

VOLUME 4: APPENDIX V5-4.3: VISUAL ASSESSMENT TABLES – ALTERNATIVE ALIGNMENT

VOLUME 4: APPENDIX V5-4.3: VISUAL ASSESSMENT TABLES (ALTERNATIVE ALIGNMENT)

- 1.1.1 **Table 1** presents the assessment of people at building-based receptors. The building-based receptors are generally grouped geographically, and it should be noted that the changes to the views would not necessarily be experienced by all of the properties in the group. The changes described relate to people at those properties where principal views are in the direction of the Alternative Alignment: some properties main focus of view will be away from the Alternative Alignment.
- 1.1.2 **Table 2** covers people on route-based receptors.
- 1.1.3 **Table 3** addresses people at outdoor receptors.
- 1.1.4 The locations of building based receptors are shown in **Volume 2** of this EIA Report on **Figures V5-6.4a – 6.4f** and the locations of route based and outdoor based receptors are shown on **Figure V5-6.5**.
- 1.1.5 Receptors which are predicted to experience significant effects are highlighted in grey. All effects are adverse unless otherwise stated.

Table 1: Building-based Receptors

Ref.	Location/Type/Context	Nature of Main View	Sensitivity	Magnitude	Effect and Significance
B1	Properties on Minor Road to Strathy Point (North Section) Residents. (see Volume 2: Figure V5-4.4a)	There are approximately six houses in this group. The majority have southerly views principal views while two look in an easterly direction out to sea and along the coastline. Views south are mainly over semi improved grassland and scattered dwellings east of the minor road, and over rough grassland west of the road, with a simple horizon formed by low moorland hills. There are some wood pole mounted overhead lines along the minor road and the turbines at Melvich Wind Energy Hub would be visible.	Medium Dwellings where there are numerous detracting features present (turbines at Melvich Wind Energy Hub)	Construction: Low - Medium The most visible construction operations would be those associated with the section of the OHL to the north of Melvich Wind Energy Hub (which has been assumed as part of the baseline throughout). Construction operations would be seen at a distance of more than 4 km in the context of the moving turbines at Melvich Wind Energy Hub and would add further movement and activity to the view most notable of which would be high level operations including crane activity	Minor – Moderate Not significant
				Operation: Low - Medium The properties at this receptor have theoretical visibility of a moderate to high number of towers. They would be seen breaching the horizon at approximately 4.5 km at the nearest point. The OHL would be seen with overlapping of towers and conductors as the line changes direction to head towards the south. The Alternative Alignment would be seen in the context of the turbines at Melvich Wind Energy Hub. The Alternative Alignment would add some further complexity to the view from this receptor group which would already be compromised by the presence of large scale moving man-made objects at Melvich Wind Energy Hub.	Minor – Moderate Not significant
B2	Properties on Minor Road to Strathy Point (South Section) Residents. (see Volume 2: Figure V5-4.4a)	There are approximately 14 houses in this group. Most of these have principal views in a south easterly direction although one faces north-west and three look over Strathy Bay to the east. Views south are mainly over semi improved grassland and scattered dwellings east of the minor road with a simple low moorland horizon. Some properties have views of the distant Ben	Medium Dwellings where the changed aspect is an important element in the view and there are some distracting features present (turbines at Melvich Wind Energy Hub,	Construction: Low to Medium There would be no theoretical visibility for the northernmost houses in this group. The most visible operations during construction for the southernmost properties would be those associated with the section of the OHL to the north of Melvich Wind Energy Hub. Construction operations would be seen in the context of the moving turbines at Melvich Wind Energy Hub and would add further movement and activity to the view most notable of which would be high level	Minor - Moderate Not Significant

Ref.	Location/Type/Context	Nature of Main View	Sensitivity	Magnitude	Effect and Significance
		Griam Mòr and Ben Griam Beg. There are some wood pole mounted overhead lines along the minor road and telecommunications mast in the distance and the turbines at Melvich Wind Energy Hub would be visible.	wood pole mounted overhead lines, telecommunications mast)	<p>operations including crane activity which would breach the skyline</p> <p>Operation: Low to Medium Five of the most northerly receptors would be unaffected by the Alternative Alignment. The remainder would generally see medium to high numbers of towers. The closest visible towers would be seen at least partially breaching the skyline at a distance in excess of 3 km. The Alternative Alignment would be seen in the context of the turbines at the Melvich Energy Hub. The Alternative Alignment would add some further complexity to the view from this receptor group which would already be compromised by the presence of large scale moving man-made objects at Melvich Wind Energy Hub.</p>	Minor - Moderate Not Significant
B3	<p>Strathy Bay Pods</p> <p>Residents and Visitors to holiday accommodation (see Volume 2: Figure V5-4.4a)</p>	The house and the pods are orientated approximately north-west to south-east with the pods overlooking Strathy Bay towards the dramatic folded cliffs east of Melvich Bay with a patchwork of rectilinear fields at the top of the cliffs. Strathy Cemetery is a focus in the view with scattered dwellings set among enclosed fields with pockets of deciduous woodland further inland. Above this settled croft land is rising moorland which forms a very gently undulating skyline. The house looks south-east over rough grasslands and scattered properties and would have views of turbines at Melvich Wind Energy Hub.	<p>Medium</p> <p>Dwellings where the changed aspect is an important element in the view and there are some distracting features present (turbines at Melvich Wind Energy Hub)</p>	<p>Construction: Low</p> <p>Construction operations would not impinge on the views towards Strathy Bay. Activity would be seen in sidelong views looking inland and would result in a perceptible change to the existing view. Construction works would be seen in the context of the turbines at Melvich Wind Energy Hub.</p> <p>Operation: Low</p> <p>The Alternative Alignment would not impinge on the views towards Strathy Bay. It would be seen in sidelong views looking inland in the context of the turbines at Melvich Wind Energy Hub and would result in a perceptible change to the existing view.</p>	<p>Minor Not significant</p> <p>Minor Not significant</p>
B4	Properties at Strathy along the A836 West	There are approximately 22 properties in this group, including 1-12 Stevenson Terrace and individual properties. They have varying orientations, but the majority	<p>Medium</p> <p>Dwellings and Inn where the changed aspect is an important</p>	<p>Construction: Low - Medium</p> <p>One of these receptors would be unaffected by the construction operations due to the screening effects of mature woodland. The properties which look predominantly</p>	Minor - Moderate Not significant

