrel, 7-81 A835 (south-east of Contin), 7-85 Fairburn Drive (west)and 7-86 Fairburn Drive (east).

7.5.17 The key effects would be focused on the LCT area south of Jamestown. Construction works would include the creation of short sections of temporary access tracks. The influence of the tracks would be limited based on their relatively short length (approximately 900 m temporary track). There would also be indirect effects on landscape character based on views of the construction activities, including close proximity views from the nearby westerly-facing slopes at Wester Moy, as well as longer distance views from the north-facing slopes of at Coul of Fairburn, and at Knockfarrel. The influence on other LCT areas would be restricted based on the increased spatial separation and intervening screening. A **Major-Moderate Adverse** (significant) effect is predicted within approximately 700-800 m of the works. 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) at most.

7.5.18 Once operational, the Section E alignment would introduce three towers to the LCT, south-west of Jamestown (Towers S170-S172), which would form new components within the local landscape. From surrounding areas, the towers would be experienced on the skyline in the context of existing farmland, localised tree cover and forestry. All temporary tracks would be removed, and there would be no permanent access track. The main effects would be focused within a linear corridor within approximately 700-800 m of the alignment. This includes parts of the LCT area south of Jamestown, and localised areas at Coul of Fairburn, where the effect would be **Major-Moderate Adverse** (significant). The influence of the alignment would diminish across more distant parts of the LCT, where the effects would be **Moderate-Minor Adverse** (not significant) at most.

LCT 342 – Farmed River Plains

7.5.19 This LCT extends inland from the Cromarty Firth, encircling Knockfarrel at its northern end, and extending southwards where it encompasses Beauly and the shores of the Beauly Firth. The LCT coincides with a 1.7 km length of the Section E alignment (including Towers S173-S178) at the western end of the spur that lies to the south of Knockfarrel. This occurs where the Proposed Development extends across the low-lying farmland within Strathconon. Refer to Viewpoints 7-83 Marybank Road, 7-84 Achonochie Road (west of Marybank) and 7-85 Fairburn Drive (west).

7.5.20 Construction works would include very localised tree felling within areas of farmland, as well as the creation of relatively short sections of temporary access tracks (approximately 2.0 km in total). The influence of the tracks would be limited based on surrounding tree cover / riparian woodland, which would screen / back-cloth the associated vehicle movements. The most open views of the works would be focused upon the more open areas of nearby farmland. A **Major-Moderate Adverse** (significant) effect is predicted within 600-700 m of the works where 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 Strathconon. Across the wider LCT, the effects would be **Moderate-Minor Adverse** (not significant).

7.5.21 Once operational, the key effects would be focused on western parts of the LCT west of Coille Uisge. The Section E alignment would introduce six towers to the LCT, west of Jamestown (Towers S173-S178). All temporary tracks would be removed, and there would be no permanent access track. From surrounding areas, the towers would form vertical elements within the flat strath floor. The key effects would be focused within a linear corridor within approximately 600-700 m of the alignment, and would be **Major-Moderate Adverse**

(significant). The influence of the Proposed Development would diminish across other parts of the LCT at greater distance, where the effects would be **Moderate-Minor Adverse** (not significant).

LCT 331 – Rounded Rocky Hills – Ross & Cromarty

7.5.22 This LCT encompasses three spatially distinct areas within the Section E Study Area. This includes the LCT area centred on the hills between Strathconon and Glen Orrin, which coincides with a 650 m length of Section E (including Towers S202 and S203). The other areas of the LCT are spatially separate from the Section E alignment.

7.5.23 The construction works would introduce 520 m of temporary access track, and 350 m permanent track to the eastern edge of the LCT. However, the construction activities, including felling of forestry and vehicle movements, would be predominantly experienced in the context of tree cover and forestry on the lower lying slopes to the east (outside the LCT). The key effects would be focused along the eastern edge of LCT area between Strathconon and Glen Orrin. Given the open, elevated views from the hillsides along this edge of the LCT (including Craeg Mhor, Cul Mor, Cul Beag and Cnoc Beinn na Lice), the effects within approximately 800-900 m of the works would be **Major-Moderate Adverse** (significant). At greater distance from the Proposed Development, the effects of the construction activities would diminish steadily, and would be **Moderate-Minor Adverse** (not significant) at most.

7.5.24 Once operational, the Proposed Development would introduce two steel lattice towers on the edge of the LCT, located between existing masts at Cnoc Udais (to the east) and the Auchmore Wind Turbines at Cnoc Beinn na Lice (to the west). As such, the direct effects would be focused within an area already influenced by existing infrastructure. As described above, the Section E alignment would also be experienced in more open views from the upper slopes and summits in the surrounding area. From the slopes and summits of Craeg Mhor, Cul Mor, Cul Beag and Cnoc Beinn na Lice (on the eastern edge of the LCT area between Strathconon and Glen Orrin), the towers would be visible at a distance of 100-200 m, and would form a linear element in the lower-lying slopes to the east. The towers would be experienced in the context of tree cover / forestry, within longer distance views across Strathconon, which includes scattered settlement and existing OHL. Longer distance views would also be experienced from the higher peaks within the LCT area at Carn Loch an Tuirc (including Carn Gorm and Carn Fearna, on its eastern edge), albeit the Proposed Development would represent a distant element in the background landscape. In summary, within 800-900 m of the Section E alignment the effects would be **Major-Moderate Adverse** (significant). At greater distance the effects would diminish steadily, and would be further tempered across western areas by the presence of Fairburn Wind Farm in the intervening landscape. Across other parts of the LCT the effects would be **Moderate-Minor Adverse** (not significant) at most.

LCT 220 – Rugged Massif – Inverness

7.5.25 This LCT encompasses the large-scale mountain landscape west of Beauly. This coincides with a 7.4 km length of the Section E alignment (Towers S204-S226), which extends through an area of rugged upland moorland, as well as localised areas of forestry further south. There would also be a Duck Under with Wood Poles, with live line Scaffold Provision in this area, where the Proposed Development crosses an existing 132 kV OHL near Ardochy.

7.5.26 The key effects would be focused on the eastern edge of the LCT where Section E would extend across moorland and forestry. Construction works would involve the establishment of permanent access tracks to facilitate construction of the new towers and associated vehicular movements. The tracks would predominantly extend across open moorland, albeit further south (coinciding with Towers S222-S226 of the alignment) the tracks would be enclosed by surrounding plantation forestry. As a result, the construction works would be most noticeable within the moorland setting further north. The main effects would be focused within 600-700 m of the

works and would be **Major-Moderate Adverse** (significant). Across the wider LCT the effects would be **Moderate-Minor Adverse** (not significant).

7.5.27 Once operational, the Proposed Development would introduce 23 steel lattice towers to the LCT. Towers S204-S221 would extend across open moorland. The surrounding hillsides would restrict views of the towers from other parts of the LCT, particularly across westerly areas beyond the summits of Beinn nam Fitheach, Mullach Binnean a' Chromhnaird and Beinn a' Chlaonaidh. Towers S222-S226 would be located in the context of surrounding forestry, which would typically restrict views to the upper part of the towers. The towers and permanent access track would be located on the eastern edge of the LCT where the sense of wildness is less pronounced. The key effects would be focused within 600 700 m of the alignment, and would be **Major-Moderate Adverse** (significant). The influence of the Section E alignment upon other parts of the LCT would be reduced due to the intervening landform. Across the other parts of the LCT the effects would be **Moderate-Minor Adverse** (not significant).

LCT 227 – Farmed Strath – Inverness

7.5.28 This LCT encompasses the linear, strath landscape south-west of Beauly. This coincides with a 2.0 km length of the Section E alignment at its southern end (Towers S227-S231), which extends directly across the strath at the northern end of the LCT. Refer to Viewpoint 7-90 A831.

7.5.29 Construction works would include localised forestry felling on the slopes either side of the River Beauly to facilitate 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 S229-S231 (where it would be contained within 200-300 m of the alignment). The construction works would also involvethe creation of new tracks (temporary and permanent). The construction activities would contrast with the existing agricultural landuse within the strath. However, the influence would be reduced by surrounding forestry, which would screen / back-cloth the tracks and associated vehicle movements. Similarly, the influence of these activities on more distant parts of the LCT to the south-west would be restricted by the intervening woodland along the strath floor, and the landform enclosing the valley sides. The main effects would be focused within approximately 400-500 m of the works, and would be **Major-Moderate Adverse** (significant). Across the wider LCT, the effects would be **Moderate-Minor Adverse** (not significant).

7.5.30 Once operational, the Section E alignment would introduce five towers to the LCT area in the Kyle of Sutherland (Towers S227-S231), as well as short sections of permanent access track in the context of existing forestry on the eastern and western sides of the valley (approximately 860 m in total). The towers would represent new elements in views channelled along the northern end of the strath that would contrast with the more rural / natural characteristics of the LCT. However, the towers would be broadly similar in terms of design, albeit taller than the existing OHL, that extends along the strath further north. Furthermore, the alignment would take the shortest route across the strath, reducing its physical footprint upon the LCT, and would be subject to screening by woodland and the enclosing landform across the valley sides. The effect would be **Major-Moderate Adverse** (significant) within approximately 400-500 m of the alignment. The effects would diminish at greater distance due to intervening screening, and would be **Moderate-Minor Adverse** (not significant) across more distant parts of the LCT. Many areas located further to the south-west would be completely unaffected.

LCT 229 – Enclosed Farmland

7.5.31 This LCT encompasses areas of mixed farmland with extensive tree cover / woodland, as well as scattered settlements. The LCT is located at the southern end of the Section E alignment, comprising Tower S232 at its southern terminus. Refer to Viewpoints 7-91 Kiltarlity, 7-93 Rhevackin and 7-94 Teavarran.

7.5.32 The key effects would be focused on the localised western edge of the LCT, which coincides with the southern-most end of the Section E alignment. The construction works would not result in any notable tree felling, or other effects on the existing landscape fabric due to the limited footprint of the Proposed Development within the LCT. Indirect effects, based on views of the activities and vehicle movements, would also be limited due to the extent of tree cover in the surrounding area. In summary, within approximately 600-700m of the works at the southern end of Section E the effects would be **Major-Moderate Adverse** (significant). Across all other parts of the LCT (comprising the vast majority of the LCT) the effects would be **Moderate-Minor Adverse** (not significant) at most.

7.5.33 Operational effects would be focused on the western edge of the LCT, in the vicinity of Fanellan, where the Section E alignment would introduce one tower (Tower S232). There would be no permanent access track. From the surrounding locality, the tower would be experienced on the skyline, alongside other Section E towers extending to the north-west (outside the LCT). The influence of the towers would be reduced by the presence of the existing OHL within the landscape to the east of the towers. Furthermore, these views would be restricted across other parts of the LCT due to the extent of tree cover and woodland. Within approximately 600-700m of the alignment (specifically Tower S232, at the southern end of Section E) the effects would be **Major-Moderate Adverse** (significant). The influence of the Proposed Development would diminish across other parts of the LCT at greater distance, due to screening by intervening woodland. Accordingly, across other parts of the LCT the effects would be **Moderate-Minor Adverse** (not significant).

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

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

- LCT 329 – Rounded Mountain Massif;
- LCT 340 – Strath - Ross & Cromarty;
- LCT 347 – Open Steep Farmed Slopes;
- LCT 339 – Inland Strath;
- LCT 328 – Rugged Mountain Massif - Ross & Cromarty;
- LCT 226 – Wooded Glen – Inverness;
- LCT 228 – Rolling Farmland and Woodland; and
- LCT 222 – Rocky Moorland Plateau – Inverness.

7.5.35 In each case, these LCTs are spatially separate from the Proposed Development within Section E, 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.

7.5.36 During construction and operation, **Moderate-Minor Adverse** (not significant) effects are predicted for LCT 347 – Open Steep Farmed Slopes, LCT 328 Rugged Mountain Massif - Ross & Cromarty, LCT 339 – Inland Strath and LCT 222 – Rocky Moorland Plateau – Inverness. In each case there would be views of the construction activities and / or new alignment within the surrounding landscape. However, these elements would be unlikely to alter the overriding landscape characteristics of these LCTs. Refer to Viewpoints 7-72 Heights of Brae to 7-74 Heights of Inchvannie for LCT 347.

7.5.37 For all other LCTs, potential indirect effects based on views of the Proposed Development would be restricted by separation distance, intervening landform and tree cover screening, and / or the large-scale of the receiving landscape. As a result, large parts of these LCTs would be completely unaffected as a result of the construction activities or the new alignment. In each case, a **Minor Adverse** (not significant) effect is predicted.

Assessment of Effects on Designated and Protected Landscapes

7.5.38 The detailed assessment of designated and protected landscapes has considered three distinct areas, as illustrated in **Volume 3, Figure 7.2-7: Section E Designated and Protected Landscapes**. This includes consideration of potential effects with reference to their Special Qualities. The identified effects are summarised below.

Rhiddoroch - Beinn Dearg - Ben Wyvis WLA

7.5.39 The Rhiddoroch - Beinn Dearg - Ben Wyvis WLA is located 2.9 km north-west of the Section E alignment at the closest point (Tower S153). 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. Refer to Viewpoint 7-67 Ben Wyvis.

7.5.40 There would be no direct, physical change to the landscape within the WLA as a result of the Proposed Development. Potential indirect effects based upon views of the construction activities and new steel lattice towers would be restricted to the southern edge of the WLA. This includes the summits and southerly-facing slopes at Carn Gorm, Cnoc nan Each Mor, Tom na Caillich and Meall na Speiraig. Whilst construction activities and vehicle movements would contrast with the wild and remote qualities of the landscape, their influence would be very limited due to their spatial separation from the WLA, the massive scale of the receiving landscape, and the relatively low-level nature of construction works / vehicle movements. Once operational, the towers would form a linear element in the background landscape to the south. However, their influence upon the natural and wild characteristics of the WLA would be very limited due to the distance of view, the massive scale of the receiving landscape, and the presence of vast swathes of forestry across intervening areas.

7.5.41 In summary, during construction and operation, a **Moderate-Minor Adverse** (not significant) effect is predicted for the southern part of the Rhiddoroch - Beinn Dearg - Ben Wyvis WLA. This includes the vantage points at Carn Gorm, Cnoc nan Each Mor, Tom na Caillich and Meall na Speiraig. The effects would diminish steadily across other parts of the WLA at increased distance from the Section E alignment. There would be no discernible effects upon more remote interior parts of the WLA (comprising the majority of the WLA). Accordingly, it is assessed that the integrity of the WLA would not be compromised.

Central Highlands WLA

7.5.42 The Central Highlands WLA extends across the large mountains, peatland and glens on the south side of Strathconon, towards Glen Orrin. It is located 2.3 km to the west of the Section E alignment at the closest point (Tower S221). The WLA is largely uninhabited and used mainly for deer stalking and fishing, albeit there are dispersed human influences including hydro-electric and forestry around the peripheral areas.

7.5.43 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. This includes the summits of Carn Sgolbaidh, Carn na Cloiche Moire, Carn na Gearrsaich, Beinn nam Fitheach, Mullach Binnean a' Chromhnaird and Beinn a' Chlaonaidh. Within outward views from these areas, the construction works and vehicle movements would contrast with the wild and remote qualities of the local landscape. However, the influence of construction activities would be limited due to the relatively low-level nature of construction works / vehicle movements, which would be subject to screening by intervening summits (including Cul Mor, Cul Beag, Cnoc Beinn na Lice, Cnoc Dubh, Buachaille Breige) and / or experienced beyond existing infrastructure at Fairburn Wind Farm. Once operational, the towers would form a linear component in wider panoramas to the east, subject to screening by the same intervening summits, and / or experienced beyond Fairburn Wind Farm. Accordingly, the influence of the towers upon the natural and wild

characteristics of the WLA would be limited, and further tempered by the large scale of the receiving landscape, and the extensive nature of panoramic views across surrounding mountains.

7.5.44 In summary, during construction the effects on the Central Highlands WLA would be Negligible (not significant). During operation, a **Moderate-Minor Adverse** (not significant) effect is predicted for the eastern edge of the WLA. The effects would diminish steadily across other parts of the WLA at increased distance from the alignment, including the more remote interior parts of the WLA (comprising the majority of the WLA). Accordingly, it is assessed that the integrity of the WLA would not be compromised.

Glen Strathfarrar NSA

7.5.45 The Glen Strathfarrar NSA is located on the south-western part of the Study Area, 7.9 km south-west of the Section E alignment (Tower S222). The NSA encompasses a long, steep-sided glen, extending east-west and focused on Loch Beannacharan and the River Farrar.

7.5.46 There would be no direct, physical change to the landscape within the NSA as a result of the Proposed Development. Potential views of the construction activities would be restricted by the rising landform that encloses the strath, and accordingly would be focused on the highest slopes and summits that demarcate the strath on its northern and southern sides. From open vantage points, the influence of the construction works would be extremely limited based on the distance of view, in combination with the relatively low-level nature of construction works / vehicle movements and intervening tree cover and forestry. Similarly, potential views of the operational towers would also be restricted to more elevated vantage points along the sides of the strath, including Carn Coire na Muic and Blar Mor / Maol nan Ceap. Given the distance of view, the towers would represent extremely discreet additions to the background landscape to the north-east, and would be spatially and geographically separate from the strath landscape. There would be no views of the towers within the lower lying parts of Strathfarrar.

7.5.47 In summary, the effect would be **Minor Adverse** (not significant) during construction and operation. Large parts of Glen Strathfarrar NSA would be completely unaffected. There would be no significant effects upon the Special Qualities of the NSA and its integrity would not therefore be compromised.

Ben Wyvis SLA

7.5.48 The Ben Wyvis SLA is located 2.6 km north-west of the Section E alignment at the closest point (Tower S170). The SLA is centred on the summit of Ben Wyvis, and encompasses the surrounding summits and foothills from Loch Glass in the north to Little Wyvis to the south. The landscape comprises a relatively level ridge, and several corries, with heather moorland, grassland and heath ground cover, as well as coniferous plantations within lower-lying peripheral areas.

7.5.49 There would be no direct, physical change to the landscape within the SLA. ZTV coverage across the SLA is fragmented, and focused on summits and southerly-facing slopes including Carn Gorm, Cnoc nan Each Mor, Tom na Caillich and Meall na Speiraig. From these areas the construction activities and vehicle movements would contrast with the more remote qualities of the landscape. However, the overall influence would be very limited due to their spatial separation from the SLA, the massive scale of the receiving landscape, and the relatively low-level nature of construction works / vehicle movements. The operational towers would form a linear component in wider panoramas to the south, accounting for a relatively narrow angle of view. Due to the separation distance, the towers would represent very discreet elements in the background landscape (refer to Viewpoint 7-67 Ben Wyvis). Accordingly, they would exert very limited influence on the more natural characteristics of the SLA. The influence of the towers would be further restricted by the presence of vast swathes of forestry in the intervening landscape.

7.5.50 In summary, the effects during construction and operation would be **Moderate-Minor Adverse** (not significant) at most, based on views from Carn Gorm, Cnoc nan Each Mor, Tom na Caillich and Meall na Speiraig. The effects would diminish steadily across other parts of the SLA at increased distance from the Section E alignment. As such, there would be no significant effects upon the Special Qualities of the SLA, and its integrity would not be compromised.

Strathconon, Monar and Mullardoch SLA

7.5.51 The Strathconon, Monar and Mullardoch SLA covers an extensive area of remote interior hills between Strathconon, Glen Strathfarrar and Glen Cannich. At its closest point, it is located 9.2 km south-west of the Section E alignment (Tower S222). The area includes large scale open mountain ridges and deep sinuous glens with smaller scale birch and pine woods, rivers and waterbodies, with limited habitation and access. The SLA is located entirely outside the ZTV. Accordingly, there would be no views of the temporary construction activities or the towers during the operational phase. There would be no effects upon the Special Qualities of the SLA, and its integrity would not be compromised.

Summary of Landscape Effects

7.5.52 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 Receptor	Beneficial Effect					Adverse Effect					
	Major	Major-Mod.	Mod.	Mod-Minor	Minor	Neg.	Minor	Mod-Minor	Mod.	Major-Mod.	Major
330 – Rounded Hills and Moorland Slopes - Ross & Cromarty LCT								•		L	
335 – Wooded Glens and Rocky Moorland LCT							•	•		L	
341 – Forest Edge Farming LCT								•		L	
345 – Farmed and Forested Slopes - Ross & Cromarty LCT							•	•		L	
346 – Open Farmed Slopes LCT							•	•		L	
342 – Farmed River Plains LCT										L	
331 – Rounded Rocky Hills - Ross & Cromarty LCT								•		L	
220 – Rugged Massif – Inverness LCT								•		L	
227 – Farmed Strath – Inverness LCT								•		L	
229 – Enclosed Farmland LCT								•		L	
329 – Rounded Mountain Massif LCT								•			
340 – Strath - Ross & Cromarty LCT								•			
347 – Open Steep Farmed Slopes							•				

Landscape Receptor	Beneficial Effect					Adverse Effect					
	Major	Major-Mod.	Mod.	Mod-Minor	Minor	Neg.	Minor	Mod-Minor	Mod.	Major-Mod.	Major
339 – Inland Strath LCT							•	•			
328 – Rugged Mountain Massif - Ross & Cromarty LCT								•			
226 – Wooded Glen – Inverness							•	•			
228 – Rolling Farmland and Woodland LCT							•	•			
222 – Rocky Moorland Plateau – Inverness LCT						•		•			
Rhiddoroch - Beinn Dearg - Ben Wyvis WLA							•	L			
Central Highlands WLA								•			
Glen Strathfarrar NSA							•				
Ben Wyvis SLA							•	•			
Strathconon, Monar and Mullardoch SLA							•				

Table 7.4: Summary of Effects During Operation

Landscape Receptor	Beneficial Effect					Adverse Effect					
	Major	Major-Mod.	Mod.	Mod-Minor	Minor	Neg.	Minor	Mod-Minor	Mod.	Major-Mod.	Major
330 – Rounded Hills and Moorland Slopes - Ross & Cromarty LCT								•		**L**	
335 – Wooded Glens and Rocky Moorland LCT							•	•		**L**	
341 – Forest Edge Farming LCT								•		**L**	
345 – Farmed and Forested Slopes - Ross & Cromarty LCT							•	•		**L**	
346 – Open Farmed Slopes LCT							•	•		**L**	
342 – Farmed River Plains LCT								•		**L**	
331 – Rounded Rocky Hills - Ross & Cromarty LCT							•	•		**L**	
220 – Rugged Massif – Inverness LCT							•	•		**L**	
227 – Farmed Strath – Inverness LCT								•		**L**	
229 – Enclosed Farmland LCT								•		**L**	

Landscape Receptor	Beneficial Effect					Adverse Effect					
	Major	Major-Mod.	Mod.	Mod-Minor	Minor	Neg.	Minor	Mod-Minor	Mod.	Major-Mod.	Major
329 – Rounded Mountain Massif LCT								•			
340 – Strath - Ross & Cromarty LCT								•			
347 – Open Steep Farmed Slopes							•				
339 – Inland Strath LCT							•	•			
328 – Rugged Mountain Massif - Ross & Cromarty LCT								•			
226 – Wooded Glen – Inverness							•	•			
228 – Rolling Farmland and Woodland LCT							•	•			
222 – Rocky Moorland Plateau – Inverness LCT						•		•			
Rhiddoroch - Beinn Dearg - Ben Wyvis WLA							•	L			
Central Highlands WLA								•			
Glen Strathfarrar NSA							•				
Ben Wyvis SLA							•	•			
Strathconon, Monar and Mullardoch 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 **Volume 3, Figure 7.4m: Section E Visual Receptors**, nineteen properties and eight settlements were included in the visual assessment. Likely significant effects are identified for all nineteen residential properties and at four settlements. The key effects are summarised below.

SE-01 Bridgepark Cottage

7.6.3 Views of construction works and the steel lattice towers would be heavily filtered (and partially screened by coniferous tree cover at Bridgepark Wood) in views to the south-west. Tower S193 would be the closest at approx. 200 m. To the south, Tower S194 would be visible at approx. 300 m, filtered by intervening tree cover. There would also be heavily filtered views of the Proposed Development to west, south-west and north-west, experienced against a combination of the background sky and landscape. This would result in **Major Adverse** effects (significant). Due to the broadleaved nature of tree cover, adjacent to the property there would be a reduction in the filtering effects of tree cover in winter months, however, this is not expected to change the levels of effect due the density and type of vegetation.

SE-02 Mid Lodge

7.6.4 Views of construction works and the steel lattice towers would be heavily filtered in views towards the north / north-east. This includes potential views of Tower S167, which represents the closest tower to the property (at a distance of 225 m). Instead, Tower S168, which is located at slightly greater distance, 350 m to the south-east, would be more visible, albeit would also be filtered by mature woodland along the curtilage. As such, there would be oblique, filtered views of the Proposed Development to the south-east, experienced against a combination of background sky and landscape. This would result in **Major-Moderate Adverse** effects (significant), based on views in winter months.

SE-03: Heights of Kinnahaird

7.6.5 View of the construction works and introduction of the steel lattice towers would be experienced at close proximity to the south-east. Tower S171 is the closest and would be viewed at an oblique angle to the south-east at approx. 228 m distance. Tower S170 would also be viewed at an oblique angle at 390 m to the east and Tower S172 would also be visible in views to the south at approx. 340 m. There would be views of Proposed Development at close range to the east, partially screened by curtilage buildings and filtered by intervening tree cover, against a combination of the background sky and landscape. Views to the south-east would be at close range and predominantly against the background sky and views to the south would be predominantly against the background landscape. This would result in **Major Adverse** effects (significant).

SE-04 Bruaich Cottages

7.6.6 Views of the construction works and the steel lattice towers would be experienced at close proximity, with Tower S173 the closest at 230 m to the west. In addition, Tower S172 would be approx. 250 m to the north-west and would be partially screened by the intervening roadside embankment / landform. There would be oblique views of Proposed Development at close range to the west predominantly against the background sky, filtered by curtilage vegetation. Views to the north and north-east would be partially screened by road embankment landform. This would result in **Major Adverse** effects (significant) based on proximity and angle of view occupied.

SE-05: Ben View

7.6.7 View of the construction works and introduction of the steel lattice towers would be experienced at close proximity to the south-east (refer to Viewpoint 7-81 A835 (south-east of Contin), located nearby on the A835). Tower S173 would be the closest to the property and would be viewed at an oblique angle to the south-east at a distance of approx. 240 m. Tower S174 would also be viewed at close proximity to the south at 390 m, and to the north-east Tower S172 would be visible at 425 m. There would be partially screened views (beyond adjacent shed buildings) of the Proposed Development at close range to the south and south-east, predominantly against the background landscape. There would also be views to the north-east against a combination of the background sky and landscape up to distances of approx. 1 km. This would result in **Major Adverse** effects (significant). There would be a slight reduction in the filtering effects of tree cover in winter months, however, this is not expected to change the levels of effect due the density and type of vegetation.

SE-06 Grieves Cottage

7.6.8 View of the construction works and introduction of the steel lattice towers would be experienced at close proximity. Tower S172 would be the closest at 250 m to the north-west. In addition, Tower S171 would be approx. 330 m to the north and Tower S173 would be approx. 400 m to the south-west. There would be views of Proposed Development at close range to the north-west, predominately against the background sky. Views of Proposed Development to the north and north-east would be against a combination of background sky and

landscape at distances of between 330 m and 670 m. This would result in **Major Adverse** effects (significant) based on proximity and angle of view occupied.

SE-07 Broompark

7.6.9 Views of construction works and the steel lattice towers would be extremely limited due to the concentration of the surrounding tree cover within the curtilage. This includes potential views of Tower S169, which would be the closest to the property at 260 m distance. As such, potential views of the Proposed Development, to the west, north-west and south-west would be heavily filtered, and experienced against a combination of the background sky and landscape. This would result in **Moderate Adverse** effects (significant) based on proximity and angle of view in winter months.

SE-08 Wester Newton

7.6.10 Views of the construction works and the steel lattice towers would be experienced at close proximity to the south-east, east and north-east, filtered by tree cover. Tower S179 would be the closest to the south-east at approx. 280 m to the south-east, and would be viewed at an oblique angle. Tower S178 would be viewed to the east at 340 m. There would be filtered views of the Special Arrangement (diamond duck under arrangement) to the south-east, between Tower S178 and S179. Views to the north-east would be heavily filtered by tree cover along the river corridor, against a combination of the background sky and landscape. This would result in **Major-Moderate Adverse** effects (significant), based on proximity and angle of view occupied in winter months.

SE-09 Kinnahaird

7.6.11 View of the construction works and introduction of the steel lattice towers would be experienced at close proximity. Tower S172 would be the closest at 300 m to the north-west of the property. Tower S173 would also be located in close proximity to the property (approx.330 m to the west), although would be filtered by curtilage vegetation. There would be oblique views of Proposed Development at close range to the west against a combination of background sky and landscape. Views to the north-west would be predominately against the background sky, filtered by curtilage tree cover. This would result in **Major Adverse** effects (significant), based on proximity and angle of view occupied in winter months.

SE-10 Achnacoul

7.6.12 Views of construction works and the steel lattice towers would be extremely limited due to the concentration of the surrounding tree cover within the curtilage. In views to the north, north-east and east, the Proposed Development would be heavily filtered by adjacent woodland, and experienced against the background sky. This includes views of Tower S167, which would be located closest to the property at a distance of 340 m to the north-east. To the south-east, views would be partially screened by intervening landform and heavily filtered by tree cover, and experienced at a minimum distance of 790 m. This would result in **Moderate Adverse** effects (significant), based on views in winter months.

SE-11 Oakmor

7.6.13 View of the construction works and introduction of the steel lattice towers would be experienced at close proximity to the south-east (refer to Viewpoint 7-80 A834 (east of Contin), located nearby on the A834). Tower S171 would be the closest to the property and would be viewed at an oblique angle to the primary direction of view, at a distance of approx. 370 m. Views of this tower would be filtered by intervening tree cover. Tower S172 would also be visible to the south-east at approx. 380 m. There would also be views of the Proposed Development at close range to the east and north-east, experienced against a combination of the background sky and landscape, and heavily filtered by intervening tree cover. Views to the south and south-east would be against a combination of the background sky and landscape. This would result in **Major-Moderate Adverse** effects (significant), based on proximity and angle of view occupied in winter months.

SE-12 Jacksons Cottage

7.6.14 Views of construction works and introduction of the steel lattice towers would be extremely limited, due to the concentration of the surrounding tree cover. This includes potential views of Tower S186, which represents the closest tower to the property, at a distance of 320 m to the south-west. There would be heavily filtered views of the Proposed Development to the south-west and south, through gaps in the intervening woodland. The Proposed Development would be experienced against a combination of the background sky and landscape. This would result in **Moderate Adverse** effects (significant). There would be a reduction in the filtering effects of tree cover in winter months, however, this is not expected to change the levels of effect due the density of the vegetation.

SE-13 Orrin Cottage

7.6.15 Views of construction works and introduction of the steel lattice towers would be extremely limited, due to the concentration of the surrounding tree cover. This includes potential views of Tower S186, which represents the closest tower to the property, at a distance of 275 m to the south-west. There would heavily filtered views of the Proposed Development, to north-west, south-west and south through gaps in the intervening woodland. The Proposed Development would be experienced against a combination of the background sky and landscape. This would result in **Major-Moderate Adverse** effects (significant). Due to the broadleaved nature of surrounding tree cover, there would be a reduction in the filtering effects of tree cover in winter months, however, this is not expected to change the levels of effect due the density and type of vegetation.

SE-14 Sawmill Cottage

7.6.16 Views of construction works and introduction of the steel lattice towers would be extremely limited, due to the concentration of the surrounding tree cover. This includes potential views of Tower S187, which represents the closest tower to the property, at a distance of 380 m to the south-west. There would heavily filtered views of the Proposed Development, to north-west, south-west and south, through gaps in the intervening woodland. The Proposed Development would be experienced against a combination of the background sky and landscape. This would result in **Major-Moderate Adverse** effects (significant). Due to the broadleaved nature of surrounding tree cover, there would be a reduction in the filtering effects of tree cover in winter months, however, this is not expected to change the levels of effect due the density and type of vegetation.

SE-15 Coul Garden Cottage

7.6.17 Views of construction works and the steel lattice towers would be heavily filtered in views to the north and north-east. Whilst Tower S167 is the closest to the property, at a distance of 460 m, it would be predominantly screened from view. Instead, Tower S168 would be the most visible, at a distance of 540 m to the south-east, although it would also be filtered by mature woodland along the intervening curtilage. There would be oblique filtered views of the Proposed Development to the south-east, experienced against a combination of background sky and landscape. By contrast views to north, north-west, north-east would be very limited due to the concentration of tree cover. This would result in **Moderate Adverse** effects (significant). Due to the broadleaved nature of surrounding tree cover, there would a slight reduction in the filtering effects of tree cover in winter months.

SE-16 Auchederson Farmhouse

7.6.18 There would be views of construction works and introduction of the steel lattice towers to the north-east. Tower S195 would be located closest to the property, at a distance of 470 m. In addition, there would be relatively close proximity views of Tower S194 (540 m to the north-east), and Towers S196 & S197 (590 m to the east), subject to screening by intervening woodland. There would partially screened views of the Proposed Development to the north-east and east, against a combination of the background sky and landscape. Views of

the Proposed Development to the south-east would be experienced against a combination of the background sky and landscape. This includes longer distance views of Section E, out to distances of approximately 2.5 km (where the route increases in elevation).This would result in **Major-Moderate Adverse** effects (significant).

