

Spittal to Loch Buidhe to Beaully 400 kV OHL Connection

Cultural Heritage Visualisations

Additional Environmental Information to Appendix 12.8 of the EIAR

March 2026



PURPOSE OF THIS ADDITIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL INFORMATION

In response to the additional environmental information request from Historic Environment Scotland (HES), additional photomontages are provided to support assessment of impacts on the setting of 24 scheduled monuments.

This document is provided as additional environmental information to **Volume 5, Appendix 12.8** submitted as part of the S37 application for the Spittal to Loch Buidhe to Beaully (SLBB) 400 kV Overhead Line (OHL) Connection Project.

INTRODUCTION

Historic Environment Scotland (HES) requested additional photomontages in relation to the SLBB 400 kV OHL Connection Project. As part of this request, a meeting was held with HES on 24th September 2025 to discuss the details and workshop the scope of the information required.

Table 1 below describes the additional environmental information requested with regards to photomontages and how these has been actioned.

Table 1: Response to HES Additional Photomontage Requests

Scheduled Monument	Photomontage Request	ERM Response
Achkinloch, stone setting SW of, Loch Stemster (SM420)	No photomontage or wireframe has been produced for this scheduled monument. A photomontage and wireframe are required looking along the key SSE/NNW axis of the stone setting. The photomontages should be taken in both directions along the axis and sufficiently wide enough to take in the stones and the OHL. The one looking SSE should be taken from the NNW end of the setting so that the stones are also included, and the one looking NNW should be taken from the open SSE end of the setting so that again the stones are included.	Photomontage CHVP-01 and 3D renders CHVP_018 and 018-1 were provided. Additional photomontage packages, CHVP-55.1 and 55.2, have been developed.
Buolacrabher, chambered cairn 1550m S of (SM445)	The photomontage currently provided at CHVP-06.1d focuses on the closest turbines rather than the key view to the S which we requested. A photomontage showing the pylons in the view looking from the cairn to the S (showing the view which takes in the right-hand side of current CHVP-06.1a and the left side of wireframe CHVP-06.1b) is required. This should be produced to full height so that the pylons and line can be adequately shown.	Photomontage CHVP-06 and 3D renders CHVP_032 were provided. A revised photomontage package for CHVP-06, with additional views, has been developed.
Buolacrabher, chambered cairn 1350m SSW of (SM5224)	The photomontage currently provided at CHVP-05.1d focuses on the closest turbines rather than the key view to the S which we requested. A photomontage showing the pylons in the view looking from the cairn to the S and across SM445 (showing the view which takes in the right-hand side of current wireframe CHVP-05.1a and the left-hand side of wireframe CHVP-05.1b) is required. This should be produced to full height so that the pylons and line can be adequately shown.	Photomontage CHVP-05 and 3D renders CHVP_031 were provided. A revised photomontage package for CHVP-05, with additional views, has been developed.
Cnoc na Maranaich, chambered cairn, burial cist and standing stone (SM443)	The visualisation currently provided at CHVP07-1d focuses on the nearest pylons rather than the key view down the strath towards the sea that we requested. A photomontage showing the pylons in the view from the site looking down the Strath to the south (as in wireframe CHVP-07.1b) is required.	Photomontage CHVP-07 and 3D renders CHVP_033 were provided. A revised photomontage package for CHVP-07, with additional views, has been developed.
Loedebest, settlement (SM5152)	Visualisations have been provided for other sites within the Dunbeath Strath but not for this monument which is one of the largest monuments within the Strath. A photomontage showing the pylons in the view looking SSE along the strath towards the sea is required.	3D renders CHVP_004 were provided. CHVP-07, 08 and 09 provided non-directive views across this area.