Ref.	Location/Type/Context	Nature of Main View	Sensitivity	Magnitude	Effect and Significance
	of the River Strathy Residents and visitors to Strathy Inn (see Volume 2: Figure V5-4.4a)	have principal views in a southerly or easterly direction. Those looking south have a rising foreground of rough grassland which curtails more distant views. Looking south-east, they have views into the strath with scattered houses sitting along the minor road which marks a change in landcover from grassland to moorland. Those properties which have a predominantly easterly aspect have views over grassland and sand dunes near the mouth of the River Strathy and would have views of turbines at Melvich Wind Energy Hub.	element in the view and there are some detracting features present (turbines at Melvich Wind Energy Hub, A836)	<p>eastwards would not be affected by construction works other than in side long views. The remaining receptors would generally have views of work associated with low numbers of towers at a distance in excess of 3 km.</p> <p>Operation: Low One of these receptors would be unaffected by the Alternative Alignment due to the screening effects of mature woodland. The approximately 13 properties which look predominantly eastwards would not be affected by the Alternative Alignment other than in side long views. The remaining receptors would generally have views of low numbers of towers and would see construction traffic on the A836. The closest visible towers would be seen at least breaching the skyline at distances in excess of 2 km. They would be seen in the context of wind turbines at Melvich Energy Hub which would breach the skyline.</p>	<p></p> <p>Minor Not significant</p>
B5	The Old Post Office Employees and customers (see Volume 2: Figure V5-4.4a)	This building sits immediately south of the A836 and has views over the road in a north-easterly direction over rough grassland towards the bay. There are no views to the south-west due to the sloping ground to the rear of the property.	Medium Dwelling where the changed aspect is an important element in the view and there are some detracting features present (A836)	<p>Construction: None Although there is theoretical visibility of a low number of towers and construction traffic on the A836, this property is orientated northwards and there would be no views of construction operations.</p> <p>Operation: None Although there is theoretical visibility of a low number of towers, this property is orientated northwards and there would be no views of the Alternative Alignment.</p>	None
				<p>Operation: None Although there is theoretical visibility of a low number of towers, this property is orientated northwards and there would be no views of the Alternative Alignment.</p>	None
B6	Strathy Village Hall		Medium	Construction: Low	Minor Not significant

Ref.	Location/Type/Context	Nature of Main View	Sensitivity	Magnitude	Effect and Significance
	People using the hall (see Volume 2: Figure V5-4.4a)	The hall is orientated approximately south-west to north-east. There are ground floor and first floor windows looking towards the north-east. There are upper windows on the north-west, south-west and south-east façades. The main view looks over the A836 road towards rough grassland with riparian woodland along the banks of the River Strathy and scattered dwellings on the eastern side of the strath. There are wood pole mounted overhead lines visible above the skyline.	Building with public access where a changed aspect is a less important element of the view.	<p>Construction works would be perceptible in views looking to the south-east where the main views are to the north-east. Works associated with low numbers of towers would be visible or partially visible at distances in excess of 2 km, as would construction traffic on the A836.</p> <p>Operation: Low The Alternative Alignment would be perceptible in views looking to the south-east where the main views are to the north-east. Low numbers of towers would be visible or partially visible at distances in excess of 2 km.</p>	<p></p> <p>Minor Not significant</p>
B7	<p>Properties at Strathy east of the River Strathy and north of the A836</p> <p>Residents (see Volume 2: Figure V5-4.4a)</p>	There are approximately 11 receptors in this group and the majority have principal views to the south-west. Two at the north of the group look out over Strathy Bay while three in the east look south or south-east. The views south eastwards are over the fertile lands near the mouth of the River Strathy with scattered settlement and tree cover. The strath is contained by rising moorland slopes and the turbines at Strathy North and Strathy Wood wind farms would be clearly visible in the distance and there would be views of turbines at Melvich Wind Energy Hub to the south-east.	<p>Medium</p> <p>Dwellings where the changed aspect is an important element in the view and where some detracting features are present (turbines at Strathy North and Strathy Wood wind farms, Melvich Wind Energy Hub and the A836).</p>	<p>Construction: Low</p> <p>The majority of these receptors would either have no view or would see construction works in side-long views (i.e. the works would not impinge on views over the strath and would be seen in the context of turbines at Strathy North and Strathy Wood wind farms). For properties with a south easterly aspect, construction operations associated with a low to medium number of towers would be visible and seen in the context of a high number of moving turbines at Melvich Energy Hub. Some of these properties would have views of construction traffic on the A836. Works associated with the dismantling of the existing trident 'H' wood pole OHL and the construction associated with the improvement of existing access tracks would be unlikely to be noticeable from this receptor.</p> <p>Operation: Medium</p> <p>Most of these receptors would either have no view or would see the Alternative Alignment in side long views (i.e. the towers would not impinge on views over the strath and they would be seen in the context of wind turbines). For properties with a south easterly aspect, a low to medium number of towers, or parts of towers, would be visible breaching the</p>	<p>Minor Not significant</p> <p>Minor Not significant</p>

Ref.	Location/Type/Context	Nature of Main View	Sensitivity	Magnitude	Effect and Significance
				skyline and in the context of the moving turbines at Melvich Wind Energy Hub, Strathy North and Strathy Wood wind farms.	
B8	New House at Strathy Residents (see Volume 2: Figure V5-4.4a)	This individual house is situated in a locally elevated position and has a principal view in a north westerly direction looking over the A836 towards the dispersed settlement at East Strathy which sits in a mosaic of improved and semi-improved grassland and moorland. There are windows on the ground and upper floor which face south-east, but views are blocked, or partially blocked by a large agricultural building to the rear of the house. There are also windows on the ground and upper floors which look south-west along the strath.	Medium Dwelling where the changed aspect is an important element in the view and where some detracting features are present (wood pole mounted overhead lines, A836).	Construction: Low This receptor would have views of construction work associated with a medium number of towers from the side window which looks down the strath. Views from the principal windows would be unaffected. The towers in the strath would be seen at distances in excess of 2 km. Works associated with the dismantling of the existing trident 'H' wood pole OHL and the construction associated with the improvement of existing access tracks would be unlikely to be noticeable from this receptor, however, construction traffic on the A836 would be visible in views to the north-west.	Minor – Moderate Not significant
				Operation: Low This receptor would have views of low – medium numbers of towers from the side window which looks down the strath. Views from the principal windows would be unaffected. The towers in the strath would be seen at distances in excess of 2km.	Minor – Moderate Not significant
B9	Properties at Strathy east of the River Strathy and south of the A836 Residents (see Volume 2: Figure V5-4.4a)	There are approximately 11 receptors in this group and the principal view for the majority is in a north westerly direction. There are two which look towards the south and these have views along the strath towards the moving turbines at Strathy North and Strathy Wood wind farms. Those orientated north-west look over the strath to the moorland slopes beyond. Their view is simple in composition and punctuated by scattered buildings within the strath. Strathy Forest and Strathy North and Strathy Wood wind farms would	Medium Dwellings where the changed aspect is an important element in the view and where some detracting features are present (turbines at Strathy North Wind Farm, Melvich Wind Energy Hub and forest plantation).	Construction: Negligible The two receptors with southerly aspects would have views of construction activity associated with low numbers of towers at distances in excess of 2 km. Those with a north-westerly aspect would only have side long views from their garden grounds and they are unlikely to have views from rear windows as the landform rises immediately to the east although they may see the upper portions of some of the turbines at Melvich Wind Energy Hub. Works associated with the dismantling of the existing trident 'H' wood pole OHL and the construction associated with the improvement of existing access tracks would be unlikely to be noticeable from this receptor.	Minor Not significant

