

VOLUME 4: APPENDIX V1-4.4: SCOPING MATRIX

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Abbreviations

BT	British Telecommunications Plc
ECU	Energy Consents Unit
HES	Historic Environment Scotland
HSE	Nuclear Safety Directorate
JRC	Joint Radio Company Limited
MD-SEDD	Marine Directorate – Science Evidence Data and Digital
MOD	Ministry of Defence
NATS	National Air Traffic Society
NG	National Gas
NS	NatureScot
RSPB	Royal Society for the Protection of Birds
SEPA	Scottish Environment Protection Agency
SF	Scottish Forestry
SW	Scottish Water
ScW	Scottish Rights of Way and Access Society
TS	Transport Scotland
THC	The Highland Council

Where consultation responses include sensitive information and have been redacted from the Scoping Opinion, these responses are included in **Volume 4: Appendix V1-8.2: Ornithology Confidential Annex**.

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Table 1 – Scoping Matrix

No.	Subject	Task	Consultee	Scoping Opinion Page Ref.	EIA Report Reference	Comments
001	Scoping Consultations	Scottish Ministers expect the EIA Report which will accompany the application for the Proposed Development to consider, in full, all consultation responses.	ECU-01	6	Throughout the EIA Report	All consultation responses received are summarised within this Scoping Matrix and have been addressed throughout the EIA Report, where relevant.
002	Scoping Consultations	Scottish Ministers are broadly content with the EIA set out in the Scoping Report. In addition to the consultation responses, Ministers wish to provide comments with regards to the scope of the EIA Report. The Applicant should note and address each matter.	ECU- 02	6	Throughout the EIA Report	This has been noted, and all consultation responses received are summarised within this Scoping Matrix and addressed throughout the EIA Report, where relevant.
003	Scoping Consultations	Scottish Ministers request that the company contacts Scottish Water and makes further enquires to confirm whether there any Scottish Water assets which may be affected by the development, and includes details in the EIA Report of any relevant mitigation measures to be provided.	ECU-03	6	Volume 1, Chapter 9: Soils, Geology and Water. Volume 5, Chapter 7: Soils, Geology and Water - Alternative Alignment.	Scottish Water assets have been taken into consideration in the design of the proposed and alternative alignments. These assets have been included in the assessment of potential impacts on the water environment as set out in the noted chapters.
004	Private Water Supplies	Scottish Ministers request that the Company investigates the presence of any private water supplies (PWS) which may be impacted by the development. The EIA Report should include details of any	ECU-04	6	Volume 1, Chapter 9: Soils, Geology and Water.	The presence of any private water supplies along the route of the Proposed Development have been determined through desk-based and site survey, and likely impacts are set out in the noted chapters.

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		supplies identified by this investigation, and if any supplies are identified, the Company should provide an assessment of the potential impacts, risks, and any mitigation which would be provided.			Volume 5, Chapter 7: Soils, Geology and Water - Alternative Alignment	Mitigation measures have been proposed, where relevant.
005	MD-SEDD EIA Guidance	Scottish Ministers reference Marine Directorate – Science Evidence Data and Digital (MD-SEDD), who provide generic scoping guidelines and standing advice for OHL development which outline how fish populations can be impacted during construction, operation and decommissioning. The guidelines inform developers as to what should be considered during the EIA Process. The standing advice outlines what information, relating to freshwater and diadromous fish and fisheries, is expected in the EIA report. A checklist is provided to accompany submission.	ECU-05	7	Volume 1, Chapter 7: Ecology. Volume 5, Chapter 5: Ecology - Alternative Alignment	MD-SEDD standing advice and guidance has been noted and potential effects on fisheries interests have been considered in the noted chapters. The checklist has been completed and included with the application.
006	Impacts on Fish Populations	Scottish Ministers outline that in addition to identifying the main watercourses and waterbodies within and downstream of the proposed development area, developers should identify and consider any areas of Special Areas of Conservation (SAC) where fish are a qualifying feature and proposed felling operations.	ECU-06	7	Volume 1, Chapter 7: Ecology; Chapter 9: Soils, Geology and Water; and Chapter 12: Forestry.	Potential effects on SACs have been considered primarily in the noted Ecology, and Soils, Geology and Water chapters. The potential effects of felling have also been considered in these chapters, based on the felling requirements set out within the Forestry chapters.

No.	Subject	Task	Consultee	Scoping Opinion Page Ref.	EIA Report Reference	Comments
					Volume 5, Chapter 5: Ecology - Alternative Alignment; Chapter 7: Soils, Geology and Water - Alternative Alignment; and Chapter 10: Forestry - Alternative Alignment.	A shadow HRA for the Caithness and Sutherland Peatlands SAC / Ramsar has been carried out as part of the EIA Report and is included as Appendix V1-7.6 within Volume 4 of this EIA Report. The Alternative Alignment is considered in Annex B of this Appendix.
007	Peat Landslide Hazard Risk Assessment (PLHRA)	Scottish Ministers demonstrate that the Peat landslide hazard and risk assessment (PLHRA) should be undertaken as part of the EIA process to provide Ministers with a clear understanding of whether the risks are acceptable and capable of being controlled by mitigation measures.	ECU-07	7	Volume 1, Chapter 9: Soils, Geology and Water. Volume 5, Chapter 7: Soils, Geology and Water - Alternative Alignment. Volume 4, Appendix V1-	A PLHRA has been carried out for both the Proposed and Alternative Alignments, and are included in Volume 4: Appendix V1-9.1 and Appendix V5-9.1 respectively, supporting the noted chapters.

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					9.1: PLHRA and V5-9.1: PLHRA - Alternative Alignment.	
008	Bird Surveys	Scottish Ministers recommend that decisions on bird surveys – species, methodology, vantage points, viewsheds & duration - site specific & cumulative – should be made following discussion between the Company, RSPB and NatureScot.	ECU-08	8	Volume 1, Chapter 8: Ornithology. Volume 5, Chapter 6: Ornithology - Alternative Alignment.	As a statutory consultee, NatureScot have been consulted on the scope of bird surveys. Data has been obtained from RPSB as part of the desk study and is referred to in the ornithological impact assessment of the noted chapters.
009	Appropriate Assessment	The Proposed and Alternative OHL routes pass through the Caithness and Sutherland Peatlands Special Protection Area (SPA), SAC and Ramsar site and the West Halladale Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) and adjacent to the East Halladale SSSI within connectivity distance to qualifying features of the Caithness Lochs SPA. The EIA Report must include sufficient information to inform an Appropriate Assessment, as required by The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017.	ECU-09	8	Volume 1, Chapter 7: Ecology; and Chapter 8: Ornithology. Volume 5, Chapter 5: Ecology (Alternative Alignment); and Chapter 6: Ornithology - Alternative Alignment.	Shadow Habitat Regulation Appraisals (HRAs) for all relevant European sites have been carried out as part of the EIA Report, including the Caithness and Sutherland Peatlands SAC / Ramsar site (see Volume 4: Appendix V1-7.6 and Annex B in relation to the Alternative Alignment) and the Caithness and Sutherland Peatlands SPA, the Caithness Lochs SPA (and Ramsar site), and the North Caithness Cliffs SPA (see Volume 4: Appendix V1-8.3 and Annex A in relation to the Alternative Alignment) of the noted chapters.

No.	Subject	Task	Consultee	Scoping Opinion Page Ref.	EIA Report Reference	Comments
					Volume 4, Appendix V1-7.6: Shadow HRA for the Caithness and Sutherland Peatlands SAC; and Appendix V1-8.3: Shadow HRA for European Sites of Ornithological Importance	
010	Borrow Pits	The EIA Report should include detailed information with regard to location, size and nature of on-site borrow pits, and also include details of the proposed depth of the excavation compared to the actual topography and water table, proposed drainage and settlement traps, turf and overburden removal and storage of reinstatement, and details of the proposed restoration profile.	ECU-10	8	N/A	Borrow pits are not included within the section 37 consent application, and therefore not considered in detail in the EIA Report. A separate planning application for borrow pits would be sought by the Principal Contractor, as required.

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011	Further Consultation	Ministers are aware that further engagement is required between parties regarding the refinement of the design of the proposed development regarding, among other things, surveys, management plans, peat, radio links, finalisation of viewpoints, cultural heritage, cumulative assessments, and requests that they are kept informed of relevant discussions.	ECU-11	8	N/A	This has been noted. The Energy Consents Unit will be kept informed of any further discussions with consultees.
012	Mitigation	Scottish Ministers outlined that the mitigation measures suggested for any significant environmental impact identified should be presented as a conclusion to each chapter. The Applicant is also asked to provide a consolidated schedule of all mitigation measures presented in the EIA Report in tabular form.	ECU-12	8	Throughout the EIA Report Volume 1, Chapter 13: Schedule of Mitigation Volume 5, Chapter 11: Schedule of Mitigation – Alternative Alignment	Mitigation measures have been included where relevant in each technical chapter. A consolidated Schedule of Mitigation is also be presented in Volume 1: Chapter 13 and Volume 5: Chapter 11 of this EIA Report.
013	Further Consultation	It is acknowledged by Scottish Ministers that the EIA process is iterative and further engagement between relevant parties may	ECU-13	9	N/A	This has been noted. The Energy Consents Unit have been kept informed of any further discussions with consultees during the EIA process.

No.	Subject	Task	Consultee	Scoping Opinion Page Ref.	EIA Report Reference	Comments
		be required to refine the design of the Proposed Development. Scottish Ministers request they are kept informed of on-going discussions in relation to this.				
014	Consultation	The Applicant is encouraged to engage with the ECU at the pre-application stage and before proposals reach design freeze.	ECU-14	9	Volume 1, Chapter 4: Scope and Consultation	The Applicant has engaged with the ECU during the pre-application stages. Pre-application consultation has been set out within the noted chapter of the EIA Report.
015	Scoping Matrix	When finalising the EIA Report, the Applicant is asked to provide a summary in tabular form of where within the EIA Report each of the specific matters raised in the Scoping Opinion have been addressed.	ECU-15	9	Volume 4, Appendix 4.4: Scoping Matrix	This Scoping Matrix addresses the noted request.
016	Description of Development	<p>The description of development for the EIA Report must include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. A description of the physical characteristics of the whole development and the full land use requirements during the operational and construction phases. b. A description of the main characteristics of the construction processes, for instance nature and quantity of the materials used. 	THC-01	Annex A Page 2 - 3	<p>Volume 1, Chapter 3: The Proposed Development; and Chapter 4: Scope and Consultation.</p> <p>Volume 5, Chapter 3: The Proposed Development - Alternative Alignment.</p>	<p>The noted chapters detail the specific elements of the Proposed Development. The following confirms where each point listed in THC's response is addressed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Volume 1, Chapter 3: The Proposed Development, and Volume 5, Chapter 3: The Proposed Development - Alternative Alignment. b. Volume 1, Chapter 3: The Proposed Development, and Volume 5, Chapter 3: The Proposed Development - Alternative Alignment. c. The potential for accidents and disasters is discussed in Volume 1, Chapter 4: Scope and

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		<p>c. The risk of accidents, having regard in particular to substances or technologies used.</p> <p>d. An estimate, by type and quantity, of expected residues and emissions (water, air and soil pollution, noise, vibration, heat, radiation) resulting from the operation of the development.</p> <p>e. The estimated cumulative impact of the project with other consented or operation development.</p> <p>f. A detailed mitigation strategy.</p>			<p>Technical Chapters which form part of Volume 1 and Volume 5.</p>	<p>Consultation, confirming that crisis management and continuity plans are in place across the SSE Group to respond to such events.</p> <p>d. This is discussed in relevant chapters of the EIA Report.</p> <p>e. The potential for cumulative impacts is considered within each technical chapter of the EIA Report, where relevant.</p> <p>f. Mitigation measures will be proposed at the end of each technical chapter. A consolidated Schedule of Mitigation is also be presented in in Volume 1: Chapter 13 and Volume 5: Chapter 11 of this EIA Report.</p>
017	Alternatives	<p>A statement is required which outlines the main development alternatives and an indication of the main reasons for the final project choice. This is expected to highlight the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The range of technologies that have been considered. The locational criteria and economic parameters used in site selection. Options for access; including construction laydown areas and staff accommodation compounds. 	THC-02	Annex A Page 3	<p>Volume 1, Chapter 2: The Routeing Process and Alternatives</p> <p>Volume 5, Chapter 2: The Routeing Process and Alternatives - Alternative Alignment</p>	<p>A description of the route and alignment selection stage of the project, together with other alternatives considered during the EIA process, is included in the noted chapters.</p>

No.	Subject	Task	Consultee	Scoping Opinion Page Ref.	EIA Report Reference	Comments
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Design and locational options for all elements of the proposed development. The environmental effects of the different options examined. Such assessment should also highlight sustainable development attributes. 				
018	Impact Assessment	The EIA Report must provide a description of the aspects of the environment likely to be significantly affected by the development.	THC-03	Annex A Page 3	Throughout the EIA Report	The assessment of the Proposed Development is undertaken throughout the EIA Report. The Alternative Alignment is assessed in Volume 5 of the EIA Report.
019	Land Use and Policy	The EIAR should recognise the existing land uses affected by the development with regard to THC's Development Plan (and Supplementary Guidance documents). The purpose of this chapter is to highlight relevant policies not to assess the compatibility of the proposal with policy. It is expected in addition to a Planning Statement in support of the application.	THC-04	Annex A Page 3	Throughout the EIA Report Planning Statement	These policy documents are referenced where appropriate throughout the EIA Report and the Planning Statement which accompanies the EIA Report.
020	Development Plan	The scope of the EIA should address all the relevant issues covered in NPF4 and the Highland-wide Local Development Plan (HwLDP). The Caithness and Sutherland (Cas) Plan has limited relevance to this type of proposal but certain aspects may	THC-05	Annex A Page 4	Throughout the EIA Report Planning Statement	This has been noted. The NPF4 policies are referenced where appropriate throughout the EIA Report and the Planning Statement which accompanies the EIA Report.