Scheduled Monument	Photomontage Request	ERM Response
		Additional photomontage package, CHVP-56 has been developed.
Loedebest, cairn 500m SSE of (SM5191)	The photomontage currently provided focuses on nearest pylons rather than the key view directly down the strath. A photomontage showing the pylons in the view looking SSE along the strath towards the sea is required – showing the centre and right of the view shown in wireframe 1a and the left and centre of the view shown in wireframe 1b in a single frame, and with the photomontage at full height.	Photomontage CHVP-14 and 3D renders CHVP_044 were provided. CHVP-07, 08 and 09 provided non-directive views across this area. A revised photomontage package for CHVP-14, with additional views, has been developed.
Achorn Bridge, prehistoric & post-medieval settlement 400m ENE of (SM512)	no photomontage or wireframe has been produced for this scheduled monument. A photomontage showing the pylons in the view looking north towards the Loedebest settlement sites is required, showing from NW through N to E in order to capture the full extent of this view. Given the proximity of the line (the nearest tower is centred just 93m from the monument) the photomontage needs to be full height to show the full impact of the proposed development. The access track needs to be shown on the visualisation as it is very close to monument and we need to be able to assess the impacts of this aspect of the development as well as the pylons.	Photomontage CHVP-17 and 3D renders CHVP_050 were provided. Additional photomontage package, CHVP-58 has been developed.
Upper Borgue, broch (SM596)	The photomontage currently provided focuses on the relationship to the nearby standing stone but does not show the other key outward view to the surrounding landscape bowl to the north-east which is only represented as a wireframe. Photomontages showing the pylons in the view as shown in wireframes CHVP-19.1a and CHVP-19.1b at full height are required. Access track needs to be shown on the visualisation as it is very close to monument and we need to be able to assess the impacts of this aspect of the development as well as the pylons.	Photomontage CHVP-19 and 3D renders CHVP_064 were provided. A revised photomontage package for CHVP-19, with additional views, has been developed.
Upper Borgue, standing stone 410m SSE of (SM502)	No photomontage or wireframe has been provided for this scheduled monument. Photomontages showing the pylons in the outward views looking from the south-west through south and south-east to the east, north-east and to the north are required. Access track needs to be shown on the visualisation as it is very close to monument and we need to be able to assess the impacts of this aspect of the development as well as the pylons. We would also like to request visuals/more detailed plan for how the access track will be routed through/around 'The Dogs' unscheduled standing stones that form part of the setting of this scheduled monument.	3D renders CHVP_065 and 066 were provided, which include views from the non-designated 'Dogs' (MHG32405) and standing stone (MHG13502). Additional photomontage package, CHVP-59 has been developed, to include a 2D plan showing the relationship between the 'Sheperd and the Dogs'.
Caen, long cairn and round cairn 470m & 490m W of (SM1770)	The photomontage currently provided does not illustrate the key view down the valley but focuses on the closest pylons. Full height photomontages showing	Photomontage CHVP-31 and 3D renders CHVP_113 were provided.

Scheduled Monument	Photomontage Request	ERM Response
	<p>the pylons in the view as shown in wireframes CHVP-31.1a and CHVP-31.1b are required. It would also be helpful to have a photomontage of CHVP-31.1d repositioned so that it covers the right side of 1a and the left side of 1b (i.e. covers the key view). Additionally, it would be useful to have the cairn in shot, so with the imagery taken from the western end of the cairn along its axis.</p>	<p>A revised photomontage package for CHVP-31, with additional views, has been developed.</p> <p>Additional photomontage packages, CHVP-60.1 and 60.2, have been developed.</p>
<p>Clach Mhic Mhios, standing stone, Glen Loth 4000m N of Lothbeg Bridge (SM1778)</p>	<p>The current photomontage provided focuses on the nearest pylons and does not adequately show the key view to the critical section of skyline to the SSW. A photomontage showing the pylons in this key view to the SSW skyline is required. This would need to show either a wider section of the current photomontage showing more of the skyline to the right side of the current image or rotating the image so that the key skyline is central to the view.</p>	<p>Photomontage CHVP-32 and 3D renders CHVP_116 were provided.</p> <p>A revised photomontage package for CHVP-32, with additional views, has been developed.</p>
<p>East Kinnauld, fort 100m NE of Eiden (SM1861)</p>	<p>No photomontage or wireframe has been provided for this scheduled monument. As stated in our scoping response, 360-degree photomontages are required to demonstrate the impacts of the proposed pylons and the existing pylons on this monument.</p>	<p>3D renders CHVP_139 were provided.</p> <p>Additional photomontage package, CHVP-62 has been developed.</p>
<p>East Kinnauld School, broch NE of (SM1862)</p>	<p>No photomontage or wireframe has been provided for this scheduled monument. As stated in our scoping response, 360-degree photomontages are required to demonstrate the impacts of the proposed pylons and the existing pylons on this monument.</p>	<p>3D renders CHVP_138 were provided.</p> <p>Additional photomontage package, CHVP-61 has been developed.</p>
<p>Balnacrae, chambered cairn 230m WSW of (SM2396)</p>	<p>No photomontage or wireframe has been provided for this scheduled monument. Photomontages are required showing the view from the immediate NE of the cairn looking SW along its axis to see the pylons behind it, as well as to the S of the cairn.</p>	<p>3D renders CHVP_172 were provided.</p> <p>Additional photomontage package, CHVP-63 has been developed.</p>
<p>Dun Mor, fort (SM4979)</p>	<p>The photomontage currently provided focuses on nearest pylons rather than the key views to the south and the east. Photomontages showing the pylons in the key outward views from the site as shown in wireframe CHVP-54.1b and CHVP-54.1c as full height photomontages are required.</p>	<p>Photomontage CHVP-54 and 3D renders CHVP_212 were provided.</p> <p>A revised photomontage package for CHVP-54, with additional views, has been developed.</p>
<p>Dun Garbhlaich, fort, Kilmorack (SM2422)</p>	<p>No photomontage or wireframe has been provided for this scheduled monument. Photomontages are required to show pylons in the outward views from the monument as well as inward views from the lower terraces to the south and south-west looking back towards the monument with the pylons in the background.</p>	<p>3D renders CHVP_219 were provided.</p> <p>Additional photomontage packages, CHVP-64 and 65 have been developed.</p>
<p>Balcraggie Lodge, settlement 700m N (SM5230)</p>	<p>No photomontage or wireframe has been provided. In our scoping response of December 2024, we identified that photomontages would be required to demonstrate the impacts of the proposed pylons on either side of the</p>	<p>3D renders CHVP_047 were provided.</p>