SE-17 Gas Street Cottage

7.6.19 There would be oblique heavily filtered views of the construction works and introduction of steel lattice towers to the west and north-west. Tower S178 would be located closest to the property, at a distance of 520 m to the north-west. There would be oblique views of the Proposed Development to the west and north, experienced against the background landscape and filtered by intervening forestry at Ruttle Wood. Views to the north and north-east would be more open and the Proposed Development would be visible against the background. This would result in **Moderate Adverse** effects (significant). There would be a reduction in the filtering effects of tree cover in winter months, however, this is not expected to change the levels of effect due the density and type of vegetation.

SE-18 Wester Kinellan

7.6.20 The construction works and steel lattice towers would be experienced in the landscape to the west and north-west, oblique to the primary direction of view from the property, and subject to screening by intervening tree cover. Tower S164 would be located in closest proximity at a distance of 520 m. The Proposed Development would be most visible in views to the west / north-west. Within these views the towers would be experienced predominantly above the horizon, against the sky. Potential views to the north would be screened by landform, and views to the north-east would be partially screened by intervening landform and filtered by intervening tree cover (located around the curtilage and within intervening farmland). Views to the south-west would also be predominantly screened by intervening landform. This would result in **Major-Moderate Adverse** effects (significant). Due to the broadleaved nature of surrounding tree cover, there would a slight reduction in the filtering effects of tree cover in winter months.

SE-19 Upper Weston Fanellan Croft

7.6.21 There would be oblique views of the construction works and introduction of steel lattice towers. Tower S232 would be located closest to the property at a distance of 550 m to the north-west. This tower would be experienced against a combination of background sky and landscape, and filtered by intervening forestry at Ruttle Wood. Views of other (more distant) parts of the Section E alignment to the north and north-west would be predominantly screened by combination of landform and forestry. This would result in **Moderate Adverse** effects (significant).

SE-20 Jamestown

7.6.22 Views of the construction works and steel lattice towers would be extremely limited due to the concentration of intervening woodland to the west (Viewpoint 7-78 Jamestown illustrates views from the outer edge of the settlement). This includes potential views of Tower S168, which would be located closest to the settlement at a distance of 540 m to the west. There would be clearer visibility of Tower S169 from the southern edge of the settlement. Within these localised views, this tower would be experienced at a distance of 615 m to the south-west. Views of wider parts of the Proposed Development would also be confined to properties on the southern edge of the settlement, and would be experienced against a combination of background sky and landscape. Within wider views to the south-west over Strath Conon, the Proposed Development would be visible against the background landscape up to distances of 5 km. These views would be filtered by tree cover in and around the settlement and within the intervening farmland. This would result in **Moderate Adverse** effects (significant), based on views from the southern settlement edge. Potential views from all other parts of the settlement would be well-screened due to the concentration of intervening tree cover, resulting in **Moderate-Minor effects Adverse** (not significant).

SE-21 Contin

7.6.23 There would be views of the construction works and introduction of steel lattice towers from south-eastern settlement edge. Tower S173 would be located in closest proximity to the settlement at a distance of 580 m to the south-east. This tower would be experienced against a combination of background sky and landscape, and filtered by intervening tree cover. Potential views of wider parts of the Proposed Development to the east and north-east would be subject to screening by the intervening landform and filtered by intervening tree cover. This would result in **Moderate Adverse** effects (significant), based on views from the south-eastern settlement edge, **Moderate-Minor-Adverse** (not significant) from other of the parts settlement.

SE-22 Strathpeffer

7.6.24 Strathpeffer is located 1.1 km to the east of Section E at the closest point (Tower S164). The construction works and steel lattice towers would be partially visible from localised residential areas on the outer edge of the settlement, and would represent distant elements in the background landscape towards the west. There would also be partial views of wider (more distant) parts of the Proposed Development in views to the south-west, up to distances of approximately 6 km. These views would also be restricted to localised, elevated areas on the edge of the settlement, and would be subject to screening by intervening tree cover. Views from other parts of the settlement would be subject to increased screening due to intervening buildings, tree cover and the underlying landform. This would result in **Moderate Adverse** effects (significant), based on the most open views from the edge of the settlement.

SE-24 Marybank

7.6.25 Marybank is located 2.1 km to the east of Section E at the closest point (Tower S173). Views of the construction works and introduction of steel lattice towers would be visible to the north-west from the settlement edge subject to screening by intervening tree cover. Views of Proposed Development extending across wider parts of Strath Conon to the west and north-west would be experienced at distances of up to approx. 3.2 km, against the background landscape and filtered by intervening tree cover. Views to the south-west would be partially screened by landform and filtered by intervening woodland. The clearest views would be applicable to those properties located at the settlement edges and this would result in **Moderate Adverse** effects (significant), based on the most open views from the edge of the settlement. Potential views from all other parts of the settlement would be limited, resulting in **Moderate-Minor Adverse** effects (not significant).

Other settlements

7.6.26 No significant effects are identified from other settlements due to separation distance from the alignment and the screening influence of intervening landform and tree cover. The visual effect experienced by residents within the settlements of Kiltarlity (SE-23), Beauly (SE-26), Muir of Ord (SE-25) and Dingwall (SE-27) would be not significant in each case during construction and operation (refer to Viewpoints 7-88 Muir of Ord and 7-91 Kiltarlity, located on the road network near Muir of Ord and Kiltarlity respectively).

Transport Routes

7.6.27 With reference to **Volume 3, Figure 7.4n: Section E Visual Receptors**, ten key transport routes have been included in the visual assessment. Likely significant effects are identified for localised sections of seven of these routes, during both construction and operation. Five of these transport routes would be located directly under the alignment. The key effects are summarised below.

A Roads

7.6.28 The A834 (RE-01) extends directly under the alignment between properties at Heights of Kinnahaird and Broompark (between Towers S169 and S170). From this localised section, road users travelling east and west

would experience close-proximity views of the construction works and steel lattice towers (refer to Viewpoints 7-79 A834 (south west of Jamestown) and 7-80 A834 (east of Contin)). Tower S170 would be located closest to the south at approx. 155 m, and Tower S169 would be located to the north at approx. 125 m. The Proposed Development would be visible at close range for a short section of the road up to distances of 400 m in views north, appearing against a combination of the background sky and landscape. Close range views to the south-east, south and south-west would be experienced against a combination of the background sky and landscape. From other sections of the route, located to the west of the alignment (near Contin) and east (between Jamestown and Dingwall) would be more limited. This would result in **Major-Moderate Adverse** (significant) effects across localised sections within 400 m of the Proposed Development during construction and operation. This accounts for a limited extent of the transport route and would be experienced by respective road users for a short duration. Effects on wider sections of the route would be **Moderate-Minor Adverse** (not significant).

7.6.29 The A835 (RE-03) road extends directly under the alignment between Ben View and Brauch Cottage. There would be views at close-proximity of the construction works and steel lattice towers (refer to Viewpoints 7-81 and 7-82). Tower S173 would be located in closest proximity to the road at approx. 55 m to the south-west. Tower S172 would be located 190 m to the north-east. The Proposed Development would be visible at close range for a short section of the route up to distances of 500 m, in views to north, south, south-west and north-east against a combination of the background sky and landscape. From wider sections of the route to the north-west, near Contin, views would be partially screened by intervening landform and buildings, hence potential views would drop-off abruptly. Views of the Proposed Development from wider sections of the road to the east would also be intermittent due to road corridor vegetation and intervening tree cover. This would result in **Major-Moderate Adverse** (significant) effects across localised sections of the route within 500 m of the Proposed Development during construction and operation. This accounts for a limited extent of each route and would be experienced by respective road users for a short duration. Effects on wider sections of the route would be **Moderate-Minor Adverse** (not significant).

7.6.30 The A831 (RE-04) extends directly under the alignment between Aigas Dam Power Station and Crask of Aigas, between Towers S228 and S229 (refer to Viewpoint 7-90 A831). Tower S228 would be located closest to the road, 270 m to the north, partially screened by landform. Tower S229 would be approx. 300 m to the south-east. From this section of the road, there would be views of the Proposed Development at close range up to distances of approx. 300 m within the river valley. The Proposed Development would be experienced against a combination of background sky and landscape, and filtered by intervening tree cover at Ruttle Wood. Views at greater distance from sections of the road to the south and south-west would be partially screened by steep landform along the road corridor and would be filtered by intervening tree cover. This would result in **Major-Moderate Adverse** (significant) effects across localised sections within 300 m of the Proposed Development during construction and operation. This accounts for a limited extent of each route and would be experienced by respective road users for a short duration. Effects on wider sections of the route would be **Moderate-Minor Adverse** (not significant).

7.6.31 Views from other A roads, including A832, A833 and A862 would be more limited due to a combination of distance, intervening landform, roadside vegetation and intervening tree cover (refer to Viewpoint 7-83 Marybank Road on the A832). Accordingly, the influence of the construction activities and new steel lattice towers would reduce, and result in **Minor Adverse** (not significant) effects at most during construction and operation.

Rail Links

7.6.32 The Dingwall to Kyle of Lochalsh Rail Link (RE-05) extends along the valley of the River Peffrey, where it would pass under the Section E alignment (between Towers S152 and S153). From the section of the route between Achterneed and Raven Rock, there would be views of the construction works and steel lattice towers at close range. Tower S152 would be located in closest proximity to the route, at approximately 100 m to the north. The

Proposed Development would be experienced in views to north and south, in the context of surrounding tree cover and forestry. This accounts for a short section of the overall rail corridor. From wider sections of the route to the west, views of the Proposed Development would be predominantly screened by intervening landform and forestry. Potential views would drop-off abruptly on this basis. Similarly, potential views from wider sections of the route to the east would be restricted by the intervening landform. There would be partial views of the Proposed Development in the distant landscape to the south-west, (at distances of between 4 km and 5 km). The Proposed Development would represent a distant element within the background landscape, subject to screening by intervening tree cover and track-side vegetation. This would result in **Major-Moderate Adverse** (significant) effects across localised sections within 500 m of the Proposed Development during construction and operation. This accounts for a limited extent of the route and would be experienced for a short duration. Effects on wider sections of the route would be **Moderate-Minor Adverse** (not significant).

Minor Roads

7.6.33 Achonachie Road (RE-02) extends directly under the alignment between access to Muirton Mains and Loch Achonachie (between Towers S177 and S178). There would be close-proximity views of the construction works and steel lattice towers from this section. Tower S178 would be closest at approx. 55 m to the south-west. Tower S177 would be located 190 m to the north-east. There would also be filtered views of the Special Arrangement (diamond duck under arrangement) at close range to the north-west, between Towers S178 and S179. There would be views of the Proposed Development at close range between access to Muirton Mains and Loch Achonachie up to distances of 400m in views to the north, north-west, south and south-east. Views would be predominantly experienced against the background landscape and heavily filtered by tree cover (refer to Viewpoint 7-84 Achonochie Road (west of Marybank)). Views of Proposed Development would be heavily filtered by tree cover from more distant sections of the route. This would result in **Major-Moderate Adverse** (significant) effects across localised sections within 400 m of the Proposed Development during construction and operation. This accounts for a limited extent of each route and would be experienced by respective road users for a short duration. Effects on wider sections of the route would be **Moderate-Minor Adverse** (not significant). Due to the broadleaved nature of tree cover, adjacent to the road there would be a reduction in the filtering effects of tree cover in winter months, however, this is not expected to change the levels of effect due to the density of the vegetation.

7.6.34 Minor road between Marybank and Muir of Ord (RE-06) - Views of the construction works and new steel lattice towers from the closest road sections would be filtered by intervening woodland. Tower S196 would be located in closest proximity at approx. 330 m to the south-west. There would be views at close range to the west and south-west of the Proposed Development near Auchnagowrie Bridge, filtered by intervening woodland and experienced against a combination of the background landscape and sky. Views of the Proposed Development to the west, between Auchnagowrie Bridge and Muir of Ord would be subject to screening in places by the intervening landform and forestry (Auchmore Wood) experienced against a combination of the sky and background landscape (refer to Viewpoints 7-87 Aultgowrie and 7-88 Muir of Ord). Views to the north-west would also be partially screened by landform and filtered by tree cover. Views of the Proposed Development to the south-west, west and north from sections between Auchnagowrie Bridge and Muir of Fairburn would be heavily filtered by coniferous woodland within Fairburn estate. This would result in **Moderate Adverse** (significant) effects. There would be a reduction in the filtering effects of tree cover in winter months, however, this is not expected to change the levels of effect due the density and type of vegetation.

7.6.35 Minor road between Blackbridge and Struy (RE-07) - There would be views of construction works and introduction of steel lattice towers to the west, north-west and south-west from the localised section of the road at Fanellan. Tower S232 would be the closest at 630 m. There would be views of the Proposed Development at close range to west, north-west and south-west from section of the road at Fanellan against the background sky and landscape. Views of the Proposed Development to the west and south-west from section of the road

between Blackbridge and Fanellan Croft would be partiality screened by landform and heavily filtered by tree cover. This would result in **Moderate Adverse** (significant) effects based on open views from closest sections of the transport route.

7.6.36 Views of the Proposed Development from other minor routes within the Study Area, including the network to the south-east of RE-07, near Culburnie and those to the west of Beauly at Broallen would be restricted by a combination of landform, roadside vegetation, intervening tree cover and the increasing distance of view. Accordingly, the influence of the construction activities and new steel lattice towers would reduce. Across the wider road network, the effects would be **Moderate-Minor Adverse** (not significant) at most during construction and operation.

Recreational Routes

7.6.37 With reference to **Volume 3, Figure 7.4n: Section E Visual Receptors**, 25 recreational routes have been identified in the visual assessment. Likely significant effects have been identified at 14 (localised sections), during both construction and operation. Of these paths, five would be located directly under the alignment route and six others would be located within 1 km of the closest tower. The key effects are summarised below.

RE-11 Orrin Dam track (RC30.01)

7.6.38 The eastern end of the path intersects the Proposed Development between Towers S187 and S188. The construction works and introduction of new steel lattice towers would be experienced at close proximity from eastern sections of the path extending within approximately 700 m of the alignment (within forest management areas). Upgraded tracks for construction would be visible at close range. Tower S187 would be the closest to the path, at approximately 20 m. Within close proximity views the Proposed Development would be visible predominantly against background sky, albeit filtered by intervening forest cover. This would result in **Major Adverse** (significant) effects across localised sections within 700 m of the Proposed Development during construction and operation. This accounts for a limited extent of each footpath and would be experienced by respective path users for a short duration. Effects on wider sections of the route would be **Minor Adverse** (not significant).

RE-12 Mains of Coul (RC10.04)

7.6.39 This path intersects the Proposed Development between Towers S168 and S169. There would be close range views of construction works and the steel towers in the landscape to the north and south (Tower S168 would be the closest at 100 m to the north). Views of ground-based construction activities and the towers at close range to the north would be heavily filtered by intervening mature tree cover along the path corridor. More open views of the Proposed Development would be experienced towards the south. These views would be limited to sections of the path between the Broompark and Coul House Hotel. From this section there would be views of construction activity and the towers, partly filtered by tree cover. The Proposed Development would be experienced in the context of farmland and tree cover within Strath Conon, against a combination of background sky and landscape. The clearest views would extend out to approximately 700 m from the alignment. Views from other sections of the path, further to the east and west, would be subject to screening by intervening tree cover. This would result in **Major Adverse** (significant) effects across localised sections within 700 m of the Proposed Development during construction and operation. Effects on wider sections of the route would be **Moderate Adverse** (significant).

RE-13 Kinellan link path (RC10.07)

7.6.40 The eastern end of this footpath intersects the Proposed Development between Towers S163 and S164 (Tower 163 would be the closest at approximately 50 m to the north). There would be close range views of the construction works and steel towers from the eastern end of the path, particularly within distances of up to

500 m from the alignment. From this section of the path, the Proposed Development would be experienced in the landscape to the north and south, subject to screening by intervening forestry. Views of the Proposed Development from the more distant north-western sections of the path would be extremely limited due to intervening forestry. This would result in **Major Adverse** (significant) effects across localised sections within 500 m of the Proposed Development during construction and operation. Effects on wider sections of the route would be **Negligible** (not significant).

RE-14 Kinellan link path (RC10.07)

7.6.41 The construction works and steel lattice towers would be experienced at close range from the western sections of path (Tower S163 would be located 120 m to the west). From this section of the path, the Proposed Development would be visible to the north-west, west and south-west, subject to intervening woodland screening. There would also be partial views of the Proposed Development from the more distant sections of path around the loch, including parts of the alignment to the west and south-west (at distances of up to 1 km). Within these views the Proposed development would be predominantly experienced against the background sky and filtered by intervening tree cover (refer to Viewpoint 7-76 Loch Kinellan). The Proposed Development would gradually become more screened by intervening landform, as the route extends further to the south. Potential views of the Proposed Development from the northern sections of the path would be heavily filtered by woodland. Where there are gaps in the woodland, the Proposed Development would be visible against a combination of background sky and landscape, in views to the west and north-west. To south and south west Proposed Development would be visible against the background landscape. This would result in **Major Adverse** (significant) effects across localised sections within 500 m of the Proposed Development during construction and operation. Effects on wider sections of the route would be **Minor** (not significant).

RE-15 Orrin circular - Fairburn (RC30.02)

7.6.42 There would be filtered views of the construction works and introduction of steel lattice towers at close range from a localised section of the path near Bridgepark Cottage. Tower S192 would be the closest at 200 m to the west. The clearest views would be experienced within distances of up to 500 m from the alignment, subject to filtering by intervening tree cover and visible against a combination of the background sky and landscape (refer to Viewpoint 7-87 Aultgowrie). In addition, there would be close range views of the Proposed Development from western path sections to the south, south-west and north-west (Tower S187 would be closest at 200 m to the west). Again, the clearest views would be experienced from sections of the path within 500 m of the Proposed Development, near the Orrin Dam track, filtered by intervening tree cover. Potential longer distance views from eastern path sections would be heavily filtered by tree cover. This would result in **Major Adverse** (significant) effects across localised sections within 500 m of the Proposed Development during construction and operation. This accounts for a limited extent of the path route and would be experienced by respective path users for a short duration. Effects on wider sections of the route would be **Minor** (not significant).

RE-16 View Rock RC10.01

7.6.43 The Proposed Development would be visible from localised sections of the path in closest proximity to the Section E alignment (refer to Viewpoint 7-77 View Rock, Contin A and B). This includes the View Rock Viewpoint. The construction works and steel lattice towers would be experienced in views to the east, north-east and south east, subject screening by intervening to woodland. Tower S164 would be the closest at 260 m to the east. Potential views from more distant sections of the path, including the southern section that connects with to the car park near Black Water (located at the edge of the forest) would be limited due to a combination of intervening landform and tree cover. This would result in **Major-Moderate Adverse** (significant) effects based on the clearest views.

RE-17 Strathpeffer - Jamestown (Blackmuir Woods) RC45.05

7.6.44 This path is located 790 m to the east of Section E at the closest point (Tower S168). Potential views of the construction works and steel lattice towers would be limited due to the concentration of intervening tree cover. Views from the closest sections (on the northern edge of Jamestown) would be extremely limited due to a combination of intervening buildings and woodland cover (to the west of the settlement). Potential views of the Proposed Development from other sections of the path (on the edge of Strathpeffer) would be experienced out to distances of approximately 1.2 km to the west, against a combination of background sky and landscape, albeit heavily filtered by intervening tree cover. This would result in **Moderate Adverse** (significant) effects during construction and operation based on the clearest views

RE-18 Ord Wood west – Kinellan (RC45.03)

7.6.45 This path is located 940 m to the east of Section E at the closest point (Tower S159). Potential views of the construction works and steel lattice towers in the landscape to the west / north-west would be partially screened by intervening landform, appearing against the background sky. Within the most open views, the Proposed Development would be partially visible to the south-west, at distances of between 1 km and 1. 6 km, appearing predominantly against the background landscape, filtered by intervening tree cover. This would result in **Moderate Adverse** (significant) effects during construction and operation based on the clearest views.

RE-19 Contin Island RC10.05

7.6.46 There would be views of the construction works and introduction of steel lattice towers to the south-east filtered by intervening tree cover. Tower S173 would be located closest to the path at 950 m to the south-east. Views of the Proposed Development to the south-east would be filtered by intervening tree cover (at Black Water) and experienced against a combination of background sky and landscape. Views to the east / north-east would be predominantly screened by intervening buildings and filtered by tree cover. This would result in **Moderate Adverse** (significant) effects across localised sections of the path during construction and operation. There would be a reduction in the filtering effects of tree cover in winter months, however, this is not expected to change the levels of effect due the density and type of vegetation.

RE-22 Ord Hill (RC32.07)

7.6.47 There would be views of construction works and introduction of steel lattice towers from the summit in views to the west, south-west and north-west (refer to Viewpoint 7-89 Cnoc Croit). Views of the Proposed Development from the hill summit would be experienced against a combination of the background sky and landscape. Views of the Proposed Development to the south-west and west from path sections at lower elevation would be partially screened by landform and subject to forest screening levels. This would result in **Moderate Adverse** (significant) effects across localised sections of the path route during construction and operation.

RE-24 Golf course - Ord Wood east (RC45.07)

7.6.48 This path is located 1.3 km to the south-east of Section E at the closest point (Tower S157). Potential views of the construction works and steel lattice towers would be restricted by the intervening landform and tree cover. The most open views of the Proposed Development would be experienced from the western and north-western sections of the path. From these sections, the Proposed Development would be partially visible in the distance to the north, experienced against the combination of background sky and landscape, beyond intervening tree cover. Potential views of the Proposed Development to the west / south-west would be filtered by intervening tree cover. This would result in **Moderate Adverse** (significant) effects during construction and operation based on the clearest views.

RE-25 Blackmuir Woods - maze circular RC45.04

7.6.49 This path is located 1.3 km to the east of Section E at the closest point (Tower S165). Potential views of the construction works and steel lattice towers would be subject to screening by intervening tree cover, including woodland at Blackmuir Wood. Where there are localised gaps in tree cover, the Proposed Development would be visible against a combination of the background landscape and sky in views towards the west. From western and north-western sections of the path there would also be longer distance views, encompassing parts of the Proposed Development towards the north-west and south-west, at distances of approximately 2.5 – 3.0 km. Within these views the Proposed Development would represent a distant element in the background landscape, beyond intervening tree cover. This would result in **Moderate Adverse** (significant) effects during construction and operation based on the clearest views.

RE-28 Ardival - Catsback - Loch Ussie (RC45.09)

7.6.50 This path is located 2.2 km to the south-east of Section E at the closest point (Tower S156). 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, north west, west and south-west. In views to the north and north-west, the Proposed Development would be experienced in the context of wider, panoramic views of rugged hills, and would be viewed against a combination of background landscape and sky. Views to the west / south-west would be experienced at distances of approx. 2.3 km to 2.6 km, partially screened by landform and filtered by intervening tree cover. This would result in **Moderate Adverse** (significant) effects during construction and operation based on the clearest views.

RE-32 Strathpeffer Walking and Cycling Routes (Torrachilty Forest)

7.6.51 This series of paths intersects the Proposed Development at four locations (near Towers S159, S160, S161 and S163). There would be close range views of construction works and the steel lattice towers from these sections of the path (refer to Viewpoint 7-77 A and B View Rock, Contin). The clearest views would be experienced within distances of 500 m of the alignment, subject to intervening forest screening. Potential views from wider sections of the paths would be concentrated on localised sections at higher elevation, subject to intervening screening, where the Proposed Development would be experienced against a combination of the background landscape and sky and heavily filtered by tree cover. This would result in **Major Adverse** (significant) effects across localised sections within 500 m of the Proposed Development during construction and operation. Effects on wider sections of the route would be **Minor** (not significant).

RE-33 Strathpeffer Walking and Cycling Routes (North of Strathpeffer Golf Course)

7.6.52 This series of paths intersects the Proposed Development at two locations (near Towers S152 and S157). There would be close range views of the construction works and the steel lattice towers from these sections of the path. The clearest views would be experienced within distances of 500 m of the alignment, subject to intervening forest screening. This includes a localised section extending through the valley of the River Peffery, where the Proposed Development would be experienced at close range, against a combination of the background landscape and sky, in the context of surrounding tree cover. Potential views from other sections of the paths would be concentrated on localised sections at higher elevation, subject to intervening screening. This would result in **Major Adverse** (significant) effects across localised sections within 500 m of the Proposed Development during construction and operation. Effects on wider sections of the route would be **Minor** (not significant).

Other Recreational Routes

7.6.53 For all other paths, located at greater distance from the Proposed Development, 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 **Minor Adverse** (not significant) at most during construction and operation.

Outdoor Locations

7.6.54 With reference to **Volume 3, Figure 7.4m: Section E Visual Receptors**, eight outdoor locations have been identified in the visual assessment. Significant effects are identified for five locations, during both construction and operation. The key effects are summarised below.

OE01 Coul House Hotel

7.6.55 Views of the construction works and introduction of steel lattice towers would be experienced to the south / south-east from the southern edge of the hotel grounds. Tower S170 would be located in closest proximity, 480 m to the south-east. Within these views the Proposed Development would be predominantly experienced against the background landscape and heavily filtered by intervening tree cover. In contrast, potential views from central and northern parts of the hotel grounds would be contained by surrounding tree cover and intervening built form. As such, potential views of the alignment to north / north-east would be limited. Based on views from the southern edge of the hotel grounds, the effect would be **Moderate Adverse** (significant). Due to the broadleaved nature of surrounding tree cover, there would be a reduction in the filtering effects of tree cover in winter months, however, this is not expected to change the levels of effect due the density of the vegetation.

OE-02 Falls of Orrin

7.6.56 Potential views of the construction works and steel lattice towers to the south-west would be subject to screening by intervening woodland. Tower S192 would be located in closest proximity, at a distance of 420 m to the south-west. Within localised gaps in tree cover, the Proposed Development would be viewed to the south-west, against the background landscape heavily filtered by tree cover. This would result in **Moderate Adverse** (significant) effects. Due to the broadleaved nature of surrounding tree cover, there would be a reduction in the filtering effects of tree cover in winter months, however, this is not expected to change the levels of effect due the density of the vegetation.

OE-03 Fairburn Activity Centre

7.6.57 Views of the construction works and introduction of steel lattice towers would be subject to screening by intervening woodland. Tower S186 would be located in closest proximity, at a distance of 560 m to the south-west. Within localised gaps in tree cover the Proposed Development would be viewed to the west and south-west at relatively close range, albeit heavily filtered by tree cover and experienced against the background landscape. Where there are gaps in the woodland there would also be longer distance views of the Proposed Development to the north, north-east, and south-east, filtered by tree cover and experienced against the background landscape (refer to Viewpoints 7-85 Fairburn Drive (west) and 7-86 Fairburn Drive (east), within the wider Fairburn Estate). This would result in **Moderate Adverse** (significant) effects applicable to views where there are gaps in the woodland with most open outlook. There would be a reduction in the filtering effects of tree cover in winter months, however, this is not expected to change the levels of effect due the density of the vegetation.

OE-04 Fairburn Tower

7.6.58 Views of the construction works and introduction of steel lattice towers would be partly screened to the south-west. Tower S192 would be located in closest proximity at a distance of 740 m. The Proposed Development would be viewed to the south and south-west, experienced against the background landscape, partly screened by intervening forest cover. Views to the west would be partially screened by intervening landform and forest

cover, and experienced against the background landscape. Views to the south-east would be experienced against the combination of the background sky and landscape. Views to the north-west would be partially screened by farm buildings and experienced against the background landscape. This would result in **Moderate Adverse** (significant) effects based on the clearest views.

OE-05 Strathpeffer Golf Course

7.6.59 Views of the construction works and steel lattice towers to the north-west from the closest parts of the golf course would be limited due to the intervening landform. Tower S159 would be located in closest proximity at a distance of 800 m. The Proposed Development would partially visible in longer distance views to the west and south-west (at distances of between 1 km and 1. 6 km). Within the most open views the Proposed Development would be experienced predominantly against the background landscape, and filtered by intervening tree cover. This would result in **Moderate Adverse** (significant) effects based on the clearest views.

Other Outdoor Locations

7.6.60 Potential views of the Proposed Development from other Outdoor locations would be restricted by intervening landform, tree / forest cover and the increasing distance of 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 receptors would be **Minor Adverse** (not significant) at most during construction and operation.

Summary of Visual Effects

7.6.61 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	8	5
Settlements								4	4		
Transport Routes							3		2	5L	
Recreational Routes: NCR/NC500							2				
Recreational Routes: Core Paths								8	7	1	7L
Outdoor Locations							1	2	5		

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	8	5
Settlements								4	4		

Visual Receptor	Beneficial Effect					Adverse Effect					
	Major	Major-Mod.	Mod.	Mod-Minor	Minor	Neg.	Minor	Mod-Minor	Mod.	Major-Mod.	Major
Transport Routes							3		2	5L	
Recreational Routes: NCR/NC500							2				
Recreational Routes: Core Paths								8	7	1	7L
Outdoor Locations							1	2	5		

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 **Volume 3, Figure 7.5g: Section E 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 E, this includes:
  - Section D of the Proposed Development (steel lattice tower OHL);
  - Proposed Fanellan 400 kV Substation (25/00826/FUL).
- Scenario 2: Including, in addition, other unrelated development proposals (considered during the operation phase only). For Section E, this includes:
  - 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 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);
  - Scoping-stage Fairburn Extension (22/03143/SCOP) (14 turbines, 200 m to tip);
  - Scoping-stage Ballach Wind Farm (24/04177/SCOP) (36 turbines, 200 – 230 m to tip);
  - Scoping-stage Beauly to Blackhillock to New Deer to Peterhead 400kV OHL (24/03064/SCOP) (new 400kV OHL and removal of existing 132kV OHL between Beauly to Knocknagael substations);
  - Screening-stage Carn Fearna 132 kV OHL (25/00219/SCRE) (linking the scoping stage Carn Fearna Wind Farm to the existing Corriemoillie 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 scoping stage Cnoc Farasd Wind Farm (24/04447/SCOP) (comprising up to nine turbines, 220 m to tip) will be located to the south 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 E 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 E 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 LVIA of Section D of the Proposed Development has been completed and is included in this EIA Report as **Volume 5, Appendix 7.8**. This LVIA identified effects to the following receptors which have been identified within the study area for Section E.

- Landscape effects
  - LCT 330 – Rounded Hills and Moorland Slopes - Ross & Cromarty;
  - LCT 335 – Wooded Glens and Rocky Moorland;
  - LCT 341 – Forest Edge Farming;
  - LCT 345 – Farmed and Forested Slopes - Ross & Cromarty;
  - LCT 346 – Open Farmed Slopes;
  - LCT 342 – Farmed River Plains;
  - LCT 331 – Rounded Rocky Hills - Ross & Cromarty;
  - LCT 329 – Rounded Mountain Massif;
  - LCT 340 – Strath - Ross & Cromarty;
  - LCT 347 – Open Steep Farmed Slopes;
  - LCT 339 – Inland Strath;
  - Rhiddoroch - Beinn Dearg - Ben Wyvis WLA; and
  - Ben Wyvis SLA.
- Visual effects
  - Residential receptors SE-20 Jamestown, SE-21 Contin, SE-22 Strathpeffer, and SE-27 Dingwall;
  - Road and Rail users RE-01 the A834, RE-03 the A835, RE-05 Dingwall to Kyle of Lochalsh Rail Link and RE-06 the A832;
  - Recreational Route receptors RE-12 – 14, RE-16 – 18, and RE-23 – 35; and
  - Receptors at Outdoor Locations OE-05 Strathpeffer Golf Course, and OE-08 Neil Gunn Memorial.