Ref.	Location/Type/Context	Nature of Main View	Sensitivity	Magnitude	Effect and Significance
		be visible from some of these receptors and some turbines at Melvich Wind Energy Hub would also be visible.		<p>Operation: Negligible</p> <p>The two receptors with southerly aspects would have views of low numbers of towers at distances in excess of 2 km. Those with a north-westerly aspect would only have side long views from their garden grounds and they are unlikely to have views from rear windows as the landform rises immediately to the east although they may see the tops of turbines at Melvich Wind Energy Hub.</p>	<p>Minor</p> <p>Not significant</p>
B10	<p>Properties at Baligill</p> <p>Residents</p> <p>(see Volume 2: Figure V5-4.4a)</p>	<p>There are approximately 11 houses in this group although one is derelict. These properties are generally orientated approximately west – east with principal views generally to the west and south. Views in a southerly direction are over rough grassland and moorland south of the A836 with wood pole mounted overhead lines visible close to the road and the turbines at Strathy North and Strathy Wood wind farms are prominent in the distance to the south and Melvich Wind Energy Hub would be prominent looking south-eastwards.</p>	<p>Medium</p> <p>Dwellings where the changed aspect is an important element in the view and where some detracting features are present (wood pole mounted overhead lines, wind turbines and A836)</p>	<p>Construction: Low to Medium</p> <p>The visibility of construction operations would vary within this receptor group with people at those properties on higher ground in the centre of the group seeing more than those at the northerly houses and those at lower lying locations. Construction work would be seen in the context of the distant moving turbines at Strathy North and Strathy Wood wind farms. Construction work would be seen in front of the wind turbines at Melvich Wind Energy Hub with high level works breaching the skyline. Works associated with the dismantling of the existing trident 'H' wood pole OHL would be unlikely to be noticeable from this receptor but may see a limited amount of activity associated with the construction associated with the improvement of existing access tracks.</p>	<p>Minor - Moderate</p> <p>Not significant</p>
				<p>Operation: Low to Medium</p> <p>The number of towers visible would range from low to high with the highest numbers of turbines being visible from those properties on higher ground north of Strathroy. The towers would be seen traversing higher moorland with some towers skylining. They would be seen in the context of the distant moving turbines at Strathy North and Strathy Wood wind farms. There would be overlapping of towers and conductors as the OHL changes direction to head southwards. There would also be overlapping with the turbines at Melvich Wind Energy Hub.</p>	<p>Minor - Moderate</p> <p>Not significant</p>

Ref.	Location/Type/Context	Nature of Main View	Sensitivity	Magnitude	Effect and Significance
B11	Properties in north-east Portskerra Residents (see Volume 2: Figure V5-4.4b)	There are approximately six houses in this group which all have a predominantly north-east facing aspect looking out over Portskerra and the Pentland Firth towards Orkney and Dunnet Head. Views southwards would take in turbines at Melvich Wind Energy Hub.	High Dwellings where the changed aspect is an important element in the view and there are few detracting features present apart from some turbines at Melvich Wind Energy Hub.	Construction: Negligible Three of these properties have theoretical visibility of construction operations associated with a very low number of towers. Given their aspect, it is unlikely that the Alternative Alignment would be perceptible.	Negligible Not significant
				Operation: Negligible Three of these properties have theoretical visibility of a very low number of towers. Given their aspect, it is unlikely that the Alternative Alignment would be perceptible.	Negligible Not significant
B12	Berrigoe, Portskerra Residents (see Volume 2: Figure V5-4.4b)	This property is multi aspect. It has views that look north-east over improved grassland to the row of cottages above Portskerra. Views east are along the coastline to Dounreay and Dunnet Head. Views south take in agricultural fields and scattered settlement in Portskerra. Views southwards would take in turbines at Melvich Wind Energy Hub.	High Dwelling where the changed aspect is an important element in the view and there are few detracting features present (some turbines at Melvich Wind Energy Hub).	Construction: None No theoretical visibility.	None
				Operation: None No theoretical visibility.	None
B13	Properties in north-west Portskerra Residents (see Volume 2: Figure V5-4.4b)	There are approximately 14 houses in this receptor group. The principal view for these is either to the north-east or south-east. They look downslope over agricultural fields to the coastline and along the coast to Dounreay and Dunnet Head. Views southwards would take in turbines at Melvich Wind Energy Hub.	High Dwellings where the changed aspect is an important element in the view and there are few detracting features present (some turbines at Melvich Wind Energy Hub).	Construction: Negligible Only one of the receptors in this group has theoretical visibility of the construction operations. Given the aspect of this property, it is unlikely that the construction works would be perceptible.	Negligible Not significant
				Operation: Negligible Only one of the receptors in this group has theoretical visibility of the Alternative Alignment. Given the aspect of this property, it is unlikely that the Alternative Alignment would be perceptible.	Negligible Not significant