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		help to inform plans for community engagement.				
021		The CasPlan establishes boundaries of Special Landscape Areas (SLA) across the plan area. The SLA citations webpage must be used to assess the potential impacts of the Proposed Development.	THC-06	14	Volume 1, Chapter 6: Landscape and Visual. Volume 5, Chapter 4: Landscape and Visual - Alternative Alignment	The noted chapters considers the SLA citations within the CasPlan.
022	Community Benefit	Developer contribution, Community Benefit and Community Wealth Building will all need to be considered as the scheme develops.	THC-07	Annex A Page 4 - 5	Socio-Economic Technical Note	This is considered in the standalone Socio-Economic and Tourism Technical Note.
023	Development Plan	The identification of NPF4 as a key planning consideration and outline of policies is welcomed, as is the identification of HwLDP and its policies.	THC-08	Annex A Page 5	Throughout the EIA Report Planning Statement	This has been noted. The NPF4 policies are referenced where appropriate throughout the EIA Report and the Planning Statement which accompanies the EIA Report.
024	Sustainable Design Statement	THC outline that a Sustainable Design Statement is required which includes details on design, building materials and	THC-09	Annex A Page 6	Planning Statement	Sustainable design principles are discussed within the Planning Statement which accompanies the EIA Report.

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		minimising environmental impacts of development.				
025	LVIA	THC expect that the EIA considers the landscape and visual context of the development. The two elements require separate assessment. Assessment should cover impacts of all elements of the development.	THC-10	Annex A Page 6	Volume 1, Chapter 6: Landscape and Visual. Volume 5, Chapter 4: Landscape and Visual - Alternative Alignment	The LVIA chapters for the proposed and alternative alignments consider and assess the subjects of landscape and visual amenity separately.
026	Visualisations	The LVIA should provide a Zone of Theoretical Visibility (ZTV) and identify key viewpoints to represent the most sensitive visual receptors. While this development is not a wind farm, THC welcome the Applicant's commitment to producing photomontages to THC standards in addition to those of NatureScot. The photomontages should be provided in hard copy in a A3 leaver arch ring bound folder.	THC-11	Annex A Page 6	Volume 1, Chapter 6: Landscape and Visual Volume 5, Chapter 4: Landscape and Visual - Alternative Alignment	A series of photomontages have been produced to assist with the assessment and determination of the EIA for both the Proposed Alignment and Alternative Alignment, in accordance with NS guidance and THC guidance. These are included in Volume 3a and 3b of the EIA Report respectively, and will be provided in an A3 hard copy. The visual assessment is receptor-based and considers all potential receptors within the study area rather than a small number of viewpoints, which provides a more detailed and robust assessment. The visualisations are illustrative of the type of view that would be obtained and are considered representative of visual receptors using the study area.

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027	Viewpoints	The Scoping Report includes four VPs for the Proposed Development and five for the Alternative Development; these are generally considered appropriate. Further consideration should be given to providing a VP from the path to the lighthouse at Strathy Point. THC would be happy to review wireframes in the first instance to confirm whether this would be beneficial for inclusion in the EIA Report.	THC-12	Annex A Page 6 - 7	Volume 1, Chapter 6: Landscape and Visual. Volume 5, Chapter 4: Landscape and Visual - Alternative Alignment	The Applicant has conducted further consultation with THC regarding the inclusion of a viewpoint from Totegan near Strathy Point. It has been agreed that the inclusion of wireline for the Proposed Alignment and Alternative Alignment is sufficient from this viewpoint.
028		The purpose of the selected and agreed viewpoints should be clearly identified and stated in the supporting information.	THC-13	Annex A Page 7	Volume 1, Chapter 6: Landscape and Visual. Volume 5, Chapter 4: Landscape and Visual - Alternative Alignment	The LVIA chapters identify and describe the viewpoints used for production of the photomontages to support and inform the LVIA.
029	Recreational Receptors	When assessing recreational routes, THC require all core paths, the national cycle network, long distance trails are assessed.	THC-14	Annex A Page 7	Volume 1, Chapter 6: Landscape and Visual; and Chapter 11: Traffic and Transport.	The noted chapters consider impacts on recreational routes. The Draft Outdoor Access Management Plan (see Volume 4, Appendix V1-11.2) details how existing public access would be managed during the

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					Volume 5, Chapter 4: Landscape and Visual - Alternative Alignment; and Chapter 9: Traffic and Transport - Alternative Alignment	construction and operation of the Proposed Development.
030	Landscaping	A landscaping, management and maintenance scheme for the site is required.	THC-15	Annex A Page 7	Volume 1, Chapter 6: Landscape and Visual. Volume 5, Chapter 4: Landscape and Visual - Alternative Alignment. Volume 4, Appendix V1-3.6: Outline Site	The reinstatement of areas disturbed during construction would be fundamental to ensuring that the Proposed Development would be successfully accommodated into the existing landscape in the longer term. Further details on these measures are included in the Site Restoration Plan, an outline of which is included in Volume 4, Appendix V1-3.6 of this EIA Report.

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					Restoration Plan	
031	WLA	While NPF4 does not require a Wild Land Assessment to be carried out if a proposal sites outwith a WLA, THC recommend that regard still be given to Wild Land considerations.	THC-16	Annex A Page 7	Volume 1, Chapter 6: Landscape and Visual. Volume 5, Chapter 4: Landscape and Visual - Alternative Alignment	WLA 39: East Halladale Flows lies 270 m from the Proposed Development to the south-east and is considered in the noted chapters.
032	Ecology and Ornithology Assessment	An EIA Report chapter covering ecology, habitats and ornithology will be required. This must provide a baseline survey of the bird and animals interest on site. It needs to establish which species are present on the site, and where, before a future application is submitted. It should identify rare and threatened habitats and those protected by legislation or identified in national or local BAPs. Habitat enhancement and mitigation measures should be detailed. The EIA Report should address whether the development could assist or impede delivery of elements of relevance to BAPs.	THC-17	Annex A Page 7 - 8	Volume 1, Chapter 7: Ecology and Chapter 8: Ornithology. Volume 5, Chapter 5: Ecology - Alternative Alignment and Chapter 6: Ornithology - Alternative Alignment	The noted chapters consider ecology, habitats and ornithology. They include an assessment of the Proposed Alignment and Alternative Alignment on ecology and ornithology, and suggest appropriate mitigation measures to avoid or reduce adverse effects, where required.

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033		The presence of protected species such as Schedule 1 or European Protected Species must be included and considered as part of the application.	THC-18	Annex A Page 8	Volume 1, Chapter 7: Ecology and Chapter 8: Ornithology. Volume 5, Chapter 5: Ecology - Alternative Alignment; and Chapter 6: Ornithology - Alternative Alignment.	The noted chapters include an assessment of the Proposed Alignment and Alternative Alignment on protected species and suggest appropriate mitigation measures to avoid or reduce adverse effects, where required.
034	Conservation Interests	THC advise that the EIA Report should address the likely impacts on nature conservation interests in the vicinity of the development and provide proposals for mitigation to avoid or reduce to a level where they are not significant.	THC-19	Annex A Page 8	Volume 1, Chapter 7: Ecology and Chapter 8: Ornithology. Volume 5, Chapter 5: Ecology - Alternative Alignment and Chapter 6: Ornithology -	The noted chapters include an assessment of the Proposed Alignment and Alternative Alignment on nature conservation interests and suggest appropriate mitigation measures to avoid or reduce adverse effects, where required.

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					Alternative Alignment.	
035	HRA and AA	If an Appropriate Assessment is required (based on NatureScot's advice), THC would encourage the Applicant to provide a Shadow Habitats Regulation Appraisal and Appropriate Assessment with their application.	THC-20	Annex A Page 8	<p>Volume 1, Chapter 7: Ecology and Chapter 8: Ornithology.</p> <p>Volume 5, Chapter 5: Ecology (Alternative Alignment) and Chapter 6: Ornithology - Alternative Alignment.</p> <p>Volume 4, Appendix V1-7.6: Shadow HRA for the Caithness and Sutherland Peatlands SAC and Ramsar and Appendix V1-8.3: Shadow</p>	Shadow HRAs for all relevant European sites have been carried out as part of the EIA Report, including the Caithness and Sutherland Peatlands SAC / Ramsar site (see Volume 4: Appendix V1-7.6 and Annex B in relation to the Alternative Alignment) and the Caithness and Sutherland Peatlands SPA, the Caithness Lochs SPA (and Ramsar site), and the North Caithness Cliffs SPA (see Volume 4: Appendix V1-8.3 and Annex A in relation to the Alternative Alignment) of the noted chapters.

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					HRA for European Sites of Ornithological Importance	
036	Peatland Restoration	THC noted that NatureScot will lead on priority peatland and protected species. They advise that on peatland carbon rich soils and priority peatland habitats, the restoration of peatland should be a 1:10 restoration level with an additional 10% to provide enhancement measures.	THC-21	Annex A Page 8	<p>Volume 1, Chapter 7: Ecology</p> <p>Volume 5, Chapter 5: Ecology - Alternative Alignment</p> <p>Volume 4: Appendix V1-3.8: Connagill Cluster Outline HMP</p>	<p>Compensation and enhancement for loss of peatland habitat will be presented in an overarching Habitat Management Plan (HMP) for the Connagill Cluster Grid Connection projects to deliver landscape-scale habitat enhancement to meet the requirements of NPF4, Policy 3. An Outline HMP is included in Volume 4: Appendix V1-7.8 of this EIA Report.</p> <p>The Applicant is committed to incorporating BNG into their projects and a BNG assessment would be produced in agreement with relevant consultees secured by a condition of consent.</p> <p>In addition to mitigation, biodiversity net gain will be achieved through landscape-scale enhancement of the peatland habitat and these measures are set out in the overarching HMP for the Connagill Cluster Grid Connections (see Volume 4: Appendix V1-7.8 Connagill Cluster Outline HMP).</p>
037	HMP, SPP and BNG	A draft or outline Habitat Management Plan and Species Protection Plan should be produced as part of the EIA, including proposals for mitigation and enhancement	THC-22	Annex A Page 9	Volume 1, Chapter 7: Ecology	The Applicant is committed to delivering a HMP for the Proposed Development in combination with other projects that make up the Connagill Cluster Grid

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		in relation to important habitats and species. Any compensatory planting plans should be carefully considered and included in the HMP. THC welcome that the application will be supported by a BNG Metric.			Volume 5, Chapter 5: Ecology - Alternative Alignment Volume 4: Appendix V1-3.8: Connagill Cluster Outline HMP	Connections. An Outline HMP is included in Volume 4: Appendix V1-7.8 of this EIA Report. The Applicant is committed to incorporating BNG into their projects and a BNG assessment would be produced in agreement with relevant consultees secured by a condition of consent. In addition to mitigation, biodiversity net gain will be achieved through landscape-scale enhancement of the peatland habitat and these measures are set out in the overarching HMP for the Connagill Cluster Grid Connections (see Volume 4: Appendix V1-7.8 Connagill Cluster Outline HMP).
038	Aquatic Interests	The EIA Report needs to address the aquatic interests within local watercourses, including downstream interests that may be affected by the development.	THC-23	Annex A Page 9	Volume 1, Chapter 7: Ecology Volume 5, Chapter 5: Ecology - Alternative Alignment.	Aquatic species are considered in the noted chapters.
039	Water Environment	The EIA Report needs to address the nature of the hydrology and hydrogeology of the site, and the potential impacts on watercourses, water supplies (including PWS), water quality and quantity, aquatic flora and fauna, groundwater and other	THC-24	Annex A Page 9	Volume 1, Chapter 9: Soils, Geology and Water.	This information is provided in the noted chapters.