7.7.6 The predicted effects on these receptors, as identified within the Section D LVIA (**Volume 5, Appendix 7.8**), and Section E 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: Individual Effects on Cumulative Receptors

LCT / Designated or Protected Landscape	Section E Effect Rating	Section D Effect Rating	Included in Cumulative
LCT 330 – Rounded Hills and Moorland Slopes - Ross & Cromarty	Construction and Operation: Moderate-Minor Adverse (not significant)	Construction and Operation: Moderate-Minor Adverse (not significant)	Yes

LCT / Designated or Protected Landscape	Section E Effect Rating	Section D Effect Rating	Included in Cumulative
	(locally Major-Moderate Adverse, significant)	(locally Major-Moderate Adverse, significant)	
LCT 335 – Wooded Glens and Rocky Moorland	Construction: Minor Operation: Moderate-Minor Adverse (not significant) (locally Major-Moderate Adverse, significant)	Construction: Negligible (not significant) Operation: Moderate-Minor Adverse (not 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 345 – Farmed and Forested Slopes - Ross & Cromarty	Construction and Operation: Moderate-Minor Adverse (not significant) (locally Major-Moderate Adverse, significant)	Construction and Operation: Moderate-Minor Adverse (not significant)	Yes
LCT 346 – Open Farmed Slopes	Construction and Operation: Moderate-Minor Adverse (not significant) (locally Major-Moderate Adverse, significant)	Construction and Operation: Moderate-Minor Adverse (not significant)	Yes
LCT 342 – Farmed River Plains	Construction and Operation: Moderate-Minor Adverse (not significant) (locally Major-Moderate Adverse, significant)	Construction and Operation: Minor Adverse (not significant) (locally Moderate-Minor Adverse, significant)	Yes
LCT 331 – Rounded Rocky Hills - Ross & Cromarty	Construction and Operation: Minor Adverse (not significant) (locally Major-Moderate Adverse, significant)	Construction and Operation: Moderate-Minor Adverse (not significant)	Yes
LCT 329 – Rounded Mountain Massif	Construction and Operation: Moderate-Minor (not significant)	Construction and Operation: Moderate-Minor Adverse (not significant) (locally Major Adverse, significant)	No
LCT 340 – Strath - Ross & Cromarty	Construction and Operation: Minor Adverse (not significant)	Construction and Operation: Minor Adverse (not significant)	No
LCT 347 – Open Steep Farmed Slopes	Construction and Operation: Minor Adverse (not significant)	Construction and Operation: Minor Adverse (not significant)	Yes
LCT 339 – Inland Strath	Construction and Operation: Minor Adverse (not significant)	Construction and Operation: Moderate-Minor Adverse (not significant)	Yes
Rhiddoroch - Beinn Dearg - Ben Wyvis WLA	Construction and Operation: Minor Adverse (not significant)	Construction and Operation: Moderate-Minor Adverse (not significant)	Yes

LCT / Designated or Protected Landscape	Section E Effect Rating	Section D Effect Rating	Included in Cumulative
		(locally Major-Moderate Adverse, significant)	
Ben Wyvis SLA	Construction and Operation: Moderate-Minor Adverse (not significant)	Construction and Operation: Minor Adverse (not significant)	Yes
Visual Receptor		**Section D Effect Rating**	**Included in Cumulative**
Jamestown (SE-20)	Construction and Operation: Moderate-Minor Adverse (not significant) (locally Moderate Adverse, significant)	Construction and Operation: Moderate-Minor Adverse (not significant)	No
Contin (SE-21)	Construction and Operation: Minor Adverse (not significant) (locally Moderate Adverse, significant)	Construction and Operation: No effect	No
Strathpeffer (SE-22)	Construction and Operation: Moderate Adverse (significant)	Construction and Operation: Moderate-Minor Adverse (not significant)	Yes
Dingwall (SE-27)	Construction and Operation: Moderate-Minor Adverse (not significant)	Construction and Operation: Minor Adverse (not significant)	Yes
A834 (RE-01)	Construction and Operation: Minor Adverse (not significant) (locally Major-Moderate Adverse, significant)	Construction and Operation: Minor Adverse (not significant)	No
A835 (RE-03)	Construction and Operation: Minor Adverse (not significant) (locally Major-Moderate Adverse, significant)	Construction and Operation: Minor Adverse (not significant)	No
Dingwall to Kyle of Lochalsh Rail Link (RE-05)	Construction and Operation: Minor Adverse (not significant) (locally Major-Moderate Adverse, significant)	Construction and Operation: Minor Adverse (not significant)	No
A832 (RE-06)	Construction and Operation: Moderate Adverse (significant)	Construction and Operation: Minor Adverse (not significant)	No
Mains of Coul RC10.03 (RE-12)	Construction and Operation: Moderate Adverse (significant) (locally Major Adverse, significant)	Construction and Operation: Moderate-Minor Adverse (not significant)	No
Kinellan link path RC10.07 (RE-13)	Construction and Operation: Minor Adverse ((not significant)	Construction and Operation: Moderate-Minor Adverse (not significant)	No

LCT / Designated or Protected Landscape	Section E Effect Rating	Section D Effect Rating	Included in Cumulative
	(locally Major Adverse, significant)		
Loch Kinellan circuit RC45.01 (RE-14)	Construction and Operation: Minor Adverse (not significant) (locally Major Adverse, significant)	Construction and Operation: Moderate-Minor Adverse ((not significant)	No
View Rock RC10.01 (RE-16)	Construction and Operation: Major-Moderate Adverse (significant)	Construction and Operation: Moderate-Minor Adverse ((not significant)	No
Strathpeffer - Jamestown (Blackmuir Woods) RC45.05 (RE-17)	Construction and Operation: Moderate Adverse (significant)	Construction and Operation: Moderate-Minor Adverse (not significant)	No
Ord Wood west – Kinellan RC45.03 (RE-18)	Construction and Operation: Moderate Adverse (significant)	Construction and Operation: Moderate-Minor Adverse (not significant)	No
Contin to Strathgarve RC10.06 (RE-21)	Construction and Operation: Moderate-Minor Adverse (not significant)	Construction and Operation: No effect	No
Torrachilty woods RC10.04 (RE-23)	Construction and Operation: Moderate-Minor Adverse (not significant)	Construction and Operation: No effect	No
Golf course - Ord Wood east RC45.07 (RE-24)	Construction and Operation: Moderate Adverse (significant)	Construction and Operation: Moderate-Minor Adverse (not significant)	Yes
Blackmuir Woods - maze circular RC45.04 (RE-25)	Construction and Operation: Moderate Adverse (significant)	Construction and Operation: Moderate-Minor Adverse (not significant)	Yes
Rogie Falls RC10.02 (RE-26)	Construction and Operation: Minor Adverse (not significant)	Construction and Operation: No effect	No
Eagle Stone Path RC45.10 (RE-27)	Construction and Operation: Moderate-Minor Adverse ((not significant)	Construction and Operation: Moderate-Minor Adverse (not significant)	No
Ardival - Catsback - Loch Ussie RC45.09 (RD-28)	Construction and Operation: Moderate-Minor Adverse (significant)	Construction and Operation: Moderate-Minor Adverse (not significant)	Yes
Knockfarrel (maze to hill) RC45.02 (RE-29)	Construction and Operation: Moderate-Minor Adverse (not significant)	Construction and Operation: Moderate-Minor Adverse (not significant)	Yes
Knockfarrel to Fodderty RC13.05 (RE-30)	Construction and Operation: Moderate-Minor Adverse (not significant)	Construction and Operation: Minor Adverse (not significant)	Yes
Knockfarrel RC13.06 (RE-31),	Construction and Operation: Minor Adverse (not significant)	Construction and Operation: Moderate-Minor Adverse (not significant)	Yes

LCT / Designated or Protected Landscape	Section E Effect Rating	Section D Effect Rating	Included in Cumulative
Strathpeffer Walking and Cycling Routes – Torrachilty (RE-32)	Construction and Operation: Minor Adverse (not significant) (locally Major Adverse, significant)	Construction and Operation: Minor Adverse ((not significant)	No
Strathpeffer Walking and Cycling Routes – north of Strathpeffer Golf Course (RE-33)	Construction and Operation: Minor Adverse (not significant) (locally Major Adverse, significant)	Construction and Operation: Moderate-Minor Adverse (not significant)	Yes
North Coast 500 (RE-34)	Construction and Operation: Minor (not significant)	Construction and Operation: Moderate-Minor Adverse (not significant)	No
Inverness to John O' Groats National Cycle Trail (RE-35)	Construction and Operation: Minor (not significant)	Construction and Operation: Moderate-Minor Adverse (not significant)	No
Strathpeffer Golf Course (OE-05)	Construction and Operation: Moderate Adverse (significant)	Construction and Operation: Minor Adverse (not significant)	Yes
Neil Gunn Memorial (OE-08)	Construction and Operation: Minor (not significant))	Construction and Operation: Moderate-Minor (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 is 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 330 – Rounded Hills and Moorland Slopes - Ross & Cromarty	Scenario 1: • Section D 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: • 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 proposed Abhainn Dubh Wind Farm would be located (partly) within LCT 330 and exert significant effects on local landscape character in its 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 nearby landscape (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 335 – Wooded Glens and Rocky Moorland	Scenario 1: • Section D 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 **Minor Adverse** (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 341 – Forest Edge Farming	Scenario 1: • Section D 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 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: • Proposed Abhainn Dubh Wind Farm; • Proposed Knockbain Wind Turbine Repowering.	From more open, elevated vantage points within the LCT there would be views of the proposed Abhainn Dubh Wind Farm within the context of forestry, beyond the Proposed Development (Section D alignment). This would contribute towards cumulative effects in the vicinity of Fannyfield, albeit would exert diminishing influence at greater distance. The proposed Knockbain Wind Turbine Repowering would be located in the landscape to the south. This would typically be experienced in a different sector of view to the Proposed Development (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).

Landscape Receptor	Cumulative Developments	Predicted Cumulative Effects
LCT 345 – Farmed and Forested Slopes - Ross & Cromarty	Scenario 1: • Section D 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: • Proposed Knockbain Wind Turbine Repowering; • Pre-app Western Isles HVDC Link.	From more open, elevated vantage points there would be views of the proposed Knockbain Wind Turbine Repowering. This would be experienced in a different sector of view to the Proposed Development, and exert limited cumulative influence based on the narrow angle of view and the presence of an existing turbine (albeit smaller) at the site. The Pre-app Western Isles HVDC Link would extend through a localised part of the LCT on the southern side of Strath Conon. Residual effects based on localised clearance of trees to accomodate the underground cable would exert limited cumulative influence. Potential views of other Scenario 2 developments would be limited across parts of the LCT 345 within the Study Area due to the intervening landform and spatial separation. In summary, the proposed Scenario 2 developments 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.
LCT 346 – Open Farmed Slopes	Scenario 1: • Section D 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).

Landscape Receptor	Cumulative Developments	Predicted Cumulative Effects
	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 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 Scenario 2 developments 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.
LCT 342 – Farmed River Plains	Scenario 1: • Section D 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, 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 Carn Fearna 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. There would also be potential views of the scoping-stage Carn Fearna Wind Farm and Tarvie Wind Farm to the west, albeit visibility would be subject to screening by the intervening landform.In summary, the proposed Scenario 2 developments would contribute towards

Landscape Receptor	Cumulative Developments	Predicted Cumulative Effects
	• Scoping-stage Tarvie Wind Farm. •	localised effects on the LCT. However, the overall cumulative level of effect would remain consistent with that described in relation to Scenario 1.
LCT 331 – Rounded Rocky Hills - Ross & Cromarty	Scenario 1: • Section D 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; • Scoping-stage Fairburn Extension; • Scoping-stage Ballach 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, scoping-stage Fairburn Extension, 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 wind farms 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, and on the southern side of the Orrin Reservoir (on the western edge of the Study Area), which are spatially separate from the Proposed Development. The turbines of the scoping-stage Ballach Wind Farm would be located just outside LCT 331 (to the south) and would exert indirect effects on local landscape character, which would also be notable due to the height of the turbines. 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, scoping-stage Tarvie Wind Farm, and scoping-stage Fairburn Extension. 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, and would be **Moderate-Minor Adverse** (not significant).

Landscape Receptor	Cumulative Developments	Predicted Cumulative Effects
LCT 347 – Open Steep Farmed Slopes	Scenario 1: • Section D 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 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.
	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 339 – Inland Strath	Scenario 1: • Section D 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 intervenign landform and tree cover / forestry. As such, this would also exert limited influence on existing landscape characterer 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 **Minor Adverse** (not significant) during construction and operation.
	Scenario 2: • 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 accomodate 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 athat encloses the strath. However, within more open views, the turbines would form recogisable elements on the skyline, resulting in significant effects in their own right across localised parts of the LCT.

Landscape Receptor	Cumulative Developments	Predicted Cumulative Effects
		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).
Rhiddoroch - Beinn Dearg - Ben Wyvis WLA	Scenario 1: • Section D of the Proposed Development.	Potential cumulative effects on the WLA would be indirect. The influence of Section E would be limited due to its spatial separation from the WLA, on the opposite side of Strathconon,and intervening forestry. Section D would exert greater influence, particularly where it extends in closest proximity (<1 km) to the eastern edge of the WLA. This would occur outside the Section E Study Area, to the east of Cnoc a' Bhreac Leathaid, Carn a Chlaiginn and Carn an Laith-bhaid. Based primarily on views of Section D, 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 (outside the Section E Study Area). The cumulative 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: • Proposed Abhainn Dubh Wind Farm; • Proposed Knockbain Wind Turbine Repowering; • Scoping-stage Carn Fearna Wind Farm; • Scoping-stage Tarvie Wind Farm; • Screening-stage Carn Fearna 132 kV OHL; • Proposed Knockbain Wind Turbine Repowering.	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 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 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. Potential views of Knockbain Wind Turbine Repowering to the east (beyond the Section E alignment) would be very limited due to its spatial separation, and presence of intervening foresty. Accordingly, this would exert very limited influence on the WLA. In summary, the cumulative effect would be **Major Adverse** (significant) across localised southern parts of the WLA, 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 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:	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

Landscape Receptor	Cumulative Developments	Predicted Cumulative Effects
	• Section D of the Proposed Development.	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 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. Potential views of Knockbain Wind Turbine Repowering to the south-east would be very limited due to its spatial separation, and presence of intervening foresty. 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.
Visual Receptor	**Cumulative Developments**	**Predicted Cumulative Effects**
Strathpeffer (SE-22)	Scenario 1: • Section D 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 (SE-27)	Scenario 1:	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

Landscape Receptor	Cumulative Developments	Predicted Cumulative Effects
	• Section D of the Proposed Development.	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.
Golf course - Ord Wood east RC45.07 (RE-24)	Scenario 1: • Section D of the Proposed Development.	Section E would be located in the landscape to the west / south-westof 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 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. 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.
Blackmuir Woods - maze circular RC45.04 (RE-25)	Scenario 1: • Section D 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.
	Scenario 1:	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

Landscape Receptor	Cumulative Developments	Predicted Cumulative Effects
Ardival - Catsback - Loch Ussie RC45.09 (RD-28)	• Section D of the Proposed Development.	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.
	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).
Knockfarrel (maze to hill) RC45.02 (RE-29)	Scenario 1: • Section D 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 to 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.	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.
Knockfarrel to Fodderty RC13.05 (RE-30)	Scenario 1: • Section D 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

Landscape Receptor	Cumulative Developments	Predicted Cumulative Effects
		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).
Knockfarrel RC13.06 (RE-31)	Scenario 1: • Section D 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 Scenario 2 developments would be limited by landform and separation distance. The cumulative effect would remain **Moderate Adverse** (not significant).
Strathpeffer Walking and Cycling Routes – north of Strathpeffer Golf Course (RE-33)	Scenario 1: • Section D 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:	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).

Landscape Receptor	Cumulative Developments	Predicted Cumulative Effects
	• Scoping-stage Carn Fearna Wind Farm; • Scoping-stage Tarvie Wind Farm.	
Strathpeffer Golf Course (OE-05)	Scenario 1: • Section D 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.

7.8 Mitigation

7.8.1 Principal mitigation measures throughout Section E 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 in paragraph 7.8.3 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

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

- LCT 330 – Rounded Hills and Moorland Slopes - Ross & Cromarty;
- LCT 335 – Wooded Glens and Rocky Moorland;
- LCT 341 – Forest Edge Farming;
- LCT 345 – Farmed and Forested Slopes - Ross & Cromarty;
- LCT 346 – Open Farmed Slopes;
- LCT 342 – Farmed River Plains;
- LCT 331 – Rounded Rocky Hills - Ross & Cromarty;
- LCT 220 – Rugged Massif – Inverness;
- LCT 227 – Farmed Strath – Inverness; and
- LCT 229 – Enclosed Farmland.

7.10.2 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 800-900 m of the Proposed Development, or less (particularly where contained by adjoining tree cover).

7.10.3 During operation, when construction works are complete and vegetation has re-established, there would continue to be significant effects upon localised parts of the same eight 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 (located directly within all eight of these LCT). The key effects would remain focussed within 800-900 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.

7.10.4 In terms of landscape designations, the landscape assessment has concluded that there would be no significant effects upon the character or Special Qualities of the Rhiddoroch - Beinn Dearg - Ben Wyvis WLA, Central Highlands WLA, Glen Strathfarrar NSA, or Ben Wyvis SLA. There would be no effects on the Strathconon, Monar and Mullardoch SLA. As such, there would be no significant effects upon the Special Qualities of the designations and their integrity would not be compromised.

Visual Effects

7.10.5 During construction likely significant adverse effects were identified for four settlements, and 19 isolated dwellings located within close proximity to the Proposed Development. In terms of road and rail users, there would be significant effects on localised sections of three A-roads, on rail link, and three minor roads. There would also be significant adverse effects applicable to sections of 14 recreational routes and five outdoor locations. During operation, when vegetation has re-established there would continue to be significant adverse effects.

Cumulative Effects

7.10.6 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 E of the Proposed Development, in combination with other parts of the Proposed Development (Section D), related works, and / or other proposed unrelated developments.

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

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

7.10.8 In terms of landscape designations, the LVIA has identified that there would be likely significant cumulative effects applicable to very localised parts of the Rhiddoroch - Beinn Dearg - Ben Wyvis WLA. These would be focused on the southern edge due to the scoping-stage Carn Fearna Wind Farm, and on the outer-most eastern edge (to the east of Cnoc a' Bhreac Leathaid, Carn a Chlaiginn and Carn an Laith-bhaid) based on views to the proposed Abhainn Dubh Wind Farm as well as parts of the Section D alignment outside the Section E Study Area. 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 eastern edge due to the proposed Abhainn Dubh Wind Farm.

7.10.9 In terms of visual receptors, significant cumulative effects would be applicable to one settlement (SE-22: Strathpeffer), sections of seven recreational paths (RE-24, RE-25, RE-28, RE-29, RE-30, RE-31, and RE-33) and one outdoor location (OE-05: Strathpeffer Golf Course).

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

Conclusions

7.10.11 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 7.9: ANNEX 1 – LANDSCAPE CHARACTER ASSESSMENT SECTION E

1. LANDSCAPE CHARACTER ASSESSMENT SECTION E

1.1.1 This Annex provides the detailed assessment of potential effects on landscape character as a result of the Proposed Development (Section E). 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.

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

- 330 – Rounded Hills and Moorland Slopes - Ross & Cromarty LCT;
- 335 – Wooded Glens and Rocky Moorland LCT;
- 341 – Forest Edge Farming LCT;
- 345 – Farmed and Forested Slopes - Ross & Cromarty;
- 346 – Open Farmed Slopes LCT;
- 342 – Farmed River Plains LCT;
- 331 - Rounded Rocky Hills - Ross & Cromarty;
- 220 - Rugged Massif – Inverness;
- 227 - Farmed Strath – Inverness; and
- 229 - Enclosed Farmland.

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

- 329 – Rounded Mountain Massif LCT;
- 340 – Strath - Ross & Cromarty LCT;
- 347 - Open Steep Farmed Slopes;
- 339 – Inland Strath LCT;
- 328 - Rugged Mountain Massif - Ross & Cromarty;
- 226 - Wooded Glen – Inverness;
- 228 - Rolling Farmland and Woodland; and
- 222 - Rocky Moorland Plateau – Inverness.

1.1.4 The assessment of potential effects on these LCTs is set out in Tables 1 – 18. 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 330 – Rounded Hills and Moorland Slopes – Ross & Cromarty

Baseline Description	
Description	This LCT encompasses extensive parts of Caithness and Sutherland, and coincides with the northern end of the Proposed Development within Section E (comprising a total length of approximately 600 m (including Towers S150-S151). 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 distant landscape to the north of the alignment.
Designated / Protected Landscapes within / adjacent to the LCT	Within the Study Area, the LCT encompasses the outer-most southern edge of the Rhiddoroch - Beinn Dearg - Ben Wyvis WLA, and the Ben Wyvis SLA, to the north-west of the Section E alignment. This accounts for an extremely small area of the LCT. The Section E 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 and the wild characteristics of the LCT are reflected in the overlap wth the Ben Wyvis SLA and the Rhiddoroch - Beinn Dearg - Ben Wyvis WLA. However, this accounts for extremely localised parts of the LCT within the Study Area. Tthe sense of wildness is diminished across surrounding parts of the LCT by the presence of large-scale commercial forestry. On balance, Landscape Value is Medium.
Assessment of Effects	
Possible Landscape Receptors	**Potential Effects**

Baseline Description	
• Broad, rounded hills and upland moorlands with smooth, gentle slopes down to broad straths, creating an undulating skyline.	• The alignment would result in localised direct impacts upon the LCT, primarily within areas of existing forestry. The construction works or the steel lattice towers could potentially interrupt the skyline.
• Large coniferous forests on accessible lower slopes.	• The Section E alignment would extend through parcels of forestry, resulting in localised felling (approximately 600 m in length overall). Conversely, the retained tree cover 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 E 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 distant parts of the LCT to the north of the Section E alignment (outside the Study Area). Construction works and the steel lattice towers associated with the Proposed Development would represent additional elements of human activity / presence within the local 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 commercial forestry.
Landscape Sensitivity	The LCT encompasses extensive geographic areas. Very localised parts of the LCT coincide with national-level designations / protected landscapes within the Study Area. However, the Section E alignment would not extend through these areas. The susceptibility of the local landscape to the Proposed Development is tempered by existing forestry. 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 along Section E to create a wayleave for the alignment (600 m in length), and 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 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 600 m north-south on the southern edge of 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

Baseline Description	
	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 north-west of Section E). The surrounding forestry and rounded hills that characterise this LCT 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. This would be approximately 600 m in length (north-south). The width would be restricted by surrounding forestry, and accordingly would be focused within 100-200m of the Section E 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-Negligible** 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 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 (600m in length), on its southern edge. 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. In summary, within a linear corridor, 600 m lon and 100-200 m wide, 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 2: 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 coincides with a 1.7 km length of Section E, close to its northern end (including Towers S152-S157).
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.

Baseline Description	
	• 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 on the eastern edge of the LCT. It would avoid the more complex undulating landform and associated watercourses / lochans that are focused across the landscape within central parts of the LCT.
• 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 E extends though the eastern edge of the LCT, which comprises blanket forestry. Whilst the construction works would involve felling along the alignment, this would not have any direct effect upon areas of native woodland, and no discernible effect on areas of moorland / grassland.
• Large conifer forests in the east mask the underlying landforms in the east.	• Section E extends though the eastern edge of the LCT. The construction works would result in felling of a linear belt of existing forestry (1.7 km in length) to facilitate installation of the alignment. There would also be localised parcels of additional felling to ensure a wind-firm edge to the retained forestry in the surrounding area. This additional felling would be focused at Towers S154-S155, as

Baseline Description	
	well as a small area north-east of Tower S153. The operational stage would result in the addition of six steel lattice towers to the landscape, exerting a direct influence on landscape character. However, potential effects on surrounding parts of the LCT would be restricted by the retained forestry to either side of the Proposed Development.
• Low levels of settlement consisting of occasional estate buildings and cottages fitted into the landscape.	• As above, the alignment extends through commercial forestry, which would limit potential views of the Proposed Development from scattered dwellings within the LCT.
• Infrequent and low-key road side facilities absorbed by landform and tree cover.	• Potential views of the construction activities and steel lattice towers would be restricted by the same elements, albeit given their height (particularly the towers) views would be more widespread.
• Historic relics of former periods of settlement, including numerous indications of prehistoric settlement.	• 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 eastern edge of the LCT. As such, it would be in the opposite direction to views of the mountains, and the lochs to the west (Loch Luichart and Loch Garve).
• A back drop of mountains and lochs often glimpsed through tree cover.	• As above, Section E would be experienced in the landscape to the east, 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 within the eastern edge 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 (A and B) View Rock, Contin. The key effects would be focused on the eastern side of LCT, where Section E would extend across forestry north of Creag Ulladail, resulting in direct effects on the existing landscape fabric and local character. Construction works would include tree felling along the length of the alignment (approximately 1.7 km in length) 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 S154-S155, as well as a small area north-east of Tower S153. The additional felling would typically be contained within 200-300 m of the alignment (extending out to a maximum of approximately 350 m from the alignment). The construction works would also involve the creation of temporary access tracks (approximately 1.0 km length in total). The influence of the tracks and vehicle movements would

Baseline Description	
	be limited based on the use of existing forestry tracks to limit the extent of temporary tracks required and by the retained forestry to either side of the alignment that would provide visual containment. The most open views of the works would be experienced from the rail line west of Dingwall, where it extends through the forestry on the northern edge of the LCT. The influence of these activities on the wider LCT would be restricted by intervening tree cover and landform. Once operational, Section E would introduce six towers to the eastern part of the LCT (Towers S152-S157). All temporary tracks would be removed, and there would be no permanent access track remaining. From surrounding areas, the towers would be experienced in the context of surrounding forestry, which would screen the lower parts of the towers from view. Views of wider parts of the Section E alignment (extending further north and south, outside the LCT) would be restricted by tree cover and woodland within wider parts of the LCT. The clearest views would be focused across more open, elevated areas in central / western parts of the LCT. On balance, the effects would be focused within a linear corridor on the eastern edge of the LCT, approximately 1.7 km in length. The key effect would be focused within 300-400 m of the alignment due to the containing influence of surrounding forestry. Within this localised part of the LCT the impact magnitude would be **High** during construction and operation. Across the wider LCT, the Proposed Development would be experienced at greater distance, in the context of intervening forestry. The impact magnitude would be **Negligible** during construction and **Low** during operation.
Significance of Effect	As described above, the construction stage activities would be focused within a localised area on the eastern edge of the LCT. During operation, the level of human activity and vehicle movement would reduce, alongside the removal of temporary access tracks. Six steel lattice towers would form new components within the landscape. There would also be indirect effects based on views of the Section E towers extending north and south (outside the LCT), subject to screening by tree cover / woodland within the LCT. The influence of the Proposed Development would diminish across central and western parts of the LCT, at greater distance from the Section E alignment. In summary, within 300-400 m of the Section E alignment the effects during construction and operation would be **Major-Moderate Adverse** (significant). Across the wider 335 – Wooded Glens and Rocky Moorland LCT, the effects would be **Minor Adverse** (not significant) during construction, and **Moderate-Minor Adverse** (not significant) during operation.

Table 3: 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 E Study Area. This includes an area west of Strathpeffer, which coincides with a 3.0 km length of Section E, close to its northern end (including Towers S158 and S167), and a second LCT area between Fairburn and Beauly, which coincides with a 5.9 km length of Section E (including Towers S181-S201). The other LCT area is spatially separate from Section E, and extends along the northern side of the Cromarty Firth, 3.5 km north-east of Section E (Tower S150).
Designated / Protected Landscapes within / adjacent to the LCT	The LCT area between Fairburn and Beauly coincides with southern parts of Fairburn GDL. The other LCT areas are completely undesignated within the Section E Study Area.

Baseline Description	
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.	• Section E would be located within two spatially separate parts of the LCT, primarily across more elevated hill slopes / at higher elevations, through areas of tree cover and forestry. It would extend directly across the smaller scale straths associated with the River Orrin and the Allt Goibhre, rather than along them, reducing its influence upon them. Within the LCT area west of Strathpeffer the Section E alignment would avoid the summit of Creag Ulladail. Similarly, within the LCT area between Fairburn and Beauly it would avoid the nearby summits of Cul Mor, Cul Beag, and Cnoc Udais, thus avoiding visually prominent higher ground.
• A patchwork of semi-improved and improved pasture, arable fields, conifer forestry blocks, woodlands, shelterbelts, trees and hedges.	• The construction activities and steel lattice towers would be focused within moderately elevated hill slopes, which primarily coincide with areas of tree cover / forestry. Accordingly, the Section E

Baseline Description	
	alignment would be spatially separate from the improved pasture / arable fields and associated field trees, and result in limited potential changes to the existing landscape pattern.
• The contrasting upland character of higher ground emphasised by stone walls, rough grassland and less tree cover.	• As above, the Section E alignment would be primarily located across elevated hill slopes, which are predominantly forested. Potential views of the construction activities and steel lattice towers from surrounding lower lying areas would therefore be partly restricted by intervening tree cover. Conversely, Towers S200 and S201 would be located in more open grassland, albeit in close proximity to existing masts at the summit of Cnoc Udais and wind turbines to the south.
• 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 E extends though the LCT. This includes clearance of existing forestry to facilitate the alignment, as well as additional felling to ensure a wind-firm edge to the retained forestry in the surrounding area. To the west of Strathpeffer, this additional felling would be limited to localised parcels at Towers S158, and S161-S164. Within the LCT area between Fairburn and Beauly), the additional felling would be focused at Towers S182-S189 and S198-S199 on the southern side of Strathconon. 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 Proposed Development would be located in the context of surrounding tree cover, which would restrict views of the construction activities and lower parts of the towers.
Landscape Sensitivity	The LCT coincides with parts of Fairburn GDL, which suggests higher susceptibility to change, based on the addition of modern elements within the context of its more traditional / historic landscape elements. However, this GDL accounts for a very small proportion of the landscape within the LCT and is already traversed by an existing OHL, which suggests some tolerance to change of the type proposed. 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 7-68 Redburn, 7-70 Milton Lodge, 7-76 Loch Kinellan, 7-87 Aultgowrie and 7-89 Cnoc Croit. The key effects would be focused on localised, spatially separate parts of the LCT, including those within the LCT area west of Strathpeffer, and the LCT area between Fairburn and Beauly. Within these areas Section E would extend across the LCT, resulting in direct effects on the existing landscape fabric and local character.

Baseline Description	
	Construction works would include tree felling across the hill slopes to the west of Strathpeffer and on the southern side of Strathconon to facilitate the alignment, 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 S158, and S161-S164 to the west of Strathpeffer (comprising very localised parcels within 100-200 m of the alignment) and Towers S182-S189 and S198-S199 on the southern side of Strathconon (typically contained within 100-200 m of the alignment, extending out to a maximum of approximately 400 m). The construction works would also involve the creation of short sections of temporary and permanent access tracks. The extent of track required would be limited due to use of existing forestry tracks within the locality. The influence of the works and vehicle movements on landscape character would be limited based on their low height and the visual containment by surrounding tree cover / forestry. Once operational, the Section E alignment would introduce ten towers and approximately 700 m of permanent track to the LCT area west of Strathpeffer, and 21 towers and approximately 970 m of access tracks to the LCT area between Fairburn and Beauly. From surrounding areas, the towers would be experienced in the context of tree cover / forestry. There would also be views of adjoining towers, extending north / south along the wider Section E alignment (outside the LCT, but exerting indirect effects on local landscape character). In terms of the LCT area west of Strathpeffer, 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'. In terms of the LCT area between Fairburn and Beauly, the tops of the towers would typically be back-clothed by the rising landform along the upper sides of Strathconon, including Cul Mor, Cul Beag, and Cnoc Udais, thereby exerting limited influence on characteristic 'far reaching views to the south', Indirect effects on the spatially separate LCT area on the northern side of the Cromarty Firth would be extremely limited based on the distance of view (minimum distance of 3.5 km) and intervening landform. On balance, the key effects would be focused within approximately 600-700 m of the alignment (within the LCT area west of Strathpeffer and LCT area between Fairburn and Beauly), and would be retained within 100-200m where the alignment extends through denser areas of forestry. 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** at most 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 predominantly focused within areas of tree cover / forestry. During operation, the level of human activity and vehicle movement would reduce. A total of 31 towers would form new components within the landscape (spread across two geographically discrete LCT areas). There would also be indirect effects based on views of the Section E towers extending across the surrounding landscape (outside the LCT). The towers would contrast with the more rural characteristics of the LCT, albeit in the context of forestry and within 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 the LCT area west of Strathpeffer, and the LCT area between Fairburn and Beauly, within 600-700 m of the alignment, although this would be reduced in some areas where surrounding tree cover is more continuous / dense (where the key effects would be contained within 100-200 m). 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) at most during construction and operation.

Table 4: 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 three spatially separate parts of the Section E Study Area. This includes the LCT area at Knockfarrel, which coincides with a 550 m length of Section E (including Towers S168 and S169), and the LCT area between Fairburn and Muir of Ord, which coincides with a 680 m length of Section E (including Towers S179 and S180) south of the River Conon. There would also be a Diamond Duck Under Arrangement in this area, where the Proposed Development crosses an existing 132 kV OHL north of Muirton Wood. The other LCT area is spatially separate from Section E, and is focused on the Black Isle, 7.5 km to the east at the closest point.
Designated / Protected Landscapes within / adjacent to the LCT	The LCT area between Fairburn and Muir of Ord overlaps with Fairburn GDL. In addition, 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
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.	• Construction activities and steel lattice towers (Towers S168-S169, and Towers S179-S180) would extend across localised parts of the LCT area at Knockfarrel and LCT area between Fairburn and Muir of Ord respectively. In each case the Proposed Development would result in localised tree felling. However, this would account for very localised areas. Across the vast majority of this LCT

Baseline Description	
	area, and the entirety of the other LCT area, there would be no direct effects on the existing landscape pattern.
• 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 very localised loss of trees on the western edge of the LCT area at Knockfarrel to facilitate the introduction of Tower S168 and S169, and the LCT area between Fairburn and Muir of Ord to facilitate the introduction of Tower S179 and S180. However, across the wider 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 located at the western-most extent 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, there would be no discernible influence on views along the Firth towards the sea.
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), 7-82 Moy Rock and 7-88 Muir of Ord. The key effects would be focused on the western edges of the LCT area at Knockfarrel and the LCT area between Fairburn and Muir of Ord. Section E would extend across these spatially separate parts of the LCT, resulting in direct effects on the existing landscape fabric and local character. This includes a Diamond Duck Under Arrangement where the Proposed Development crosses an existing 132 kV OHL near Muirton Wood. Construction works would include localised tree felling within areas of farmland west of Jameston, and west of Muirton Mains, as well as the creation of short sections of temporary access tracks. The influence of the tracks would be limited based on their relatively short length (approximately 700m temporary track within the LCT area at Knockfarrel and 780 m

Baseline Description	
	temporary track within the LCT area between Fairburn and Muir of Ord), in combination with surrounding tree cover / woodland, which would screen / back-cloth the associated vehicle movements. The presence of construction activities and vehicle movements within the LCT and adjoining landscape would contrast with the existing agricultural landuse within the LCT. However, the influence of these activities on the wider LCT would be restricted by intervening tree cover and landform. This includes the spatially separate LCT area on the Black Isle. As above, once operational, the key effects would be focused on western parts of the LCT area at Knockfarrel and LCT area between Fairburn and Muir of Ord (where the effects would be direct). The Section E alignment would introduce two towers to the LCT west of Jameston and two towers west of Muirton Mains, as well as short sections of permanent access tracks (approximately 390 m in length, and focused within the LCT area between Fairburn and Muir of Ord). From surrounding areas, the towers would be experienced on the skyline in places, but would be back-clothed by the rising landform in other areas, including the sides of Strathconon. The influence of the proposed alignment upon the spatially separate LCT area on the Black Isle would be extremely limited based on the distance of view. On balance, the key effects would be focused within approximately 700-800 m of the alignment. This includes a linear corridor, 550 m in length, west of Jamestown (within the LCT area at Knockfarrel). Within this area, the key effects on the eastern side of the alignment would be focussed within 400-500 m, due to increased visual containment by nearby woodland on that side. In addition, this includes a linear corridor, 680 m in length, west of Muirton Mains (within the LCT area between Fairburn and Muir of Ord). 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** 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 LCT. However, this would be focused within two very localised (spatially separate) areas, and would be subject to screening based on surrounding tree cover. During operation, the level of human activity and vehicle movement would reduce. A total of four steel lattice towers would form new components within the landscape. There would also be indirect effects based on views of the Section E towers extending across Strathconon, and the hills further north and south (outside the LCT). The towers would contrast with the more rural characteristics of the LCT, albeit in the context of a working agricultural landscape with existing infrastructure, including OHL. The alignment would take the shortest route across the LCT, reducing its physical footprint to four towers. The influence of the Proposed Development would diminish across wider parts of the LCT at greater distance. In summary, within approximately 700-800 m of the Section E alignment the effects during construction and operation would be **Major-Moderate Adverse** (significant). Across the wider 345 – Farmed and Forested Slopes - Ross & Cromarty LCT, the effects would be **Moderate-Minor Adverse** (not significant) during construction and operation. Effects on the distant LCT area on the Black Isle would be **Minor Adverse** (not significant).