Ref.	Location/Type/Context	Nature of Main View	Sensitivity	Magnitude	Effect and Significance
B14	Properties to the rear of Mill House, Portskerra Residents (see Volume 2: Figure V5-4.4b)	The two buildings in this group look towards the south-east and north-west. Views in both directions are short range due to the screening effects of topography and/or vegetation.	Medium Dwellings where the changed aspect is a less important element in the view	Construction: None No theoretical visibility.	None
				Operation: None No theoretical visibility.	None
B15	Properties in north central Portskerra Residents (see Volume 2: Figure V5-4.4b)	This small group of four receptors either have multi aspect or principal views to the south-east over agricultural fields towards Melvich Bay. Views southwards would take in turbines at Melvich Wind Energy Hub.	High Dwellings where the changed aspect is an important element in the view and there are few detracting features present (some turbines at Melvich Wind Energy Hub).	Construction: None There is theoretical visibility of construction activity associated with a low number of towers, but it is unlikely that this would be perceptible due to the screening effects of intervening buildings.	Negligible Not significant
				Operation: None There is theoretical visibility of a low number of towers, but it is unlikely that this would be perceptible due to the screening effects of intervening buildings.	Negligible Not significant
B16	Properties in north-west central Portskerra Residents (see Volume 2: Figure V5-4.4b)	The seven houses in this group are predominantly south-east facing and turbines at Melvich Wind Energy Hub would be visible. Two houses have principal views to the east. They look towards other houses in the settlement and out over Melvich Bay and towards Orkney.	High Dwellings where the changed aspect is an important element in the view and there are few detracting features present (some turbines at Melvich Wind Energy Hub).	Construction: Negligible This group has theoretical visibility of works associated with very low numbers of towers, three properties are unlikely to notice this due either to their aspect or to the screening effects of adjacent buildings. The remaining four receptors which look to the south-east are unlikely to perceive construction activity due to the screening effect of neighbouring rooftops.	Negligible Not significant
				Operation: Negligible	Negligible Not significant

Ref.	Location/Type/Context	Nature of Main View	Sensitivity	Magnitude	Effect and Significance
				This group has theoretical visibility of very low numbers of towers, three properties are unlikely to notice the Alternative Alignment due either to their aspect or to the screening effects of adjacent buildings. The remaining four receptors which look to the south-east are unlikely to perceive the Alternative Alignment due to the screening effect of neighbouring rooftops and the presence of other vertical features in the foreground.	
B17	Properties near Melvich Primary School Residents, staff and pupils at the school (see Volume 2: Figure V5-4.4b)	These 28 receptors are generally orientated north-east to south-west although there are receptors in Mackay Terrace orientated north-west to south-east whose views south eastwards are obstructed or partially obstructed by adjacent buildings although there may be glimpses of turbines at Melvich Wind Energy Hub. View to the north-east are over rooftops to the sea with Orkney and Dunnet Head visible in the distance.	Medium Dwellings and publicly accessible building where the changed aspect is an important element in the view and there are some detracting features present (adjacent buildings, street lighting, wood pole mounted overhead lines and some turbines at Melvich Wind Energy Hub).	Construction: Negligible There is theoretical visibility of construction activity associated with a very low number of towers. Works are, however, unlikely to be perceptible due to the presence of intervening buildings.	Negligible Not significant
				Operation: Negligible There is theoretical visibility of a very low number of towers. These are, however, unlikely to be perceptible due to the presence of intervening buildings.	Negligible Not significant
B18	Properties at east Portskerra Residents (see Volume 2: Figure V5-4.4b)	These seven houses are orientated approximately north – south with their southerly views obstructed by adjacent dwellings and outbuildings. They may have glimpsed views of turbines at Melvich Wind Energy Hub. They have sidelong views eastwards over Melvich Bay.	Medium Dwellings where the changed aspect is an important element in the view and there are some detracting features present (adjacent buildings and street lighting and some turbines at	Construction: Negligible There is theoretical visibility of construction activity associated with a very low number of towers. Works are, however, unlikely to be perceptible due to the presence of intervening buildings.	Negligible Not significant
				Operation: Negligible There is theoretical visibility of a very low number of towers. These are, however, unlikely to be perceptible due to the presence of intervening buildings.	Negligible Not significant

Ref.	Location/Type/Context	Nature of Main View	Sensitivity	Magnitude	Effect and Significance
			Melvich Wind Energy Hub).).		
B19	Properties at central Portskerra Residents (see Volume 2: Figure V5-4.4b)	These seven buildings are orientated approximately south-east although one also has views in an easterly direction over Melvich Bay. Their views towards the south are generally obstructed by adjacent houses but they may have glimpsed views of turbines at Melvich Wind Energy Hub	Medium Dwellings where the changed aspect is an important element in the view and there are some detracting features present (adjacent buildings, street lighting and some turbines at Melvich Wind Energy Hub).	Construction: Negligible There is theoretical visibility of construction activity associated with a very low number of towers. Works are, however, unlikely to be perceptible due to the presence of intervening buildings.	Negligible Not significant
				Operation: Negligible There is theoretical visibility of a very low number of towers. These are, however, unlikely to be perceptible due to the presence of intervening buildings.	Negligible Not significant
B20	Sunny Ridge Residents (see Volume 2: Figure V5-4.4b)	This property is orientated approximately west – east. There is an outbuilding to the rear of the property which curtails views to the east and south-east. but there may be views of turbines at Melvich Wind Energy Hub.	Medium Dwelling where the changed aspect is an important element in the view and there are some detracting features present (adjacent buildings, street lighting and some turbines at Melvich Wind Energy Hub).	Construction: Negligible While there is theoretical visibility of construction operations associated with very low numbers of towers, these are unlikely to be perceptible due the screening effect of the large outbuilding.	Negligible Not significant
				Operation: Negligible While there is theoretical visibility of very low numbers of towers, these are unlikely to be perceptible due the screening effect of the large outbuilding.	Negligible Not significant
B21	Properties at south central Portskerra Residents (see Volume 2: Figure V5-4.4b)		Medium	Construction: Low There is theoretical visibility of construction operations associated with very low numbers of towers from the rear of these properties. Works would be seen in the context of turbine tips and nacelles at Melvich Wind Energy Hub and only high-level works are likely to be seen. Works would be likely to result in a small deterioration in the view.	Minor Not significant