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		water features and sensitive receptors. Measures to prevent erosion, sedimentation or discolouration will be required, along with monitoring proposals and contingency plans. Assessment will need to recognise periods of high rainfall.			Volume 5, Chapter 7: Soils, Geology and Water - Alternative Alignment.	
040	Watercourse Crossings	Schemes should be designed to avoid crossing watercourses, and bridge (rather than culvert) watercourses where this cannot be avoided.	THC-25	Annex A Page 9	Volume 1, Chapter 9: Soils, Geology and Water.	A schedule of proposed watercourse crossings is provided in support of the noted chapters in Volume 4, Appendix V1-9.3 (for the Proposed Alignment) and Appendix V5-9.3 (for the Alternative Alignment).
041		The EIA Report should identify all water crossings and include a systematic table of watercourse crossings with detailed justification for any such elements and design to minimise impact. The table should be accompanied by photography of each watercourse and dimensions of the watercourse.	THC-26	Annex A Page 9	Volume 5, Chapter 7: Soils, Geology and Water - Alternative Alignment.	
042	Watercourses and Waterbodies	The following should apply to all watercourses and waterbodies on site: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A minimum of a 50 m buffer of all watercourses / bodies and [turbine/crane hardstanding's] which 	THC-27	Annex A Page 9 - 10	Volume 1, Chapter 9: Soils, Geology and Water. Volume 5, Chapter 7:	Figures have been produced to accompany the noted chapters to show all proposed temporary and permanent infrastructure overlain with all lochs and watercourses. The potential effects on watercourses and waterbodies, and suitable buffers to be maintained,

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		<p>should be shown on a suitably scaled drawing.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> All tracks kept a minimum of 10 m from any waterbody (except water crossings). Effort to retain existing natural drainage at access tracks, where possible. Natural flood management techniques should be applied to reduce rate of runoff where possible; and use of Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS) to achieve pre-development runoff rates and to minimise erosion on existing watercourses. Water crossings must be designed to accommodate 1 in 200-year flood events, plus climate change. Land rising within any floodplain to be avoided, otherwise compensatory storage must be provided. 			Soils, Geology and Water - Alternative Alignment.	<p>are discussed within the noted chapter. Locations where this is not possible have been set out and required safeguards detailed.</p> <p>Appropriate mitigation is discussed within the noted chapters.</p>
043	Flood Risk and Drainage	The EIA Report should be informed by THCs Flood Risk and Drainage Impact Assessment Supplementary Guidance.	THC-28	Annex A Page 10	Volume 1, Chapter 9: Soils, Geology and Water.	This has been noted.

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					Volume 5, Chapter 7: Soils, Geology and Water - Alternative Alignment	
044	Drainage Strategy	<p>The drainage strategy should divide the site into different catchments depending on risks identified. Drainage of highest risk will be considered trade effluent and will need to be contained, treated and disposed of appropriately. Areas of less risk should be provided with SuDS.</p> <p>A site plan showing the proposed SuDS treatment train should be submitted. The Simple Index Approach calculation must be submitted in support of the site plan.</p>	THC-29	Annex A Page 10	N/A	A drainage strategy will be prepared as part of the detailed design stage of the Proposed Development by the Principal Contractor. Like other sites, it is expected that this would be secured by a planning condition.
045	Water Supplies	Should abstractions of water supplies be required for concrete works or other operations, the EIA Report should identify whether a public or private source is to be utilised. If private, full details on the source and details of the abstraction need to be provided.	THC-30	Annex A Page 10	<p>Volume 1, Chapter 9: Soils, Geology and Water.</p> <p>Volume 5, Chapter 7: Soils, Geology and Water -</p>	No water abstraction has been identified. However, best practice regarding abstraction of water is presented in the noted chapters.

No.	Subject	Task	Consultee	Scoping Opinion Page Ref.	EIA Report Reference	Comments
					Alternative Alignment	
046	Private Water Supplies	The Applicant should identify any private water supplies, including pipework, which may be adversely affected by the development. Measures proposed to prevent contamination, or physical disruption should be submitted. THC has some information on known supplies, but an on-site survey will be required.	THC-31	Annex A Page 10	Volume 1, Chapter 9: Soils, Geology and Water. Volume 5, Chapter 7: Soils, Geology and Water - Alternative Alignment	The presence of any private water supplies along the route of the Proposed Alignment and the Alternative Alignment has been determined through consultation with The Highland Council and site survey, and the likely impacts are set out in the noted chapters.
047	Construction Noise Mitigation	THC Environmental Health Team (EHT) will make comment on the construction noise mitigation when the noise management plan is submitted as part of the CEMP.	THC-32	Annex A Page 11	N/A	This has been noted.
048	Operational Noise	THC EHT are not content to scope out an assessment of operational noise until the Applicant confirms whether consideration has been given to Document 5.3.14H ES Chapter 14 Appendix 14H – National Grid Technical Guidance Note TGN(E)322 (2021) during their determination of operational noise.	THC-33	Annex A Page 11	Volume 1, Chapter 4: Scope and Consultation Chapter	The Applicant has given consideration to the National Grid Technical Guidance Note TGN (E) 322 (2021) and a detailed assessment of operational noise is not considered necessary and is not included as part of the EIA.

No.	Subject	Task	Consultee	Scoping Opinion Page Ref.	EIA Report Reference	Comments
049	Cultural Heritage	THC's Historic Environment Team have confirmed that they are satisfied with the process and the study area detailed in the Scoping Report and are content that this will adequately address the required impact assessment for this proposal.	THC-34	Annex A Page 11	Volume 1, Chapter 10: Cultural Heritage Volume 5, Chapter 8: Cultural Heritage - Alternative Alignment	This has been noted.
050	Traffic and Transport – Operational Phase	THC's Transport Planning Team are content that the operational phase can be scoped out of the [Transport Assessment] of the EIA Report.	THC-35	Annex A Page 11	Volume 1, Chapter 11: Traffic and Transport Volume 5, Chapter 9: Traffic and Transport - Alternative Alignment	This has been noted.
051	Traffic and Transport – Decommissioning Phase	THC Transport Planning Team agree that the impact of decommissioning, although not 'scoped out', will be less than for construction.	THC-36	Annex A Page 11	Volume 1, Chapter 11: Traffic and Transport Volume 5, Chapter 9:	This has been noted.

No.	Subject	Task	Consultee	Scoping Opinion Page Ref.	EIA Report Reference	Comments
					Traffic and Transport (Alternative Alignment)	
052	Transport Assessment	In addition to the EIA, THC consider a standalone Transport Assessment will be required. Prior to its preparation, it is recommended that the Applicant undertake a detailed scoping exercise in consultation with the THC Transport Planning Team.	THC-37	Annex A Page 11	Volume 1, Chapter 11: Traffic and Transport Volume 5, Chapter 9: Traffic and Transport - Alternative Alignment Volume 4, Appendix V1-11.1: Transport Assessment	A Transport Assessment is included in Volume 4, Appendix V1-11.1 – Transport Assessment in support of the noted chapters. Discussions with the North Area Transport Officer have been held.
053		Where the public road affected is considered 'vulnerable' the threshold value will be 10% for impacts relating to infrastructure rather than environment.	THC-38	Annex A Page 12	Volume 1, Chapter 11: Traffic and Transport Volume 5, Chapter 9: Traffic and Transport -	This has been noted.

No.	Subject	Task	Consultee	Scoping Opinion Page Ref.	EIA Report Reference	Comments
					Alternative Alignment	
054		There are a large number of significant developments proposed in this area. The Transport Assessment will need to propose a method for assessing or controlling the impacts of these developments wishing to proceed construction phase at the same time. The cumulative schemes should be agreed in advance with THC.	THC-39	Annex A Page 12	Volume 1, Chapter 11: Traffic and Transport Volume 5, Chapter 9: Traffic and Transport - Alternative Alignment	Committed developments are accounted for in the cumulative assessment of the noted chapters.
055	Abnormal Loads	THC Transport Planning Team consider crane movements are likely required for OHL projects and that these vehicles are usually abnormal. Before Abnormal Loads can be scoped out, the Applicant is advised to contact THC to discuss further.	THC-40	Annex A Page 12	Volume 1, Chapter 11: Traffic and Transport Volume 5, Chapter 9: Traffic and Transport - Alternative Alignment	The Applicant considers the crane required for construction of the Proposed Development is not an Abnormal Indivisible load (AIL). Should this change once the contractor has been appointed, a supplementary AIL access review will be provided to THC along with the relevant AIL permits.
056	Travel Plan	The inclusion of a framework Travel Plan is recommended to encourage more sustainable travel modes.	THC-41	Annex A Page 12	Volume 1, Chapter 11: Traffic and Transport	A Travel Plan is included in the Framework Traffic Management Plan as set out in Volume 4, Appendix V1-11.1 – Transport Assessment.

No.	Subject	Task	Consultee	Scoping Opinion Page Ref.	EIA Report Reference	Comments
					<p>Volume 5, Chapter 9: Traffic and Transport - Alternative Alignment</p> <p>Volume 4, Appendix V1-11.1: Transport Assessment</p>	
057	Construction Traffic Management Plan	A Framework Construction Traffic Management Plan (CTMP) shall be submitted. It shall include measures to ensure that construction traffic adheres to approved routes and proposed measures to mitigate the impact of such traffic.	THC-42	Annex A Page 12	<p>Volume 1, Chapter 11: Traffic and Transport</p> <p>Volume 5, Chapter 9: Traffic and Transport - Alternative Alignment</p> <p>Volume 4, Appendix V1-11.1:</p>	A Framework Traffic Management Plan is included within Volume 4, Appendix V1-11.1 .

No.	Subject	Task	Consultee	Scoping Opinion Page Ref.	EIA Report Reference	Comments
					Transport Assessment	
058	Section 96	To protect the interest of THC from the risk of damage to Council maintained roads from development related traffic, a suitable agreement relating to Section 96 of the Roads (Scotland) Act may be required.	THC-43	Annex A Page 13	<p>Volume 1, Chapter 11: Traffic and Transport</p> <p>Volume 5, Chapter 9: Traffic and Transport - Alternative Alignment</p> <p>Volume 4, Appendix V1-11.1: Transport Assessment</p>	A Section 96 Agreement is proposed in the Framework Traffic Management proposals included in Volume 4, Appendix V1-11.1 – Transport Assessment .
059	Access to Site Compounds	The intended location of site compounds / offices, material stores, loading and unloading areas, workforce parking areas and the routes to connect them to the public road network should be clearly identified.	THC-44	Annex A Page 13	<p>Volume 1, Chapter 11: Traffic and Transport</p> <p>Volume 5, Chapter 9: Traffic and Transport -</p>	<p>These details will be decided by the Principal Contractor and will be subject to separate planning applications. They do not form part of the Proposed Development and are therefore not included in the application for statutory consents.</p> <p>Nevertheless, a provision for traffic associated with a potential site compound to be located on the existing access track (leading to Strathy North Wind Farm) has been made within the traffic generation</p>

No.	Subject	Task	Consultee	Scoping Opinion Page Ref.	EIA Report Reference	Comments
					Alternative Alignment Volume 4, Appendix V1-11.1: Transport Assessment	calculations contained within Volume 4, Appendix 11.1 . The areas of temporary access tracks are also included for, as well as their removal.
060	New Access Tracks	Off-road access routes that will be used to access the site should be clearly defined including which will be left in place and which will be removed when no longer required. The finished form of routes being left in place should be clarified with justification as to why they will be needed in that form going forward.	THC-45	Annex A Page 13	Volume 1, Chapter 3: The Proposed Development Volume 5, Chapter 3: The Proposed Development - Alternative Alignment	Details of proposed new permanent and new temporary access tracks are described in the noted chapters, and are shown in Volume 2, Figure V1-3.1 – The Proposed Development – Proposed Alignment and Figure V5-3.1 – The Proposed Development - Alternative Alignment .
061	Waste Management	Details of arrangements for the storage and collection of waste and recyclable material shall be provided.	THC-46	Annex A Page 13	Volume 4, Appendix V1-3.8: Outline Construction Environment Management Plan	This will be set out within the site-specific Construction Environment Management Plan (CEMP). An outline CEMP is included in Volume 4, Appendix V1-3.8 .

No.	Subject	Task	Consultee	Scoping Opinion Page Ref.	EIA Report Reference	Comments
062	Socio-economic	Whilst THC accept that a socio-economic assessment can be scoped out of the EIA, a technical note in support of the application will still be required. This is expected to include relevant economic information connected with the project.	THC-47	Annex A Page 13	Socio-Economic Technical Note	This has been noted and a standalone Socio-Economic and Tourism Technical Note has been prepared in support of the application.
063	Tourism and Recreation	THC support that the LVIA will assess the potential for effects on visual amenity of the recreational and tourist receptors as a result of the proposed and alternative development.	THC-48	Annex A Page 13	Volume 1, Chapter 6: Landscape and Visual Volume 5, and Chapter 4: Landscape and Visual - Alternative Alignment	This has been noted.
064	Access Management Plan	An Access Management Plan is required which comprehensively assesses the impact of the proposed development on outdoor access and identifies adequate mitigation measures. It should seek to minimise any negative impacts on outdoor access and maximise any benefits. The assessment should include an investigation into the proposals effects on the quality of the settings where recreation takes place	THC-49	23- Annex A Page 13 - 14	Volume 4, Appendix V1- 11.2: Draft Outdoor Access Management Plan	A draft Outdoor Access Management Plan is included in the EIA Report in Volume 4, Appendix V1-11.2.