Table 5: 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 five spatially separate parts of the Section E Study Area. This includes the LCT area south of Jamestown, which coincides with 830 m of the Section E alignment at its northern end (including Towers S170-S172).

Baseline Description	
	The other four LCT areas are spatially separate from Section E. The LCT area at Coul of Fairburn is located 340 m to the east at the closest point (Tower S178), the LCT area between Strathpeffer and Dingwall is located 1.4 km to the east (Tower S164), the LCT area between Broallan and Beauly is located 3.0 km to the east (Tower S210), and the LCT area that extends along the southern side of the Cromarty Firth is located 5.3 km to the east (Tower S203).
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.	• The Section E alignment would introduce temporary access tracks and three steel lattice towers to the LCT area south of Jamestown. In addition to direct effects, there would be views from the nearby slopes at Wester Moy, as well as those from the north-facing slopes within the LCT area at Coul of Fairburn (on the opposite side of Strathconon) and the north-facing slopes of Knockfarrel (within the LCT area between Strathpeffer and Dingwall). Potential views from other LCT areas would be limited by intervening landform and vegetation.

Baseline Description	
• Smooth slopes of arable and pasture fields forming a regular pattern, lined with occasional small trees, fences or gorse hedges.	• The Section E alignment would introduce temporary access tracks and three steel lattice towers to the LCT area south of Jamestown, resulting in direct effects on existing landscape fabric. These elements would be restricted to a localised area and the existing landscape pattern within other parts of 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 localised direct effects on landscape fabric within the LCT, albeit limited change to existing landscape pattern. Potential views of construction works and the steel lattice towers would be restricted across more distant parts of the LCT due to intervening landform and tree cover, including areas of birch woodland and conifer plantations.
• 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 landscape between Jamestown and Contin.
• Ever present views which are open, expansive and outward looking.	• As above, there would be potential views of the construction works and the steel lattice towers in the landscape, particularly from the nearby slopes at Wester Moy, the north-facing slopes at Coul of Fairburn (on the opposite side of Strathconon), and the and the north-facing slopes of Knockfarrel (within the LCT area between Strathpeffer and Dingwall). Potential views from other LCT areas would be limited by intervening landform and vegetation.
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). The key effects would be focused on the LCT area south of Jamestown, where Section E would extend across localised western parts of the LCT, resulting in direct effects on the existing landscape fabric and local character. Construction works would include the creation of short sections of temporary access tracks. The influence of the tracks would be limited based on their relatively short length (approximately 900 m temporary track). There would also be indirect effects on landscape character based on views of the construction activities, including close proximity views from the nearby westerly-facing slopes at Wester Moy, as well as views from the north-facing slopes of the separate LCT area at Coul of Fairburn (on the opposite side of Strathconon), and the north-facing slopes of Knockfarrel (within the LCT area between Strathpeffer and Dingwall). The influence on other LCT areas would be restricted based on the increased spatial separation, and intervening screening.

Baseline Description	
	Once operational, the key effects would remain focused on the LCT area south of Jamestown. The Section E alignment would introduce three towers to the LCT, south-west of Jamestown (Towers S170-S172). All temporary tracks would be removed, and there would be no permanent access track. From surrounding areas, the towers would be experienced on the skyline, alongside other Section E towers extending north towards Creag Ulladail and to the south-west across Strathconon (outside the LCT). The Section E alignment would also be visible at relatively close proximity from the separate LCT area at Coul of Fairburn, particularly from its western edge near Clachuile, as well as the LCT area between Strathpeffer and Dingwall, particularly from the upper, north-facing slopes. On balance, the effects would be focused within a linear corridor south-west of Jamestown, 830 m in length, extending out to approximately 700-800 m of the alignment. In addition, there would be notable effects upon the eastern edge of the separate LCT area at Couls of Fairburn, where this extends within 700-800 m of the alignment on its eastern side. Within these localised parts of the LCT the impact magnitude would be **High** during construction and operation. At greater distance from the Proposed Development, the impact magnitude would be **Low** during construction and operation. This includes the LCT area between Strathpeffer and Dingwall, The impact magnitude would reduce to **Negligible** for the more distant LCT areas between Broallan and Beauly, and along the southern side of the Cromarty Firth.
Significance of Effect	As described above, the main influence of the construction works and vehicle movements would be focused within localised areas of the LCT at the northern end of Section E. During operation, the level of human activity and vehicle movement would reduce. However, the Proposed Development would introduce three steel lattice towers to the LCT, which would form new components within the local landscape. There would also be views of the wider Section E alignment extending northwards and south-west across Strathconon (outside the LCT). The towers would be experienced in the context of existing farmland, localised tree cover and forestry. The influence of the Proposed Development would diminish across more distant parts of the LCT. In summary, across the LCT area south of Jamestown, and at Couls of Fairburn within approximately 700-800 m of the alignment, the effects during construction and operation would be **Major-Moderate Adverse** (significant). Across the wider parts of these LCT areas, the effects would be **Moderate-Minor Adverse** (not significant) during construction and operation. This would reduce to **Minor Adverse** (not significant) for the spatially separate LCT areas located at greater distance from the Section E alignment.

Table 6: Effects on LCT 342 – Farmed River Plains

Baseline Description	
Description	This LCT extends inland from the Cromarty Firth, encircling Knockfarrel at its northern end, and extending southwards where it encompasses Beauly and the shores of the Beauly Firth. Accordingly, the LCT forms a series of linear spurs, comprising areas north of Knockfarrel, and south of Knockfarrel, and the Beauly Firth. The LCT coincides with a 1.7 km length of the Section E alignment (including Towers S173-S178) at the western end of the spur that lies to the south of Knockfarrel. This occurs where the Proposed Development extends across the low-lying farmland within Strathconon.
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.

Baseline Description	
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.	• The Section E alignment would introduce temporary access tracks and six steel lattice towers to the LCT area west of Coille Uisge. In addition to direct effects, there would be views from the nearby areas of farmland. This includes views from Strath Peffer (on the northern side of Knockfarrel). The towers would represent vertical elements within the flat landform.
• Woodland and tree cover of roadside and field-side trees lines, shelterbelts and small plantations interspersed with large scale fields.	• There would be localised removal of trees to facilitate clearance for the Section E alignment. Tree cover and riparian woodland in the surrounding area would be retained and 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 predominantly unchanged. However, the Proposed Development would represent an element of human influence on the local landscape south of Contin. Potential views of the construction works and the steel lattice towers from Contin would be subject to partial screening by intervening tree cover and separation distance. Potential views from other, more distant settlements would also be restricted by the intervening landform, including the summits of Creag Ulladail, Cnoc Mor and Knockfarrel.

Baseline Description	
• 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.
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 key effects would be focused on the western end of the LCT, west of Coille Uisge, where Section E would extend across the LCT, resulting in direct effects on the existing landscape fabric and local character. Construction works would include very localised tree felling within areas of farmland, as well as the creation of relatively short sections of temporary access tracks (approximately 2.0 km in total). The influence of the tracks would be limited based on surrounding tree cover / riparian woodland, which would screen / back-cloth the associated vehicle movements. The most open views of the works would be focused upon the more open areas of nearby farmland, which is accessible via the A835. The presence of 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 intervening tree cover. This includes views from Strath Peffer (on the northern side of Knockfarrel), and views from more distant, southern parts of the LCT around the Beauly Firth. As above, once operational, the key effects would be focused on western parts of the LCT west of Coille Uisge. The Section E alignment would introduce six towers to the LCT, west of Jamestown (Towers S173-S178). All temporary tracks would be removed, and there would be no permanent access track. From surrounding areas, the towers would form vertical elements within the flat strath floor. However, the Section E alignment would extend diagonally across this part of the LCT, rather than along its length, thereby limiting its influence to localised areas. The influence of the proposed alignment upon the LCT spur to the north of Knockfarrel and around the Beauly Firth would be reduced based on the distance of view. On balance, the key effects would be focused within a linear corridor west of Coille Uisge, 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 based on increased screening by tree cover within the strath.
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 Strathconon. During operation, the level of human activity and vehicle movement would reduce. The towers would form new components within the landscape, and represent recognisable elements in views channelled along the strath that would contrast with the more rural / natural characteristics of the LCT. However, the alignment would take a relatively short route across the strath, reducing its physical footprint upon the LCT to six towers. The influence of the Proposed Development would diminish across wider parts of the LCT at greater distance.

Baseline Description	
	In summary, within 600-700 m of the Section E alignment the effects during construction and operation would be **Major-Moderate Adverse** (significant). Across the wider 342 – Farmed River Plains LCT, the effects would be **Moderate-Minor Adverse** (not significant) during construction and operation.

Table 7: 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 Section E Study Area. This includes the LCT area centred on the hills between Strathconon and Glen Orrin, which coincides with a 650 m length of Section E (including Towers S202 and S203). The other areas of the LCT are spatially separate from the Section E alignment, and focused on the landscape around Loch Luichart (4.8 km north-west of Tower S161), and at Carn Loch an Tuirc, north of Loch Garve (2.7 km north-west of Tower S150).
Designated / Protected Landscapes within / adjacent to the LCT	The LCT area between Strathconon and Glen Orrin overlaps with parts of the Central Highlands WLA across its western parts. The eastern edge that coincides with the Section E alignment is undesignated. The LCT area at Carn Loch an Tuirc coincides with the Rhiddoroch - Beinn Dearg - Ben Wyvis WLA and Ben Wyvis SLA across its northern edge.
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 Central Highlands WLA, Rhiddoroch - Beinn Dearg - Ben Wyvis WLA, and Ben Wyvis SLA.

Baseline Description	
	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.	• The Proposed Development would extend across the eastern-most edge of the LCT area between Strathconon and Glen Orrin, resulting in direct effects on the local hillside. There would also be potential views of the construction works and the steel lattice towers from other parts of the LCT, in particular the upper slopes and summits along the eastern edge of the LCT, including Craeg Mhor, Cul Mor, Cul Beag and Cnoc Beinn na Lice. These summits are arranged broadly parallel with the Section E alignment from Towers S184-S205. The closest parts of Section E would extend through areas of forestry. As such, views of construction works and the steel lattice towers would be partly restricted by intervening tree cover. From the other, spatially separate LCT areas at Loch Luichart and Carn Loch an Tuirc, the Proposed Development would represent a relatively distant element in the background landscape.
• Hills separated by low, curving glens, lochs and straths.	• Views from lower lying parts of the LCT would be restricted by the intervening landform, albeit there would be potential views of the Section E alignment from the eastern end of the valleys of the River Orrin and the Allt Goibhre.
• 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.	• Potential effects on ground cover vegetation would be limited to the eastern-most edge of the LCT area between Strathconon and Glen Orrin, specifically very localised parts of the hillside east of Cnoc Beinn na Lice. The existing mosaic of ground cover within the LCT would remain almost entirely unchanged.
• Low intensity land use and limited access contrasts with adjacent farmed plains and straths.	• The Proposed Development would be located on eastern-most edge of the LCT area between Strathconon and Glen Orrin, between existing masts at Cnoc Udais (to the east) and wind turbines (to the west). Within views from other parts of the LCT, the Proposed Development would represent an increase in landuse and access, albeit in the context of existing forestry in the landscape to the east, and the operational Fairburn Wind Farm within the LCT.

Baseline Description	
• Extensive views of adjoining plains, firths and mountains from higher levels.	• As above, there would be views of the construction works and the steel lattice towers from the upper slopes and summits within the LCT. The clearest views would be experienced from Craeg Mhor, Cul Mor, Cul Beag and Cnoc Beinn na Lice, on the eastern-edge of the LCT area between Strathconon and Glen Orrin.
• Occasional masts and pylons tend to be visually absorbed by rocky landforms and vegetation.	• The Proposed Development would be located on the eastern-most edge of the LCT, in close proximity to existing masts at Cnoc Udais, and the operational Fairburn Wind Farm. Potential views of the construction works and the steel lattice towers from spatially separate parts of the LCT 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 eastern-most edge of the LCT, near existing infrastructure. The potential influence of the construction works and the steel lattice towers would be restricted across western parts of the LCT (where wild character is more evident) due to the distance of view, intervening landform, and intervening Fairburn Wind Farm.
Landscape Sensitivity	Within the Study Area, parts of the LCT coincide with the Central Highlands WLA, as well as the Rhiddoroch - Beinn Dearg - Ben Wyvis WLA and Ben Wyvis SLA (which extend across a similar geographic area). The limited presence of built form, and sense of wild character, suggest greater susceptibility to development of the type proposed. However, the Section E alignment would be located on the eastern edge of the LCT, which is undesignated, and spatially separated from areas with more pronounced wild character. This area incorporates existing infrastructure at Fairburn Wind Farm and the Auchmore Turbines. As a result, Landscape Susceptibility is High-Medium at most. On balance, the landscape sensitivity to development of the type proposed is assessed as being **High-Medium**.
Nature of change and Impact Magnitude	Direct effects would be limited to the eastern-edge of the LCT area between Strathconon and Glen Orrin, on rough grassland between Cnoc Beinn na Lice and Cnoc Udais. This would account for very localised area on the periphery of this LCT area. In addition, there would be indirect effects based on views. The key effects would be focused on the eastern edge of this LCT area, including the easterly facing slopes and summits at Craeg Mhor, Cul Mor, Cul Beag and Cnoc Beinn na Lice. Potential views from the other, spatially separate LCT areas at Loch Luichart and Carn Loch an Tuirc, would be limited based on intervening landform, tree cover and the distance of view. The construction works would introduce 520 m of temporary access track, and 350 m permanent track to the eastern edge of the LCT. However, the construction activities, including felling of forestry and vehicle movements, would be predominantly experienced in the context of tree cover and forestry on the lower lying slopes to the east (outside the LCT). Once operational, the Proposed Development would introduce two steel lattice towers on the edge of the LCT area between Strathconon and Glen Orrin. The towers would be located between existing masts at Cnoc Udais (to the east) and the Auchmore Wind Turbines at Cnoc Beinn na Lice (to the west). As such, the direct effects would be focused within an area already influenced by existing infrastructure. As described above, the Section E alignment would also be experienced in more open views from the upper slopes and summits on the eastern edge of the LCT (specifically the LCT area between Strathconon and Glen Orrin). From the slopes and summits of Craeg Mhor, Cul Mor, Cul Beag and Cnoc Beinn na Lice, the towers would be visible at a distance of 100-200 m, and would form a linear element in the lower-lying slopes to the east. The towers would be experienced in the context of tree cover / forestry, within longer distance views across Strathconon, which includes scattered settlement and existing OHL. Longer distance views would also be

Baseline Description	
	experienced from the higher peaks within the LCT area at Carn Loch an Tuirc (including Carn Gorm and Carn Fearna, on its eastern edge), where the Proposed Development would represent a distant element in the forested landscape to the east / south-east. Across all other parts of the LCT, the influence of the Proposed Development would diminish based on the increasing distance of view and the intervening landform. In addition, from western parts of the LCT area between Strathconon and Glen Orrin, the influence of the Proposed Development would be reduced further by the presence of Fairburn Wind Farm in the intervening landscape. In summary, the key effects would be focused along the eastern edge of LCT area between Strathconon and Glen Orrin. Given the open, elevated views from the hillsides along this edge of the LCT, the effects would extend out to approximately 800-900 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 effects would diminish steadily, and would be further tempered across western areas by the presence of Fairburn Wind Farm in the intervening landscape. From the most open, elevated vantage points at greater distance, the Proposed Development would increasingly represent a background element within expensive views. The potential influence of the Proposed Development would diminish further across lower-lying areas and westerly-facing slopes. Accordingly, the impact magnitude across other parts of the LCT would reduce to **Negligible** during construction and operation.
Significance of Effect	On balance, the key effects would be focused on the eastern edge of the LCT area between Strathconon and Glen Orrin. This comprises the slopes and summits of Craeg Mhor, Cul Mor, Cul Beag and Cnoc Beinn na Lice. The construction stage activities and vehicle movements would exert very localised effects on the landscape fabric within the LCT. The construction works would also be visible in the landscape to the east, in the context of tree cover / forestry. During operation, the level of human activity and vehicle movement would reduce. A total of two towers would form new components within the landscape, within an area influenced by existing infrastructure. There would also be indirect effects based on views of the Section E towers extending across the surrounding landscape to the east (outside the LCT). This includes views from elevated vantage points within the LCT area between Strathconon and Glen Orrin, and also the eastern edge of the separate LCT area at Carn Loch an Tuirc. The towers would be experienced in the lower-lying slopes, in the context of surrounding forestry and more distant built form within Strathconon. The influence of the Proposed Development would diminish across other parts of the LCT. In summary, within 800-900 m of the Section E alignment the effects during construction and operation would be **Major-Moderate Adverse** (significant). Across the wider 331 – Rounded Rocky Hills - Ross & Cromarty LCT, the effects would be **Moderate-Minor Adverse** (not significant) at most during construction and operation.

Table 6: Effects on LCT 220 – Rugged Massif - Inverness

Baseline Description	
Description	This LCT encompasses the large-scale mountain landscape west of Beauly. This coincides with a 7.4 km length of the Section E alignment (Towers S204-S226), which extends through an area of rugged upland moorland, as well as localised areas of forestry further south. There would also be a Duck Under with Wood Poles, with live line Scaffold Provision in this area, where the Proposed Development crosses an existing 132 kV OHL near Ardochy.

Baseline Description	
Designated / Protected Landscapes within / adjacent to the LCT	The western part of the LCT overlaps with the Central Highlands WLA, as well as very localised parts of the Strathconon, Monar and Mullardoch SLA and the Glen Strathfarrar NSA further to the west (on the western edge of the Study Area). The eastern part of the LCT that coincides with the Section E alignment is undesignated.
Key Characteristics	• Parallel ranges of massive mountains of irregular landform divided by deep glaciated valleys. • Mainly broad, sometimes rounded rugged summits connected by long ridges and relatively few individual mountain peaks, particularly in the east. • Steep terrain with many mountain-side burns and occasional lochans in corries and depressions. • Landcover of rock outcrops, glacial debris, deer-grazed heather and rough grassland create a smooth surface with mottled texture, with alpine habitats on high land to the west. • Almost uniform texture and cover from lower to upper levels in the east makes the size of the hills difficult to perceive. • Tracts of Caledonian pinewoods and occasional small patches of open birch woodland add colour, texture and seasonal diversity. • Largely uninhabited, few signs of human activity or human artefacts in the interior, and sparse archaeological evidence. • Hill ranges combine to create a fairly even undulating skyline and a sense of enclosure when viewed from straths. • Views from the hill tops at the edges of the massif offer expansive views of the adjacent straths and surrounding landscape character types. • A sense of remoteness and wildness which is particularly strong within the interior.
Landscape Value	The LCT encompasses mountain ranges with steep slopes, dispersed lochans and areas of forestry, which contribute towards its aesthetic qualities. The landscape is largely uninhabited, with limited access, and accordingly exhibits a sense of remoteness. This is most pronounced across western parts of the LCT, which coincide with the Central Highlands WLA, as well as the Strathconon, Monar and Mullardoch SLA and the Glen Strathfarrar NSA. The eastern part of the LCT that coincides with the Section E alignment is undesignated. On balance, within the Section E Study Area, Landscape Value is High-Medium.

Assessment of Effects	
Possible Landscape Receptors	**Potential Effects**
• Parallel ranges of massive mountains of irregular landform divided by deep glaciated valleys.	• The Proposed Development would be located within an LCT of very large scale. The underlying landform would restrict views of the Proposed Development from lower-lying areas and westerly-facing slopes.
• Mainly broad, sometimes rounded rugged summits connected by long ridges and relatively few individual mountain peaks, particularly in the east.	• The Section E alignment would extend along the eastern edge of the LCT. There would be potential views of construction works and the steel lattice towers from more open vantage points further west.

Baseline Description	
• Landcover of rock outcrops, glacial debris, deer-grazed heather and rough grassland create a smooth surface with mottled texture.	• There would be localised effects on the existing landscape fabric within the eastern edge of the LCT as a result of the construction activities. Once operational, the 23 steel lattice towers would represent new elements of infrastructure on the edge of the LCT.
• Tracts of Caledonian pinewoods and occasional small patches of open birch woodland add colour, texture and seasonal diversity.	• There would be localised tree felling on the eastern edge of the LCT, west of Ardochy (between Towers S221-S226). The surrounding forestry would be retained.
• Largely uninhabited, few signs of human activity or human artefacts in the interior, and sparse archaeological evidence.	• The Proposed Development would represent an element of human influence on the eastern edge of the LCT. Potential views of the construction works and the steel lattice towers from the more remote interior would be subject to increased screening by intervening landform, and experienced at distance.
• Hill ranges combine to create a fairly even undulating skyline and a sense of enclosure when viewed from straths.	• Potential views of the construction works and the steel lattice towers from the enclosed straths would be subject to screening by the surrounding landform that encloses the straths.
• Views from the hill tops at the edges of the massif offer expansive views of the adjacent straths and surrounding landscape character types.	• The Section E alignment would extend along the eastern edge of the LCT. From the summits along this edge, the construction works and steel lattice towers would be experienced in the foreground of views across the adjoining straths and neighbouring LCTs towards the east.
• A sense of remoteness and wildness which is particularly strong within the interior.	• As above, the Section E alignment would extend along the eastern edge of the LCT where wildness and remoteness are less pronounced. Potential views of the construction works and the steel lattice towers from the more remote interior (further to the west) would be subject to increased screening by intervening landform, and experienced at distance.
Landscape Sensitivity	The LCT exhibits scenic qualities based upon its combination of natural features. In addition, the lack of human activity, and the resultant sense of remoteness and wildness suggest increased susceptibility to the Proposed Development. However, wildness is most pronounced across western parts of the LCT (on the western sides of Beinn nam Fitheach, Mullach Binnean a' Chromhnaird and Beinn a' Chlaonaidh). These areas are spatially and physically separated from the Section E alignment by the intervening landform. The susceptibility across the eastern edge of the LCT is tempered by the presence of forestry, scattered dwellings / farmsteads and associated access tracks. On balance, Landscape Susceptibility is Medium. Landscape sensitivity to Proposed Development is **Medium**.
Nature of change and Impact Magnitude	The key effects would be focused on the eastern edge of the LCT where Section E would extend across moorland and forestry, resulting in direct effects on the existing landscape fabric and local character. This also includes a Duck Under with Wood Poles, with live line Scaffold Provision in this area, where the Proposed Development crosses an existing 132 kV OHL near Ardochy.

Baseline Description	
	Construction works would involve the establishment of permanent access tracks to facilitate construction of the new towers, and associated vehicular movements. The tracks would predominantly extend across open moorland, albeit further south (coinciding with Towers S222-S226 of the alignment) the tracks would be enclosed by surrounding plantation forestry. As a result, the construction works are likely to be most noticeable within the moorland setting further north. Once operational, the Proposed Development would introduce 23 steel lattice towers to the LCT, representing a new linear element within the landscape. Towers S204-S221 would extend across open moorland. The surrounding hillsides would restrict views of the towers from other parts of the LCT, particularly across westerly areas beyond the summits of Beinn nam Fitheach, Mullach Binnean a' Chromhnaird and Beinn a' Chlaonaidh. This would restrict the influence of the Proposed Development on the characteristic sense of 'remoteness and wildness …within the interior'. As noted above, Towers S222-S226 would be located in the context of surrounding forestry, which would typically restrict views to the upper part of the towers. The effects would be focused within parts of the LCT where the sense of wildness is less pronounced. On balance, the key effects would be focused within a linear corridor 600-700 m from the alignment (reducing where this extends through forestry). This represents a localised section of the LCT, where 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 (representing the majority of the LCT) the impact magnitude would be **Low** during construction and operation.
Significance of Effect	As described above, the construction stage effects would vary along Section E in accordance with the extent of enclosure by surrounding tree cover. Vehicular movement and works activities would be most visible across the areas of open moorland. The increased movement and presence of people would reduce the sense of remoteness. However, this would account for a localised part of Section E. Further south, the Section E alignment would extend through areas of forestry, the construction phase activities (including felling and vehicular movement) would not appear out of place within this managed landscape. During operation, the level of human activity and vehicle movement would reduce. The towers and 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 that is most prevalent across its interior. However, the Proposed Development would be located on the eastern edge of the LCT where the sense of wildness is less pronounced. In summary, within 600-700 m of the alignment the effects during construction and operation would be **Major-Moderate Adverse** (significant). Across the wider 220 – Rugged Massif – Inverness LCT the effects would be **Moderate-Minor Adverse** (not significant) during construction and operation.

Table 7: Effects on LCT 227 - Farmed Strath – Inverness

Baseline Description	
Description	This LCT encompasses the linear, strath landscape south-west of Beauly. The strath is aligned with the meandering course of the River Beauly, and incorporates scattered farmsteads, linked by the A831 and local roads, as well as areas of riparian woodland along the strath floor and forestry on the valley sides. This coincides with a 2.0 km length of the Section E alignment at its southern end (Towers S227-S231), which extends directly across the strath at the northern end of the LCT.

Baseline Description	
Designated / Protected Landscapes within / adjacent to the LCT	Within the Study Area, the western part of the LCT overlaps with a very localised part of the Glen Strathfarrar NSA. The north-eastern part of the LCT that coincides with the Section E alignment is undesignated.
Key Characteristics	• Linear to sinuous channels cut through uplands, with a central meandering river located in a flat or gently undulating strath floor, edged by the steep, rocky, side slopes. • Pronounced and dynamic river meanders of Strathglass, emphasised by riparian trees, oxbow lakes and curved wetland features. • Small scale broadleaf woodlands and small blocks of conifer forest within Strathnairn/Stratherrick strath floor which do not override openness of the strath. • A few small settlements located on the strath floor or sides and infrequent small farms, crofts, estate buildings or groups of houses. • Roads which generally relate well to landform, with a limited number of river crossing points. • Many archaeological sites in Strathnairn dating from a range of periods. • Contrast between the open, inhabited and agricultural landscape of the straths, the side slopes cloaked in alternating broadleaf woodlands, conifer forests and heather moorland, and the setting of adjacent rugged, remote uplands. • Diversity of colour and texture added by river meanders, wetlands, damp pastures and thin bands of woodland. • An overall sense of linear enclosure, which directs distant views along the strath and allows uninterrupted views of the flanking hill slopes.
Landscape Value	The LCT comprises a mix of natural features, including meandering rivers, oxbow lakes, wetlands and woodlands. These elements are complemented by archaeological sites, and experienced within a backdrop created by the steep, rocky side slopes 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**
• Linear to sinuous channels cut through uplands, with a central meandering river located in a flat or gently undulating strath floor, edged by the steep, rocky, side slopes.	The Proposed Development would extend directly across the strath (across the River Beauly), rather than along its length. Based on the height of the towers, the Proposed Development would potentially form a new focus within views along the northern end of the strath.
• Pronounced and dynamic river meanders of Strathglass, emphasised by riparian trees, oxbow lakes and curved wetland features.	• There would be localised felling of forestry / tree cover at the northern end of the strath to facilitate construction of Section E. This includes clearance of forestry 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 S229-S231. However, the effects would be localised, and the Section E alignment aims to avoid broadleaved woodland.

Baseline Description	
• Small scale broadleaf woodlands and small blocks of conifer forest within Strathnairn/Stratherrick strath floor which do not override openness of the strath.	• As above, these would be localised direct effects on the existing landscape fabric (including localised felling) at the northern end of the LCT. Areas of woodland would exert a screening influence on potential views of the Proposed Development from southern parts of the LCT.
• A few small settlements located on the strath floor or sides and infrequent small farms, crofts, estate buildings or groups of houses.	• The Section E alignment would cross the LCT within an area incorporating localised settlement, including residential properties at Crask of Aiga, as well as the A831, an existing OHL, and Aigas Power Station and Dam. The Proposed Development would represent an additional element of human influence in the landscape.
• Roads which generally relate well to landform, with a limited number of river crossing points.	• The construction works and steel lattice towers could form new elements within views from the road network. Potential views of the Proposed Development from the more distant part of the road network within the LCT (to the south-west) would be subject to screening by the intervening landform and tree cover.
• Many archaeological sites in Strathnairn dating from a range of periods.	• The Section E alignment avoids direct impacts upon archaeological features, albeit may be visible from some archaeological points of interest.
• Contrast between the open, inhabited and agricultural landscape of the straths, the side slopes cloaked in alternating broadleaf woodlands, conifer forests and heather moorland, and the setting of adjacent rugged, remote uplands.	• From the northern end of the LCT, the construction works and the steel lattice towers could interrupt the existing skyline to either side of the Strath, forming a new focus on the surrounding slopes / adjoining uplands.
• An overall sense of linear enclosure, which directs distant views along the strath and allows uninterrupted views of the flanking hill slopes.	• The enclosing landform at either side of the strath would restrict views of the Proposed Development. Views would be predominantly limited to the northern end of the LCT, and would be focused on a short proportion of the Section E alignment that extends directly across 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 existing built form, including the existing OHL, and Aigas Power Station and Dam in the vicinity of the Section E alignment. On balance, Landscape Susceptibility is Medium. Landscape sensitivity to Proposed Development is **Medium**.
Nature of change and Impact Magnitude	Refer to viewpoint 7-90 A831. Construction works would include localised forestry felling on the slopes either side of the River Beauly to facilitate the alignment, 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 S229-S231 (where it would be contained within 200-300 m of the alignment). The construction works would also involve the creation of new tracks (temporary and permanent). The construction activities would contrast with the existing agricultural landuse within the strath. However, the influence would be reduced by surrounding forestry, which would screen / back-cloth the tracks and associated vehicle

Baseline Description	
	movements. Similarly, the influence of these activities on more distant parts of the LCT to the south-west would be restricted by the intervening woodland along the strath floor, and the landform enclosing the valley sides. Once operational, the Section E alignment would introduce five towers to the LCT area in the Kyle of Sutherland (Towers S227-S231), as well as short sections of permanent access track in the context of existing forestry on the eastern and western sides of the valley (approximately 860 m in total). The towers would be broadly similar in terms of design, albeit taller, than the existing OHL that extends along the strath further north. The Section E alignment would extend directly across the LCT, rather than along its length, thereby limiting its influence to localised areas. On balance, the key effects would be focused within a linear corridor across the northern end of the strath, within approximately 400-500 m of the alignment. Within this localised part of the LCT the impact magnitude would be **High** during construction and operation. Across other parts of the LCT, at greater distance from the Proposed Development, the impact magnitude would be **Low** at most during construction and operation. Many parts of the LCT located further to the south-west would be completely unaffected.
Significance of Effect	As described above, the construction stage activities and vehicle movements would contrast with the agricultural landuse within the straths. However, this would be focused within a very localised area at the northern end of the LCT, due to the containing influence of surrounding tree cover and the landform along the valley sides. 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 northern end of 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. The influence of the Proposed Development would also be restricted by surrounding woodland, and the enclosing nature of the landform across the valley sides. In summary, within approximately 400-500 m of the alignment the effects during construction and operation would be **Major-Moderate Adverse** (significant). Across the wider 227 - Farmed Strath – Inverness LCT, the effects would be **Moderate-Minor Adverse** (not significant) during construction and operation. Many parts of the LCT located further to the south-west would be completely unaffected.