Ref.	Location/Type/Context	Nature of Main View	Sensitivity	Magnitude	Effect and Significance
		These 27 properties have varying orientations but are characterised by having their wider views largely obstructed by adjoining buildings and or vegetation. Where there are views out, these tend to be slot views framed by vegetation or buildings and look out in the direction of the bay. They may have glimpsed views of turbines at Melvich Wind Energy Hub.	Dwellings where the changed aspect is an important element in the view and there are some detracting features present (adjacent buildings, street lighting and wind turbines).	Operation: Low There is theoretical visibility of very low numbers of towers from the rear of these properties. Works would be seen in the context of turbine tips and nacelles at Melvich Wind Energy Hub and only the tops of towers are likely to be seen. The Alternative Alignment would be likely to result in a small deterioration in the view.	Minor Not significant
B22	Properties on Minor Road to Strathy Point Residents, employees and visitors to Post Office (see Volume 2: Figure V5-4.4b)	Properties within this group of ten are largely orientated approximately north – south and they in turn obstruct each other's views in a southerly direction. They may have glimpsed views of turbines at Melvich Wind Energy Hub. Views south eastwards are over grassland towards the moorland hills east of the strath.	Medium Dwellings and publicly accessible buildings where the changed aspect is an important element in the view and there are some detracting features present (adjacent buildings, street lighting and wind turbines).	Construction: Low There is theoretical visibility of construction operations associated with very low numbers of towers from the rear of these properties. Works would be seen in the context of turbine tips and nacelles at Melvich Wind Energy Hub and only high level works are likely to be seen. Works would be likely to result in a small deterioration in the view.	Minor Not significant
				Operation: Low There is theoretical visibility of very low numbers of towers from the rear of these properties. Works would be seen in the context of turbine tips and nacelles at Melvich Wind Energy Hub and only the tops of towers are likely to be seen. The Alternative Alignment would be likely to result in a small deterioration in the view.	Minor Not significant
B23	Properties on A836 west of Portskerra Residents (see Volume 2: Figure V5-4.4b)	These two receptors are situated in an elevated position and have slightly different orientations (principal views to the north-east and east) but both have views to the south and south-east. They look over rough grassland towards Melvich Bay to the east and southwards over the A836 and rough grassland to moorland with wood pole mounted overhead lines breaching the skyline. There would also be	Medium Dwellings where the changed aspect is an important element in the view and there are some detracting features present (A836, wood pole mounted overhead lines and some	Construction: Medium The properties at this location would see works associated with a very low to medium number of towers but not from the principal windows. Works would be seen beyond the A836 on which there would be additional traffic in the form of construction vehicles, with ground level and high level works visible at distances in excess of 500 m. These properties would have views of increased traffic on the A836 during construction and would include work associated with access tracks. Works would occur in the context of the turbines at	Moderate Significant

Ref.	Location/Type/Context	Nature of Main View	Sensitivity	Magnitude	Effect and Significance
		views of turbines at Melvich Wind Energy Hub.	turbines at Melvich Wind Energy Hub).	Melvich Wind Energy Hub and would result in a noticeable further deterioration in the quality of the view.	
				Operation: Medium The two properties at this location would see a very low to medium number of towers at close range, but not from the principal windows. Towers would be seen beyond the A836 The Alternative Alignment would be seen as a partially encircling loop around the wind farm development and would result in a noticeable further deterioration in the quality of the view.	Moderate Significant
B24	Properties at South Portskerra Residents, employees and visitors to the Melvich Hotel (see Volume 2: Figure V5-4.4b)	These three receptors are orientated approximately north-west to south-east with principal views over agricultural fields to Melvich Bay. There would be views of turbines at Melvich Energy Hub to the south-east.	High Dwellings and hotel where the changed aspect is an important element in the view and there are few detracting features present (some turbines at Melvich Wind Energy Hub).	Construction: Low There is theoretical visibility of works associated with low numbers of towers. High level works would be seen skylining in front of the turbines at Melvich Wind Energy Hub with the closest works at approximately 1 km distant. There would be a small deterioration in the view.	Minor Not significant
				Operation: Low There is theoretical visibility of works associated with low numbers of towers. The tops of towers would be seen skylining in front of the turbines at Melvich Wind Energy Hub with the closest works at approximately 1 km distant. There would be a small deterioration in the view.	Minor Not significant

Ref.	Location/Type/Context	Nature of Main View	Sensitivity	Magnitude	Effect and Significance
B25	Melvich Park Cottage and Coastline Café Residents and visitors to café (see Volume 2: Figure V5-4.4b)	These two buildings are orientated approximately north-west to south-east, and their views are over grassland towards neighbouring properties to moorland hills where a telecommunications mast is visible. There would be views of turbines at Melvich Wind Energy Hub to the south.	Medium Dwellings where the changed aspect is an important element in the view and there are some detracting features present (A836, wood pole mounted overhead lines, wind turbines and telecommunications mast).	Construction: Medium This group has theoretical visibility of works associated with low numbers of towers and access tracks. Operations would be seen in the context of the turbines at Melvich Wind Energy Hub, wood pole mounted overhead lines and a telecommunications mast. High level works would be seen breaching the skyline. The Alternative Alignment would be likely to result in a further noticeable deterioration in the view with construction occurring at less than 800 m distant. These properties would also have side long views of construction traffic on the A836.	Moderate Significant
				Operation: Medium There is theoretical visibility of low numbers of towers. They would be seen breaching the skyline in the context of the turbines at Melvich Wind Energy Hub, wood pole mounted overhead lines and a telecommunications mast. The Alternative Alignment would be likely to result in a further noticeable deterioration in the view with towers at close and medium range.	Moderate Significant
B26	Properties south of the Coastline Café Residents (see Volume 2: Figure V5-4.4b)	These approximately 12 properties are generally orientated approximately north – south and overlook the A836 to rough grassland and Melvich Bay beyond. There is street lighting and wood pole mounted overhead lines. There would be views of turbines at Melvich Wind Energy Hub to the south.	Medium Dwellings where the changed aspect is an important element in the view and there are some detracting features present (A836, wood pole mounted overhead lines, wind turbines and street lighting).	Construction: Medium This receptor group has theoretical visibility of works associated with low numbers of towers. Construction would be seen in the context of the turbines at Melvich Wind Energy Hub, wood pole mounted overhead and street lighting. High level works would be seen breaching the skyline. The Alternative Alignment would be likely to result in a further noticeable deterioration in the view from the rear of these houses with construction occurring at less than 800 m distant. Construction traffic on the A836 would be visible from the north facing facades.	Moderate Significant
				Construction: Medium There is theoretical visibility of low numbers of towers. They would be seen breaching the skyline in the context of the	Moderate Significant