No.	Subject	Task	Consultee	Scoping Opinion Page Ref.	EIA Report Reference	Comments
		with safeguards and enhancements to long distance routes and their settings.				
065	Construction Environmental Management Plan	THC would request that an Outline Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP) is included with the EIA Report.	THC-50	Annex A Page 14	Volume 4, Appendix V1-3.8: Outline Construction Environmental Management Plan	An Outline CEMP is included in the EIA Report in Volume 4, Appendix V1-3.8.
066	Forestry	THC note that a specific chapter on Forestry would not be required but this may change if the layout alters going forward. However, information in support of the application will be required. This should outline areas of woodland / forestry plantation which may be felled to accommodate new development.	THC-51	Annex A Page 14	Volume 1, Chapter 12: Forestry Volume 5, Chapter 10: Forestry - Alternative Alignment	A Forestry Chapter has been provided which describes the areas of woodland affected and refers to Compensatory Planting in compliance with the Scottish Government's CoWRP Policy.
067	Compensatory Planting	Compensatory planting of new woodland is expected for any proposals for felling and such mitigation should be considered within any assessment. If trees are removed, compliance with the Scottish Government's Control of Woodland Removal Policy must be demonstrated.	THC-52	Annex A Page 14		

No.	Subject	Task	Consultee	Scoping Opinion Page Ref.	EIA Report Reference	Comments
068	Significant Effects on the Environment	THC require the EIA to describe the likely significant effects of the development on the environment which should cover direct, indirect, secondary, cumulative, short, medium and long-term permanent and temporary, positive and negative effects of the development.	THC-53	Annex A Page 14	Throughout the EIA Report	The assessment of likely significant environmental effects has been undertaken within each of the technical chapters of the EIA Report.
069		THC request that when measuring the positive and negative effects of the development a four point scale is used advising any effect to be either strong positive, positive, negative or strong negative.	THC-54	Annex A Page 15	Volume 1, Chapter 5: EIA Process and Methodology	The approach to the assessment of effects is set out in the noted chapter and defined within each of the technical chapters within the EIA Report. Effects have been assessed in accordance with best practice and industry standards across the technical topics. As such, the request for consideration of effects across a four point scale is not considered appropriate.
070		The Applicant should provide a description of the forecasting methods used to assess the effects on the environment.	THC-55	Annex A Page 15		
071	Mitigation	<p>A description of the measures envisaged to prevent, reducing and where possible offsetting any significant adverse effects on the environment must be set out within the EIA Report.</p> <p>A clear summary table of all mitigation measures associated with the development proposal should be provided and titled draft 'Schedule of Mitigation'.</p>	THC-56	Annex A Page 15	<p>Volume 1, Chapter 13: Schedule of Mitigation</p> <p>Volume 5, Chapter 11: Schedule of Mitigation –</p>	Mitigation measures have been proposed at the end of each technical chapter. A consolidated Schedule of Mitigation is also presented in Volume 1, Chapter 13 and Volume 5, Chapter 11 of this EIA Report.

No.	Subject	Task	Consultee	Scoping Opinion Page Ref.	EIA Report Reference	Comments
					Alternative Alignment Throughout EIA Report	
072	Potential for direct impacts on designated heritage sites	HES can confirm there are no World Heritage Sites, scheduled monuments, category A listed buildings or gardens and designed landscapes within the Proposed Development site boundary. There is no potential for significant direct impacts on assets within HES' remit.	HES-01	Annex A Page 16	Volume 1, Chapter 10: Cultural Heritage Volume 5, Chapter 8: Cultural Heritage - Alternative Alignment	This has been noted.
073	Potential impacts on the setting of designated heritage sites	There is potential for adverse impacts to a number of nationally important historic environment assets within the vicinity of the development. The Alternative Route would have different impacts on the setting of assets in comparison to the Proposed Route. The Alternative Route has the potential to impact on the east-west axial view from the garden pavilion of 'Bighouse, garden pavilion and walled garden' (LB7160). There may also be potential for cumulative	HES-02	Annex A Page 16 - 17	Volume 3a, Figure V5-7a-c and Volume 3b, Figure V5-7a-e Volume 5, Chapter 8: Cultural Heritage - Alternative Alignment	Following consultation with HES a photomontage from Bighouse Garden Pavilion has been produced for the Alternative Alignment and is included in Volume 3a and Volume 3b of this EIA Report. The photomontage includes the proposed Melvich wind turbines.

No.	Subject	Task	Consultee	Scoping Opinion Page Ref.	EIA Report Reference	Comments
		effects alongside the Melvich wind farm which should be taken into consideration. A photomontage showing the view from the garden pavilion looking west along the axial view towards the proposed OHL will be required to assist with the understanding of potential impacts on the setting of the buildings. It would be helpful if visualisations could also include the proposed Melvich wind farm to demonstrate potential cumulative impacts.				
074	Scope and Guidance	HES welcome that cultural heritage effects are scoped into the assessment. HES strongly recommend that 'Managing Change Guidance Note on Setting' is used to inform setting assessments. HES would welcome that the proposed methodology will reference the EIA Handbook.	HES-03	Annex A Page	Volume 1, Chapter 10: Cultural Heritage Volume 5, Chapter 8: Cultural Heritage - Alternative Alignment	This has been noted. Reference to these documents has been made in the noted chapters.
075	Historic Assessment Study Area	HES are content with the 3 km study area to identify assets which may receive impacts to their setting and the list of assets to be scoped in and scoped out of further detailed assessment.	HES-04	Annex A Page 19	Volume 1, Chapter 10: Cultural Heritage	This has been noted.

No.	Subject	Task	Consultee	Scoping Opinion Page Ref.	EIA Report Reference	Comments
					Volume 5, Chapter 8: Cultural Heritage - Alternative Alignment	
076	Historic Assessment Mitigation	HES welcome that the [scoping] report indicates that recommendations for mitigation measures to prevent, reduce or offset significant adverse effects will be provided where necessary. HES would be happy to discuss further.	HES-05	Annex A Page 19	Volume 1, Chapter 10: Cultural Heritage Volume 5, Chapter 8: Cultural Heritage (Alternative Alignment)	This has been noted.
077	SEPA Consultation	SEPA would welcome further pre-application with the developer once the layout is developed in relation to the location of towers and supporting infrastructure.	SEPA-01	Annex A Page 21	Volume 1, Chapter 4: Scope and Consultation	This has been noted.
078	Location of Infrastructure in relation to peat	The proposal should demonstrate it can meet the requirements of Policy 5 of NPF4. Peat probing information should be provided so that it is ensured that there is depth information available for all locations	SEPA-02	Annex A Page 22	Volume 1, Chapter 9: Soils, Geology and Water	A peat probing campaign has been carried out across the project to establish peat depths and appropriate mitigation is set out in the noted chapters and in the supporting Outline Peat Management Plans included in Volume 4, Appendix V1-9.2 (Proposed Alignment)

No.	Subject	Task	Consultee	Scoping Opinion Page Ref.	EIA Report Reference	Comments
		where infrastructure (including all temporary construction infrastructure and any borrow pits) are proposed. It should be clearly demonstrated that the location of individual tower hardstanding's and supporting infrastructure avoid areas of deepest peat and any near natural condition habitat.			Volume 5, Chapter 7: Soils, Geology and Water – Alternative Alignment	and Appendix V5-9.2 (Alternative Alignment) within this EIA Report. A detailed peat condition assessment has been completed and is set out in Volume 4, Appendix V1-9.4 (Proposed Alignment) and Appendix V5-7.4 (Alternative Alignment).
079	Peatland Compensation	Proposals for peatland compensation / offsetting should be outlined, and in addition proposals for biodiversity gain.	SEPA-03	Annex A Page 22	Volume 4, Appendix V1-7.8: Connagill Cluster Outline HMP	Compensation and enhancement for loss of peatland habitat will be presented in an overarching Habitat Management Plan for the Connagill Cluster Grid Connection projects to deliver landscape-scale habitat enhancement to meet the requirements of NPF4, Policy 3, as outlined in Volume 4, Appendix V1-3.8 of this EIA Report. The Applicant is committed to incorporating BNG into their projects and a BNG assessment would be produced in agreement with relevant consultees secured by a condition of consent. In addition to mitigation, biodiversity net gain will be achieved through landscape-scale enhancement of the peatland habitat and these measures are set out in the overarching HMP for the Connagill Cluster Grid Connections (see Volume 4: Appendix V1-7.8 Connagill Cluster Outline HMP).

No.	Subject	Task	Consultee	Scoping Opinion Page Ref.	EIA Report Reference	Comments
080	Presentation of information	Ensure drawings are submitted at a scale that allows the relationship between baseline information and infrastructure to be clearly understood.	SEPA-04	Annex A Page 22	Throughout the EIA Report	This has been noted.
081	Groundwater Dependent Habitats	The submitted habitat survey indicates that the development will have an impact on habitats that are potentially groundwater dependent. The final submission should provide an assessment of whether the habitats are actually groundwater dependent in the area, and mitigation measures to maintain local hydrology, where necessary.	SEPA-05	Annex A Page 22	Volume 1, Chapter 7: Ecology and Chapter 9: Soils, Geology and Water Volume 5, Chapter 5: Ecology - Alternative Alignment and Chapter 7: Soils, Geology and Water - Alternative Alignment.	Details of the UKHab and National Vegetation Classification (NVC) survey are presented in the noted Ecology chapters, whilst an assessment on potential groundwater dependent terrestrial ecosystems (GWDTEs) is included in the noted Soils, Geology and Water chapters.
082	Access Track Design	Ensure that clear information is provided on the type of access proposed to be used in each area (e.g. boards, temporary floating tracks, temporary cut tracks, permanent floating tracks, permanent cut tracks).	SEPA-06	Annex A Page 22	Volume 1, Chapter 3: The Proposed Development	Details of proposed new permanent and new temporary access tracks are described in the noted chapters. For the purposes of this EIA, it has been assumed for worst case, that all new access tracks would be constructed on formation.

No.	Subject	Task	Consultee	Scoping Opinion Page Ref.	EIA Report Reference	Comments
		Where there is doubt, the impact should be assessed based on the poorest environmentally option. Proposals to use existing tracks, or previously disturbed routes is welcome and should be marked on plans.			Volume 5, Chapter 3: The Proposed Development - Alternative Alignment	
083	Development Design and Infrastructure	All maps must be based on an adequate scale with which to assesses the information. Each of the maps must detail all proposed upgraded, temporary and permanent infrastructure. Existing built infrastructure must be re-used or upgraded where possible. The design should minimise the extent of new works on previously undisturbed ground.	SEPA-07	Annex A Page 24	Volume 1, Chapter 3: The Proposed Development Volume 5, Chapter 3: The Proposed Development - Alternative Alignment	The noted chapters include all of the salient development information, and are supported by plans indicating layout of infrastructure required for the Proposed Development.
084	Site Layout and Engineering Activities on the Water Environment	<p>The site layout should be designed to minimise watercourse crossings and avoid other direct impacts on water features. The submission must include a map showing:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> All proposed temporary and permanent infrastructure overlain with all lochs and watercourses. A minimum buffer of 50 m around each loch or watercourse. If this minimum cannot be achieved, 	SEPA-08	Annex A Page 24	Volume 1, Chapter 9: Soils, Geology and Water Volume 5, Chapter 7: Soils, Geology and Water - Alternative Alignment	The noted chapters assesses the likely effects of the Proposed Alignment and Alternative Alignment on the water environment and propose mitigation measures to minimise effects, where relevant.

No.	Subject	Task	Consultee	Scoping Opinion Page Ref.	EIA Report Reference	Comments
		<p>each breach must be numbered on a plan with an associated photograph of the locations, dimensions of the loch / watercourse and drawings of what's proposed.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Measures should be put in place to protect any downstream sensitive receptors. 				
085	Site Layout and Engineering Activities on the Water Environment	Watercourse crossings must be designed to accommodate the 0.5% Annual Exceedance Probability flows (with an appropriate allowance for climate change), or information provided to justify smaller structures. If it is considered the development could result in an increased risk of flooding to a nearby receptor then a Flood Risk Assessment must be submitted.	SEPA-09	Annex A Page 25	<p>Volume 1, Chapter 9: Soils, Geology and Water</p> <p>Volume 5, Chapter 7: Soils, Geology and Water - Alternative Alignment</p>	The noted chapters include information on watercourse crossings and flood risk.
086	Disturbance and Re-use of excavated peat and other carbon rich soils	<p>Where proposals are on peatland or carbon rich soils, the following should be submitted to address the requirements of NPF4 Policy 5:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Layout plan showing all permanent and temporary infrastructure, with the extent 	SEPA-10	Annex A Page 26 - 27	<p>Volume 1, Chapter 7: Ecology and</p> <p>Chapter 9: Soils, Geology and Water</p>	The noted Soils, Geology and Water chapters and associated appendices contain information on peat soils and depths, along with peat condition that are present along the Proposed Development and an overview of peat management measures during construction.