Table 8: Effects on LCT 229 - Enclosed Farmland

Baseline Description	
Description	This LCT is located at the southern end of the Section E alignment, comprising Tower S232 at its southern terminus. The LCT encompasses areas of mixed farmland with extensive tree cover / woodland, as well as scattered settlements. The landscape is accessible via a network of roads, including the A833 and A862.
Designated / Protected Landscapes within / adjacent to the LCT	The Beaufort Castle GDL is located within the LCT. However, the 229 - Enclosed Farmland LCT does not coincide with any designated or protected landscapes within the Study Area.

Key Characteristics	• Broad undulating glens interspersed with low, rounded ridges sloping to lower plains. • Mixed agricultural land-use balanced with a high proportion of trees, woodlands, small scale forests and hedgerows. • Tree cover provides varying degrees of enclosure for fields and buildings as well as a diverse mix of landscape patterns, colours and textures. • Large areas of intensive agriculture with medium-sized geometric fields divided by rows of mature deciduous trees and woodland, with some stone dykes. • Contrasting small scale, intimate croft lands, small rectangular fields, simple arrangement of buildings, narrow lanes, gullies and small scrubby woodlands. • Diverse range of settlement with many small farms and crofts, several villages and estates. • Large estate houses set in woodlands and parklands with avenues of trees, prominent in the intensive agricultural land. • Network of major and minor roads following geometric field boundaries. • Wide distribution and range of historic sites dating from prehistoric cairns and settlements to more recent sporting estates. • Landform and tree cover limit long distance views, creating intrigue and screen many settlements from roads. • Restricted views and increased sense of enclosure in crofting areas, due to the density and close proximity of vertical landscape elements.
Landscape Value	The LCT encompasses mixed farmland, with a field pattern demarcated by field trees and woodland, some of which are associated with historic houses / castles and gardens (including Beaufort Castle GDL). The natural features and historic elements contribute towards the LCT's aesthetic qualities. However, this is tempered in places by built form and infrastructure, including residential settlement and an existing OHL to the east of the Proposed Development. In addition, the landform and tree cover typically limit longer distance views, which suggest reduced susceptibility to change. On balance, Landscape Value is Medium.

Assessment of Effects	
Possible Landscape Receptors	**Potential Effects**
• Mixed agricultural land-use balanced with a high proportion of trees, woodlands, small scale forests and hedgerows.	• The southern end of the Proposed Development (Tower S232) would be located on the outermost western edge of the LCT. There would be no discernible loss of trees, or change to the existing landscape fabric within the LCT.
• Tree cover provides varying degrees of enclosure for fields and buildings as well as a diverse mix of landscape patterns, colours and textures.	• There would be no direct effect on these landscape elements, and no discernible alteration to the existing landscape pattern within the LCT.
• Large areas of intensive agriculture with medium-sized geometric fields divided by rows of mature deciduous trees and woodland, with some stone dykes.	• As above, there would be minimal effects on these landscape elements as a result of the construction activities or the steel lattice tower on the outer-edge of the LCT.
• Diverse range of settlement with many small farms and crofts, several villages and estates.	• Potential views of the construction activities or the steel lattice towers from settlements would be restricted by tree cover. Within views from the closest properties, the Proposed Development would be experienced behind the existing OHL located to the east of Tower S232.

• Large estate houses set in woodlands and parklands with avenues of trees, prominent in the intensive agricultural land.	• Potential views of the Proposed Development from cultural heritage features, including Beaufort Castle GDL, would be restricted by intervening woodland.
• Network of major and minor roads following geometric field boundaries.	• The potential influence of the construction works and steel lattice towers within views from the road network would be limited by intervening woodland, and the existing OHL located to the east of Tower S232.
• Wide distribution and range of historic sites dating from prehistoric cairns and settlements to more recent sporting estates.	• The Section E alignment avoids direct impacts upon archaeological features. As above, potential views from cultural heritage / archaeological points of interest would be restricted by intervening woodland.
• Landform and tree cover limit long distance views, creating intrigue and screen many settlements from roads. • Restricted views and increased sense of enclosure in crofting areas, due to the density and close proximity of vertical landscape elements.	• The Proposed Development would be located at a relatively high point in the local landscape (Tower S232 would be located at approximately 140 m AOD). Within more open views, the top of the tower may be visible on the skyline. However, the spread of woodland across the surrounding parts of the LCT would restrict views to very localised areas, typically those areas in closest proximity to the Proposed Development.
Landscape Sensitivity	The LCT exhibits scenic qualities based upon its combination of farmland and woodland, augmented by the presence of Beaufort Castle GDL, which suggest greater susceptibility to change based on the addition of modern infrastructure. However, 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 enclosed nature of the landscape, which inhibits longer distance view, as well as the presence of existing settlements, associated roads and infrastructure. This includes the existing OHL that extends across the landscape to the east of the Section E alignment. As a result, Landscape Susceptibility is Medium at most. 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 7-91 Kiltarlity, 7-93 Rhevackin and 7-94 Teavarran. The key effects would be focused on the localised western edge of the LCT, which coincides with the southern-most end of the Section E alignment. The construction works would not result in any notable tree felling. Direct effects on the existing landscape fabric would be extremely limited based on the limited footprint of the Proposed Development within the LCT. Indirect effects, based on views of the activities and vehicle movements, would also be limited due to the extent of tree cover in the surrounding area. As above, once operational, the key effects would be focused on the western edge of the LCT, in the vicinity of Fanellan, where the Section E alignment would introduce one tower (Tower S232). There would be no permanent access track. From the surrounding locality, the tower would be experienced on the skyline, alongside other Section E towers extending to the north-west (outside the LCT). The influence of the towers would be reduced by the presence of the existing OHL within the landscape to the east of the towers. Furthermore, these views would be restricted across other parts of the LCT due to the extent of tree cover and woodland, which contributes towards the characteristic sense of enclosure and limits longer distance views across the landscape. On balance, the effects would be focused on the western edge of the LCT, within approximately 600-700m of Tower S232. 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 **Negligible** during construction and operation.

Significance of Effect	As described above, the influence of the construction stage activities and vehicle movements would be focused within a localised area. During operation, the level of human activity and vehicle movement would reduce. One steel lattice tower would be introduced on the western edge of the LCT, forming a new component within the landscape. There would also be localised indirect effects based on views of the Section E towers extending north-west (outside the LCT), experienced beyond the existing OHL. The influence of the Proposed Development would diminish across other parts of the LCT at greater distance, due to screening by intervening woodland. In summary, within approximately 600-700m of the alignment (specifically Tower S232, at the southern end of Section E) the effects during construction and operation would be **Major-Moderate Adverse** (significant). Across other parts of the 229 - Enclosed Farmland LCT the effects 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 approximately 2.5 km to the north of Section E, encompassing Glen Glass and the surrounding mountains. 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.
Designated / Protected Landscapes within / adjacent to the LCT	Within the Study Area, the LCT coincides with parts of the Rhiddoroch - Beinn Dearg - Ben Wyvis WLA, and the Ben Wyvis SLA.
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.

Baseline Description	
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.	• There would be no direct impacts upon the LCT. There would be potential views of the Proposed Development in the landscape to the south from elevated peaks / vantage points. The construction works and steel lattice towers would be located beyond intervening forestry.
• 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 to the south, beyond intervening forestry and the summit of Cnoc na Gearraisich.
• Far reaching views from upper reaches to the mountains, plains and firths in adjacent areas.	• There would be views of Section E from the higher summits within the LCT. The construction activities and steel lattice towers would represent distant elements in the background landscape, particularly from the higher peaks within central parts of the LCT. The clearest views would be experienced from the summit of Cnoc nan Each Mor, on the south-eastern edge of the LCT. Within southerly views from this vantage point the Proposed development would represent a linear element in the background landscape, accounting for a relatively narrow angle of view.
• 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 be experienced at a minimum distance of 2.5 km, beyond intervening forestry, and within a landscape of vast scale.
• 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 south. The clearest views would be experienced from the summit of Cnoc nan Each Mor, on the south-eastern edge of the LCT (albeit would account for a relatively narrow angle of view in the background landscape). The Proposed Development would be spatially separated from the areas of pronounced wild character within the central parts of the LCT (located further north). This includes the summit of Ben Wyvis, from which the Proposed Development would be experienced at a distance of 6.3 km,

Baseline Description	
Landscape Sensitivity	Large geographic areas of the LCT coincide with the Rhiddoroch - Beinn Dearg - Ben Wyvis WLA, as well as the Ben Wyvis 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 spatial separation from the Section E alignment and presence of intervening forestry 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 viewpoint 7-67 Ben Wyvis. The Section E alignment would not result in any direct effects upon the 329 – Rounded Mountain Massif LCT. Potential indirect effects would be limited to views of the Proposed Development from elevated vantage points (primarily from those on the south-eastern edge of the LCT, at a minimum distance of 2.5 km). The construction activities and the steel lattice towers would represent distant elements in the background landscape, in the context of large-scale forestry, accounting for a relatively narrow angle of view within sweeping vistas across a landscape of vast scale. Views from more remote, central parts of the LCT would be experienced at greater distance (the Proposed Development would be located at a minimum distance of 6.3 km from the summit of Ben Wyvis). Accordingly, the influence of the Proposed Development on existing views and the sense of wildness within the LCT would be extremely limited. There would be no views from lower-lying areas, or northerly-facing slopes. In summary, the construction and operation stages associated within Section E of the Proposed Development would exert very limited influence on existing landscape character, particularly across central parts of the LCT. The Impact Magnitude would be **Negligible** during construction and operation.
Significance of Effect	As described above, the construction and operational stages of the Proposed Development would exert very limited influence upon the existing characteristics of the 329 – Rounded Mountain Massif LCT due to its spatial separation, intervening large-scale forestry, and the vast scale of the intervening landscape. The overall effect would be **Moderate-Minor Adverse** (not significant) during construction and operation.

Table 10: Effects on LCT 340 – Strath - Ross & Cromarty

Baseline Description	
Description	This LCT is located 4.1 km to the west of the Section E alignment at the closest point (Tower S161), 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.

Baseline Description	
	• 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. This is reflected in the ZTV coverage, which is restricted to the south-eastern edge of the LCT. Potential views of the construction activities and steel lattice towers in the landscape to the south-east would be further restricted by intervening 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.

Baseline Description	
• Limited settlement, usually located at inland bridging points at the entrance to straths.	• The settlement pattern within the LCT would remain unchanged.
• 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 E, 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	With reference to the ZTV, potential views of the Proposed Development would be focused across the south-eastern edge of the LCT, at Loch Garve. These views would be further restricted by swathes of forestry that extend across the surrounding hillsides. There would be no discernible views of the Section E construction activities or the steel lattice towers due to the intervening landform and forestry along the strath. The Impact Magnitude would be **Negligible** at most during construction and operation. The vast majority of the LCT would be completely unaffected.
Significance of Effect	As described above, there would be no discernible effects on the existing characteristics of the 340 – Strath - Ross & Cromarty LCT. The overall effect would be **Minor Adverse** at most (not significant) during construction and operation.

Table 12: Effects on LCT 347 – Open Steep Farmed Slopes

Baseline Description	
Description	This LCT is located 880 m to the north-east of the Section E alignment at the closest point (Tower S150). 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.

Baseline Description	
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 direct impacts upon the landscape features within this LCT. The sloping nature of the landform focuses views towards the south / south-east across the Cromarty Firth. There would be potential views of the Section E alignment in the landscape to the west / south-west, oblique to the primary direction of view.
• 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 landscape to the west / south-west, beyond the intervening landform at Creag Ullidail, Knockfarrel and Cnoc Mor.

Baseline Description	
• 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. There would be potential views of the Section E alignment in the landscape to the west / south-west, oblique to the primary direction of view, beyond the intervening summits of Knockfarrel and Cnoc Mor.
• 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 landscape to the west / south-west, outside the LCT. However, potential views would be restricted by the intervening landform at Creag Ullidail, Knockfarrel and Cnoc Mor.
• Visibility of these slopes and historic farming patterns from Knockfarrel.	• Within outward views from Knockfarrel looking towards the LCT, the Section E alignment would be located in the opposite direction. As such it would exert no discernible influence on the visibility of the slopes or the existing landscape pattern to the north.
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 (not directly towards the Section E alignment, which is located to the south-west). Potential views of Section E 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	Refer to viewpoints 7-72 Heights of Brae to 7-74 Heights of Inchvannie. The construction activities would be located in geographically separate parts of the background landscape to the west / south-west. Views of these activities would be restricted by the intervening landform at Creag Ullidail, Knockfarrel and Cnoc Mor, in combination with intervening tree cover. Similarly, the steel lattice towers associated with the operational stage of the Section E alignment would represent spatially separate elements in the background landscape to the west / south-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 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 intervening landscape at Knockfarrel and Cnoc Mor, and the south / south-east focus of views over the Cromarty Firth. The overall effect would be **Minor Adverse** (not significant) during construction and operation.

Table 13: Effects on LCT 339 – Inland Strath

Baseline Description	
Description	This LCT encompasses two spatially separate straths within the Study Area. These comprise the LCT area at Strathconon (250 m west of Section E, Tower S181), and the LCT area at Contin (930 m west of Tower S176). These strath landscapes share similar characteristics, including central watercourse / water bodies, 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 typically comprise areas of woodland, coniferous forestry and open moorland. The LCT area at Strathconon incorporates large water bodies in the form of Loch Achonachie at its eastern end and Loch Meig to the west, with an existing OHL extending along the eastern part of the strath. The area at Contin adjoins Loch Achilty at its western edge, and is traversed by the A835, which represents a key transport corridor.
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.

Baseline Description Assessment of Effects	
Possible Landscape Receptors	**Potential Effects**
• Landlocked, sinuous or curved channels through upland hills and moorlands.	• The Proposed Development would be located in the landscape to the east, where it extends across broader parts of Strathconon, and the surrounding hills to the north-east and south-east. Based on the height of the towers, the Proposed Development would potentially form a new focus within easterly views along the inland straths.
• 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 to the east, outside the narrow / enclosed valley landscape of 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 restricted by woodland and tree cover within the strath floor and 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 E avoids direct impacts upon enclosures / policy woodland associated with estate houses, albeit may be visible from these areas.
• Contrast with surrounding exposed, uninhabited, upland moorland and hills, and the more intensely farmed or settled areas beyond the lower end of the strath.	• The Proposed Development would represent an element of human influence extending across the landscape to the east, in the context of the 'more intensely farmed or settled areas beyond the lower end of the strath'. There would also be potential views of parts of the Section E alignment extending across the surrounding 'uninhabited' upland moorland and hills to the south-east. In each case, the of construction works and the steel lattice towers would be subject to screening by tree cover within the inland strath, and the intervening landform that encloses the strath on either side. Potential views of the Proposed Development across the hills to the north-east would be contained by the landform enclosing the strath. 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 focus within easterly views along the inland straths. However, the confined views within the strath would fully screen the Proposed Development in some areas. Potential views of the Section E alignment to the north-east and south-east would be restricted by the strath slopes.

Baseline Description	
• 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 would reduce the sense of isolation, albeit such views would be tempered by the enclosed nature of the Strath.
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 E, and the presence of tree cover and forestry, in combination with the intervening landform, which would restrict potential views of the Proposed Development. In addition, the LCT area at Strathconon incorporates an existing OHL in the eastern part of the strath, as well as built form at Torr Achilty Power Station and Dam at the eastern end of Loch Achonachie, which suggest reduced susceptibility to change of the type proposed. On balance, Landscape Susceptibility is Medium. Landscape sensitivity to Proposed Development is **Medium**.
Nature of change and Impact Magnitude	The Proposed Development would be located in the landscape to the east of the 339 – Inland Strath LCT. The potential effects on the two discrete LCT areas (at Strathconon and at Contin) would be indirect, based on views. From both LCT areas, the Section E alignment would be experienced in the context of the broader, eastern parts of Strathconon and the adjacent hillsides. Potential views of wider parts of the Section E alignment (extending further to the north-east and south-east) would be contained by the landform enclosing the straths. 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 both LCT areas, and the intervening landform along the edges of each strath. Similarly, the steel lattice towers associated with the operational stage of the Section E alignment would be located outside the LCT, where they would form spatially separate elements in more open easterly views channelled along the strath landscapes. The clearest views of the towers would be experienced from the eastern ends of the LCT areas. In the case of the LCT area at Strathconon, this coincides with areas of open water at Loch Achonachie, where easterly views are already influenced by the Torr Achilty Power Station and Dam at the eastern end of the loch, and the existing OHL that extends along the southern side of the strath. Views from the LCT area at Contin would be tempered by tree cover and would be experienced at a minimum distance of approximately 930 m (from Tower S176). Potential views of Section E from western parts of the LCT areas at Strathconon and Contin would be very limited due to the intervening landform. In summary, the Proposed Development would exert limited influence upon the existing landscape character within the LCT. The Impact Magnitude across the eastern end of the Strathconon and Contin LCT areas would be **Low** during construction and during operation. Views of the Section E alignment would be increasingly screened across western parts of the LCT, where the Impact Magnitude would be **Negligible**.
Significance of Effect	As described above, the 339 – Inland Strath LCT encompasses two distinct areas within the Study Area, at Strathconon and Contin. In both cases, the effects on the existing landscape characteristics would be limited based on their 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. Furthermore, in the closest, most open views from the open waters of at Loch Achonachie (at the eastern end of the LCT area at Strathconon), the Proposed Development would be experienced beyond Torr Achilty Power Station and Dam and the existing OHL.

Baseline Description	
	The main effects would be focused on the eastern ends of the LCT areas at Strathconon and Contin, where the overall effect would be **Moderate-Minor Adverse** (not significant) during construction and operation. Effects on the western parts of these straths would steadily diminish due to intervening screening, and would be **Minor Adverse** (not significant) during construction and operation.

Table 14: Effects on LCT 328 – Rugged Mountain Massif - Ross & Cromarty

Baseline Description	
Description	This LCT is located 5.1 km to the west of the Section E alignment at the closest point (Tower S184). The LCT encompasses the mountainous landscape on the southern side of Glen Orrin, which comprises rugged, steep slopes, rocky outcrops and open moorland.
Designated / Protected Landscapes within / adjacent to the LCT	The Central Highlands WLA encompasses a large part the LCT. In addition, a very localised area on the southern edge of the 328 – Rugged Mountain Massif - Ross & Cromarty LCT coincides with the Strathconon, Monar and Mullardoch SLA. The eastern part of the LCT (located in closest proximity to Section E) does not coincide with a designated or protected landscape.
Key Characteristics	• High rugged mountains on a broad, bulky base, forming discrete groups separated by deep linear glens and fjords. • Angular skyline of rocky peaks and ridges, stony summits, steep mountain sides, and scree slopes. • Glacial landforms including corries, narrow mountain lochs, deep u-shaped valleys, basin-shaped lochans and deep gorges. • Horizontal terraces and craggy slopes on Torridonian sandstone. • High proportion of bare rock on summits. • Patches and bands of remnant native pinewoods and broadleaf woodland at the base of mountains. • Little settlement, few roads or other structures, and little evidence of historic or current land use. • Mountain scale and height emphasised by the contrast with surrounding low moorlands and sea, and by reference to the few man-made features present. • Wild character derived from the natural, rugged and remote landscape.
Landscape Value	The LCT encompasses rugged mountain ranges with steep slopes, dispersed corries and lochs, which contribute towards its aesthetic qualities. The landscape is largely uninhabited, with limited access or evidence of historic use. Accordingly, the LCT exhibits a sense of wild character and remoteness. This is most pronounced across western parts of the LCT, which coincide with the Central Highlands WLA, as well as the Strathconon, Monar and Mullardoch SLA. The eastern part of the LCT, which is in closest proximity to the Section E alignment is undesignated. On balance, within the Section E Study Area, Landscape Value is High-Medium.
Assessment of Effects	

Baseline Description	
Possible Landscape Receptors	**Potential Effects**
• High rugged mountains on a broad, bulky base, forming discrete groups separated by deep linear glens and fjords.	• The Section E alignment would not result in any direct impacts upon the existing landscape within the LCT. However, from more open hill summits, there would be potential views of the Proposed Development in the landscape to the east (at a minimum distance of 5.1 km). The construction works and steel lattice towers would be spatially separated from the LCT by the intervening summits at Beinn an Rubha Riabhaich, Carn Doire Mhurchaidh, Cul Mor, Beinn nam Fitheach and Carn na Gearrsaich, which extend around the LCT in an arc to the north-east, east, and south-east.
• Patches and bands of remnant native pinewoods and broadleaf woodland at the base of mountains.	• As above, there would be no direct effects upon the LCT, and no loss of existing tree cover.
• Little settlement, few roads or other structures, and little evidence of historic or current land use.	• The Proposed Development would represent an element of human land use / built form in the landscape to the east. It would be located at a minimum distance of 5.1 km, beyond intervening summits which would screen parts of the Section E alignment. Accordingly, the construction activities and steel lattice towers would represent distant elements within the background landscape.
• Mountain scale and height emphasised by the contrast with surrounding low moorlands and sea, and by reference to the few man-made features present.	• The Proposed Development would represent a linear element of modern infrastructure within the landscape to the east. The influence of the construction works and the steel lattice towers would be extremely limited due to their spatial separation from the LCT and the vast scale of the receiving landscape within open panoramas.
• Wild character derived from the natural, rugged and remote landscape.	• Construction works and the steel lattice towers would represent new elements of human activity / presence within the landscape to the east of the LCT. The potential influence upon the sense of wildness would be tempered by the distance of view, and partial screening due to a series of intervening summits.
Landscape Sensitivity	The LCT exhibits scenic qualities based upon its combination of natural features. In addition, the lack of human activity, and the resultant sense of remoteness and wildness suggest increased susceptibility to the Proposed Development. The sense of wildness is most pronounced across western parts of the LCT (which coincide with the Central Highlands WLA designation). In summary, Landscape Susceptibility is High. Landscape sensitivity to Proposed Development is **High**.

Baseline Description	
Nature of change and Impact Magnitude	The Section E alignment would be located 5.1 km to the east of the 328 – Rugged Mountain Massif - Ross & Cromarty LCT at the closest point. Accordingly, there would be no direct effects upon its existing characteristics. Potential indirect effects would be limited to views of the Proposed Development from elevated vantage points. Due to the series of intervening summits that extend around the LCT in an arc from north-east, to east, to south-east (including Beinn an Rubha Riabhaich, Carn Doire Mhurchaidh, Cul Mor, Beinn nam Fitheach and Carn na Gearrsaich) potential views of the construction activities and the steel lattice towers would be subject to screening. From the most open vantage points, the construction and operation stages of the Proposed Development would be experienced in a landscape context of vast scale, and would exert extremely limited influence on existing landscape character. The Impact Magnitude would be **Negligible** during construction and operation.
Significance of Effect	As described above, the construction and operational stages of the Proposed Development would exert very limited influence upon the existing characteristics of the 328 – Rugged Mountain Massif - Ross & Cromarty LCT due to its spatial separation, intervening landform, and overall scale of the receiving landscape. The effect would be **Moderate-Minor Adverse** during construction and operation.

Table 15: Effects on LCT 226 - Wooded Glen – Inverness

Baseline Description	
Description	This LCT is located 6.3 km to the south-west of the Section E alignment at the closest point (Tower S223), encompassing the glen of the River Farrar, upstream of Strathglass. The landscape is characterised by the central water course, bordered by areas of working agriculture, and enclosed by the sloping glen sides. Built form includes an OHL that extends along the northern side of the glen, and elements of hydro-power such as Culligran Power Station on the River Farrer. Given its spatial separation from Section E, there would be no direct effects.
Designated / Protected Landscapes within / adjacent to the LCT	The Glen Strathfarrar NSA encompasses a large part the LCT within the Study Area. In addition, the northern and southern edges of the 226 - Wooded Glen – Inverness LCT coincide with the Central Highlands WLA. The eastern part of the LCT (located in closest proximity to Section E) does not coincide with a designated or protected landscape.
Key Characteristics	• Long glens set within uplands and mountains, divided into upper and lower glens by a cross-cutting narrow farmed strath. • Lower glens broader, with steep upper slopes, undulating lower slopes and a narrow floor mostly occupied by river terraces; upper glens are narrower and more rugged, influenced by the surrounding mountains. • Rivers, water bodies (lochs and sometimes reservoirs), river flats and areas of wetland in valley floors. • Balance between open and enclosed space formed by the diverse mix of landscape patterns, land uses, conifer forests, woodlands and fields. • Distinctive mix of rugged hillsides, extensive Caledonian pine forest and lochs in the upper glens. • Actively farmed and relatively settled lower glen floors, with small clusters of houses near roads, and farms and crofts in open areas at the base of slopes.

Baseline Description	
	• Contrast between the settled and farmed floor of lower glens and their open heather moorland and forests of the upper slopes. • Sparse settlement in upper glens, limited to a few farms and crofts, isolated lodges and clusters of estate buildings usually sheltered by trees or woodland. • Central, major through-road in lower glens, with minor roads along the glen sides which are integrated with the landform and settlement pattern. • Single track road along the base of the upper glens, terminating at the upper edge of the glen. • Large number and range of archaeological remains in the lower glens. • Strong sense of history in upper glens created by the Caledonian pinewood stands. • Intimate, semi-enclosed landscape within the glen floor with limited visibility, due to the screening effect of trees and landform. • Distant views along the glens from open hill ground creating a feeling of openness and exposure. • Increasing sense of naturalness and remoteness traversing the upper glens into mountainous interior.
Landscape Value	The LCT encompasses long winding glens, with meandering water courses, lochs, farmland and areas od woodland and forestry, which contribute towards its aesthetic qualities. This is evident in the NSA designation that encompasses the majority of the LCT within the Study Area. In addition, the landscape is largely uninhabited, contributing to a sense of remoteness (contributing towards its WLA designation). On balance, Landscape Value is High.

Assessment of Effects	
Possible Landscape Receptors	**Potential Effects**
• Balance between open and enclosed space formed by the diverse mix of landscape patterns, land uses, conifer forests, woodlands and fields.	• Potential views of the Proposed Development would be limited to the more open, upper slopes along the edge of the glen. The construction works and steel lattice towers would be experienced at a minimum distance of 6.3 km and would represent distant elements in the background landscape.
• Sparse settlement in upper glens, limited to a few farms and crofts, isolated lodges and clusters of estate buildings usually sheltered by trees or woodland.	• Proposed Development would represent an element of human influence, albeit in the spatially separate landscape to the north-east. There would be effect on the existing settlement pattern within the LCT.
• Central, major through-road in lower glens, with minor roads along the glen sides which are integrated with the landform and settlement pattern.	• Potential views of the Proposed Development from the roads within the lower-lying landform within the glen would be screened by the intervening landform, as illustrated in the absence of ZTV coverage.
• Strong sense of history in upper glens created by the Caledonian pinewood stands.	• There would be no direct effects on the LCT, and no loss of characteristic pinewoods.

Baseline Description	
• Intimate, semi-enclosed landscape within the glen floor with limited visibility, due to the screening effect of trees and landform.	• As describe above, there would be no views of the Proposed Development from the glen floor, as illustrated in the absence of ZTV coverage. As such, there would be no effect on the more intimate, smaller scale landscape within the LCT.
• Distant views along the glens from open hill ground creating a feeling of openness and exposure.	• Within the clearest views from the hills along the edge of the glen, the construction works and the steel lattice towers would be experienced at distances of 6.3 km or more. The Proposed Development would represent a very discreet element in the background landscape to the north-east.
• Increasing sense of naturalness and remoteness traversing the upper glens into mountainous interior.	• Construction works and the steel lattice towers would represent new elements of human activity / presence within the background landscape to the north-east of the LCT. The potential influence upon the sense of remoteness would be tempered by the distance of view and intervening landform.
Landscape Sensitivity	The LCT exhibits scenic qualities based upon its combination of natural features, and a sense of remoteness, which suggest higher susceptibility to landscape change. However, the LCT incorporates existing elements of infrastructure, including an OHL that extends along the northern side of the glen, and elements of hydro-power such as Culligran Power Station (on the River Farrer). This suggests some tolerance to change of the type proposed. On balance, Landscape Susceptibility is Medium. Landscape sensitivity to Proposed Development is **High-Medium**.
Nature of change and Impact Magnitude	The Proposed Development would be located in the distant landscape, 6.3 km to the north-east of the LCT at the closest point, and geographically separate from the enclosed landscape within the glen. Views of the construction activities and steel lattice towers would be fully screened from lower-lying parts of the LCT, as evident in the absence of ZTV coverage. Within the most open, elevated views from the hillsides above the glen floor, the Section E alignment would represent a minor element in the distance. In summary, the Proposed Development would exert extremely limited influence upon existing landscape character within the 226 - Wooded Glen – Inverness LCT. The Impact Magnitude would be **Negligible** during construction and operation. Many parts of the LCT would be completely unaffected.
Significance of Effect	Section E of the Proposed Development would result in no discernible effects on the existing characteristics of the 226 - Wooded Glen – Inverness LCT. The overall effect would be **Minor Adverse** (not significant) during construction and operation.

Table 16: Effects on LCT 228 - Rolling Farmland and Woodland

Baseline Description	
Description	This LCT is located 7.3 km to the east / south-east of the Section E alignment at the closest point (Tower S232). The LCT encompasses areas of mixed farmland, with parcels of woodland and scattered dwellings / farmsteads that are linked by an established network of roads. The spread of woodland in combination with the underlying, rolling landform results in increased enclosure in some areas. The LCT incorporates existing infrastructure in the form of OHL, which extend broadly east-west. Given its spatial separation from Section E, there would be no direct effects on this LCT.
Designated / Protected Landscapes within / adjacent to the LCT	The 228 - Rolling Farmland and Woodland LCT does not coincide with any designated or protected landscapes within the Study Area.
Key Characteristics	• Varied landform of rolling, north-facing hill slopes and plateaux. • Gently sloping, simple coastal edge with the firths, falling to well-defined raised beaches in places. • Diverse mix of landcover and fairly even balance of open agricultural land and woodlands. • Varying patterns of openness and enclosure created by woodlands and hedgerows mixed with open fields and dense conifer forests with dark linear edges. • Diversity added by open broadleaf woodlands along stream gorges, river banks, small woodlands, trees, hedgerows and designed landscapes. • Settled landscape, mostly of small farms and isolated houses, interconnected by a network of major and minor roads. • Other scattered settlements of old buildings in traditional layout, associated with road junctions and bridging points. • Clusters of farm buildings and open fields are generally set against a wooded backdrop. • Minor roads follow the geometric edges of field enclosures and conifer forests. • Large number of relic prehistoric settlements and burial cairns indicating a continuing focal point of settlement. • Sense of history and tradition around estates, due to stone walls, beech hedging, parkland and wooded policies. • Limited visibility in wooded areas, focusing attention upon foreground detail. • Distant views northwards over the firths in open areas on the upper slopes. • An active, busy landscape, particularly in the vicinity of adjoining urban areas and major transport routes.
Landscape Value	The LCT encompasses farmland and woodland, some of which are associated with historic estates. The natural features and historic elements contribute towards the LCT's aesthetic qualities. However, the LCT is undesignated and incorporates existing elements of infrastructure (including multiple OHLs) that represent modern elements within the landscape. On balance, Landscape Value is Medium.

Baseline Description Assessment of Effects	
Possible Landscape Receptors	**Potential Effects**
• Varied landform of rolling, north-facing hill slopes and plateaux.	• There would be no direct impacts upon the landscape features within this LCT. The Section E alignment would be located to the west / north-west of the LCT, hence would not impact upon northerly views across the Beauly Firth from the north-facing hillslopes.
• Diverse mix of landcover and fairly even balance of open agricultural land and woodlands.	• There would be no impacts upon woodland or farmland within this LCT. The areas of woodland would restrict outward views towards the Proposed Development.
• Varying patterns of openness and enclosure created by woodlands and hedgerows mixed with open fields and dense conifer forests with dark linear edges.	• ZTV coverage is fragmented across the lower-lying western edge of the LCT, coinciding with areas located in closest proximity to the Proposed Development. From the more open slopes / summits located further to the east, potential views of construction works and the steel lattice towers would be experienced at distances in excess of 7.3 km, and would represent very discreet elements in the background landscape. Areas of woodland / forestry would inhibit outward views towards the Section E alignment from other parts of the LCT.
• Settled landscape, mostly of small farms and isolated houses, interconnected by a network of major and minor roads.	• There would be no effect on the existing settlement pattern within the LCT. Potential views of the Section E alignment from residential settlements and the road network would be restricted by tree cover and separation distance.
• Large number of relic prehistoric settlements and burial cairns indicating a continuing focal point of settlement.	• There would be no direct effect on these landscape elements. Potential views from heritage sites would be restricted by woodland / forestry within the LCT and the intervening landform.
• Sense of history and tradition around estates, due to stone walls, beech hedging, parkland and wooded policies.	• The Proposed Development would contrast with the more traditional elements of built form within the LCT. However, it would be located at a minimum distance of 7.3 km, subject to screening by the intervening landform and tree cover, and represent a distant element within the background landscape to the west / north-west.
• Limited visibility in wooded areas, focusing attention upon foreground detail.	• There would be no loss of tree cover within the LCT as a result of the Section E alignment. Conversely, the wooded areas would restrict potential views towards the Proposed Development.
• Distant views northwards over the firths in open areas on the upper slopes.	• As above, the Proposed Development would be located to the west / north-west of the LCT, hence would not impact upon northerly views across the Beauly Firth from the north-facing hillslopes.