Scheduled Monument	Photomontage Request	ERM Response
	gorge of Dunbeath Strath above this scheduled monument.	Additional photomontage package, CHVP-57 has been developed.
Cairn Liath, long cairn and round cairn (SM438)	Photomontages showing full height of pylons required taken from ND 14032 32061 looking north-east through south-east to south-west, to show axis of cairn with cairn material in shot to demonstrate the impacts of the proposed development. To include access tracks in the visualisation.	3D renders CHVP_042 were provided. CHVP-07, 08 and 09 provided non-directive views across this area. Additional photomontage package, CHVP-68 has been developed.
Loedebest, chambered cairn 400m WNW of (SM5163)	Photomontage showing full height of pylons required taken from ND 13383 32293 looking south-east centred on the direct line of sight to SM5191, to show cairn material in shot to demonstrate the impacts of the proposed development.	3D renders CHVP_039 and 040 were provided. CHVP-07, 08 and 09 provided non-directive views across this area. Additional photomontage package, CHVP-67 has been developed.
Clais-Cairn, chambered cairn 550m SW of (SM424)	Photomontages showing full height of pylons required taken from ND 13361 26808 showing outward view from north-east through south to north-west (i.e. everything except directly north), to show cairn material in shot as well as existing overhead line infrastructure to demonstrate the impacts of the proposed development.	3D renders CHVP_064 were provided. Additional photomontage package, CHVP-66 has been developed.
Cnoc Bad Asgaraidh, chambered cairn 570m E of, Langwell (SM423)	An access track is proposed that would wrap around half the circumference of the scheduled area, with cut and fill on a steep hillside. This needs to be shown on a visualisation which is not currently the case. Photomontages taken from ND 0915022243 showing a 360-degree outward view, to show cairn material in shot including chambers, a better representation of the key outward views to the east-south-east down the valley, and to include the cut and fill of the access track enclosing the monument are required.	Photomontage CHVP-25 and 3D renders CHVP_088 were provided. A revised photomontage package for CHVP-25, with additional views, has been developed.
Turnal Rock, hut circle complex 250m NW of Langwell Tulloch broch (SM13631)	Whilst a photomontage has been provided, the 400kV OHL is so close that it is too big to fit on the narrow height of the image. Full height 180-degree photomontages are required. We hope that this might be possible using the existing photography, but if needed taken from ND 09607 22549 showing outward views from north-east through south-east to south-west, to show hut circle platforms and full height photomontages that include all of the pylons in view.	Photomontage CHVP-23 and 3D renders CHVP_085 were provided. A revised photomontage package for CHVP-23, with additional views, has been developed.
Caen, long cairn 460m NNW of (SM1771)	An access track with a deep cut and fill scar is proposed for directly adjacent to SM1771 which may be present in the inward view from SM432. This infrastructure needs to be shown on a visualisation. We request photomontages taken from ND 01477 18159 showing outward views from north through east to south-west, to include cairn material, proposed access track, key views down the strath and view to SM 432	Photomontage CHVP-28 and 3D renders CHVP_110 were provided. A revised photomontage package for CHVP-28, with additional views, has been developed.

Scheduled Monument	Photomontage Request	ERM Response
	which should show the full height of all of the pylons in view.	
Caen, long cairn 530m NW of, Helmsdale (SM432)	Photomontages taken from ND 01253 18020 showing outward views from north-north-east through east to south-west, to include cairn material, showing the key view to SM1771, the proposed access track uphill of SM1771, and that include the full height of all of the pylons in the views.	Photomontage CHVP-29 and 3D renders CHVP_111 were provided. A revised photomontage package for CHVP-29, with additional views, has been developed.