No.	Subject	Task	Consultee	Scoping Opinion Page Ref.	EIA Report Reference	Comments
		<p>of excavation required. This should be overlain on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Peat depth survey (showing peat probe locations and interpolated peat depths). ○ Peatland condition mapping. ○ National Vegetation Classification survey. • Outline Peat Management Plan <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Peatland condition. ○ Demonstrate avoidance and minimisation of peat disturbance. ○ Excavation volumes of acrotelmic, catotelmic and amorphous peat. ○ Proposals for temporary storage and handling. ○ Reuse volumes in different elements of site reinstatement and restoration. • Outline Habitat Management Plan. • Proposals for reuse of disturbed peat in habitat restoration. 			<p>Volume 5, Chapter 5: Ecology - Alternative Alignment and Chapter 7: Soils, Geology and Water - Alternative Alignment</p>	<p>Detailed results from UKHab and NVC surveys and associated target notes (including for notable species) have been summarised in the noted Ecology chapters.</p> <p>Compensation and enhancement for loss of peatland habitat will be presented in an overarching Habitat Management Plan for the Connagill Cluster Grid Connection projects to deliver landscape-scale habitat enhancement to meet the requirements of NPF4, Policy 3, as outlined in Volume 4, Appendix V1-3.8 of this EIA Report..</p> <p>The Applicant is committed to incorporating BNG into their projects and a BNG assessment would be produced in agreement with relevant consultees secured by a condition of consent.</p> <p>In addition to mitigation, biodiversity net gain will be achieved through landscape-scale enhancement of the peatland habitat and these measures are set out in the overarching HMP for the Connagill Cluster Grid Connections (see Volume 4: Appendix V1-7.8 Connagill Cluster Outline HMP).</p>

No.	Subject	Task	Consultee	Scoping Opinion Page Ref.	EIA Report Reference	Comments
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Details of restoration to compensate for the area of peatland habitat directly and indirectly impacted by the development. Outline proposals for peatland enhancement in other areas of the site. Monitoring proposals. 				
087		<p>The submission should demonstrate that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> the proposal avoids peatland in near natural condition. Minimise the total area and volume of peat disturbance and clearly demonstrate how the infrastructure layout has targeted where carbon rich soils are absent or the shallowest peat reasonably practicable (avoid peat >1m). Minimise impact on local hydrology. Include adequate peat probing information to inform the site layout and demonstrate that the above has been achieved. 	SEPA-11	Annex A Page 26	<p>Volume 1, Chapter 9: Soils, Geology and Water</p> <p>Volume 5, Chapter 7: Soils, Geology and Water - Alternative Alignment</p>	<p>A peat probing campaign has been carried out across the project to establish peat depths and has been taken into consideration during the project design.</p> <p>The noted chapters contain information on peat soils, depths and condition present along the Proposed Development and an overview of peat management measures during construction.</p>
088		Plans to restore and / or enhance the site into a functioning peatland system capable	SEPA-12	Annex A Page 26	Volume 4, Appendix V1- 7.8: Connagill	Compensation and enhancement for loss of peatland habitat will be presented in an overarching Habitat Management Plan for the Connagill Cluster Grid Connection projects to deliver landscape-scale

No.	Subject	Task	Consultee	Scoping Opinion Page Ref.	EIA Report Reference	Comments
		of achieving carbon sequestration should be included.			Cluster Outline HMP	<p>habitat enhancement to meet the requirements of NPF4, Policy 3, as outlined in Volume 4, Appendix V1-3.8 of this EIA Report.</p> <p>The Applicant is committed to incorporating BNG into their projects and a BNG assessment would be produced in agreement with relevant consultees secured by a condition of consent.</p> <p>In addition to mitigation, biodiversity net gain will be achieved through landscape-scale enhancement of the peatland habitat and these measures are set out in the overarching HMP for the Connagill Cluster Grid Connections (see Volume 4: Appendix V1-7.8 Connagill Cluster Outline HMP).</p>
089		It should be demonstrated that all peat disturbed can be used in site reinstatement or peatland restoration.	SEPA-13	Annex A Page 26	<p>Volume 1, Chapter 9: Soils, Geology and Water</p> <p>Volume 5, Chapter 7: Soils, Geology and Water - Alternative Alignment)</p>	An Outline Peat Management Plan (PMP) is provided in Volume 4, Appendix V1-9.2 (Proposed Alignment) and Appendix V5-9.2 (Alternative Alignment) .
090		To support the principle of peat reuse in restoration the applicant should demonstrate that locations where the	SEPA-14	Annex A Page 27	Volume 4, Appendix V1-7.8: Connagill	Compensation and enhancement for loss of peatland habitat will be presented in an overarching Habitat Management Plan for the Connagill Cluster Grid

No.	Subject	Task	Consultee	Scoping Opinion Page Ref.	EIA Report Reference	Comments
		<p>addition of excavated peat will enhance the wider site into a functional peatland system capable of achieving carbon sequestration.</p> <p>The following information is required:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Location plan of proposed peatland re-use restoration area showing size of individual areas and total area to be restored. Photographs, aerial imagery or surveys to demonstrate that the area identified is appropriate for peat re-use and consideration of appropriate hydrological setting and baseline peatland condition. 			Cluster Outline HMP	<p>Connection projects to deliver landscape-scale habitat enhancement to meet the requirements of NPF4, Policy 3, as outlined in the noted appendix.</p> <p>A detailed peatland condition assessment has been completed across the Proposed Development, as set out in Volume 4: Appendix V1-9.4 (Proposed Alignment) and Appendix V5-7.4 (Alternative Alignment).</p>
091		If any proposed re-use restoration areas are outwith the ownership of the applicant, information should be provided to demonstrate agreement in principle with the landowner, including agreed timescales for commencement of the works and proposed management measures to ensure restored areas can be safeguarded in perpetuity as a peatland.	SEPA-15	Annex A Page 27	Volume 4, Appendix V1-7.8: Connagill Cluster Outline HMP	Potential wider peatland restoration areas that could be taken forwards across the wider landscape are currently under consideration but require landowner agreement before these can be progressed for inclusion in the HMP.
092	Disruption to GWDTE and existing	The layout and design of the development must avoid impacts on groundwater dependent terrestrial ecosystems	SEPA-16	Annex A Page 28	Volume 1 Chapter 7: Ecology and	Information relating to GWDTEs within the vicinity of the Proposed Development and assessment of likely impact on these is included in the noted chapters.

No.	Subject	Task	Consultee	Scoping Opinion Page Ref.	EIA Report Reference	Comments
	groundwater abstractions	<p>(GWDTE). An NVC which includes the following information must be submitted:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A map demonstrating all GWDTE and existing groundwater abstractions are outwith a 100 m radius of all excavations shallower than 1 m and outwith 250 m of all excavations deeper than 1 m and proposed groundwater abstractions. If the minimum buffers cannot be achieved, a detailed site specific qualitative and/or quantitative risk assessment will be required. 			<p>Chapter 9: Soils, Geology and Water</p> <p>Volume 5, Chapter 5: Ecology - Alternative Alignment and Chapter 7: Soils, Geology and Water - Alternative Alignment</p>	
093	Forest removal and forest waste	The submission must include a map with boundaries of where felling will take place and a description of what is proposed for this timber.	SEPA-17	Annex A Page 28	<p>Volume 1, Chapter 12: Forestry</p> <p>Volume 5, Chapter 10: Forestry - Alternative Alignment</p>	The noted forestry chapters provide a specific assessment on forestry interests in relation to the Proposed Alignment and Alternative Alignment.
094	Borrow Pits	<p>The following information should be submitted for each borrow pit:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A map showing the location, size, depths and dimensions. 	SEPA-18	Annex A Page 28 - 29	N/A	A separate planning application for the requirement of any borrow pits will be sought by the Principal Contractor. They do not form part of the Proposed Development and are therefore not included in the application for statutory consents.

No.	Subject	Task	Consultee	Scoping Opinion Page Ref.	EIA Report Reference	Comments
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A map showing any stocks of rock, overburden, soils and temporary and permanent infrastructure overlain with all lochs and watercourses to a distance of 250m. On this map, a site-specific buffer must be drawn around each loch or watercourse proportionate to the depth of excavations and at least 10 m from access tracks. Sections and plans detailing how restoration will be progressed including the phasing, profiles, depths and types of material to be used. 				
095	Pollution prevention and environmental management	A schedule of mitigation supported by site-specific maps and plans must be submitted. These must include reference to best practice pollution prevention and construction techniques and regulatory requirements.	SEPA-19	Annex A Page 29	<p>Volume 1, Chapter 13: Schedule of Mitigation</p> <p>Volume 1, Chapter 11: Schedule of Mitigation – Alternative Alignment</p>	A Schedule of Mitigation is included in Volume 1, Chapter 13 and Volume 5, Chapter 11 of this EIA Report.
096	Pre-Application Consultation	NS are not aware that this development was presented or discussed at Highland	NS-01	Annex A Page 35	N/A	This is noted. The development was presented at a formal pre-application meeting facilitated by The Highland Council in August 2023.

No.	Subject	Task	Consultee	Scoping Opinion Page Ref.	EIA Report Reference	Comments
		Council Major Pre-apps, in advance of formal scoping.				
097	Caithness and Sutherland Peatlands SPA and Ramsar	NS recommend that barrier and displacement effects are scoped in for assessment, in addition to an assessment of collision potential. A bespoke appraisal for diver risk could be conducted to inform a shadow Habitat Regulation Appraisal (HRA). This may show that the Alternative Route would avoid potential risk to SPA species. NS can provide more advice on this.	NS-02	Annex A Page 31	<p>Volume 1, Chapter 8: Ornithology</p> <p>Volume 5, Chapter 6: Ornithology - Alternative Alignment</p> <p>Volume 4, Appendix V1-8.3: Shadow HRA for European Sites of Ornithological Importance</p>	<p>Potential impacts on important ornithological features, including qualifying features of the Caithness and Sutherland Peatlands SPA, is discussed in the noted chapters, and where relevant, mitigation is presented.</p> <p>Potential effects on designated ornithological features of these sites are also considered in a Shadow HRA, which includes the Caithness and Sutherland Peatlands SPA as set out in Volume 4, Appendix V1-8.3 (Annex A of this Appendix considers the Alternative Alignment).</p>
098		The Proposed Development has potential to cause barrier and displacement effects to species within the SPA (c. <750 m distance) (see Volume 4: Appendix V1-8.2: Ornithological Confidential Annex). This involves more SPA species from added knowledge from other wind farms	NS-03	Annex A Page 31	<p>Volume 1, Chapter 8: Ornithology</p> <p>Volume 5, Chapter 6: Ornithology -</p>	Potential impacts (including barrier and displacement effects where relevant) on important ornithological features, including qualifying features of the Caithness and Sutherland Peatlands SPA are discussed in the noted chapters, and where relevant, mitigation is presented.

No.	Subject	Task	Consultee	Scoping Opinion Page Ref.	EIA Report Reference	Comments
		nearby than indicated in the Scoping Report.			Alternative Alignment Volume 4, Appendix V1-8.3: Shadow HRA for European Sites of Ornithological Importance	Potential effects on designated ornithological features of these are also considered in a Shadow HRA, which includes the Caithness and Sutherland Peatlands SPA, in Volume 4, Appendix V1-8.3 (Annex A of this Appendix considers the Alternative Alignment). Data has been requested from wind farm developers connected to the Connagill Cluster Grid Connection projects. The datasets that have been shared have been reviewed as part of the desk study and relevant data used to inform the assessment is detailed in the noted chapters.
099		The maximum potential height of the proposed OHL pylon towers will create a new infrastructure feature close to SPA lochs which some species may not be able to cope with, compared to the existing low scale 132 kV trident line. Therefore, due to the closeness of SPA lochs, there is uncertainty whether they can gain enough height quick enough (in varying weather conditions) to clear the lines. This has the potential to make breeding lochs less favoured or just unsuitable for future use as a result of the Proposed Development. See Volume 4: Appendix V1-8.2: Confidential Ornithological Annex .	NS-04	Annex A Page 31	Volume 1, Chapter 8: Ornithology Volume 5, Chapter 6: Ornithology - Alternative Alignment Volume 4, Appendix V1-8.3: Shadow HRA for European Sites of	This has been noted. Potential impacts on important ornithological features, including qualifying features of the Caithness and Sutherland Peatlands SPA, are discussed in the noted chapters, and where relevant, mitigation is presented. Potential effects on designated ornithological features of these are also considered in a Shadow HRA, which includes the Caithness and Sutherland Peatlands SPA, and forms Volume 4: Appendix V1-8.3 (Annex A of this Appendix considers the Alternative Alignment).