Baseline Description	
• An active, busy landscape, particularly in the vicinity of adjoining urban areas and major transport routes.	• The Proposed Development would represent an element of human influence, albeit experienced at a minimum distance of 7.3 km from more open, elevated vantage points, where it would represent a background element in the landscape to the west.
Landscape Sensitivity	The LCT exhibits scenic qualities based upon its combination of natural features. Its susceptibility to the Proposed Development would be increased by the sense of history and tradition. However, the LCT is completely undesignated, and the extent of woodland contributes towards visual containment in some areas, and restricts outward views. This suggests some tolerance to changes of the type proposed. On balance, Landscape Susceptibility is Medium. Landscape sensitivity to Proposed Development is **Medium**.
Nature of change and Impact Magnitude	Refer to viewpoint 7-92 Femnock. The Proposed Development would be located in the context of the wider landscape, 7.3 km to the west / north-west of the LCT at the closest point. ZTV coverage is fragmented across the lower-lying western edge of the LCT, coinciding with areas located in closest proximity to the Proposed Development. As such, potential views would be focused on the more open slopes / summits located further to the east (at greater distance). Within the most open views from higher ground, the construction activities and steel lattice towers would be located in the distant landscape to the west / north-west. The Section E alignment would represent a minor element in the background, which would exert minimal influence on the existing characteristics of the 228 - Rolling Farmland and Woodland LCT. Characteristics areas of woodland and forestry within the LCT would screen views of the Proposed Development from other areas. In summary, the Proposed Development would exert very limited influence upon the existing landscape character within the LCT. The Impact Magnitude would be **Negligible** during construction and operation. Many parts of the LCT would be completely unaffected.
Significance of Effect	As described above, Section E of the Proposed Development would exert very limited influence upon the existing characteristics of the 228 - Rolling Farmland and Woodland LCT. The overall effect would be **Minor Adverse** (not significant) during construction and operation.

Table 17: Effects on LCT 222 - Rocky Moorland Plateau - Inverness

Baseline Description	
Description	This LCT is located 1.7 km to the south of the Section E alignment at the closest point (Tower S232). It encompasses the large geographic areas of gently rolling, rocky, heather moorland, which forms the backdrop to adjoining straths and glens on the southern edge of the Study Area. The northern part of the LCT (located in closest proximity to the Proposed Development) incorporates large areas of forestry at Boblainy Forest. The LCT is predominantly uninhabited, other than localised settlements along the outer edges. Existing infrastructure includes an OHL extending broadly north-east to south-west through the western part of the LCT (from Eskdale Moor towards Wester Balblair Substation). Given its spatial separation from Section E, there would be no direct effects.

Baseline Description	
Designated / Protected Landscapes within / adjacent to the LCT	The 222 - Rocky Moorland Plateau - Inverness LCT does not coincide with any designated or protected landscapes within the Study Area.
Key Characteristics	• Open, gently rolling moorland plateaux with distinct edges descending to adjoining straths and glens or rising to merge with Rugged Massif. • Plateau with a patchy texture of small rocky outcrop hills, bogs and lochans in no clear hierarchy or discernible pattern. • Hilltops and upper slopes dominated by rocky heather moorland, except in the north east where extensive, contrasting conifer forests dominate. • Regenerating trees and scrub in glens with rivers and sheltered lower hillsides. • Strong contrast in landcover and settlement between the plateau and adjoining straths and glens. • Sparsely inhabited and little evidence of active landuse. • A few historic sites indicating past settlement and land use. • Orientation is difficult due to the lack of hierarchy, pattern and foci in the landform and landcover. • Within the plateau distance and scale are generally difficult to perceive due to the lack of elements of known size. • Distinct edges isolate the plateau from adjacent areas and give the sense of a vast, remote, upland moor. • At the plateau edges, expansive views over inhabited straths and glens create surprise. • Eastern areas have a semi-exposed character with occasional views of distant hills framed by the distinct edges of conifer forests. • Perception of remoteness on the open plateau, from the rugged patchy texture and absence of obvious human artefacts.
Landscape Value	The LCT encompasses large areas of rocky, heather moorland, with dispersed lochs and lochan, which contribute towards its aesthetic qualities. The landscape is largely uninhabited, with little evidence of landuse, and accordingly exhibits a sense of remoteness. However, this is less pronounced in northern parts of the LCT (closest to the Proposed Development) where there are large areas of commercial forestry plantation. The LCT is entirely undesignated within the Study Area. On balance, Landscape Value is Medium.

Assessment of Effects	
Possible Landscape Receptors	**Potential Effects**
• Strong contrast in landcover and settlement between the plateau and adjoining straths and glens.	• There would be no change to landcover across the plateau within the LCT. From more open vantage points (including Meall Mor and Carn na Gearraig on the northern edge of the LCT) the Section E alignment would be located in the landscape to the north, in the context of existing settlement dispersed across the intervening straths and glens. As such, there would be very limited

Baseline Description	
	change to the existing sense of contrast between the plateau and the adjoining straths. Furthermore, swathes of forestry across the northern part of the LCT in closest proximity to the Section E alignment (including Boblainy Forest and forestry at Loch Raineachan) would restrict outward views, and further reduce the potential influence of the Proposed Development.
• Sparsely inhabited and little evidence of active landuse.	• The Proposed Development would represent a modern element of human landuse in the landscape to the north. The construction activities and steel lattice towers would be spatially separate from the LCT, and experienced beyond the existing OHL that extends through western parts of the LCT (from Eskdale Moor to Wester Balblair Substation), and a separate OHL extending across the hillside north of Strathglass.
• A few historic sites indicating past settlement and land use.	• There would be no direct effect on these landscape elements.
• Within the plateau distance and scale are generally difficult to perceive due to the lack of elements of known size.	• The Proposed Development would represent an element of human influence, that would potentially form a scale-indicator within the landscape to the north. However, its influence on landscape character across the plateau would be limited by its spatial separation from the plateau and the intervening OHLs within the same field of view. As above, potential views of the Section E alignment would also be subject to screening by forestry focused across northern parts of the LCT. The clearest views would be experienced from more open vantage points, including Meall Mor and Carn na Gearraig on the northern edge of the LCT.
• At the plateau edges, expansive views over inhabited straths and glens create surprise.	• Within more open views from the plateau edges, the Section E alignment would be experienced in the landscape to the north at a minimum distance of 1.7 km. The construction activities and steel lattice towers would be located in the context of intervening settlements within the 'inhabited straths and glens' and beyond intervening OHLs.
• Eastern areas have a semi-exposed character with occasional views of distant hills framed by the distinct edges of conifer forests.	• As above, within more open views, the Proposed Development would be experienced in the landscape to the north, beyond intervening OHLs. Swathes of forestry at Boblainy Forest and at Loch Raineachan, on the northern part of the LCT (closest to the Section E alignment) would restrict outward views.
• Perception of remoteness on the open plateau, from the rugged patchy texture and absence of obvious human artefacts.	• The Proposed Development would represent an element of human influence, albeit experienced at distance from more open, elevated vantage points on the edges of the plateau. The construction activities and steel lattice towers would be located beyond intervening OHLs and accordingly exert limited influence on the existing sense of remoteness across the LCT interior.

Baseline Description	
Landscape Sensitivity	The LCT is completely undesignated within the Study Area. Its susceptibility to the Proposed Development would be increased by the lack of habitation / human activity, and the resultant sense of remoteness across the open plateau. However, the northern part of the LCT (closest to the Proposed Development) incorporates extensive areas of managed forestry. Landscape susceptibility of the LCT is further tempered by its spatial separation from Section E, and the presence of intervening settlements and OHL in the intervening landscape. On balance, Landscape Susceptibility is Medium. Landscape sensitivity to Proposed Development is **Medium**.
Nature of change and Impact Magnitude	The Section E alignment would be located 1.7 km to the north of the 222 - Rocky Moorland Plateau - Inverness LCT at the closest point. Accordingly, there would be no direct effects upon its existing characteristics. Potential indirect effects would be limited to views of the Proposed Development from more open vantage points. These include Meall Mor and Carn na Gearraig on the northern edge of the LCT. Forestry at Boblainy Forest and Loch Raineachan would restrict potential views of the Proposed Development across other parts of the LCT within closest proximity to the Section E alignment. Indirect effects, based on views of the construction activities and vehicle movements would be limited by their spatial separation from the LCT, and the presence of intervening settlements and road infrastructure. Similarly, once operational, the influence of the steel lattice towers would be restricted by the presence of the intervening OHLs that extend across Eskdale Moor to Wester Balblair Substation, and across the hillside north of Strathglass. Accordingly, the construction and operation stages of the Proposed Development would exert limited influence on existing landscape character within the LCT. In summary, the Impact Magnitude would be **Low** at most during construction and operation. Other areas would be completely unaffected due to the containing influence of forestry along the northern parts of the LCT.
Significance of Effect	As described above, the construction and operational stages of the Proposed Development would exert limited influence upon the existing characteristics of the 222 - Rocky Moorland Plateau - Inverness LCT due to its spatial separation, intervening settlements, and OHLs. The effect would be **Moderate-Minor Adverse** (not significant) during construction and operation.

Scottish & Southern Electricity Networks

TRANSMISSION

VOLUME 5: APPENDIX 7.9: ANNEX 2 – VISUAL RECEPTOR ASSESSMENT SECTION E

1. VISUAL RECEPTOR ASSESSMENT SECTION E

Table E.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)
SE-01 (Refer to Figure 7.4-13)	**Bridge Park Cottage** Residents of property located to the west of Aultgowrie, near Falls of Orrin.	The property is located within scrub woodland to the south of the River Orrin. Views to the north and north-west are contained by mature woodland along the river corridor. Views to the west and south-west are heavily filtered by tree cover and extensive areas of coniferous woodland (Bridgepark Wood). Views to the south and south-west are slightly more open, filtered by broadleaved woodland with moorland hills visible in the background. 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 construction works and the steel lattice towers would be filtered by intervening tree cover. During construction, there would be partial views of vehicle movement and tree felling to create the wayleave for the alignment to the south / south-west. Once operational, there would be partial views of the towers. This includes views to the south-west, where Tower S193 would be closest to the property (at a distance of 200 m). In views to the south, Tower S194 would be partly visible (at a distance of approximately 300 m), beyond intervening tree cover. Within these views the Proposed Development would therefore be experienced at close proximity, albeit filtered / partly-screened. The visible components would be experienced against a combination of background landscape and sky. Potential views towards more distant parts of Section E, to the west and north-west, would also be filtered / screened by 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. However,	200 m	**High**	**High**	**Major Adverse (significant) based on proximity and angle of view occupied.**	**Major Adverse (significant) based on proximity and angle of view occupied**

Reference	Location / Type / Context	Nature of Main View	Sensitivity	Nature of Change	Distance	Magnitude		Effect	
						Construction	Operational (after 10yrs)	Construction	Operational (after 10yrs)
				views would remain filtered due the density of the vegetation.					
SE-02 (Refer to Figure 7.4-13)	**Mid Lodge** Residents and visitors to a property within the grounds of Coul House Hotel, adjacent to Core Path RC (10.03).	The property is located at the edge of mature woodland within the hotel grounds. The front of the property faces south, where there are more open views over farmland towards Strath Conon Views are contained in a north / north-west / north-east direction by mature woodland. 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 construction works and steel lattice towers would be heavily filtered in views towards the north / north-east. During construction, there would be partial views of vehicle movement within Strath Conon to the south / south-east, beyond intervening tree cover. There would also be distant views of associated forestry felling on the southern side of the strath. Once operational, there would be partial views of the towers. The towers to the north / north-east would be predominantly screened by intervening tree cover. This includes potential views of Tower S167, which represents the closest tower to the property (225 m to the north-east). Instead, Tower S169, which is located at slightly greater distance, 350 m to the south-east, would be more visible, albeit would also be filtered by mature woodland along the curtilage. As such, there would be oblique, filtered views of the Proposed Development to the south / south-east, experienced against a combination of background sky and landscape. By contrast views to north, north-west, north-east would be limited due to the concentration of tree cover.	225 m	**Medium**	**Medium**	**Major / Moderate Adverse (significant) based on proximity and visibility winter months.**	**Major / Moderate Adverse (significant) based on proximity and visibility winter months (particularly Tower S168).**

Reference	Location / Type / Context	Nature of Main View	Sensitivity	Nature of Change	Distance	Magnitude		Effect	
						Construction	Operational (after 10yrs)	Construction	Operational (after 10yrs)
				Due to the broadleaved nature of surrounding tree cover, there would a reduction in the filtering effects of tree cover in winter months.					
SE-03 (Refer to Figure 7.4-13)	**Heights of Kinnahaird** Residents and visitors to a property located on the A834, to the south-east of Contin.	The front of the property faces south over farmland at the River Conon with the higher ground at Fairburn GDL and hill summits (Cul Mhor and Cul Beag) visible in the background. There are open views to the south-west back clothed by the hills at the edge of Strath Conon including Torr Achilty. Views to the east are open, with higher ground at Moy Wood partially containing views. There are also wider views to the south-east along low-lying farmland at the River Conon, with the elevated landform at Moy Wood visible in the background. 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 south-east. During construction, there would be views of vehicle movement within Strath Conon to the south. There would also be views of localised tree felling, including long-distance views of associated forestry felling on the hills at the southern side of the strath. Once operational, there would be partial views of the towers. Tower S171 would be the closest to the property and would be viewed at an oblique angle 228 m to the south-east. Tower S170 would also be viewed at an oblique angle at 390 m to the east, and Tower S172 would also be visible in views to the south at approx. 340 m. As such, there would be views of Proposed Development at close range to the east, partially screened by curtilage buildings and filtered by intervening tree cover, against a combination of the background sky and landscape. Views to the south-east would be at close range and predominantly against the background sky and	228 m	**High**	**High**	**Major Adverse (significant) based on proximity and angle of view occupied in winter months.**	**Major Adverse (significant) 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)
				views to the south would be predominantly against the background landscape. Views to north / north-east would be heavily filtered by intervening tree cover. Accordingly, the towers to the north / north-east would be predominantly screened. In wider, longer-distance views to the south-west the Proposed Development would be visible predominantly against the background landscape up to distances of 3 km.					
SE-04 (Refer to Figure 7.4-13)	**Bruaich Cottages** Residents and visitors to a property located adjacent to the A835.	The front of the property faces south over farmland at the River Conon, with higher ground at Fairburn GDL, Cul Mhor and Cul Beag experienced in the background. There are also views to the south-west and west over farmland back-clothed by the hills at the edge of Strath Conon, including Torr Achilty. Views to the east and south-east are heavily filtered by intervening tree cover at Black Water. Views to the north, north-east and north-west are contained by landform that forms the A834 corridor. Based on the value of existing views from this property and susceptibility to proposed	**High**	Views of the construction works and the steel lattice towers would be experienced at close proximity. During construction, there would be views of vehicle movement within Strath Conon, as well as localised tree felling along the alignment. This includes long-distance views of associated forestry felling on the hills at the southern side of the strath. Once operational, there would be clear views of the towers, with Tower S173 the closest at 230 m to the west of the property. In addition, Tower S172 would be located approx. 250 m to the north-west and would be partially screened by the intervening roadside embankment / landform. There would be oblique views of Proposed Development at close range to the west	230 m	**High**	**High**	**Major Adverse (significant) based on proximity and angle of view occupied.**	**Major Adverse (significant) based on proximity and angle of view occupied**

Reference	Location / Type / Context	Nature of Main View	Sensitivity	Nature of Change	Distance	Magnitude		Effect	
						Construction	Operational (after 10yrs)	Construction	Operational (after 10yrs)
		development change the sensitivity of the receptor is adjudged to be High.		predominantly experienced against the background sky, filtered by curtilage vegetation. Views to the north and north-east would be partially screened by roadside embankment landform. There would be oblique views of Proposed Development to the south-west over the River Conon, out to distances of approx. 2.8 km, experienced against the background landscape.					
SE-05 (Refer to Figure 7.4-13)	**Ben View** Residents and visitors to a property located on the A835, to the south-east of Contin, adjacent to Black Water. Refer to viewpoint 7-81 A835 (south-east of Contin), located nearby on the A835.	The front of the property faces south-west towards Strath Conon with Torr Achilty visible in the background. Views to the south are focused over farmland at the River Conon, with the higher ground at Fairburn GDL, Cul Mhor and Cul visible in the background. Views to the south-west and west are back-clothed by the hills at the edge of Strath Conon, including Torr Achilty. Views to the west and north-west are filtered by intervening tree cover and views to the north are over undulating farmland with tree cover in around Coul House Hotel visible in the background. Views to the east and north-east are heavily filtered by intervening tree cover, located adjacent to the A834.	**High**	View of the construction works and introduction of the steel lattice towers would be experienced at close proximity to the south-east. During construction, there would be views of vehicle movement within Strath Conon, as well as localised tree felling along the alignment. This includes long-distance views of associated forestry felling on the hills at the southern side of the strath. Once operational, there would be views of the towers. Tower S173 would be the closest to the property and would be viewed at an oblique angle to the south-east at approx. 240 m distance. Tower S174 would also be viewed at close proximity to the south, at 390 m from the property. To the north-east, Tower S172 would be visible at a distance of 425 m.	240 m	**High**	**High**	**Major Adverse (significant) based on proximity and angle of view occupied.**	**Major Adverse (significant) based on proximity and angle of view occupied**

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.		There would be partially screened views (beyond adjacent shed buildings) of the Proposed Development at close range to the south and south-east, predominantly against the background landscape. There would also be views to the north-east against a combination of the background sky and landscape up to distances of approx. 1 km. Views to the south-west would be predominantly experienced against the background landscape up to distances of approx. 3 km. Due to the broadleaved nature of tree cover to the east and north-east, there would a reduction in the filtering effects of tree cover in winter months in that direction.					
SE-06 (Refer to Figure 7.4-13)	**Grieve's Cottage** Residents and visitors to a property located adjacent to Kinnahaird Farm.	The front of the property faces south-east over farmland at the River Conon, with higher ground at Fairburn GDL, Cul Mhor and Cul Beag in the background. Views to the south-west and west over farmland are back-clothed by the hills at the edge of Strath Conon, including Torr Achilty, and filtered by intervening tree cover. There are open views to the north-west and north with tree cover around Contin and Coul House visible in the distance	**High**	View of the construction works and introduction of the steel lattice towers would be experienced at close proximity. During construction, there would be views of vehicle movement within Strath Conon to the north / north-west. Activities to the south would be partly screened by intervening tree cover. Once operational, there would be views of the towers. Tower S172 would be the closest to the property at a distance of 250 m to the north-west. Tower S171 would be located approx. 330 m to	250 m	**High**	**High**	**Major Adverse (significant) based on proximity and angle of view occupied.**	**Major Adverse (significant) based on proximity and angle of view occupied**

Reference	Location / Type / Context	Nature of Main View	Sensitivity	Nature of Change	Distance	Magnitude		Effect	
						Construction	Operational (after 10yrs)	Construction	Operational (after 10yrs)
		Views to the east and north-east are partially screened by adjacent farm buildings with Moy Wood and Cnoc Mhor visible in the background. 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.		the north, and Tower S173 would be located approx. 400 m to the south-west. There would be views of Proposed Development at close range to the north-west, predominately against the background sky. Views of Proposed Development to the north and north-east would be experienced against a combination of background sky and landscape at distances of between 330 m and 670 m.					
SE-07 (Refer to Figure 7.4-13)	**Broompark** Residents and visitors to the property located to the south east of the Coul House Hotel grounds, accessed from the A834.	The property is wholly located within mature woodland, which extends north, north-west and north-east from the A834. Views are heavily filtered in all directions by woodland. 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 construction works and the steel lattice towers would be extremely limited, due to the concentration of the surrounding tree cover within the curtilage. During construction, potential views of vehicle movement and localised tree felling within Strath Conon would be filtered by tree cover, particularly during summer months. Once operational, views of the towers would remain limited. This includes potential views of Tower S169, which would be the closest to the property at 260 m distance. As such, potential views of the Proposed Development, to the west, north-west and south-west would be heavily filtered, and experienced against a combination of the background sky and landscape.	260 m	**Low**	**Low**	**Moderate Adverse (significant) based on proximity and angle of view in winter months.**	**Moderate Adverse (significant) based on proximity and angle of view 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)
				Due to the broadleaved nature of surrounding tree cover, there would a slight reduction in the filtering effects of tree cover in winter months, albeit views would remain limited.					
SE-08 (Refer to Figure 7.4-13)	**Wester Newton** Residents and visitors to a property located at the edge of Strath Conon at the banks of the River Conon.	The front of the property faces north, where views are contained by tree cover along the nearby river corridor. Views to the north-east and heavily filtered by tree cover, with more open views experienced over farmland to the east. Views to the south-east are focused towards the River Conon, and characterised by mature woodland and farmland. Views to west and south are heavily filtered by tree cover and contained by hills in the background. Existing OHL is visible to the south and south east. 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 the steel lattice towers would be experienced at close proximity to the south-east, east and north-east, filtered by tree cover. During construction, there would be views of vehicle movement and associated forestry felling along the alignment. This includes localised areas of additional felling to create a wind-firm edge to the retained forestry on the southern edge of the strath. Once operational, there would be views of the towers. Tower S179 would be the closest to the property, at a distance of 280 m to the south-east, and would be experienced at an oblique angle to the primary direction of view from the property. Tower S178 would be also be partly visible in views to the east at a distance of 340 m. There would be filtered views of the Special Arrangement (diamond duck under arrangement) to the south-east, between Tower S178 and S179. As such, in filtered views, these towers, and the Special Arrangement, would be experienced	280 m	**Medium**	**Medium**	**Major / Moderate Adverse (significant) based on proximity and angle of view occupied in winter months.**	**Major / Moderate Adverse (significant) 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)
				against the background sky beyond intervening tree cover. Views to the north-east would also be heavily filtered by tree cover at the river corridor, and experienced against a combination of the background sky and landscape.					
SE-09 (Refer to Figure 7.4-13)	**Kinnahaird** Residents and visitors to a property located adjacent to the A835	The front of the property faces north-east over the road corridor and farmland with Moy Wood and Cnoc Mhor visible in the background. Views to south-east are focused along the low-lying farmland at the River Conon, filtered by intervening tree cover. Views to the south and south-west are over farmland at the River Conon contained by higher ground at Fairburn GDL, Cul Mhor and Cul Beag in the background. There are views to the west over farmland back-clothed by the hills at the edge of Strath Conon including Torr Achilty. Views to the north-west and north are filtered by curtilage vegetation, with background hills visible in the distance. 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. During construction, there would be partial views of vehicle movement within Strath Conon, as well as localised tree felling along the alignment. Once operational, there would be views of the towers. Tower S172 would be the closest at 300 m to the north-west of the property. Tower S173 would also be located in close proximity to the property (approx.330 m to the west), although would be filtered by curtilage vegetation. There would be oblique views of Proposed Development at close range to the west against a combination of background sky and landscape. Views to the north-west would be predominately against the background sky, filtered by curtilage tree cover. Views of Proposed Development to the north and north-east, would be predominantly against the	300 m	**Medium**	**Medium**	**Major / Moderate Adverse (significant) based on proximity and angle of view occupied in winter months.**	**Major / Moderate Adverse (significant) 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)
				background sky up to distances of 900 m, filtered by curtilage vegetation.					
SE-10 (Refer to Figure 7.4-13)	**Achnacoul** Residents and visitors to a property within the grounds of Coul House Hotel, (located to east of the hotel), adjacent to Core Path RC (10.03)	The property is located within mature woodland that extends to the east and north-east of the hotel and limits outward views to the north, east and south-east Views to the west, south and south-west are partially screened by hotel buildings and also filtered by woodland cover. 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 construction works and the steel lattice towers would be limited due to the concentration of the surrounding tree cover within the curtilage. During construction, potential views of vehicle movement and localised tree felling within Strath Conon would be filtered by tree cover, particularly during summer months. Once operational, views of the towers would remain limited. In views to the north, north-east and east, the Proposed Development would be heavily filtered by adjacent woodland, and experienced against the background sky. This includes views of Tower S167, which would be located closest to the property at a distance of 340 m to the north-east. To the south-east, views would be partially screened by intervening landform and heavily filtered by tree cover, and experienced at a minimum distance of 790 m. Due to the broadleaved nature of surrounding tree cover, there would a slight reduction in the filtering effects of tree cover in winter months.	340 m	**Low**	**Low**	**Moderate Adverse (significant) based on winter views.**	**Moderate Adverse (significant) based on winter views.**

Reference	Location / Type / Context	Nature of Main View	Sensitivity	Nature of Change	Distance	Magnitude		Effect	
						Construction	Operational (after 10yrs)	Construction	Operational (after 10yrs)
SE-11 (Refer to Figure 7.4-13)	**Oakmor** Residents and visitors to a property located adjacent to the A834. Refer to viewpoint 7-80, A834 (east of Contin) located nearby on the A834.	The front of the property faces south over farmland at the River Conon, with the higher ground at Fairburn GDL and hill summits (Cul Mhor and Cul Beag) visible in the background. There are open views to the south-west, back-clothed by the hills at the edge of Strath Conon, including Torr Achilty. 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 south-east. During construction, there would be views of vehicle movement within Strath Conon, to the south. There would also be views of localised tree felling, including long-distance views of forestry felling on the hills at the southern side of the strath. Once operational, there would be partial views of the towers. Tower S171 would be the closest to the property and would be viewed at an oblique angle to the primary direction of view, at a distance of 370 m. Views of this tower would be filtered by intervening tree cover. Tower S172 would also be visible to the south-east at approx. 380 m. There would also be views of the Proposed Development at close range to the east and north-east, experienced against a combination of the background sky and landscape, and heavily filtered by intervening tree cover. Views to the south and south-east would be against a combination of the background sky and landscape. In wider views to the south-west the Proposed Development would be visible	370 m	**Medium**	**Medium**	**Major-Moderate Adverse (significant) based on proximity and angle of view occupied in winter months.**	**Major-Moderate Adverse (significant) 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)
				predominantly against the background landscape up to distances of 3 km. The clearest views would be experienced during periods of leaf-fall in winter months.					
SE-12 (Refer to Figure 7.4-13)	**Jackson Cottage** Residents and visitors to a property located within the grounds of Fairburn GDL located adjacent to the walled garden.	The property is wholly located within mature woodland, which forms part of the estate at Fairburn House. Views are heavily filtered in all directions by surrounding woodland. 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 construction works and introduction of the steel lattice towers would be limited, due to the concentration of the surrounding tree cover. During construction, potential views of vehicle movements and tree felling along the alignment would be filtered by intervening woodland. Once operational, views of the towers would remain limited. This includes potential views of Tower S186, which represents the closest tower to the property, at a distance of 320 m to the south-west. There would be heavily filtered views of the Proposed Development to the south-west and south through gaps in the intervening woodland. The Proposed Development would be experienced against a combination of the background sky and landscape. There would a reduction in the filtering effects of tree cover in winter months, however, this is not expected to change the levels of effect due the density and type of vegetation.	320 m	**Low**	**Low**	**Moderate Adverse (significant) applicable to views where there are gaps in the woodland with most open outlook.**	**Moderate Adverse (significant) applicable to views where there are gaps in the woodland with most open outlook.**

Reference	Location / Type / Context	Nature of Main View	Sensitivity	Nature of Change	Distance	Magnitude		Effect	
						Construction	Operational (after 10yrs)	Construction	Operational (after 10yrs)
SE-13 (Refer to Figure 7.4-13)	**Orrin Cottage** Residents and visitors to a property located within the grounds of Fairburn GDL, near the River Orrin.	The property is wholly located within mature woodland which forms part the estate at Fairburn House. Views are heavily filtered in all directions by surrounding woodland. 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 construction works and introduction of the steel lattice towers would be limited, due to the concentration of the surrounding tree cover. During construction, there would be filtered views of vehicle movements and tree felling beyond foreground tree cover. This includes felling to create a wayleave along the alignment and additional felling to create a wind-firm edge to the retained forestry to the south-west of the property (oblique to the primary direction of view). Once operational, views of the towers would remain limited. This includes potential views of Tower S186, which represents the closest tower to the property, at a distance of 275 m to the south-west. There would heavily filtered views of the Proposed Development to north-west, south-west and south through gaps in the intervening woodland. The Proposed Development would be experienced against a combination of the background sky and landscape. Due to the broadleaved nature of surrounding tree cover, there would a reduction in the filtering effects of tree cover in winter months, however, this is not expected to change the levels of effect due the density of the vegetation.	275 m	**Medium**	**Medium**	**Major-Moderate Adverse (significant) applicable to views where there are gaps in the woodland with most open outlook.**	**Major-Moderate Adverse (significant) applicable to views where there are gaps in the woodland with most open outlook.**

Reference	Location / Type / Context	Nature of Main View	Sensitivity	Nature of Change	Distance	Magnitude		Effect	
						Construction	Operational (after 10yrs)	Construction	Operational (after 10yrs)
SE-14 (Refer to Figure 7.4-13)	**Sawmill Cottage** Residents and visitors to a property located within the grounds of Fairburn GDL, on the banks of the River Orrin.	The property is wholly located within mature woodland which forms part the estate at Fairburn House. Views are heavily filtered in all directions by surrounding woodland. 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 construction works and introduction of the steel lattice towers would be restricted by surrounding tree cover. During construction, there would be filtered views of vehicle movements and felling activities beyond foreground tree cover. Once operational, views of the towers would remain limited. This includes potential views of Tower S187, which represents the closest tower to the property, at a distance of 380 m to the south-west. There would heavily filtered views of the Proposed Development to the north-west, south-west and south, through gaps in the intervening woodland. The Proposed Development would be experienced against a combination of the background sky and landscape. Due to the broadleaved nature of surrounding tree cover, there would a reduction in the filtering effects of tree cover in winter months, however, this is not expected to change the levels of effect due the density of the vegetation.	380 m	**Medium**	**Medium**	**Major-Moderate Adverse (significant) applicable to views where there are gaps in the woodland with most open outlook.**	**Major-Moderate Adverse (significant) applicable to views where there are gaps in the woodland with most open outlook.**
SE-15 (Refer to Figure	**Coul Garden Cottage** Residents and visitors to a property within	The property is located within mature woodland that extend to the east and south-east from the hotel and limits outward views to the north and north-east.	**High**	Views of construction works and the steel lattice towers would be heavily filtered in views to the north and north-east. During construction, potential views of vehicle movement and localised tree felling within Strath	460 m	**Low**	**Low**	**Moderate Adverse (significant) based on**	**Moderate Adverse (significant) 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)
7.4-13)	the grounds of Coul House Hotel, (located to the east of the hotel), adjacent to Core Path RC (10.03).	The front of the property faces south, where there are more open views to the south and south-west, over farmland, towards Strath Conon. Views to the west, north-west are partially screened by hotel buildings and filtered by woodland cover. With reference to the methodology, 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.		Conon would be filtered by tree cover, particularly during summer months. Once operational, views of the towers would remain restricted, particularly those to the north of the property. Whilst Tower S167 would be the closest to the property, at a distance of 460 m to the north-east, it would be predominantly screened from view. Instead, Tower S168 would be the most visible, at a distance of 540 m to the south-east, although it would also be filtered by mature woodland along the intervening curtilage. There would be oblique filtered views of the Proposed Development to the south-east, experienced against a combination of background sky and landscape. By contrast views to north, north-west, north-east would be very limited due to the concentration of tree cover. Due to the broadleaved nature of surrounding tree cover, there would a slight reduction in the filtering effects of tree cover in winter months.					
SE-16 (Refer to Figure 7.4-13)	**Auchederson Farmhouse** Residents and visitors to a property located to the north of Allt Goibhre	Views to the north-east and east are filtered by woodland at Allt Goibhre River. Views to the south are contained by the rising landform at Cnoc Beinn na Lice. Views to the west are also contained by landform.	**High**	There would be views of construction works and introduction of the steel lattice towers to the north-east / east. During construction, there would be partial views of vehicle movements and tree felling. This includes felling to create a wayleave along the alignment and additional felling to create a wind-firm edge to the retained	470 m	**Medium**	**Medium**	**Major-Moderate Adverse (significant) applicable to views**	**Major-Moderate Adverse (significant) applicable to views**

Reference	Location / Type / Context	Nature of Main View	Sensitivity	Nature of Change	Distance	Magnitude		Effect	
						Construction	Operational (after 10yrs)	Construction	Operational (after 10yrs)
	River within open moorland south of Bridgepark Wood.	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.		forestry to the east of the property (oblique to the primary direction of view). Once operational, there would be views of the towers. Tower S195 would be located closest to the property, at a distance of 470 m. In addition, there would be relatively close proximity views of Tower S194 (540 m to the north-east), and Towers S196 & S197 (590 m to the east), subject to screening by intervening woodland. Accordingly, there would partially screened views of the Proposed Development to the north-east and east, against a combination of the background sky and landscape. Views of the Proposed Development to the south-east would be experienced against a combination of the background sky and landscape. This includes longer distance views of Section E, out to distances of approximately 2.5 km (where the route increases in elevation).					
SE-17 (Refer to Figure 7.4-13)	**Gas Street Cottage** Residents and visitors to a property near Muirton Mains Farm	The property is located adjacent to mature woodland, which filters views to the east, west and south. Views to the north, north-west and north-east are more open, and extend over farmland and River Conin, with background hills visible in the distance. Views to the	**High**	There would be views of the construction works and introduction of steel lattice towers towards the north and west. Tower S178 would be located closest to the property, at a distance of 520 m to the north-west. During construction, there would be partial views of vehicle movements within Strath Conon beyond intervening tree cover.	520 m	**Low**	**Low**	**Moderate Adverse (significant) applicable to views with most open outlook.**	**Moderate Adverse (significant) applicable to views with most open outlook.**