Ref.	Location/Type/Context	Nature of Main View	Sensitivity	Magnitude	Effect and Significance
				turbines at Melvich Wind Energy Hub, wood pole mounted overhead lines and street lighting. The Alternative Alignment would be likely to result in a further noticeable deterioration in the view with towers at close and medium range.	
B27	Property east of Melvich Terrace Residents (see Volume 2: Figure V5-4.4b)	This property is orientated north-west to south-east with principal windows and conservatory on the south-east elevation. It looks out over the garden ground to neighbouring properties which lie beyond some deciduous and coniferous trees. There are wood pole mounted overhead lines to the south of this receptor and turbines at Melvich Wind Energy Hub would also be visible.	Medium Dwelling where the changed aspect is an important element in the view and there are some detracting features present (A836, wood pole mounted overhead lines, wind turbines and street lighting).	Construction: Low There is theoretical visibility of construction associated with a low number of towers. Works would be seen from the conservatory and upper windows. Seaward views would be unaffected. The Alternative Alignment would be seen in the context of some blade tips of the Melvich Energy Hub turbines. There would be a small deterioration in the view. Construction traffic on the A836 would be visible from the north facing windows.	Minor Not significant
				Operation: None There is theoretical visibility of a low number of towers which would be seen along with some blade tips of the turbines at Melvich Energy Hub. There would be some deterioration in the view which includes existing wood pole mounted overhead lines and outbuildings.	Minor Not significant
B28	Properties at central Melvich Residents (see Volume 2: Figure V5-4.4b)	These five properties either side of the A836 have slightly varying elevations and orientations but their common view is downslope over agricultural fields towards Melvich Bay.	Medium Dwellings where the changed aspect is an important element in the view and there are some detracting features present (A836, wind turbines and street lighting).	Construction: Low There is theoretical visibility of construction associated with a low number of towers. Works would be seen from the conservatory and upper windows. Seaward views would be unaffected. The Alternative Alignment would be seen in the context of some blade tips of the Melvich Wind Energy Hub turbines. Construction traffic on the A836 would be visible from the windows facing the road There would be a small deterioration in the view.	Minor Not significant
				Operation: Low	Minor Not significant

Ref.	Location/Type/Context	Nature of Main View	Sensitivity	Magnitude	Effect and Significance
				There is theoretical visibility of a low number of towers which would be seen along with some blade tips of the turbines at Melvich Wind Energy Hub. There would be some deterioration in the view which includes existing wood pole mounted overhead lines and outbuildings.	
B29	Properties at south Melvich Residents (see Volume 2: Figure V5-4.4b)	These 17 properties are generally orientated approximately north-east to south-west. Their elevations are varied with some sitting above the A836 looking over the road while others are on the downslope of the hillside below to A836. They all have views over agricultural fields towards the distinctive sand dunes at Melvich Bay,	Medium Dwellings where the changed aspect is an important element in the view and there are some detracting features present (A836, wind turbines and street lighting).	Construction: Negligible The northern houses in this group have no theoretical visibility. Those in the south of the group have theoretical visibility of construction works associated with very low numbers of towers. Construction traffic on the A836 would be visible from the windows facing the road. Works associated with the cable sealing end (CSE) compound and underground cable at Connagill are also theoretically visible but at around 5 km distant. This receptor may have views of a limited amount of activity associated with the construction of new and improved access tracks. Given the focus of view towards the bay, it is unlikely that this will be perceptible.	Negligible Not significant
				Operation: Negligible The northern houses in this group have no theoretical visibility of the Alternative Alignment. Those in the south of the group have theoretical visibility of very low numbers of towers and the CSE compound at approximately 5 km distant. Given the focus of view towards the bay, it is unlikely that the Alternative Alignment would be perceptible.	Negligible Not significant
B30	Halladale Inn Residents, staff and customers at the Inn (see Volume 2: Figure V5-4.4b)	Principal views are to the south-east although there are windows looking north westwards and a decked area with glimpsed views towards Melvich Bay and the mouth of the Halladale River to the north-east. Southerly views take in agricultural grazing, Loch Beag and Loch Mòr with wood pole mounted overhead lines and	Medium Publicly accessible building where the changed aspect is an important element in the view and there are some detracting features present	Construction: Minor Works associated with a low to medium numbers of towers, the CSE compound and the underground cables are theoretically visible from this receptor in distant views up Strath Halladale but are unlikely to be perceptible from the rear windows or the decked area. Views of construction works from within the building would be limited to oblique and distant views of works associated with steel lattice towers on	Minor Not significant

Ref.	Location/Type/Context	Nature of Main View	Sensitivity	Magnitude	Effect and Significance
		roadside lighting along the A836. Plant at the gravel workings is visible with commercial forest plantations and a wind turbine to the south-east. There would be views of some turbines at Melvich Wind Energy Hub to the west.	(A836, wind turbines and street lighting).	the slopes south of Kirkton and construction traffic on the A836.	
				Construction: Minor Low to medium numbers of towers and the CSE compound are theoretically visible from this receptor but are unlikely to be perceptible from anywhere other than from south-east facing windows (oblique views) and from outside the Inn. The towers would be seen in the distance as they descend the slopes south of Kirkton and the CSE compound is theoretically visible at around 5 km distant.	Minor Not significant
B31	Bighouse Lodge Strathview The Barracks Residents, employees and visitors to holiday accommodation (see Volume 2: Figure V5-4.4b)	These properties have views southwards along the Halladale River which meanders through the strath with rough grassland on the side slopes and improved grassland above. This gives way in turn to moorland vegetation on higher slopes with scattered dwellings and forest plantations visible. There are steel lattice towers visible in the distance and the structures at Melvich and Kirkton gravel pit are prominent. There would be views of some turbines at Melvich Wind Energy Hub to the west.	Medium Dwellings/holiday accommodation where the changed aspect is an important element in the view and there are some detracting features present (structures at gravel pit, wind turbines and steel lattice towers).	Construction: Negligible Construction works associated with low numbers of towers would be visible in the context of Melvich Wind Energy Hub but at distances of more than 3 km. Given the distance involved and the focus of the view along the river, it is unlikely that the construction works would be particularly noticeable.	Minor Not significant
				Operation: Negligible Low numbers of towers would be visible in the context of Melvich Wind Energy Hub but at distances of more than 3 km. At this distance, it is considered that the presence of towers in the view which is focussed along the river would be unlikely to be particularly noticeable.	Minor Not significant
B32	The Netstore Fishery Cottage Residents, employees and visitors to holiday accommodation	One of these houses looks to the north while the other look westwards. Their focus of view is the Halladale River and the sand dunes at the rear of Melvich Bay.	High Dwellings / holiday accommodation where the changed aspect is an important element in the view and there are few detracting features present (wind	Construction: None Although there is theoretical visibility of construction works there would be no visibility due to the location and orientation of these dwellings.	None
				Operation: None Although there is theoretical visibility of the Alternative Alignment, there would be no visibility due to the location and orientation of these dwellings.	None