No.	Subject	Task	Consultee	Scoping Opinion Page Ref.	EIA Report Reference	Comments
					Ornithological Importance	
100		NS recommend greater clarity within the EIA Report of pylon towers to be used for this proposal including any range variability with maximum height provided as part of the SPA appraisals.	NS-05	Annex A Page 31	<p>Volume 4, Appendix V1-3.1: Indicative Tower Schedule - Proposed Alignment</p> <p>Volume 4, Appendix V5-3.1: Indicative Tower Schedule - Alternative Alignment</p>	An indicative tower schedule has been included in Volume 4, Appendix V1-3.1 (Proposed Alignment) and Volume 4, Appendix V5-3.1 (Alternative Alignment) of this EIA Report which sets out the heights of each individual tower.
101		It is not clear if vantage point surveys have been undertaken as part of survey work. Clarity on this issue will be important during the pre-application stage.	NS-06	Annex A Page 31	<p>Volume 1, Chapter 8: Ornithology</p> <p>Volume 5, Chapter 6: Ornithology - Alternative Alignment</p>	<p>Vantage Point (VP) surveys of the Proposed Alignment were completed through the 2022 breeding season (May to August) capturing a minimum of 24 hours of survey effort from each of the five VP locations.</p> <p>VP surveys of the Alternative Alignment were completed between March and October 2023, capturing 48 hours of survey effort (6 hours per month) from each of the three VP locations, Details of VP survey methods are included in Volume 4, Appendix V1-8.1 of this EIA Report.</p>

No.	Subject	Task	Consultee	Scoping Opinion Page Ref.	EIA Report Reference	Comments
102		NS note that no/little survey information has been provided for the Alternative Development. Its assumed ecological information will underpin an assessment for both routes within the EIA Report.	NS-07	Annex A Page 31	Volume 5, Chapter 5: Ecology - Alternative Alignment and Chapter 6: Ornithology - Alternative Alignment	Results of habitat surveys and assessment of likely impacts on ecological receptors along the route of the Alternative Alignment are set out in Volume 5, Chapter 5 of this EIA Report. Ornithology surveys targeting the Alternative Alignment, comprising VP surveys, a moorland breeding bird survey (MBBS), breeding raptor surveys and a breeding diver survey, were completed between March and October 2023. Details of all survey methods are included in Volume 4, Appendix V1-8.1 .
103	Caithness and Sutherland Peatlands SPA and Ramsar – Common scoter	NS recommend that common scoters and their lochans are thoroughly assessed through the HRA process for this development. This should include collision potential, potential barrier effects, displacement effects and disturbance in context to the new OHL (see Volume 4: Appendix V1-8.2: Confidential Ornithological Annex).	NS-08	Annex A Page 32	Volume 1, Chapter 8: Ornithology Volume 5, Chapter 6: Ornithology - Alternative Alignment Volume 4, Appendix V1-8.3: Shadow HRA for European Sites of	Potential impacts on important ornithological features, including qualifying features of the Caithness and Sutherland Peatlands SPA are discussed in the noted chapters, and where relevant, mitigation is presented. Potential effects on designated ornithological features of European sites, including the Caithness and Sutherland Peatlands SPA, are also considered in a Shadow HRA that forms Volume 4, Appendix V1-8.3 (Annex A of this Appendix considers the Alternative Alignment)..

No.	Subject	Task	Consultee	Scoping Opinion Page Ref.	EIA Report Reference	Comments
					Ornithological Importance	
104	Caithness and Sutherland Peatlands SAC - Otter	Assessments should be carried out to inform the level of impacts to otters, ensuring works do not undermine the potential for SAC otter restoration. Holts and lie up sites close to the OHL should be protected within the concept of a Species Protection Plan (SPP).	NS-09	Annex A Page 32	<p>Volume 1, Chapter 7: Ecology</p> <p>Volume 5, Chapter 5: Ecology - Alternative Alignment</p> <p>Volume 4, Appendix V1-3.5: SSEN Transmission Species Protection Plans (SPPs)</p>	<p>Protected species survey results with respect to otter and the potential effects of the Proposed Alignment and Alternative Alignment, together with appropriate mitigation are included in the noted chapters.</p> <p>Species Protection Plans are included in Volume 4, Appendix V1-3.5.</p>
105	Caithness and Sutherland Peatlands SAC – Peatland Habitats	Deer should be taken into consideration in context to any potential increase in trampling effects to peatland SAC habitats because of construction works. This should feature within the shadow HRA.	NS-10	Annex A Page 32	<p>Volume 1, Chapter 7: Ecology</p> <p>Volume 5, Chapter 5: Ecology - Alternative Alignment</p>	<p>Potential impacts to peatland habitats and bog due to an increase in deer trampling have been scoped out on the basis that only a very small area of forestry will be removed.</p>

No.	Subject	Task	Consultee	Scoping Opinion Page Ref.	EIA Report Reference	Comments
106	Caithness and Sutherland Peatlands SAC – Clear-water lakes or lochs	NS welcome that this SAC feature is scoped in, due to the proximity of qualifying lochs relatively close to the Proposed Development. This SAC feature has potential to be scoped-out if the Alternative Development is progressed.	NS-11	Annex A Page 32	<p>Volume 1, Chapter 7: Ecology</p> <p>Volume 5, Chapter 5: Ecology - Alternative Alignment</p> <p>Volume 4, Appendix V1-7.6: Shadow HRA for the Caithness and Sutherland Peatlands SAC</p>	<p>This has been noted.</p> <p>Potential impacts on important ecological features, including qualifying features of the Caithness and Sutherland Peatlands SAC are discussed in the noted chapters, and where relevant, mitigation is presented.</p> <p>Potential effects on designated ecological features of these sites have also been considered in a Shadow HRA for the Caithness and Sutherland Peatlands SAC and Ramsar site, which forms Volume 4, Appendix V1-7.6 (Annex B of this Appendix considers the Alternative Alignment).</p>
107	Flow Country World Heritage Site (proposed)	We note that many of the wind farm developments which have generated the need for this proposal fall firmly within the World Heritage Site (WHS) too, which may potentially negate the need for this project if they are refused planning permission.	NS-12	Annex A Page 33	<p>Volume 4, Appendix V1-7.7: Flow Country WHS Assessment</p>	<p>The Proposed Development is required to facilitate the grid connection for Strathy South Wind Farm and eventually Strathy Wood Wind Farm (as shared infrastructure), both of which are consented schemes.</p> <p>A World Heritage Site Assessment has been undertaken for the Flow Country WHS (see Volume 4: Appendix V1-7.7 (Annex D of this Appendix considers the Alternative Alignment). The WHS</p>

No.	Subject	Task	Consultee	Scoping Opinion Page Ref.	EIA Report Reference	Comments
						assessment has concluded that there would be no adverse effects on the WHS attributes.
108	West Halladale SSSI	<p>Any potential impacts to the SSSI bog habitat, black throated diver, common scoter and breeding bird assemblages should be assessed and presented within the EIA Report, indicating potential impacts and likely duration of these.</p> <p>The breeding bird assemblage species list to be considered is 'Upland moorland within water bodies'.</p>	NS-13	Annex A Page 33	<p>Volume 1, Chapter 7: Ecology and Chapter 8: Ornithology</p> <p>Volume 5, Chapter 5: Ecology - Alternative Alignment and Chapter 6: Ornithology - Alternative Alignment</p>	Potential impacts on qualifying features of the West Halladale SSSI are discussed in the noted chapters, and where relevant, mitigation is presented.
109	Peatland and Priority Peatland Habitats – Wider Countryside	In the context of NPF4 (Policy 3), it will be important to clearly distinguish between those actions mitigating / compensating for adverse impacts (i.e. within an HMP) and actions proposed to enhance (i.e. within an EMP). Annex 1 of NS's 'Peatland Guidance' (updated November 2023) provides a template for inclusion within the EIA Report to produce an understanding on peatland quality that may be impacted by	NS-14	Annex A Page 33	Volume 4, Appendix V1-7.8: Connagill Cluster Outline HMP	An overarching HMP for the Connagill Cluster Grid Connections is being developed in consultation with NatureScot (see Volume 4, Appendix V1-7.8). This will aim to deliver landscape-scale habitat enhancement, and to mitigate the potential cumulative impacts on peatland habitat within the Caithness and Sutherland Peatlands SAC / Ramsar to achieve 10% net gain. This will also include measures to compensate for direct and indirect permanent impacts on peatland habitats outwith the SAC / Ramsar boundary.

No.	Subject	Task	Consultee	Scoping Opinion Page Ref.	EIA Report Reference	Comments
		development. We recommended this is completed and included.				
110	Enhancement/ Biodiversity Net Gain	NS welcome SSEN's biodiversity commitment to protect and enhance the environment and look forward to seeing enhancement measures in due course. Any enhancement plan should be presented in full within the EIA, allowing complete assessments to be undertaken in context to the HRAs.	NS-15	Annex A Page 33	Volume 1: Chapter 7: Ecology Volume 5: Chapter 5: Ecology – Alternative Alignment	The Applicant is committed to incorporating BNG into their projects and a BNG assessment would be produced in agreement with relevant consultees secured by a condition of consent. In addition to mitigation, biodiversity net gain will be achieved through landscape-scale enhancement of the peatland habitat and these measures are set out in the overarching HMP for the Connagill Cluster Grid Connections (see Volume 4: Appendix V1-7.8 Connagill Cluster Outline HMP).
111		Latest published research (December 2023) on breeding common scoter (SPA/SSSI) identifies 'lowering predation risk' to nesting females as being an important factor to help healthy scoter populations. Other ground nesting peatland birds may also benefit from similar outcomes, such as divers, hen harrier, golden plover and curlew.	NS-16			This has been noted.
112	Landscape	NS welcome exploration of the Alternative Development. At this stage, NS consider the Alternative Development may result in adverse landscape and visual effects on the north coast between Melvich and	NS-17	Annex A Page 33 - 34	Volume 1, Chapter 2: The Routeing Process and Alternatives	The noted chapters set out the alternative options considered and discusses the reasons for identifying the proposed and alternative alignment and design solution.

No.	Subject	Task	Consultee	Scoping Opinion Page Ref.	EIA Report Reference	Comments
		Strathy, in particular where the OHL is situated in close proximity to the A836, Melvich and Far Bay, Strathy and Portskerra SLA, however NS do not consider the effects would be of a magnitude to significant erode the distinctive character of the north coast. Careful siting and design is required due to the sensitivity of this landscape. NS would like to be notified of further changes / options should Melvich Wind Energy Hub not be granted consent.			and Chapter 6: Landscape and Visual Volume 5, Chapter 2: The Routeing Process and Alternatives - Alternative Alignment and Chapter 4: Landscape and Visual - Alternative Alignment	The LVIA considers potential effects, including cumulative effects, of the Proposed Development on landscape receptors and visual amenity during construction and operation.
113		The Proposed Development is sited further inland than the Alternative Development and would not encroach on the narrow band of transition between intimate settled coast and sweeping moorland, which NS consider to be of high sensitivity to development of this type. Though the ZTV shows some visibility for Melvich and the A836, this would be viewed at distances of 1.5 km and above and thus landscape and visual effects on the distinctive coastline are not expected to be significant.	NS-18	Annex A Page 34	Volume 1, Chapter 6: Landscape and Visual Volume 5, Chapter 4: Landscape and Visual - Alternative Alignment	The LVIA considers potential effects, including cumulative effects, of the Proposed Alignment and the Alternative Alignment on landscape receptors and visual amenity during construction and operation.

No.	Subject	Task	Consultee	Scoping Opinion Page Ref.	EIA Report Reference	Comments
114		The Alternative Development is expected to be visible from the A836 due to the open landscape, impacting on views along the coast and the experience of the popular NC500. NS consider the Alternative OHL would intensify the influence of energy infrastructure where it is sited within proximity to the A836; Melvich and the Farr Bay, Strathy and Portskerra SLA. Furthermore, the routing of the Alternative Development would likely result in more visual complexity where it 'turns' at Alltan Domhaich and may appear to overlap (from the A836), eroding the simplicity of the moorland backdrop. NS therefore consider that the Alternative Development would likely result in significant landscape and visual effects though these would not be of a degree to erode the distinctive character of the north coast.	NS-19	Annex A Page 34	Volume 5, Chapter 2: The Routeing Process and Alternatives - Alternative Alignment Volume 5, Chapter 4: Landscape and Visual - Alternative Alignment	Volume 5, Chapter 4: Landscape and Visual – Alternative Alignment considers potential effects, including cumulative effects, of the Alternative Alignment on landscape receptors and visual amenity during construction and operation.
115	Guidance	Although produced mainly for wind farm developments, NS recommend that updated Pre-application Advice (February 2024) can usefully inform this proposal.	NS-20	Annex A Page 35	Volume 1, Chapter 6: Landscape and Visual Volume 5, Chapter 4: Landscape	The LVIA for the Proposed Alignment and Alternative Alignment considers this guidance.