Reference	Location / Type / Context	Nature of Main View	Sensitivity	Nature of Change	Distance	Magnitude		Effect	
						Construction	Operational (after 10yrs)	Construction	Operational (after 10yrs)
		west are partially screened by forestry at Ruttle Wood. An existing OHL is located to the south of the property. However, based on the overall 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, there would be oblique views of the Proposed Development to the west and north-west, experienced against the background landscape and filtered by intervening forestry at Ruttle Wood. Views to the north and north-east would be more open and the Proposed Development would be visible against the background landscape out to a distance of approx. 2.5 km. Due to the broadleaved nature of surrounding tree cover, there would a reduction in the filtering effects of tree cover in winter months, however, this is not expected to change the levels of effect due the density of the vegetation.					
SE-18 (Refer to Figure 7.4-13)	**Wester Kinellan** Residents and visitors to a property at Wester Kinellan, to west of Strathpeffer, near Loch Kinellan.	The front of the property faces north / north-west towards Loch Kinellan. These views are contained by higher ground to the north of the loch. Views to the west are partially contained by the intervening landform, and views to the south are contained by intervening landform. 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 steel lattice towers would be experienced in the landscape to the west and north-west, oblique to the primary direction of view from the property, and subject to screening by intervening tree cover. Tower S164 would be located in closest proximity at a distance of 520 m. During construction, there would be partial views of vehicle movements and localised tree felling along the alignment. This includes a small parcel of additional felling north of Tower S164 to create a wind-firm edge to the retained forestry.	520 m	**Medium**	**Medium**	**Major / Moderate Adverse (significant) based on proximity and angle of view occupied in winter months.**	**Major / Moderate Adverse (significant) 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)
				Once operational, there would be partial views of the towers. The Proposed Development would be most visible in views to the west / north-west. Within these views the towers would be experienced predominantly above the horizon, against the sky. Potential views to the north would be screened by landform, and views to the north-east would be partially screened by intervening landform and filtered by intervening tree cover (located around the curtilage and within intervening farmland). Views to the south-west would also be predominantly screened by intervening landform. Due to the broadleaved nature of surrounding tree cover, there would a slight reduction in the filtering effects of tree cover in winter months. Overall, the visibility would be more apparent in winter.					
SE-19 (Refer to Figure 7.4-13)	**Upper Weston Fanellan Croft** Residents and visitors to a property near a minor road at Fanellan near the SSE depot.	The front of the property faces south-east, where there are expansive views over farmland and a mosaic of forestry and woodland, with hills in the background. Views to the south and south-west are also open and expansive. Conversely, views are more contained to the north, north-west and north-east by a combination of landform and forestry at	**High**	There would be oblique views of the construction works and introduction of steel lattice towers. During construction, there would be partial views of vehicle movements and localised tree felling along the southern end of the alignment. This includes additional felling between Towers S229 and S231 to create a wind-firm edge to the retained forestry.	550 m	**Low**	**Low**	**Moderate Adverse (significant) subject to screening levels.**	**Moderate Adverse (significant) subject to screening levels.**

Reference	Location / Type / Context	Nature of Main View	Sensitivity	Nature of Change	Distance	Magnitude		Effect	
						Construction	Operational (after 10yrs)	Construction	Operational (after 10yrs)
		Ruttle Wood. Curtilage vegetation would also filter views to the north and north-east. An existing OHL is located to the north of the property at approx. 130 m. However,based on the overall 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, there would be partial views of the towers towards the north-west. Tower S232 would be located closest to the property at a distance of 550 m to the north-west. This tower would be experienced against a combination of background sky and landscape, and filtered by intervening forestry at Ruttle Wood. Views of other (more distant) parts of the Section E alignment to the north and north-west would be predominantly screened by combination of landform and forestry.					
SE-20 (Refer to Figure 7.4-13)	**Jamestown** Residents and visitors to a small settlement located adjacent to the A834 (south-west of Strathpeffer). Refer to viewpoint 7-78 Jamestown, located on the	The principal views are focused to the south and south-west, encompassing rolling farmland within Strath Conon, with rugged hills in the background. 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.	**High**	Views of the construction works and steel lattice towers would be limited due to the concentration of intervening woodland to the west. During construction, there would be partial views of vehicle movement within Strath Conon to the south-west, beyond intervening tree cover. There would also be distant views of associated forestry felling on the southern side of the strath. Once operational, potential views of the towers would also be restricted by intervening tree cover. This includes potential views of Tower S168, which would be located closest to the settlement at a distance of 540 m to the west.	540 m	**Low**	**Low**	**Moderate (adverse) based on views from the southern edge of the settlement. Moderate-Minor from other of the parts settlement.**	**Moderate (adverse) based on views from the southern edge of the settlement. Moderate-Minor from other of the parts settlement.**

Reference	Location / Type / Context	Nature of Main View	Sensitivity	Nature of Change	Distance	Magnitude		Effect	
						Construction	Operational (after 10yrs)	Construction	Operational (after 10yrs)
	edge of the settlement.	Based on the value of existing views f and susceptibility to proposed development change the sensitivity of the receptor is adjudged to be High.		There would be clearer visibility of Tower S169 from the southern edge of the settlement. Within these localised views, this tower would be experienced at a distance of 615 m to the south-west. Views of wider parts of the Proposed Development would also be confined to properties on the southern edge of the settlement, and would be experienced against a combination of background sky and landscape. Within wider views to the south-west over Strath Conon, the Proposed Development would be visible against the background landscape up to distances of 5 km. These views would be filtered by tree cover in and around the settlement, and within the intervening farmland. Potential views from all other parts of the settlement (including potential views to the west and north-west) would be well-screened due to the concentration of intervening tree cover.					
SE-21 (Refer to Figure 7.4-13)	**Contin** Residents and visitors to settlement centred on the A835 adjacent to Black Water	The principal views from the southern settlement edge are focused to the south over the River Conon, contained by higher ground at Fairburn and Cul Mhor, with Cul Beag visible in the background. Torr Achilty is visible to the south-west. These views are filtered by intervening tree cover located at Black Water.	**High**	There would be views of the construction works and introduction of steel lattice towers from the south-eastern settlement edge. Potential views of the construction activities would be restricted by intervening tree cover in combination with buildings and landform. Once operational, Tower S173 would be located in closest proximity to the settlement at a distance of 580 m to the south-east. This tower would be	580 m	**Low based on views from the south eastern settlement edge, Negligible**	**Low based on views from the south eastern**	**Moderate (adverse) based on views from the south eastern settlement edge, Moderate-Minor from other**	**Moderate (adverse) based on views from the south eastern settlement edge, Moderate-Minor from other**

Reference	Location / Type / Context	Nature of Main View	Sensitivity	Nature of Change	Distance	Magnitude		Effect	
						Construction	Operational (after 10yrs)	Construction	Operational (after 10yrs)
		Views to east and north-east are partially screened by landform, with Moy Wood visible in the distance. Based on the value of existing views and susceptibility to proposed development change the sensitivity of the receptor is adjudged to be High.		experienced against a combination of background sky and landscape, and would be filtered by intervening tree cover. Potential views of wider parts of the Proposed Development to the east and north-east would be subject to screening by the intervening landform, and filtered by intervening tree cover.					
SE-22 (Refer to Figure 7.4-13)	**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 to the south and south-west are open and expansive from areas of higher ground at the settlement edge. Views from within the settlement are contained by a combination of buildings, landform and tree cover. Based on the value of existing views and susceptibility to proposed development change the sensitivity of the receptor is adjudged to be High.	**High**	Strathpeffer is located 1.1 km to the east of Section Eat the closest point (Tower S164). The construction works and steel lattice towers would be partially visible from localised residential areas on the outer edge of the settlement. During construction, there would be partial views of vehicle movement and tree felling along the alignment, subject to screening by intervening landform, tree cover and buildings within the settlement. Once operational there would be partial views of the towers, which would represent distant elements in the background landscape towards the west. There would also be partial views of wider (more distant) parts of the Proposed Development in views to the south-west, up to distances of approximately 6 km. These views would also be restricted to localised, elevated areas on the edge	1.1 km	**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	Operational (after 10yrs)
				of the settlement, and would be subject to screening by intervening tree cover. Views from other parts of the settlement would be subject to increased screening due to intervening buildings, tree cover and the underlying landform.					
SE-23 (Refer to Figure 7.4-13)	**Kiltarlity** The settlement is located to the south of Beauly, near the A833 on the banks of the Brulach Burn. Refer to viewpoint 7-91 Kiltarlity, located on the nearby road network.	Views are open to the east and south-east, primarily extending over areas of farmland. Conversely, woodland at the Brulach Burn filters views to the west and north-west. Views to the south and north are also heavily filtered by tree cover, adjacent to the settlement and within intervening farmland. Based on the value of existing views and susceptibility to proposed development change the sensitivity of the receptor is adjudged to be High	**High**	Kiltarlity is located 2.6 km to the south-east of Section E at the closest point (Tower S232). Views of the construction works and introduction of steel lattice towers would be restricted by woodland to the north-west of the settlement, in combination with the intervening landform. Accordingly, the Proposed Development would represent an extremely discreet, distant element in the background landscape to north-west, filtered by tree cover.	2.6 km	**Negligible**	**Negligible**	**Moderate-Minor Adverse (not significant)**	**Moderate-Minor Adverse (not significant)**
SE-24 (Refer to Figure 7.4-13)	**Marybank** Residents and visitors to settlement centred on the A834. The	Views to the west and north-west over the River Conon consist of low-lying farmland with background hills (along the northern side of Strath Conon) visible in the distance.	**High**	Marybank is located 2.1 km to the east of Section E at the closest point (Tower S173). During construction, there would be partial views of work activities (primarily vehicle movement) within Strath Conon towards the north-west,	2.1 km	**Low**	**Low**	**Moderate Adverse (significant) based on views from the**	**Moderate Adverse (significant) based on views from the**

Reference	Location / Type / Context	Nature of Main View	Sensitivity	Nature of Change	Distance	Magnitude		Effect	
						Construction	Operational (after 10yrs)	Construction	Operational (after 10yrs)
	settlement is located on A843 on the banks of the River Conon.	Views to south are contained by higher landform and woodland at Coul Wood and Exhibition Wood. Views to the east and south-east are over low-lying farmland adjacent to the River Conon, with higher ground at Moy Wood visible in the background. There is an existing OHL to the south. However, based on the value of existing views and susceptibility to proposed development change the sensitivity of the receptor is adjudged to be High.		subject to screening by intervening tree cover and buildings within the settlement. Similarly, once operational, the steel lattice towers would be visible to the north-west from the settlement edge, subject to screening by intervening tree cover. Views of Proposed Development extending across wider parts of Strath Conon to the west and north-west would be experienced at distances of up to approx. 3.2 km, against the background landscape and filtered by intervening tree cover. Views to the south-west would be partially screened by landform and filtered by intervening woodland.					
SE-25 (Refer to Figure 7.4-13)	**Muir of Ord** Residents and visitors to settlement located to the west of the Beauly Firth. Refer to viewpoint 7-88 Muir of Ord, located on the	Views are open and expansive from the settlement edges, with views to the east over the Beauly Firth. Views to the west and north-west are over farmland with background hills in the distance. To the west and south-west Cnoc Croit and Cnoc Udais form a backdrop to views. Two existing OHL are located to the west of the settlement. However, based on the value of existing views and susceptibility to proposed development change the	**High**	Muir of Ord is located 4.0 km to the east of Section E at the closest point (Tower S200). Views of the construction works and introduction of steel lattice towers would represent distant elements in the background landscape towards the west, subject to screening by landform and tree cover. Views of the Proposed Development would be limited due to distance, intervening landform and tree cover and would form an extremely discreet, linear element within wider views across to west and south-west.	4.0 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)
	nearby road network.	sensitivity of the receptor is adjudged to be High.							
SE-26 (Refer to Figure 7.4-13)	**Beauly**	Views to the east and north are open, filtered by tree cover at the settlement and within intervening farmland. Views to the west, north-west and south and contained by landform. Two existing OHL are located to the west of the settlement. However, based on the value of existing views and susceptibility to proposed development change the sensitivity of the receptor is adjudged to be High.	**High**	Beauly is located 4.6 km to the east of Section E at the closest point (Tower S205). The construction works and introduction of steel lattice towers would represent distant elements in the background landscape towards the west. Views would be confined to the settlement edge, where the Proposed Development would be partially screened by the intervening landform and tree cover in the landscape to the north-west. The towers would represent a relatively distant linear element, experienced against the background landscape. Views of the Proposed Development to the south-west would also be partially screened by landform, and filtered by tree cover.	4.6 km	**Negligible**	**Negligible**	**Moderate-Minor Adverse (not significant)**	**Moderate-Minor Adverse (not significant)**
SE-27 (Refer to Figure 7.4-13)	**Dingwall** Residents and visitors to settlement located at the south western	Views from elevated areas are channelled to the north-east to Cromarty Firth, and south-west along Strath Peffer.	**High**	Dingwall is located 5.8 km to the north-east of Section E at the closest point (Tower S150). Views of the construction works and steel lattice towers would represent distant elements in the background landscape, subject to intervening screening.	5.8 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)
	end of the Cromarty Firth.			Within the clearest views towards the west / south-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.					

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)
RE-01 (Refer to Figure 7.4-14)	**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 between Contin and Jamestown are expansive to the south, south-east and south-west. These views encompass the River Conon, contained by higher ground at Fairburn GDL,Cul Mhor and Cul Beag in the background. The views further to the south-west are back clothed by the hills at the edge of Strath Conon including Torr Achilty. Conversely, views to the north from this section of the route are partially contained by rising landform, with distant hills visible from more open parts of the route, subject to screening levels. Views from sections of the route between near Strathpeffer and Dingwall are channelled to the east and west along Strath Peffer, and are contained by higher ground to the north and south.	**Medium**	The road extends directly under the Section E alignment between properties at Heights of Kinnahaird and Broompark (between Towers S169 and S170). From this localised section, road users travelling east and west would experience close-proximity views of the construction works and steel lattice towers. Tower S170 would be located 155 m to the south, and Tower S169 would be located to the north at approx. 125 m. During construction, there would be clear views of vehicle movement, as well as localised tree felling on the northern and southern edges of Strath Conon. This includes distant views of additional felling to create a wind-firm edge to the retained forestry on the southern side of the strath. Once operational, the Proposed Development would be visible at close range for short section of the road up to distances of approximately 400 m in views to north, appearing against a combination of the background sky and landscape. Close range views to the south-east, south and south-west would be experienced against a combination of the background sky and landscape. From other sections of the route, located to the west of the alignment (near Contin) and east (between Jamestown and Dingwall) would be more limited.	0 m	**High within 400 m, Low across the wider locations.**	**High within 400 m, Low across the wider locations.**	**Major-Moderate Adverse (significant) within 400 m. Minor Adverse (not significant) across wider locations.**	**Major-Moderate Adverse (significant) within 400 m. 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)
				Views to the east and south-east when travelling from Contin would be experienced against the background landscape and sky. Views to the south and south-west would be against the background landscape. Between Jamestown and Dingwall, views of the Proposed Development to the west would be partly screened by the intervening landform (including the summit of Creag Ulladail), and filtered by intervening tree cover. Within the most open views the Proposed Development would be experienced against a combination of background sky and landscape. From wider sections of the route to the north-east (in the vicinity of Dingwall), views would typically be more limited due to a combination of intervening landform and tree cover, as well as the increasing spatial separation. Accordingly, the Proposed Development would appear as a discreet linear element within the background landscape.					
RE-02 (Refer to Figure 7.4-14)	**Achonachie Road** Travellers, on road which connects Marybank (on the A832) with Strath Conon.	Varying views are available based on tree cover, including woodland adjacent to the River Conon and avenue trees along the road between Marybank and Clachuile.	**Medium**	The road extends directly under the alignment between the access to Muirton Mains and Loch Achonachie (between Towers S177 and 1S78). There would be views at close-proximity of the construction works and steel lattice towers. Tower S178 would be located in closest proximity to the road, at approx. 55 m to the south-west. In addition,	0 m	**High within 400 m, Negligible across the wider locations.**	**high within 400 m, Low-Negligible across the wider locations.**	**Major-Moderate Adverse (significant) within 400 m. Moderate-Minor-Adverse (not**	**Major-Moderate Adverse (significant) within 400 m. Moderate-Minor**

Reference	Location / Type / Context	Nature of Main View	Sensitivity	Nature of Change	Distance	Magnitude		Effect	
						Construction	Operational (after 10yrs)	Construction	Operation (after 10yrs)
	Refer to viewpoint 7-84. Achonochie Road (west of Marybank)	Views between Marybank and Loch Achonachie are channelled along the River Conon with higher ground at Fairburn partially containing views to the south and south-west, and the hills on the opposite side of the strath containing views towards the north. Views to the east and west, along the strath, are filtered by tree cover within the surrounding farmland and riparian tree cover along the River Conon.		Tower S177 would be located 190 m to the north-east. During construction, there would be partial views of vehicle movement along the alignment, as well as localised tree felling within Strath Conon. These views would be subject to screening by roadside vegetation, hence primarily focused on the short section of the route that intersects the alignment. Once operational, there would be views of the Proposed Development at close range between access to Muirton Mains and Loch Achonachie up to distances of 400 m in views to the north, north-west, south and south-east. Views would be predominantly experienced against the background landscape and heavily filtered by tree cover. There would also be filtered views of the Special Arrangement (diamond duck under arrangement) at close range to the north-west, between Towers S178 and S179, experienced against the background landscape. Views would be heavily filtered by tree cover from more distant sections of the route located further to the east (towards Marybank). From the eastern end of the road, potential views the Proposed Development to the south-west would be partially screened by landform, and views to the west and north-west would be predominantly against the background landscape.					

Reference	Location / Type / Context	Nature of Main View	Sensitivity	Nature of Change	Distance	Magnitude		Effect	
						Construction	Operational (after 10yrs)	Construction	Operation (after 10yrs)
				Due to the broadleaved nature of tree cover, adjacent to the road there would a reduction in the filtering effects of tree cover in winter months.					
RE-03 (Refer to Figure 7.4-14)	**A835** Travellers, on road which connects Contin with Maryburgh. Refer to viewpoints 7-81 A835 (south-east of Contin) and 7-82 Moy Rock.	Views from the western sections of the road near Contin are open and expansive in an easterly and south-easterly direction. High ground at Moy Wood is visible to the north-east with long range views along the River Conon to the east. Views to the south and south-west are over farmland at the side of the River Conon, contained by higher ground at Fairburn GDL, Cul Mhor and Cul Beag in the background. Further to the south-west, Torr Achilty forms a backdrop to views.	**Medium**	The road extends directly under the alignment between Ben View and Brauch Cottage. There would be views at close-proximity of the construction works and steel lattice towers. Tower S173 would be located in closest proximity to the road at approx. 55 m to the south west. Tower S172 would be located 190 m to the north-east. During construction, there would be clear views of vehicle movement within Strath Conon, particularly where the route intersects the alignment. In addition, there would be longer distance views of felling on the southern side of the strath. Once operational, the Proposed Development would be visible at close range for short section of the route up to distances of 500 m, in views to north, south, south-west and north-east. The towers would be experienced against a combination of the background sky and landscape. From wider sections of the route to the north-west, near Contin, views would be partially screened by intervening landform and buildings, hence potential views would drop-off abruptly.	0 m	**High within 500 m, Low-Negligible across the wider route.**	**High within 500 m, Low-Negligible across the wider route.**	**Major-Moderate Adverse (significant) within 500 m, Minor Adverse (not significant) across the wider route.**	**Major-Moderate Adverse (significant) within 500 m, Minor Adverse (not significant) across the wider route.**

Reference	Location / Type / Context	Nature of Main View	Sensitivity	Nature of Change	Distance	Magnitude		Effect	
						Construction	Operational (after 10yrs)	Construction	Operation (after 10yrs)
				Views south-west and west from sections of road to the east near the A832 junction, would be open to distances of 2 km, within which the Proposed Development would be predominantly visible against the background landscape. Views of the Proposed Development from wider sections of the road to the east would be more intermittent due to road corridor vegetation and intervening tree cover.					
RE-04 (Refer to Figure 7.4-14)	**A831** Travellers, on road which connects the A862 near Beauly with Strathglass in the south-west. Refer to viewpoint 7-90 A831.	Varying views based on landform and tree cover adjacent to the River Beauly. A large section of the road is contained within a river valley floor with the surrounding landform limiting wider views. There are more open views to the south and south-west between Balblair and Kilmorack Dam due to there being less tree cover along the road corridor. However, longer distance views remain filtered by intervening tree cover within adjoining farmland. An existing OHL intersects the road near Wester Balblair. Three other	**Medium**	The road extends directly under the alignment between Aigas Dam Power Station and Crask of Aigas (between Towers S228 and S229). Tower S228 would be located closest to the road at a distance of 270 m to the west, partially screened by landform. Tower S229 would be located approx. 300 m to the south-east. During construction, there would be views of vehicle movement and tree felling along the alignment where it extends across the valley of the River Beauly. There would also be views of additional felling to create a wind-firm edge to the retained forestry on the eastern side of the valley. These views would be subject to screening by roadside vegetation and the landform, hence primarily focused on the short section of the route that intersects the alignment.	0 m	**High within 300 m, Low-Negligible across the wider route.**	**High within 300 m, Low-Negligible across the wider route.**	**Major Adverse (significant) within 300-m, Moderate-Minor Adverse (not significant) across the wider route.**	**Major Adverse (significant) within 300 m, Moderate-Minor Adverse (not significant) across the wider route.**

Reference	Location / Type / Context	Nature of Main View	Sensitivity	Nature of Change	Distance	Magnitude		Effect	
						Construction	Operational (after 10yrs)	Construction	Operation (after 10yrs)
		OHL connect to the existing substation located at Balblair.		Once operational, there would be clear views of the towers from the same section of road up to distances of approx. 300 m along the river valley. The Proposed Development would be experienced against a combination of background sky and landscape, and would be filtered by intervening tree cover at Ruttle Wood. Views at greater distance from sections of the road to the south and south-west would be partially screened by steep landform at either side of the road corridor, and would be filtered by intervening tree cover. Views at greater distance from sections of the road to the north and north-west would also be partially screened by landform and filtered by tree cover adjacent to the road and River Beauly.					
RE-05 (Refer to Figure 7.4-14)	**Dingwall to Kyle of Lochalsh Rail Link** Travellers, on rail route which connects Dingwall with Kyle of Lochalsh.	The railway corridor extends directly under the Section E alignment to the north-west of Achterneed, at 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.	**Medium**	The rail route extends along the valley of the River Peffrey, where it would pass under the Section E alignment (between Towers S152 and S153). From the section of the route between Achterneed and Raven Rock, there would be views of the construction works and steel lattice towers at close range. Tower S152 would be located in closest proximity to the route, at approximately 100 m to the north. During construction, there would be views of vehicle movement and tree felling along the alignment	0 m	**High within 500 m. Low-Negligible across other sections.**	**High within 500 m. Low-Negligible across other sections.**	**Major-Moderate Adverse (significant) within 500 m, Moderate-Minor Adverse (not significant) across other**	**Major-Moderate Adverse (significant) within 500 m, Moderate-Minor Adverse (not**

Reference	Location / Type / Context	Nature of Main View	Sensitivity	Nature of Change	Distance	Magnitude		Effect	
						Construction	Operational (after 10yrs)	Construction	Operation (after 10yrs)
		Views are more enclosed as the corridor extends north-west through varied terrain and planation forestry.		where it extends across the valley of the Peffery Burn. There would also be views of a localised area of additional felling to create a wind-firm edge to the retained forestry on the southern side of the valley. These views would be primarily focused on the short section of the route that intersects the alignment. Views from more distant sections of the track would be subject to screening by landform and tree cover. Once operational, there would be views of the towers from the same section of the track. The Proposed Development would be experienced in views to north and south, in the context of surrounding tree cover and forestry. This accounts for a short section of the overall rail corridor. From wider sections of the route to the west, views of the Proposed Development would be predominantly screened by intervening landform and forestry. Potential views would drop-off abruptly on this basis. Similarly, potential views from wider sections of the route to the east would be restricted by the intervening landform. There would be partial views of the Proposed Development in the distant landscape to the south-west, (at distances of between 4 km and 5 km). The Proposed Development would represent a distant element within the background landscape, subject to					

Reference	Location / Type / Context	Nature of Main View	Sensitivity	Nature of Change	Distance	Magnitude		Effect	
						Construction	Operational (after 10yrs)	Construction	Operation (after 10yrs)
				screening by intervening tree cover and track-side vegetation.					
RE-06 (Refer to Figure 7.4-14)	**Minor road between Marybank and Muir of Ord** Travellers, on road which connects Marybank with Muir or Ord via extensive areas of woodland **and** forestry near the River Orrin and Allt Goibhre. Refer to viewpoints 7-87 Aultgowrie and 7-88 Muir of Ord.	Varying views based on landform and level of tree cover and forestry near the River Orrin and Allt Goibhre. Views are open and panoramic to the north and north-east from the section of the road between Marybank and Muir of Fairburn, with background hills visible in the distance (including Ben Wyvis). Conversely, views to west and south-west are contained by woodland within Fairburn estate. Views to the east are filtered by intervening tree cover within farmland. Views from the section of the road near the River Orrin (further south) are filtered by tree cover, with views of the background hills to the west, south and south-west including Cul Mhor and Cul Beag and Cnoc Udais. An existing OHL intersects the road near Achnasoul and Faebait.	**Medium**	Views of the construction works and new steel lattice towers from the closest road sections would be filtered by intervening woodland. Tower S196 would be located in closest proximity at approx. 330 m to the south-west. During construction, there would be partial views of vehicle movements and localised felling along the alignment within Strath Conon, beyond intervening tree cover. Once operational, there would be views at close range to the west and south-west of the Proposed Development near Auchnagowrie Bridge, heavily filtered by intervening woodland and experienced against a combination of the background landscape and sky. There would be a combination of open and partially screened views of the Proposed Development to the west between Auchnagowrie Bridge and Muir of Ord. Views to the north-west would be partially screened by landform and filtered by tree cover. Views of the Proposed Development to the south-west, west and north between Auchnagowrie Bridge	**330 m**	**Low**	**Low**	**Moderate Adverse (significant) subject to screening levels**	**Moderate Adverse (significant) subject to screening levels**

Reference	Location / Type / Context	Nature of Main View	Sensitivity	Nature of Change	Distance	Magnitude		Effect	
						Construction	Operational (after 10yrs)	Construction	Operation (after 10yrs)
		Views from the south-eastern section of the road between Muir of Ord and Aultgowrie Bridge are open to the west and south-west, with Cnoc Udais and Cnoc Croit forming a backdrop. Views to the north and north-west are filtered by tree cover along the road corridor and within intervening farmland. Two existing OHL intersect the road at the western edge of Muir of Ord. There are partially screened views of Auchmore Windfarm between Muir of Ord and Aultgowrie Bridge.		and Muir of Fairburn would be heavily filtered by coniferous woodland within Fairburn estate. Views towards the Proposed Development would be more open near Marybank, to the west, north-west and north, at distances of between 2.5 km and 3 km, experienced against the background landscape. There would a reduction in the filtering effects of tree cover in winter months, however, this is not expected to change the levels of effect due the density and type of vegetation.					
RE-07 (Refer to Figure 7.4-14)	**Minor road between Blackbridge and Struy (A831)** Travellers, on this road which connects Blackbridge and Struy (A831) via Fanellan.	Variable views based on landform and level of tree cover, both along the River Beauly and within intervening farmland. Views to south and south-east from the section of the road at Fanellan are expansive over farmland, forestry and woodland, with background hills in the distance. Views to the west and north-west are more limited due to a combination of landform, tree cover and forestry (Ruttle Wood).	**Medium**	There would be views of construction works and introduction of steel lattice towers to the west, north-west and south-west from the localised section of the road at Fanellan. Tower S232 would be the closest at 630 m from the road. During construction, there would be partial views of vehicle movements and localised tree felling along the southern end of the alignment. This includes additional felling between Towers S229 and S231 to create a wind-firm edge to the retained forestry. Once operational, there would be views of the Proposed Development at close range to west, north-west and south-west from section of the road	**630 m**	**Low**	**Low**	**Moderate Adverse (significant) subject to screening levels**	**Moderate Adverse (significant) subject to screening levels.**

Reference	Location / Type / Context	Nature of Main View	Sensitivity	Nature of Change	Distance	Magnitude		Effect	
						Construction	Operational (after 10yrs)	Construction	Operation (after 10yrs)
		There are also mature avenue trees on the approach to Hughton which filter views to the north and south. There is a heavy concentration of tree cover as the road follows the River Beauly to Struy at A831. There are views of an existing OHL near Fanellan which intersects the road near Hughton.		at Fanellan. The towers would be experienced against the background sky and landscape. Views of the Proposed Development to the west and south-west from section of the road between Blackbridge and Fanellan Croft would be partiality screened by landform and heavily filtered by tree cover. Views would be more limited from road sections between Fanellan and Hughton due to a combination of landform, road corridor trees and intervening woodland.					
RE-08 (Refer to Figure 7.4-14)	**A832** Travellers, on this road which connects the A835 with Muir of Ord Refer to viewpoint 7-83 Marybank Road.	Views are channelled across the River Conon to west, filtered by intervening tree cover with distant hills forming a backdrop to the west and south-west. Views to the north and north-west are partially contained by landform, with background hills visible in the distance from western road sections. There are also open views to the east along the River Conon. There are two OHL to the east, near Muir or Ord.	**Medium**	The Proposed Development would be located 1.6 km to the west at the closest point (Tower S172). There would be limited views of construction works and the steel lattice towers to the south-west, west and north-west from north-western sections of the road (near the A835 junction), filtered by intervening tree cover. During construction, the vehicle movements and tree felling within Strath Conon would be subject to screening by intervening tree cover and represent background elements in the wider landscape. Once operational, views of Proposed Development from the closest section of the road between Marybank and A835 would remain filtered by intervening tree cover, and predominantly experienced against the background landscape.	1.6 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)
				From wider sections of the road to the east, potential views of Proposed Development would be intermittent and subject to screening by intervening tree cover and roadside vegetation					
RE-09 (Refer to Figure 7.4-14)	**A833** Travellers, on this road which connects the A862 with Milton via Glen Convinth	The road corridor is located within an area called The Airds which includes extensive areas of woodland and forestry. Views to the west and north-west are filtered by tree cover, with background hills visible in the distance.	**Medium**	The Proposed Development would be located 3.5 km to the west at the closest point (Tower S232). Views of the construction works and steel lattice towers would be very limited and barely discernible. The Proposed Development would form an extremely discreet, linear element within wider views across to the west, south-west and north-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.	3.5 km	**Negligible**	**Negligible**	**Minor Adverse (not significant)**	**Minor Adverse (not significant)**
RE-10 (Refer to Figure 7.4-14)	**A862** Travellers, on this road which connects the A833 with Inverness.	The route is located within low-lying farmland with longer range views to the west and east, partially screened by landform and tree cover.	**Medium**	Views of the construction works and new steel lattice towers in the background landscape to the west would be extremely limited and barely discernible. The Proposed Development would form an extremely discreet, linear element within wider views to the west and north west, with large-scale hills and mountains in the distance.	4. 9 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)
				There would be no views of the Proposed Development for large sections of the route due to screening effect of the intervening landform.					