Ref.	Location/Type/Context	Nature of Main View	Sensitivity	Magnitude	Effect and Significance
	(see Volume 2: Figure V5-4.4b)		turbines, structures at the sand and gravel quarry)		
B33	Properties east of Bighouse Lodge Residents (see Volume 2: Figure V5-4.4b)	These two properties have views from an elevated position in a south westerly direction. They look over Melvich Bay and the mouth of the Halladale River to agricultural fields on the west side of the strath. A telecommunications mast is visible to the south-west. There would be views of some turbines at Melvich Energy Hub to the south #-west.	High Dwellings where the changed aspect is an important element in the view and there are some detracting features present (telecoms mast and Melvich Wind Energy Hub turbines).	Construction: Medium Construction works associated with medium to high number of towers would be visible together with some limited views of activity associated with the dismantling of the existing trident 'H' wood pole OHL and the new and improved access tracks. This activity would take place on the hillside beyond the telecommunications mast and high-level activity would breach the skyline. Works associated with those towers, which would traverse the strath, would be visible from this elevated receptor group.	Moderate Significant
				Operation: Medium A medium to high number of towers would be visible on the hillside to the west of the telecommunications mast with some towers breaching the skyline. The OHL would traverse the strath would be visible from this elevated receptor group.	Moderate Significant
B34	Lochend, Melvich Residents (see Volume 2: Figure V5-4.4c)	This property is orientated approximately north – south with windows on both facades. The view north looks towards Melvich Bay and the sea. Views in a southerly direction are partially obscured by outbuildings. The view in this direction includes wood pole mounted overhead lines with gorse scrub in the foreground towards the moorland covered low hills either side of the strath. There would be views of some turbines at Melvich Wind Energy Hub to the west.	Medium Dwelling where the changed aspect is an important element in the view and there are some detracting features present (wood pole mounted overhead lines, wind turbines and outbuildings).	Construction: Low Works associated with low numbers of towers are theoretically visible from this receptor and the construction associated with the improvement of existing access tracks. Works associated with the temporary wood pole diversion may also be visible. Activity would be seen in the context of outbuildings and other structures including wood pole mounted overhead lines and blade tips of turbines at Melvich Wind Energy Hub. Construction traffic on the A836 would be visible from the front of the property.	Minor Not significant
				Operation: Low Low numbers of towers are theoretically visible from this receptor and they would appear breaching the skyline as the line descends the hillside west of the Strath. More distant	Minor Not significant

Ref.	Location/Type/Context	Nature of Main View	Sensitivity	Magnitude	Effect and Significance
				towers would be visible crossing Strath Halladale. The Alternative Alignment would be seen in the context of outbuildings and other structures including wood pole mounted overhead lines and blade tips of turbines at Melvich Wind Energy Hub.	
B35	Bridge House, Melvich Residents (see Volume 2: Figure V5-4.4c)	This house is low lying and largely enclosed by a combination of topography and vegetation. Principal views are to the east. The views to the south are largely screened.	High Dwellings where the changed aspect is an important element in the view and there are no detracting features present.	Construction: Negligible There may be glimpsed views of construction works associated with a small number of towers south of Kirkton. The principal views would be unaffected.	Negligible Not significant
				Operation: Negligible There may be glimpsed views of a small number of towers south of Kirkton. The principal views would be unaffected.	Negligible Not significant
B36	Properties at Strath Halladale north Residents (see Volume 2: Figure V5-4.4c)	The principal views for these two properties are to the south looking over improved grassland, gorse, semi-improved and rough grassland on the lower lying land with a mosaic of heather moorland and rough grassland at higher elevation. In views north there are wood pole mounted overhead lines, gravel workings, blocks of forest plantation, agricultural outbuildings, the A897 and a telecommunications mast on Cnoc a' Choire Mhòir. There would be views of some turbines at Melvich Wind Energy Hub to the west.	Medium Dwellings where the changed aspect is an important element in the view and there are some detracting features present (steel lattice towers, wood pole mounted overhead lines, telecommunications mast, A897, and wind turbines).	Construction: High Works associated with a medium to high number of towers and some activity associated with improvements to existing tracks are theoretically visible from this receptor group. Operations would be seen on the western side slopes of the strath with high level works breaching the skyline at distances of 1.5 km and greater. The construction works would introduce additional activity into a view where activity is currently limited to farm and vehicular traffic on the A897.	Moderate - Major Significant
				Operation: High A medium to high number of towers would be visible from this receptor group. They would be seen on the western side slopes of the strath with some breaching the skyline at distances of 1.5 km and greater. The Alternative Alignment would add tall man-made structures into a part of the view where no such elements exist, aside for the telecommunications mast at Cnoc a' Choire Mhòir. (Refer to Volume 3a: Figures V5-VL3a – 3c: A897 near Golval and Volume 3b: Figures V5-VL3a – 3e: A897 near Golval)	Moderate - Major Significant