No.	Subject	Task	Consultee	Scoping Opinion Page Ref.	EIA Report Reference	Comments
					and Visual - Alternative Alignment	
116	Access	It is not clear if the development will result in an access track being formed around the top edge of the West Halladale SSSI which may have potential to cause residual disturbance issues and may even inadvertently provide an 'easy' access route to SPA lochs by ground predators (e.g. pine marten). NS would welcome clarity on this.	NS-21	Annex A Page 38	<p>Volume 1, Chapter 3: The Proposed Development</p> <p>Volume 5, Chapter 2: The Proposed Development - Alternative Alignment</p>	<p>Only a short section (40 m) of new permanent track would be constructed within the West Halladale SSSI boundary in the western extent of the Site leading to Tower 21.</p> <p>Details of proposed new permanent and temporary access tracks for the proposed and alternative alignments are described in the noted chapters.</p>
117	Scope	NS agree that North Caithness Cliffs SPA (for peregrine) is scoped in for assessment of the Alternative Development.	NS-22	Annex A Page 38	<p>Volume 5, Chapter 6: Ornithology - Alternative Alignment</p> <p>Volume 4, Appendix V1-8.3: Shadow HRA for European Sites of Ornithological Importance</p>	This has been noted. A Shadow HRA for all relevant European sites has been carried out as part of the EIA Report, including the North Caithness Cliffs SPA (see Volume 4: Appendix V1-8.3 (Annex A of this Appendix considers the Alternative Alignment)).

No.	Subject	Task	Consultee	Scoping Opinion Page Ref.	EIA Report Reference	Comments
118	BT	Studies with respect to the proposed development with respect to EMC and related problems to BT point-to-point microwave links have concluded that the 'proposed' development should not cause any interference to BT's current and planned radio network. The proposed 'alternative' development could cause interference and grid references of all proposed structures will be required to reassess.	BT-01	Annex A Page 39	Volume 1, Chapter 4: Scope and Consultation	Indicative tower locations of the Alternative Alignment were shared with BT in April 2024. While it was noted that one tower would be approximately 60 m from a BT fixed link, the link would pass above the ground altitude plus height of the proposed structure, and BT noted no concerns. Further consultation was conducted in December 2024 based on the fixed tower locations of the Alternative Alignment and BT once again confirmed no concerns.
119	MOD	The development falls within Low Flying Area 14 (LFA 14), an area within which military aircraft may conduct low level flight training. The addition of a development featuring tall or narrow profile structures such as electricity towers in this locality has the potential to introduce physical obstruction to low flying aircraft operating in the area. The MOD will require that a condition is added to any consent issued requiring that sufficient data is submitted to ensure that structures can be accurately chartered to allow deconfliction. The MOD should be consulted at all future stages for this proposed development to complete a full detailed safeguarding assessment.	MOD-01	Annex A Page 46	N/A	This has been noted. The relevant information will be provided to the MoD on submission of the application.

No.	Subject	Task	Consultee	Scoping Opinion Page Ref.	EIA Report Reference	Comments
120	Radio Network	No concerns noted.	JRC-01	Annex A Page 48	N/A	This has been noted.
121	Gas Networks	There are no National Gas assets affected in this area.	NG-01	Annex A Page 49	N/A	This has been noted.
122	Aircraft	The proposed development does not conflict with NATS' safeguarding criteria and have no safeguarding objection.	NATS-01	Annex A Page 50	N/A	This has been noted.
123	Nuclear Safety	The development does not present a significant external hazard to the safety of the nuclear site.	ONR-01	Annex A Page 51	N/A	This has been noted.
124	Appropriate Assessment	<p>Due to likely significant effects on European designated sites, the EIA Report must include sufficient information to inform an Appropriate Assessment by the competent authority, as required by The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017.</p> <p>Given the Proposed Development has the potential to impact on a number of qualifying features of [the Caithness and Sutherland Peatlands SPA, SAC and Ramsar] designated sites, RSPB welcome the commitment [in the scoping report] that a shadow HRA will be provided in the EIA Report</p>	RSPB-01	Annex A Page 52	<p>Volume 1, Chapter 7: Ecology and Chapter 8: Ornithology</p> <p>Volume 5, Chapter 5: Ecology - Alternative Alignment and Chapter 6: Ornithology (Alternative Alignment)</p>	<p>The potential effects on designated sites as a result of the Proposed Alignment and Alternative Alignment are discussed within the noted Ecology and Ornithology chapters.</p> <p>Shadow HRAs for relevant European sites, including the Caithness and Sutherland Peatlands SAC / Ramsar site and SPA are included in Volume 4, Appendix V1-7.6 (Annex B of this Appendix considers the Alternative Alignment) and Volume 4, Appendix V1-8.3 (Annex A of this Appendix considers the Alternative Alignment).</p>

No.	Subject	Task	Consultee	Scoping Opinion Page Ref.	EIA Report Reference	Comments
					Volume 4, Appendix V1-7.6: Shadow HRA for the Caithness and Sutherland Peatlands SAC and Appendix V1-8.3: Shadow HRA for European Sites of Ornithological Importance	
125	Common Scoter	RSPB have particular and significant concerns regarding the uncertainty around the effects on Common Scoter from this proposal. RSPB would recommend that appropriate surveys are conducted at this site by the developer to inform assessments.	RSPB-02	Annex A Page 53	Volume 1, Chapter 8: Ornithology Volume 5, Chapter 6: Ornithology - Alternative Alignment	Details of the ornithology surveys, including survey areas and key results, are included in Volume 4, Appendix V1-8.1 of this EIA Report. Potential impacts on important ornithological features, including common scoter, have been considered in the noted chapters.
126	Red-throated and Black-throated Divers	RSPB believe this OHL could create a barrier and/or risk of collision to both Red-throated and Black-throated Divers. Risk of collision and barrier effects should be	RSPB-03	Annex A Page 53	Volume 1, Chapter 8: Ornithology	An assessment of the Proposed Alignment and Alternative Alignment on ornithology is set out in the noted chapters and appropriate mitigation to avoid or reduce adverse effects has been identified, where required.

No.	Subject	Task	Consultee	Scoping Opinion Page Ref.	EIA Report Reference	Comments
		assessed and data should be requested from the Melvich Wind Energy Hub developer.			Volume 5, Chapter 6: Ornithology - Alternative Alignment	Data was requested from wind farm developers connected to the Connagill Cluster Grid Connection projects. The datasets that have been shared have been reviewed as part of the desk study and relevant data used to inform the assessment is detailed in the noted chapters.
127	OHL Infrastructure	The creation of towers, working areas and tracks could lead to significant peatland loss, habitat loss and disturbance to qualifying species of designated sites. This needs to be surveyed and assessed before any route decisions are finalised.	RSPB-04	Annex A Page 53	Volume 1, Chapter 2: The Routeing Process and Alternatives; Volume 5, Chapter 2: The Routeing Process and Alternatives - Alternative Alignment	The routeing process and alternatives considered including the design solution are set out in Volume 1, Chapter 2 (for the Proposed Alignment) , and in Volume 5, Chapter 2 (for the Alternative Alignment) of this EIA Report.
128	Bird Survey and Assessment Requirements	Due to lack of clarity [in the scoping report] of surveys conducted and the areas and buffers covered, RSPB cannot confirm whether the current surveys [set out in the scoping report] are sufficient for determining impact.	RSPB-05	Annex A Page 53- 54	Volume 1, Chapter 8: Ornithology; Volume 5, Chapter 6: Ornithology - Alternative Alignment	Details of the survey methods and datasets used to inform the ornithological impact assessment are set out in Volume 4, Appendix V1-8.1 .

No.	Subject	Task	Consultee	Scoping Opinion Page Ref.	EIA Report Reference	Comments
129		The potential impact of the moorland fire that occurred in the Strathy area in 2019 on ornithology surveys and data should be included in the EIA Report.	RSPB-06	Annex A Page 54	Volume 1, Chapter 8: Ornithology Volume 5, Chapter 6: Ornithology - Alternative Alignment	This has been considered in the noted chapters.
130		RSPB are pleased that data from other existing, consented and proposed developments in the area are being used but cannot comment on the sufficiency of these as the extent of the developments consulted or surveys used are not provided [in the scoping report]. RSPB suggest that data sharing is extended to other developments in the area, especially Melvich Wind Energy Hub, as it significantly overlaps the proposed line.	RSPB-07	Annex A Page 54	Volume 1, Chapter 8: Ornithology Volume 5, Chapter 6: Ornithology - Alternative Alignment	Data was requested from wind farm developers connected to the Connagill Cluster Grid Connection projects. The datasets that have been shared have been reviewed as part of the desk study and relevant data used to inform the assessment is detailed in the noted chapters.
131		RSPB recommend either undertaking two years of field surveys for all the Caithness and Sutherland Peatlands SPA qualifying species, in line with NS guidance. Alternatively, RSPB would suggest one full year of surveys in line with guidance, plus	RSPB-08	Annex A Page 54	Volume 1, Chapter 8: Ornithology Volume 5, Chapter 6: Ornithology -	Details of the survey methods and datasets used to inform the ornithological impact assessment are set out in Volume 4, Appendix V1-8.1.

No.	Subject	Task	Consultee	Scoping Opinion Page Ref.	EIA Report Reference	Comments
		the use of other available data from surrounding wind farms. RSPB recommend that surveys consider particular breeding patterns of qualifying species, as standard surveys may not be adequate in determining impact, this includes Common scoter.			Alternative Alignment	
132	Common Scoter	It is RSPB's opinion that a minimum of three surveys between 23rd April and 3rd June would be needed to confirm presence and numbers of Common Scoter.	RSPB-09	Annex A Page 54	Volume 1, Chapter 8: Ornithology Volume 5, Chapter 6: Ornithology - Alternative Alignment	Details of the survey methods and datasets used to inform the ornithological impact assessment are set out in the noted chapters and in the supporting ornithological technical report included in Volume 4, Appendix V1-8.1.
133	Raptors	RSPB recommend that eagle data for both species within 6 km and other raptor data within 2 km of the OHL is requested from the Highland Raptor Study Group (HRSG). Specific raptor surveys should also be undertaken to identify breeding territories.	RSPB-10	Annex A Page 54	Volume 1, Chapter 8: Ornithology Volume 5, Chapter 6: Ornithology (Alternative Alignment)	Records of raptor species obtained from HRSG have been reviewed and used to inform the assessment included in the noted chapters. Details of the survey methods and datasets used to inform the ornithological impact assessment are set out in the supporting ornithological technical report included in Volume 4, Appendix V1-8.1.
134	Further Required Bird Surveys	RSPB consider that wintering bird surveys are required. Caithness Lochs SPA is in	RSPB-11	Annex A Page 55	Volume 1, Chapter 8: Ornithology	Details of the survey methods and datasets used to inform the ornithological impact assessment are set

No.	Subject	Task	Consultee	Scoping Opinion Page Ref.	EIA Report Reference	Comments
		connectivity distance of the development, as Greylag Geese have a core range of 15 - 20 km. Although wintering birds are not qualifying species of the Caithness and Sutherland Peatlands SPA, RSPB consider undertaking these surveys best practice. The site may be important for wintering species such as Schedule 1 protected Hen Harrier.			Volume 5, Chapter 6: Ornithology - Alternative Alignment	out in the supporting ornithological technical report included in Volume 4, Appendix V1-8.1.
135		As well as SPA species, RSPB have records of Red and Amber listed bird of concern Curlew, Lapwing, Common Sandpiper, Oystercatcher and Snipe in the vicinity of the proposed development, and should be included in any surveys.	RSPB-12	Annex A Page 55	Volume 1, Chapter 8: Ornithology Volume 5, Chapter 6: Ornithology - Alternative Alignment	A data request obtained from the RSPB has been reviewed and used to inform the assessment included in the noted chapters.
136		RSPB recommend the following information is provided within the EIA Report: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Full information on the VP work undertaken including dates, times and weather conditions for each. Maps showing VP locations that also denote viewsheds and OHL locations, 	RSPB-13	Annex A Page 55	Volume 1, Chapter 8: Ornithology Volume 5, Chapter 6: Ornithology - Alternative Alignment	Details of the ornithology surveys, including survey areas and key results, are included in the noted chapters of the EIA Report and in the supporting ornithological technical report included in Volume 4, Appendix V1-8.1.