Table E.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)
RE-11 (Refer to Figure 7.4-14)	**Orrin Dam track** RC30.01 Recreational users of this footpath, which is located to the south-east of Fairburn GDL and connects Orrin Reservoir with Orrin circular - Fairburn (RC30.02).	Views from eastern path sections are contained by mature woodland at the River Orrin, including Cornhill Wood to the east and Fairburn Estate to the north. Views from sections of path in the south-west at Glen Orrin are channelled along the River Orrin in a north-east and south-west direction with less intervening tree cover.	**High**	The eastern end of the path intersects the Proposed Development between Towers S187 and S188. The construction works and introduction of new steel lattice towers would be experienced at close proximity from eastern sections of the path extending within approximately 700 m of the alignment (within forest management areas). Upgraded tracks for construction would be visible at close range. Tower S187 would be the closest to the path, at approximately 20 m. During construction, there would be views of vehicle movements and localised felling from the northern end of the path (where it intersects the alignment). This includes felling to create the wayleave for the alignment, and additional felling to create a wind-firm edge to the surrounding forestry. Potential views from more distant southern sections would be subject to screening by landform and forestry. Once operational, views of the towers would remain focused on the northern end of the path. Within close range views the Proposed Development would be visible predominantly against background sky, albeit filtered by intervening forest cover. Views of the towers would also be experienced at greater distance out to approx. 4km to the south-west, where the path extends along Glen Orrin. These longer distance views would be subject to screening by innerving tree cover. In clearer views the Proposed Development would be experienced against a combination of background sky and landscape.	0 m	**High within 700 m, Low-Negligible across the wider locations.**	**High within 700 m, Low-Negligible across the wider location.**	**Major Adverse (significant) within 700 m. Moderate-Minor Adverse (not significant) across wider locations.**	**Major Adverse (significant) within 700 m. Moderate-Minor Adverse (not significant) across 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)
RE-12 (Refer to Figure 7.4-14)	**Mains of Coul** (RC10.03) Recreational users of this footpath located near Jamestown. The path is accessed in the east from the A834 at the northern edge of Jamestown. The path forms a link to Contin in the west, via the Coul House Hotel estate.	Views are focused to the south and south west over farmland at the River Conon contained by higher ground at Fairburn GDL and Cul Mhor and Cul Beag in the background. Torr Achilty forms a backdrop in views to the south-west. 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. There is also mature woodland adjacent to the A834 which limits views from section of the path near Jamestown.	**High**	This path intersects the Proposed Development between Towers S168 and S169). There would be close range views of construction works and the steel towers in the landscape to the north and south (Tower S168 would be the closest at 100 m to the north). During construction, there would be views of vehicle movement and localised felling within Strath Conon (particularly where the route intersects the alignment). There would also be distant views of associated forestry felling on the southern side of the strath. Views of ground-based construction activities to the north would be heavily filtered by intervening mature tree cover along the path corridor. Once operational, the most open views of the Proposed Development would be experienced towards the south. These views would be limited to sections of the path between the Broompark and Coul House Hotel. From this section there would be views of the towers, partly filtered by tree cover. The Proposed Development would be experienced in the context of farmland and tree cover within Strath Conon, against a combination of background sky and landscape. The clearest views would extend out to approximately 700 m from the alignment. Views from other sections of the path, further to the west, would be filtered by mature woodland within Coul House Hotel estate. Similarly, views from more distant eastern sections of path would be subject to screening by mature woodland near Jamestown. Due to the broadleaved nature of tree cover within the locality, there would a slight reduction in the filtering effects of tree cover in winter months. Overall, the visibility would be more apparent in winter.	0 m	**High within 700 m, Low across wider locations.**	**High within 700 m, Low across wider locations.**	**Major Adverse (significant) within 700 m, Moderate Adverse (significant) across wider locations.**	**Major Adverse (significant) within 700 m, Moderate Adverse (significant) across 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)
RE-13 (Refer to Figure 7.4-14)	**Kinellan link path** (RC10.07) Recreational users of this footpath located to 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.	The elevation of the path increases to the north-west, where it joins Core Path RC10.01. Outward views are restricted by surrounding tree cover. From localised forest clearings, there are views to the south-east, south and south-west.	**High**	The eastern end of this footpath intersects the Proposed Development between Towers S163 and S164 (Tower S163 would be the closest at approximately 50 m to the north). There would be close range views of the construction works from the eastern end of the path, comprising vehicle movements and tree felling. This includes forestry felling to create a wayleave for the alignment and additional felling between Towers S161 and S164 to create a wind-farm edge to the retained forestry. Once operational, there would be close proximity views of the steel towers from the same eastern end of the path, particularly within distances of up to 500 m from the alignment. From this section of the path, the Proposed Development would be experienced in the landscape to the north and south, subject to screening by intervening forestry. Views of the Proposed Development from the more distant north-western sections of the path would be extremely limited due to intervening forestry.	0 km	**High within 500 m. Negligible across the wider locations**	**High within 500 m. Negligible across the wider locations**	**Major Adverse (significant) within 500 m, Moderate-Minor (not significant) across wider locations**	**Major Adverse (significant) within 500 m, Moderate-Minor (not significant) across wider locations**
RE-14 (Refer to Figure 7.4-14)	**Loch Kinellan circuit** (RC45.01) Recreational users of this footpath, which forms a	Views are more open to the south-west, towards Strathconon, from sections of the path adjacent to the loch. These views encompass parts of Fairburn Windfarm, and are contained by the distant hills near the River Orrin.	**High**	The construction works and steel lattice towers would be experienced at close range from the western sections of path (Tower S163 would be located 120 m to the west). During construction, there would be views of vehicle movements and tree felling from this section of the path. This includes forestry felling to create a wayleave for the alignment and additional felling between Towers S162 and S164 to create a wind-farm edge to the retained forestry.	120 m	**High within 500 m, Low-Negligible across the wider route.**	**High within 500 m, Low-Negligible across the wider route.**	**Major Adverse (significant) within 500 m, Moderate-Minor**	**Major Adverse (significant) within 500 m, Moderate-Minor**

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)
	loop around Loch Kinellan. The path is accessed from the north-western edge of Strathpeffer. Refer to viewpoint 7-76 Loch Kinellan.	Views to the north from the loch are contained by landform. The northern sections of the path (to the north of Loch Kinellan) are partially located within mature woodland, which restricts longer distance views. Within more open areas / localised clearings, outward views are focused to the south and south-west.		Once operational, there would be close proximity views of the towers from the same western section of the path. The Proposed Development would be visible to the north-west, west and south-west, subject to intervening woodland screening. There would also be partial views of the Proposed Development from the more distant sections of path around the loch, including parts of the alignment to the west and south-west (at distances of up to 1 km). Within these views the Proposed Development would be predominantly experienced against the background sky and filtered by intervening tree cover. The Proposed Development would be gradually become more screened by intervening landform, as the route extends further to the south. Potential views of the Proposed Development from the northern sections of the path would be heavily filtered by woodland. Where there are gaps in the woodland, the Proposed Development would be visible against a combination of background sky and landscape, in views to the west and north-west. To south and south west Proposed Development would be visible against the background landscape. Due to the broadleaved nature of surrounding tree cover, there would a slight reduction in the filtering effects of tree cover in winter months.					
RE-15 (Refer to Figure 7.4-14)	**Orrin circular-Fairburn RC30.02** Recreational users of this	Views are variable based on the level of tree cover. There are large tracts of mature woodland in the surrounding area, including Tower Wood and riparian tree cover along the River Orrin. There are	**High**	There would be filtered views of the construction works and introduction of steel lattice towers at close range from a localised section of the path near Bridgepark Cottage. Tower S192 would be the closest at 200 m to the west. During construction, there would be partial views of vehicle movements and tree felling in the landscape to the south of the path. This would include localised areas of additional forestry felling to	200 m	**High within 500 m, Low-Negligible across the wider**	**High within 500 m, Low-Negligible across the wider**	**Major Adverse (significant) within 500 m, Adverse (not significant)**	**Major Adverse (significant) within 500 m, Moderate Minor**

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)
	footpath, which forms a loop around the River Orrin and connects Orrin Dam track with minor road at Aultgowrie Bridge Refer to viewpoint 7-87 Aultgowrie.	filtered views to the west and south-west where there are localised gaps in the woodland. Views from western path sections are more open, particularly to the south of Fairburn House. From these sections there are filtered views to the north and west with background hills at Creag Mhor. Views to the south-west towards Glen Orrin are partially screened by landform. Views to the south are contained by landform and forestry at Cornhill Wood.		create a wind-firm edge along the alignment. The clearest views would be experienced within distances of up to 500 m from the alignment, subject to filtering by intervening tree cover. Once operational, there would be views of the towers from the same section of the path. The towers would be visible against a combination of the background sky and landscape. In addition, there would be close range views of the Proposed Development from western path sections to the south, south-west and north-west (Tower S187 would be closest at 200 m to the west). Again, the clearest views would be experienced from sections of the path within 500 m of the Proposed Development, near the Orrin Dam track, filtered by intervening tree cover and visible against a combination of the background sky and landscape. Potential longer distance views from eastern path sections would be heavily filtered by tree cover. There would a slight reduction in the filtering effects of tree cover in winter months, however, this is not expected to change the levels of effect due the density and type of vegetation.					
RE-16 (Refer to Figure 7.4-14)	**View Rock** RC10.01 Recreational users of this footpath, which forms a loop within	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.	**High**	The Proposed Development would be visible from localised sections of the path in closest proximity to the Section E alignment. This includes the View Rock Viewpoint. The construction works and steel lattice towers would be experienced in views to the east, north-east and south east, subject screening by intervening to woodland. Tower S164 would be the closest at 260 m to the east.	260 m	**Medium**	**Medium**	**Major / Moderate Adverse (significant) based on close**	**Major / Moderate Adverse (significant) based on close**

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)
	Torrachilty Forest. Access to path is gained from the A834 at Black Water, where there are parking and picnic facilities. Refer to viewpoint 7-77 (A and B) View Rock, Contin.	There is a promoted viewpoint at View Rock, with filtered views to east, south-east, south and south-west. Views to the north are foreshortened by tree cover and landform.		During construction, there would be views of vehicle movements and tree felling from more open, eastern sections of the path. This includes forestry felling to create a wayleave for the alignment and additional felling at Tower S164 to create a wind-farm edge to the retained forestry. Once operational, there would be close proximity views of the towers from the same sections of the path. Potential views from more distant sections of the path, including the southern section that connects with to the car park near Black Water (located at the edge of the forest) would be limited due to a combination of intervening landform and tree cover.					
RE-17 (Refer to Figure 7.4-14)	**Strathpeffer - Jamestown (Blackmuir Woods)** RC45.05 Recreational users of this footpath, which connects the southern edge of Strathpeffer	Views from northern section of the path, at the southern edges of Strathpeffer are contained by woodland (Blackmuir Woods), buildings and tree cover. Views to west and south-west are heavily filtered by intervening tree cover in farmland and along the A834 road corridor.	**High**	This path is located 790 m to the east of Section E at the closest point (Tower S168). Potential views of the construction works would be limited due to the concentration of intervening tree cover. Similarly, once operational, views of the towers would remain tempered by tree cover along the path and the intervening landscape. Views from the closest sections (on the northern edge of Jamestown) would be extremely limited due to a combination of intervening buildings and woodland cover (to the west of the settlement). Potential views of the Proposed Development from other sections of the path (on the edge of Strathpeffer) would be experienced out to distances of approximately 1.2 m to the west, against a combination of	790 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)
	with Jamestown, at the western edge of Blackmuir Woods.	The concentration of existing woodland would limit any views to the east. Views from southern section of path (north of Jamestown) are heavily filtered by tree cover.		background sky and landscape, albeit heavily filtered by intervening tree cover. Due to the broadleaved nature of surrounding tree cover, there would a slight reduction in the filtering effects of tree cover in winter months.					
RE-18 (Refer to Figure 7.4-14)	**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 940 m to the east of Section E at the closest point (Tower S159). Potential views of the construction works would be partially screened by the intervening landform in combination with intervening tree cover. Similarly, once operational, potential views of the steel lattice towers in the landscape to the west / north-west would be partially screened by intervening landform in combination with intervening tree cover. The tops of the towers would be experienced against the background sky. Within the most open views, the Proposed Development would be partially visible to the south-west, at distances of between 1 km and 1. 6 km, appearing predominantly against the background landscape, filtered by intervening tree cover.	940 m	**Low**	**Low**	**Moderate Adverse (significant)**	**Moderate Adverse (significant)**
RE-19 (Refer to Figure 7.4-14)	**Contin Island** RC10.05 Recreational users of this footpath which forms a loop	Views to the east and south-east are partially contained by intervening buildings and filtered by tree cover located along the river corridor.	**High**	There would be views of the construction works and introduction of steel lattice towers to the south-east filtered by intervening tree cover. Tower S173 would be located closest to the path at 950 m to the south-east.	950 m	**Low**	**Low**	**Moderate Adverse (significant) subject to screening levels**	**Moderate Adverse (significant) subject to screening levels**

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)
	near the Black Water at the southern edge of Contin.	Views to the south over farmland are filtered by intervening tree cover, with background hills visible in the distance. Torr Achilty forms a backdrop in views to the south-west. Views to the north and north-east are filtered by intervening tree cover, with Torrachilty Forest and distant hills visible in the background.		During construction, there would be partial views of vehicle movements within Strath Conon, subject to screening by intervening tree cover. Once operational, views of the Proposed Development to the south-east would also be filtered by intervening tree cover (at Black Water) and experienced against a combination of background sky and landscape. View of the Proposed Development to the south and south-west would also be filtered by tree cover and would be predominantly experienced against the background landscape out to distances of approx. 3.5 km. Views to the east / north-east would be predominantly screened by intervening buildings and filtered by tree cover.					
RE-20 (Refer to Figure 7.4-14)	**Home Farm to Hughton by Lonbuie** IN20.11 Recreational users of this footpath, which connects Hughton with footpath near Beaufort Castle.	Views would be variable due to the tree cover within the path corridor and woodland within adjacent farmland. In addition, the adjacent landform often limits wider, longer distance views in a northerly and southern direction.	**High**	This path is located 930 m to the south-east of Section E at the closest point (Tower S232). There would be partially screened and heavily filtered views of construction works and steel lattice towers from the closest route section of the path in views to the north and north-west. During construction, vehicle movements and localised felling at the southern end of the alignment, would be predominantly screened by landform and tree cover. Similarly, operational, views of the Proposed Development from closest path sections to the north and north-west would be notably screened by landform, heavily filtered by intervening tree cover and experienced against the background sky. Views from wider path sections would be more limited due to intervening landform and tree cover, including Fanellan Wood.	930 m	**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)
				Due to the broadleaved nature of surrounding tree cover, there would a slight reduction in the filtering effects of tree cover in winter months, however, this would not change the levels of effect due the density of the vegetation.					
RE-21 (Refer to Figure 7.4-14)	**Contin to Strathgarve** (RC10.06) Recreational users of this footpath, which connects to the View Rock path (10.01).	Views are heavily filtered by surrounding forestry tree cover. Where there are localised breaks / clearings in the forestry there are filtered views to the south and south-west. Views to east are limited by intervening landform.	**High**	This path is located 1.0 km to the west of Section E at the closest point (Tower S164). There would be heavily filtered views of the construction works and steel lattice towers in views to the south / south-east. Within these views, the Proposed Development would be experienced against the background landscape forming a discreet element in views beyond intervening tree cover. Potential views of the Proposed Development to the east / north-east would be screened by the intervening landform and tree cover.	1.0 km	**Negligible**	**Negligible**	**Moderate-Minor Adverse (not significant)**	**Moderate-Minor Adverse (not significant)**
RE-22 (Refer to Figure 7.4-14)	**Ord Hill** RC32.07 Recreational users of this footpath, which leads to the summit of Cnoc Croit	There are panoramic views in all directions from the summit of Cnoc Croit. Areas of forestry along sections of path at the southern side of the hill have recently been felled and offer open views to the south and south-east. Sections of the path at lower elevation are located within	**High**	This path is located 1.1 km to the east of Section E at the closest point (Tower S204). There would be views of construction works from the summit in views to the west, south-west and north-west. This primarily includes vehicle movements. To the north-west there would also be views of felling along the alignment, as well as additional felling to create a wind-firm edge to the surrounding forestry in the vicinity of Towers S198 and S199. Once operational, there would be views of the towers to the west, south-west and north-west. Views of the Proposed Development from	1.1 km	**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)
	from Aultvaich. Refer to viewpoint 7-89 Cnoc Croit.	forestry and there are no views. However, there are open views to the north-east and east where there are gaps in the forestry.		the hill summit would be experienced against a combination of the background sky and landscape. Views of the Proposed Development to the south-west and west from path sections at lower elevation would be partially screened by landform and subject to forest screening levels.					
RE-23 (Refer to Figure 7.4-14)	**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 localised gaps in the woodland from more elevated path sections, there are outward views to south-east, south and south- west.	**High**	This path is located 1.3 km to the west of Section E at the closest point (Tower S164). Views of the construction works and introduction of steel lattice towers would be extremely limited, due to a combination of landform and forestry cover. Accordingly, ground-based construction activities would be almost fully screened. In filtered views to the south the Proposed Development would be viewed against the background landscape, forming a discreet element beyond intervening tree cover. Potential views of the Proposed Development to the east / north-east would be screened by the intervening landform and tree cover.	1.3 km	**Negligible**	**Negligible**	**Moderate-Minor Adverse (not significant)**	**Moderate-Minor Adverse (not significant)**
RE-24 (Refer to Figure 7.4-14)	**Golf course - Ord Wood east** (RC45.07) Recreational users of this footpath, which forms a	Principal views from the eastern and southern sections of the 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	**High**	This path is located 1.3 km to the south-east of Section E at the closest point (Tower S157). Potential views of the construction works would be restricted by the intervening landform and tree cover. This would limit views of ground-based vehicle movements and felling activities along the alignment. Similarly, once operational, the towers would be partly screened by the landform and tree cover. The most open views of the Proposed Development would be experienced from the western and north-	1.3 km	**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)
	loop between the golf course and the north-western edge of Strathpeffer, around the perimeter of An t-Ord Wood.	directions by woodland. Views to west and north are partially contained by landform.		western sections of the path. From these sections, the Proposed Development would be partially visible in the distance to the north, experienced against the combination of background sky and landscape, beyond intervening tree cover. Potential views of the Proposed Development to the west / south-west would be filtered by intervening tree cover.					
RE-25 (Refer to Figure 7.4-14)	**Blackmuir Woods - maze circular** RC45.04 Recreational users of this footpath, which connects to path RC45.05 Knockfarrel (maze to hill) via a loop in Blackmuir Woods south east of Strathpeffer).	Large sections of the path from Strathpeffer are located with mature forestry at Blackmuir Woods, which limits outward views. Where there are localised gaps in the tree cover there are views to the north and south over undulating farmland, with hills visible in the background. The nature of the topography to the south and east at Cnoc Mhor limits views to the south from eastern path sections. More open views are experienced from the south-eastern loop path, which is	**High**	This path is located 1.3 km to the east of Section E at the closest point (Tower S165). Potential views of the construction works would be subject to screening by intervening tree cover, including woodland at Blackmuir Wood. This would limit views of vehicle movements and felling activities along the alignment in the landscape to the west. Similarly, once operational, the towers would be partly screened by tree cover. Where there are localised gaps in tree cover, the Proposed Development would be visible against a combination of the background landscape and sky in views towards the west. From western and north-western sections of the path there would also be longer distance views, encompassing parts of the Proposed Development towards the north-west and south-west, at distances of approximately 2.5 – 3.0 km. Within these views the Proposed Development would represent a distant element in the background landscape, beyond intervening tree cover.	1.3 km	**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)
	There is car park located at the west near Fir Lodge. TheTouchstone Maze feature is located at the north-eastern path section.	more elevated and within an area of forest management.							
RE-26 (Refer to Figure 7.4-14)	**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 1.4 km to the west of Section E at the closest point (Tower S161). Views of the construction works and steel lattice towers would be extremely limited due to a combination of landform and forestry cover. Within the most open views, experienced from localised gaps in surrounding tree cover, the Proposed Development would be visible in filtered views to the south-east, representing a discreet element in the background landscape.	1.4 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)
RE-27 (Refer to Figure 7.4-14)	**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 1.8 km to the south-east of Section E at the closest point (Tower S156). The construction works and steel lattice towers would represent distant elements in the background landscape within views to the north-west. Potential views to the west and south-west would be extremely limited due intervening screening by buildings and tree cover.	1.8 km	**Negligible**	**Negligible**	**Moderate-Minor Adverse (not significant)**	**Moderate-Minor Adverse (not significant)**
RE-28 (Refer to Figure 7.4-14)	**Ardival - Catsback - Loch Ussie** (RC45.09) Recreational users of this footpath, which connects Strath View (eastern edge of Strathpeffer) with footpath RC45.02	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 2.2 km to the south-east of Section E at the closest point (Tower S156). Potential views of the construction works, including vehicle movements and felling activities along the alignment, would be tempered by the distance of view. Similarly, once operational, the steel lattice towers would represent distant elements in the background landscape, in views to the north, north west, west and south-west. In views to the north and north-west, the Proposed Development would be experienced in the context of wider, panoramic views of rugged hills, and would be viewed against a combination of background landscape and sky. Views to the west / south-west would be experienced at distances of approx. 2.3 km to 2.6 km, partially screened by landform and filtered by intervening tree cover.	2.2 km	**Negligible**	**Negligible**	**Moderate-Minor Adverse (significant)**	**Moderate-Minor 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)
	Knockfarrel (maze to hill).								
RE-29 (Refer to Figure 7.4-14)	**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. Refer to viewpoint 7-75 Knockfarrel.	There are open and expansive views to north, west and north-east, with the rising landform limiting views to south.	**High**	This path is located 2.4 km to the east of Section E at the closest point (Tower S168). The construction works and steel lattice towers would represent distant elements in the background landscape to the north / north-west / west / south-west, subject to screening by intervening tree cover. Within the most open views, the Proposed Development would be experienced in the context of open and panoramic views, where it would represent a relatively discreet element in the background landscape.	2.4 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)
RE-30 (Refer to Figure 7.4-14)	**Knockfarrel to Fodderty** (RC13.05) Recreational users of this footpath, which is accessed off the A834, near Fodderty, connecting to other local paths near Knockfarrel to the south.	Views from elevated sections of the footpath are open and panoramic to the north-west, north and north-east, over Strath Peffer. There are also views to the south, south-east and south-west from sections of the path at higher elevation.	**High**	This path is located 3.6 km to the east of Section E at the closest point (Tower S152). The construction works and steel lattice towers would represent distant elements in the background landscape, in views to the west / south-west, from elevated section of the path. Within the clearest views to the west and south-west, the Proposed Development would be partially screened, forming a relatively discreet, linear element, experienced against the combination of sky and background landscape.	3.6 km	**Negligible**	**Negligible**	**Moderate-Minor Adverse (not significant)**	**Moderate-Minor Adverse (not significant)**
RE-31 (Refer to Figure 7.4-14)	**Knockfarrel** RC13.06 Recreational users of this footpath, located to the west of Dingwall, linking to 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. An existing OHL intersects the path at the western edge of Dingwall.	**High**	This path is located 4.2 km to the west of Section E at the closest point (Tower S152). From the most open, elevated sections of the path, the Proposed Development would be partially visible in views to the west, predominantly experienced against the background landscape. Within these views the construction works and steel lattice towers would represent distant elements in the background landscape.	4.2 km	**Negligible**	**Negligible**	**Minor Adverse (not significant)**	**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)
RE-32 (Refer to Figure 7.4-14)	**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**	This series of paths intersects the Proposed Development at four locations, near Towers S159, S160, S161 and S163). There would be close range views of construction works from these localised sections of the path. This includes views of vehicle movements and tree felling to create the wayleave for the alignment. There would also be views of localised additional felling to create a wind-firm edge to the surrounding forestry (focused in the vicinity of Towers S158 and S161-S163). The clearest views would be experienced within distances of 500 m of the alignment, subject to intervening forest screening. Once operational, there would be close proximity views of the towers from the same sections of track. Potential views would reduce at increased distances based on the screening influence of intervening tree cover. Potential views from wider sections of the paths would be concentrated on localised sections at higher elevation, subject to intervening screening, where the Proposed Development would be experienced against a combination of the background landscape and sky and heavily filtered by tree cover.	0 m	**High within 500 m, Low-Negligible across wider locations**	**High within 500 m, Low-Negligible across wider locations**	**Major Adverse (significant) within 500 m, Moderate-Minor Adverse (not significant) across wider locations**	**Major Adverse (significant) within 500 m, Moderate-Minor Adverse (not significant) across 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)
RE-33 (Refer to Figure 7.4-14)	**Strathpeffer Walking and Cycling Routes** (North of Strathpeffer Golf Course) Recreational users of this series of paths are located with forested areas to the north of Strathpeffer Golf Course, extending towards Peffrey Burn (north east of Torrachilty Forest).	Views from the eastern section of the path 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 south-east, south and south-west, subject screening.		This series of paths intersects the Proposed Development at two locations, near Towers S152 and S157). There would be close range views of the construction works from these localised sections of the path. This includes views of vehicle movements and tree felling to create the wayleave for the alignment. There would also be views of localised additional felling to create a wind-firm edge to the surrounding forestry (focused between Towers S153-S156, and in the vicinity of Tower S158). The clearest views would be experienced within distances of 500 m of the alignment, subject to intervening forest screening. Once operational, there would be close proximity views of the towers from the same sections of track. This includes a localised section extending through the valley of the River Peffery, where the Proposed Development would be experienced at close range, against a combination of the background landscape and sky, in the context of surrounding tree cover. Potential views from other sections of the paths would be concentrated on localised sections at higher elevation, subject to intervening screening.	0 m	**High within 500 m, Low-Negligible across wider locations**	**High within 500 m, Low-Negligible across wider locations**	**Major Adverse (significant) within 500 m, Moderate-Minor Adverse (not significant) across wider locations**	**Major Adverse (significant) within 500 m, Moderate-Minor Adverse (not significant) across wider locations**
RE-34 (Refer to Figure 7.4-14)	**North Coast 500** The North Coast 500 is routed with the Study Area	Views from sections of the route between Dingwall and Alness are channelled to the south, east and south-west, towards the Cromarty Firth. .	**High**	Views of the construction works and steel lattice towers would be limited and barely discernible. Within the clearest views the Proposed Development would form an extremely discreet, linear element to north-west and west, in the context of large-scale hills and mountains in the distance.	5.0 km	**Negligible**	**Negligible**	**Minor Adverse (not significant)**	**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)
	between Muir of Ord in the south-west and Alness in east			There would be no views of the Proposed Development for large sections of the route due to screening effect of landform.					
RE-35 (Refer to Figure 7.4-14)	**Inverness to John O' Groats National Cycle Trail** This route extends through the Study Area near Conon Bridge.	Views are variable based on the extent of surrounding tree cover and landform. The route is located within low-lying farmland with longer range views to the west and east, partially screened by landform and tree cover.	**High**	Potential views of the Proposed Development from this route would be restricted by its separation distance, in combination with screening due to the intervening landform and tree cover. Accordingly, the construction works and steel lattice towers would be barely discernible.	7.0 km	**Negligible**	**Negligible**	**Minor Adverse (not significant)**	**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)
OE-01 (Refer to Figure 7.4-13)	**Coul House Hotel** Visitors and tourists to the hotel and leisure facility. The hotel is located at the eastern edge of Contin, near Torrachilty Forest.	Views are heavily filtered by mature woodland within and around the hotel gardens and wider curtilage. From the southern edge of the hotel estate views are focused to the south and south-west over farmland at the River Conon, contained by higher ground at Fairburn GDL, Cul Mhor and Cul Beag in the background. In addition, Torr Achilty forms a backdrop in longer distance views to the south-west. The views to the west, north, north-east and east are heavily filtered by woodland. 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**	Views of the construction works and steel lattice towers would be experienced to the south / south-east from the southern edge of the hotel grounds. Tower S170 would be located in closest proximity, 480 m to the south-east. During construction, there would be views of vehicle movement and localised tree felling within Strath Conon, subject to screening by intervening tree cover. Potential views would diminish across other parts of the hotel grounds due to the extend of surrounding tree cover / woodland. Once operational, in southerly views from the southern edge of the grounds, the Proposed Development would be predominantly experienced against the background landscape, and heavily filtered by intervening tree cover. In contrast, potential views from central and northern parts of the hotel grounds would be contained by surrounding tree cover and intervening built form. As such, potential views of the alignment to north / north-east would be limited. Due to the broadleaved nature of tree cover, there would a slight reduction in the filtering effects of tree cover in winter months. However, this is not	480 m	**Low**	**Low**	**Moderate Adverse (significant) based on views from southern edge of the hotel grounds**	**Moderate Adverse (significant) based on views from southern edge of the hotel grounds**

Reference	Location / Type / Context	Nature of Main View	Sensitivity	Nature of Change	Distance	Magnitude		Effect	
						Construction	Operational (after 10yrs)	Construction	Operation (after 10yrs)
				expected to change the levels of effect due the density and type of vegetation.					
OE-02 (Refer to Figure 7.4-13)	**Falls of Orrin** Visitors and walkers to the waterfall close to a promoted footpath (Orrin circular- Fairburn).	The falls are set within mature woodland centred on the River Orrin. Views are contained and heavily filtered by mature woodland. 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**	Potential views of the construction works and steel lattice towers to the south-west would be subject to screening by intervening woodland. Tower S192 would be located in closest proximity, at a distance of 420 m to the south-west. The clearest views of construction activities would be experienced from localised gaps in tree cover, where there would be partial views of vehicle movements and felling activities along the alignment. Similarly, once operational, views of the towers would be primarily limited to localised gaps in tree cover. Within the clearest views, the Proposed Development would be experienced to the south-west, against the background landscape, heavily filtered by tree cover. Due to the broadleaved nature of tree cover there would a slight reduction in the filtering effects of tree cover in winter months. However, this is not expected to change the levels of effect due the density and type of vegetation.	420 m	**Low**	**Low**	**Moderate Adverse (significant) subject to screening levels**	**Moderate Adverse (significant) subject to screening levels**

Reference	Location / Type / Context	Nature of Main View	Sensitivity	Nature of Change	Distance	Magnitude		Effect	
						Construction	Operational (after 10yrs)	Construction	Operation (after 10yrs)
OE-03 (Refer to Figure 7.4-13)	**Fairburn Activity Centre** Visitors and recreational users of this outdoor activity centre. Refer to viewpoints 7-85 Fairburn Drive (west) and 7-86 Fairburn Drive (east), within the wider Fairburn Estate.	The activity centre is set within extensive areas of mature woodland and forestry that extend from the River Orrin to the River Conon. Views to the west and north-west are contained by hills at Creag Mhor and filtered by tree cover. Views to the south and south-west are filtered by tree cover. Where there are breaks in the woodland, views are over River Conon. To the north-west the edge of Strath Conon (Tor Achilty) is visible filtered by tree cover. There is an existing OHL to the south-east.	**High**	Views of the construction works and steel lattice towers would be would be subject to screening by intervening woodland. Tower S186 would be located in closest proximity, at a distance of 560 m to the south-west. Potential views of construction activities would be limited to localised gaps in tree cover, where there would be partial views of vehicle movements and felling activities along the alignment. Once operational, views of the towers would continue to be primarily limited to localised gaps in tree cover. In the most open views, the Proposed Development would be experienced to the west and south-west at relatively close range, albeit heavily filtered by tree cover and experienced against the background landscape. Where there are gaps in the gaps in the woodland there would also be longer distance views of the Proposed Development to the north, north-east, and south-east, filtered by tree cover, and experienced against the background landscape.	560 m	**Low**	**Low**	**Moderate Adverse (significant) applicable to views where there are gaps in the woodland with most open outlook**	**Moderate Adverse (significant) applicable to views where there are gaps in the woodland with most open outlook**

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 a slight reduction in the filtering effects of tree cover in winter months. However, this is not expected to change the levels of effect due the density and type of vegetation.					
OE-04 (Refer to Figure 7.4-13)	**Fairburn Tower** Visitors and tourists to this historic building promoted by the Landmark Trust as a holiday destination located within Fairburn GDL estate	Views to the south and south-west are open over Fairburn estate, with the rising landform at Cul Mhor and Cul Beag visible in the background. Views are expansive views to the south-east and east, with woodland at Fairburn estate in the foreground. Views to the south are over undulating farmland at the River Conon with background hills visible in the distance There is an existing OHL to the south-east. 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**	Views of the construction works and introduction of steel lattice towers would be partly screened to the south-west. Tower S192 would be located in closest proximity at a distance of 740 m. During construction, there would be views of vehicle movements and localised felling activities along the alignment towards the south-west. Potential views of construction activities in other directions would be subject to increased amounts of screening due to intervening tree cover and farm buildings. Once operational, the clearest views of the Proposed Development would be towards the south and south-west, where the towers would be experienced against the background landscape, partly screened by intervening forest cover. Views to the west would be partially screened by intervening landform and forest cover, and experienced against the background landscape.	740 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)
				Views to the south-east would be experienced against the combination of the background sky and landscape. Views to the north-west would be partially screened by farm buildings and experienced against the background landscape.					
OE-05 (Refer to Figure 7.4-13)	**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 the receptor activity adjudged against susceptibility.	**Medium**	Views of the construction works and steel lattice towers to the north-west from the closest parts of the golf course would be limited due to the intervening landform. Tower S159 would be located in closest proximity at a distance of 800 m. During construction, the screening influence of the intervening landform, in combination with tree cover, would temper the visual effects of ground-based vehicle movements and felling activities along the alignment. Similarly, once operational, the Proposed Development would partially visible in longer distance views to the west and south-west (at distances of between 1 km and 1. 6 km), Within the most open views the Proposed Development would be experienced predominantly against the background landscape, and filtered by intervening tree cover.	800m	**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)
OE-06 (Refer to Figure 7.4-13)	**Torrachilty Forest. – Car Park and Picnic Area** (Contin) Recreational users and visitors to the picnic area. (Promoted by Forestry & Land Scotland).	Views are predominantly contained by mature forestry / woodland. With reference to the methodology in Volume 5, Appendix 7.2, receptors at this location are of Medium sensitivity, given the context of their activity adjudged against susceptibility.	**Medium**	The car park's location within dense forestry, combined with intervening landform, would result in no views of the Proposed Development to the north-east, east, south-east or south.	1.2 km	**No change**	**No change**	**No effect**	**No effect**
OE-07 (Refer to Figure 7.4-13)	**Riverside Chalets and Caravan Park** Recreational users and tourists visiting the camp site at the south western edge of Contin, near Black Water.	Views are channelled to the south, south-west and south-east, over Strath Conon. Views to east and north-east are contained by buildings and tree cover. 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**	Views of the construction works and steel lattice towers would be extremely limited due to a combination of intervening buildings, landform and tree cover. Views of the Proposed Development to the south and south-west would be partially screened and filtered by intervening buildings and tree cover, and experienced against the background landscape. Wider views to the south-east would be experienced out to distances of 5 km. There would a slight reduction in the filtering effects of tree cover in winter months, however, this is not expected to change the levels of effect due the density and type of vegetation.	1.2 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	Operation (after 10yrs)
OE-08 (Refer to Figure 7.4-13)	**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 4.1 km to the north-east of Section E at the closest point (Tower S150). The construction works and introduction of steel lattice towers would represent distant elements in long-distance views to the south-west. The Proposed Development would exert very limited influence upon existing views.	4.1 km	**Negligible**	**Negligible**	**Minor Adverse (not significant)**	**Minor Adverse (not significant)**