No.	Subject	Task	Consultee	Scoping Opinion Page Ref.	EIA Report Reference	Comments
		<p>including steel towers and ancillary development.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maps showing survey areas for breeding bird and wintering bird surveys • Maps showing diver, wader, Common scoter and raptor breeding, foraging and roosting areas, commuting routes and wintering geese flight routes, 				
137	Potential Effects	RSPB would recommend that disturbance, displacement (Including barrier effects), loss of suitable habitat (breeding, wintering and foraging) electrocution and collision risk are assessed for all scoped in species. This should include all elements of the proposed development.	RSPB-14	Annex A Page 55	<p>Volume 1, Chapter 8: Ornithology</p> <p>Volume 5, Chapter 6: Ornithology - Alternative Alignment</p>	An assessment of the Proposed Alignment and the Alternative Alignment on ornithology is set out in the noted chapters of this EIA Report and appropriate mitigation to avoid or reduce adverse effects has been identified, where required.
138		The potential barrier impact for Red-throated and Black-throated divers should be assessed for the proposed and alternative OHL alone and as part of the cumulative assessment.	RSPB-15	Annex A Page 55		
139		The height of the towers should consider barrier and collision effects.	RSPB-16	Annex A Page 56		

No.	Subject	Task	Consultee	Scoping Opinion Page Ref.	EIA Report Reference	Comments
140	Developments to be included in the cumulative assessment	RSPB consider the developments included in Table 3.3 [of the scoping report] to be insufficient in scope. It only contains those wind farm developments and grid connections in the Connagill cluster and does not include all relevant developments at the appropriate SPA or NHZ level.	RSPB-17	Annex A Page 56	Volume 1, Chapter 8: Ornithology Volume 5, Chapter 6: Ornithology - Alternative Alignment	Details of the developments included in the assessment of cumulative effects have been set out in the noted chapters of the EIA Report.
141	Cumulative Impacts on SPA and NHZ species	Due to the likely significant effect of this development on the SPA, impacts should be assessed for the SPA populations as well as at the NHZ level. A robust cumulative assessment of collision risk, disturbance, displacement and barrier effects should take account of all operational, consented and proposed wind energy schemes, OHLs and their associated infrastructure that could impact on bird populations of both the relevant NHZ5 and Caithness and Sutherland Peatlands SPA.	RSPB-18	Annex A Page 56	Volume 1, Chapter 8: Ornithology Volume 5, Chapter 6: Ornithology - Alternative Alignment	<p>Potential effects, including cumulative effects, on important ornithological features (IOF) have been considered in the noted chapters of the EIA Report.</p> <p>Where an IOF is a designated feature of an SPA with potential connectivity to the Proposed Development footprint, the assessment has been made at against the SPA population. This is considered to be the most appropriate scale for the relevant IOFs. NHZ populations will be larger than those of SPAs, and hence potential effects would affect a smaller proportion of the NHZ population compared with the SPA population. This is considered to be a suitable approach.</p> <p>Where an IOF is not a designated feature of an SPA with potential connectivity to the Proposed Development footprint, the assessment has been made against the NHZ population.</p>

No.	Subject	Task	Consultee	Scoping Opinion Page Ref.	EIA Report Reference	Comments
142	Cumulative Displacement Impacts	The cumulative disturbance and displacement impact on birds from the increase in traffic and noise from the additional use of existing wind farm and OHL access tracks during construction and maintenance of this OHL should be included. Any identified impacts should be assessed against the relevant SPAs and NHZ populations.	RSPB-19	Annex A Page 56	Volume 1, Chapter 8: Ornithology Volume 5, Chapter 6: Ornithology - Alternative Alignment	Potential cumulative effects on IOF's have been considered in the noted chapters of this EIA Report.
143	In-combination effect of other projects	The in-combination effects of other relevant plans or projects within the wider NHZ5 area should be considered.	RSPB-20	Annex A Page 56	Volume 1, Chapter 8: Ornithology Volume 5, Chapter 6: Ornithology - Alternative Alignment Volume 4, Appendix V1-8.3: Shadow HRA for European Sites of Ornithological Importance	Details of the developments included in the assessment of cumulative effects have been set out in the noted chapters of this EIA Report. Where an IOF is a designated feature of an SPA with potential connectivity to the Proposed Development footprint, the assessment has been made against the SPA population. Where this is not the case, the assessment is against the NHZ population. In-combination effects on relevant European sites are also considered in the Shadow HRA which forms Appendix V1-8.3 (Annex A of this Appendix considers the Alternative Alignment).

No.	Subject	Task	Consultee	Scoping Opinion Page Ref.	EIA Report Reference	Comments
144	Peat Survey	<p>Data from peat depth survey should be used to inform siting in order to minimise impacts on peat by helping to avoid areas deeper than 0.5m.</p> <p>Horizontal directional drilling through bedrock should be considered for sensitive peatland habitats that cannot be avoided.</p>	RSPB-21	Annex A Page 56	<p>Volume 1, Chapter 9: Soils, Geology and Water</p> <p>Volume 5, Chapter 7: Soils, Geology and Water - Alternative Alignment</p>	A peat probing campaign has been carried out across the project to establish peat depths and appropriate mitigation is set out in the noted chapters and in the Outline Peat Management Plan that which is included in Volume 4, Appendix V1-9.2 (for the Proposed Alignment) and Appendix V5-9.2 (for the Alternative Alignment) of this EIA Report.
145	Limits of Deviation	Proposed limit of deviations should be considered in assessments.	RSPB-22	Annex A Page 57	Throughout the EIA	The proposed horizontal and vertical LoD has been considered throughout the EIA Report, where relevant.
146	Climate Change	RSPB consider that a detailed site-specific assessment to identify 'the likely net effects of the development on climate emissions and loss of carbon' should be included in the EIA Report.	RSPB-23	Annex A Page 57	Throughout the EIA	Climate change has been considered throughout the EIA Report, where relevant.
147	WHS	The site overlaps with the candidate Flow Country World Heritage Site. RSPB recommend that an assessment utilising the UNESCO Impact Assessment Guidance Toolkit is undertaken alongside the EIA.	RSPB-24	Annex A Page 57	<p>Volume 1, Chapter 7: Ecology</p> <p>Volume 5, Chapter 5: Ecology - Alternative Alignment</p>	A World Heritage Site (WHS) assessment has been undertaken for the Flow Country WHS and is included in Volume 4, Appendix V1-7.7 (Annex D of this Appendix considers the Alternative Alignment). The assessment uses the THC toolkit.

No.	Subject	Task	Consultee	Scoping Opinion Page Ref.	EIA Report Reference	Comments
					Volume 4, Appendix V1-7.7: Flow Country WHS Assessment	
148	Mitigation	The EIA should fully discuss mitigation measures required to reduce predicted impacts during both construction and ongoing future maintenance. Evidence should be provided for the assumed effectiveness of the proposed mitigation measures based on experience from other projects.	RSPB-25	Annex A Page 57	Volume 1, Chapter 8: Ornithology Volume 5, Chapter 6: Ornithology - Alternative Alignment	The noted chapters include an assessment of the Proposed Alignment and of the Alternative Alignment on ornithology and suggest appropriate mitigation to avoid or reduce adverse effects, where required.
149		Flight activity data from VP surveys should be used in conjunction with NS guidance on powerline developments to best minimise impacts on birds through design. RSPB is concerned that there is insufficient evidence that powerline bird diverters are effective in protecting rare and protected species such as raptors, divers and Common scoter from collisions. Where high risk of collision is predicted, RSPB request that undergrounding or HDD (depending on the extent and quality of peatland habitats	RSPB-26	Annex A Page 57 - 58	Volume 1, Chapter 8: Ornithology Volume 5, Chapter 6: Ornithology - Alternative Alignment	The noted chapters include an assessment of the Proposed Alignment and the Alternative Alignment on ornithology carried out in accordance with relevant guidance and suggests appropriate mitigation to avoid or reduce adverse effects, where required.

No.	Subject	Task	Consultee	Scoping Opinion Page Ref.	EIA Report Reference	Comments
		present) is considered over line marking, to reduce impacts to these species.				
150	BNG, Biodiversity Enhancement and HMP	<p>RSPB support the aim of the Applicant of enhancing biodiversity and achieving BNG and the preparation of an HMP.</p> <p>RSPB suggest the HMP contains detailed ecological justification for any habitat management proposals and seek to enhance key habitats such as blanket bog, occurring within the area.</p>	RPSB-27	Annex A Page 58	<p>Volume 4, Appendix V1-7.8: Connagill Cluster Outline HMP</p>	<p>The Applicant is committed to incorporating BNG into their projects and a BNG assessment would be produced in agreement with relevant consultees secured by a condition of consent.</p> <p>In addition to mitigation, biodiversity net gain will be achieved through landscape-scale enhancement of the peatland habitat and these measures are set out in the overarching HMP for the Connagill Cluster Grid Connections (see Volume 4: Appendix V1-7.8 Connagill Cluster Outline HMP).</p>
151	Public Access	<p>ScotWays are pleased to note that the Applicant is aware of Scottish Hill Track 344 Strath Halladale (Trantlebeg) to Strathy, which runs along an existing track that will be affected by the proposed development and part of which used to access the site, and that an Outdoor Access Plan is proposed, a draft of which would be included within the EIA.</p>	ScW-01	Annex A Page 59	<p>Volume 1, Chapter 6: Landscape and Visual; and Chapter 11: Traffic and Transport</p> <p>Volume 5, Chapter 4: Landscape and Visual - Alternative Alignment; and</p>	<p>The referenced recreational route has been considered within the noted chapters of the EIA Report.</p> <p>A draft Outdoor Access Plan is also included in Volume 4, Appendix V1-11.2 of this EIA Report.</p>

No.	Subject	Task	Consultee	Scoping Opinion Page Ref.	EIA Report Reference	Comments
					Chapter 9: Traffic and Transport - Alternative Alignment Volume 4, Appendix V1- 11.2: Draft Outdoor Access Management Plan	
152	Asset Impact Assessment	SW records indicate there is live infrastructure in the proximity of the development that may impact on existing SW assets. The Applicant must identify any potential conflicts with SW assets and contact the Asset Impact Team for an appraisal of the proposal. Any assets identified will be subject to restrictions on proximity of construction.	SW-02	Annex A Page 65	Volume 1, Chapter 9: Soils, Geology and Water Volume 5, Chapter 7: Soils, Geology and Water - Alternative Alignment	Scottish Water assets have been taken into consideration in the design of the proposed and alternative alignments. These assets have been included in the assessment of potential impacts on the water environment in the noted chapters.
153	DWPA	There are no Scottish Water drinking water catchments or water abstraction sources which are designated as DWPA under the	SW-03	Annex A Page 66	N/A	This has been noted.

No.	Subject	Task	Consultee	Scoping Opinion Page Ref.	EIA Report Reference	Comments
		Water Framework Directive in the area affected by the proposed activity.				
154	Transport Assessment	TS consider the assessment approach and study area, as set out in the Scoping Report, are appropriate. TS confirmed that traffic data is available for the trunk road network via Transport Scotland's database	TS-01	Annex A Page 67 - 68	Volume 1, Chapter 11: Traffic and Transport Volume 5, Chapter 9: Traffic and Transport - Alternative Alignment	This has been noted.
155		TS request a threshold assessment at the A9 to determine if there will be any need for further assessment of potential environmental effects associated with both the dismantling of the Strathy North OHL and construction of the new OHL. In the event that the IEMA thresholds are not exceeded, no further trunk road assessment is required.	TS-02	Annex A Page 68	Volume 1, Chapter 11: Traffic and Transport Volume 5, Chapter 9: Traffic and Transport - Alternative Alignment)	This has been noted. A traffic and transport assessment has been carried out for the Proposed and Alternative Alignments as set out in the noted chapters. It should be noted that dismantling of the existing wood pole OHL would only take place once the proposed double circuit OHL supported by steel lattice towers is constructed and commissioned. The works would not take place in tandem.
156	Abnormal Load Assessment	TS consider it acceptable that no AIL assessment is included in the assessment.	TS-03	Annex A Page 68	N/A	This has been noted and has been scoped out of the EIA Report.

No.	Subject	Task	Consultee	Scoping Opinion Page Ref.	EIA Report Reference	Comments
157	Woodland Removal	Any additional felling which is not part of the planning application will require permission from Scottish Forestry under the Forestry and Land Management (Scotland) Act 2018 (the Act).	SF-01	Annex A Page 71	N/A	This is noted.
158	Conclusion	The applicant should note that any compensatory planting required as a result of the proposed development, may also need to be considered under The Forestry (Environmental Impact Assessment) (Scotland) Regulations 2017.	SF-02	Annex A Page 71	N/A	This is noted.
159		It is a concern that the developer has not committed to assess the impacts on forestry and woodlands. In addition the developer has not committed to the control of woodland removal policies set out in this letter.	SF-03	Annex A Page 70	Volume 1, Chapter 12: Forestry Volume 5, Chapter 10: Forestry - Alternative Alignment	A Forestry Chapter has been provided for the Proposed Development and for the Alternative Alignment which describe the areas of woodland affected and refers to Compensatory Planting in compliance with the Scottish Government's CoWRP Policy.