Ref.	Location/Type/Context	Nature of Main View	Sensitivity	Magnitude	Effect and Significance
B37	Properties at Kirkton Residents (see Volume 2: Figure V5-4.4c)	The three houses in this receptor group have varying orientations with Kirkton Cottage being largely surrounded by garden vegetation and woodland to the west. The other two properties have open views over and along the strath. The substation at Connagill is visible together with wood pole and steel lattice mounted overhead lines. There would be views of some turbines at Melvich Wind Energy Hub to the west.	Medium Dwellings where the changed aspect is an important element in the view and there are some detracting features present (steel lattice towers, wood pole mounted overhead lines, wind turbines and Connagill substation).	Construction: High This road would be used by construction traffic to access parts of the Alternative Alignment and higher numbers of vehicle traffic would be visible. Works associated with a small to medium number of towers and some activity associated with improvements to existing tracks would be visible from the southernmost two buildings in this group. Works would be seen on the slopes to the south of the cemetery with high level operations breaching the skyline. Operations on the strath floor would be visible where construction would take place at the river crossing and for the connection into the substation.	Moderate - Major Significant
				Operation: Medium A small to medium number of towers would be seen at distances of between 1 km and 2.5 km. Several of the towers would be seen breaching the skyline where the route descends the hillside to cross the strath. The Alternative Alignment would add further electricity infrastructure to the view and there would be some overlapping and crossing wires and supports.	Moderate Significant
B38	Tigh na Breac, Strath Halladale Residents (see Volume 2: Figure V5-4.4c)		High Dwelling where the changed aspect is an important element in the view and there are no detracting features present other than the existing trident pole mounted OHL.	Construction: High This house has theoretical visibility of construction operations of a high number of towers and some activity associated with improvements to existing tracks. The closest activity would be across the strath at distances of less than 1 km with more distant towers being seen ascending the hillside to the north-west. There are also theoretical visibility of construction works associated with the CSE compound and the underground cable at Connagill at just over 1 km distant. Construction operations would be clearly visible from the south-west facing windows. There would be a very noticeable change to the view.	Major Significant

Ref.	Location/Type/Context	Nature of Main View	Sensitivity	Magnitude	Effect and Significance
		This isolated property is orientated approximately south-west to north-east with principal ground floor windows/French doors on the SW façade overlooking Loch Earacha towards semi-improved grassland which gives way to a mosaic of moorland and grassland with coniferous forest visible on the more distant horizon. Upper windows are skylights. There are windows at ground and first floor level on the south-west and north-east gables with the latter looking along the strath where wood pole mounted overhead lines lie approximately parallel to the A897. There would be views of some turbines at Melvich Wind Energy Hub to the west.		Operation: High There is theoretical visibility of a high number of towers at distances of less than 1 km. The CSE compound is also theoretically visible at just over 1 km distant. The Alternative Alignment would be clearly visible from the south-west facing windows. There would be a very noticeable change to the view. (Refer to Volume 3a: Figures V5-VL4a-c: A897 at Loch Earacha and Volume 3b: Figures V5-VL4a-e: A897 at Loch Earacha)	Major Significant
B39	Properties at Strath Halladale central Residents (see Volume 2: Figure V5-4.4d)	These nine properties are orientated approximately west-east with principal views generally to the west to rising ground with a mosaic of heather moorland and rough grassland above the strath. For some of these properties, there are clear views or filtered views over the strath floor with semi-improved grassland close to the road, scrub woodland on the river banks and grazings west of the river with scattered settlement at the break of slope. Where there are views north and east, these often include steel lattice towers running approximately parallel to the road on high ground. At lower elevation there is deciduous scrub woodland and gorse with moorland cover on the upper slopes and rocky outcrops. For some of these properties there are also views of a wind	Medium Dwellings where the changed aspect is an important element in the view and there are some detracting features present (steel lattice towers, wood pole mounted overhead lines, A897 and wind turbines).	Construction: Negligible These properties have theoretical visibility of construction operations associated with a very small number of towers at more than 1 km distant. Taking into account their orientation, it is considered that construction operations would be barely perceptible.	Negligible Not Significant
				Operation: Negligible A very small number of towers are theoretically visible at more than 1 km distant. Taking into consideration their orientation, it is considered that construction operations would be barely perceptible.	Negligible Not Significant

Ref.	Location/Type/Context	Nature of Main View	Sensitivity	Magnitude	Effect and Significance
		turbine and wood pole mounted overhead lines. There would be views of some turbines at Melvich Wind Energy Hub to the north-west.			
B40	Properties at Upper Bighouse Residents (see Volume 2: Figure V5-4.4d)	These three properties are orientated approximately west – east with principal views looking eastwards. There are views up and down the strath as well as across it. The foreground of the views are relatively large scale rectilinear improved grasslands enclosed by post and wire fences. Along the banks of the river are stands of deciduous woodland which largely conceal the A897. Scattered dwellings are visible with rising moorland to the east and some blocks of deciduous woodland and commercial forest. Steel lattice towers are visible, often breaking the skyline. There is also a single turbine, backclothed by rising landform. Views westwards are curtailed by rising ground with heather and rough grassland cover landcover. There would be views of some turbines at Melvich Wind Energy Hub to the north.	Medium Dwellings where the changed aspect is an important element in the view and there are some detracting features present (steel lattice towers and wind turbines).	Construction: Negligible These properties have theoretical visibility of construction operations associated with a very small number of towers at more than 2 km distant. Taking into consideration the main directions of view, it is considered that construction operations would be barely perceptible.	Negligible Not Significant
				Operation: Negligible There is theoretical visibility of a small number of towers – those to the north-east, within the strath. Given the main angles of view from these properties, it is considered that the change to their views would be barely perceptible.	Negligible Not Significant
B41	Mission House Visitors to the hall (see Volume 2: Figure V5-4.4e)	This is a single storey building with low- and high-level windows looking westwards. The view is filtered by roadside deciduous scrub woodland with glimpses of the moorland slopes west of the river.	High Publicly accessible building where the changed aspect is an important element in the view and there are no detracting features present.	Construction: None Although there is theoretical visibility, dense scrub woodland either side of the A897 blocks views to the north-west.	None
				Operation: None Although there is theoretical visibility, dense scrub woodland either side of the A897 blocks views to the north-west.	None

Ref.	Location/Type/Context	Nature of Main View	Sensitivity	Magnitude	Effect and Significance
B42	Properties at Trantlemore Residents (see Volume 2: Figure V5-4.4e)	These two properties are orientated approximately north-west to south-east. Their principal views are to the south-east with windows on the ground and first floors. The view is characterised by the presence of substantial areas of deciduous woodland along the river around to the east of the A897 with scattered dwellings visible. The low hillside beyond is mainly covered by moorland vegetation but there are areas of scrub woodland. Notable vertical features in the view are the steel lattice towers which breach the skyline, with some benefitting from a landform back drop. Views to the north-west are uphill to a simple landform with moorland and semi-improved grassland. There would be views of some turbines at Melvich Wind Energy Hub to the north.	Medium Dwellings where the changed aspect is an important element in the view and there are some detracting features present (steel lattice towers and wind turbines).	Construction: Negligible These properties have theoretical visibility of construction operations associated with a very small number of towers at more than 4 km distant. Taking into consideration the main directions of view (where construction operations would be concealed by rising landform and forest plantation), it is considered that construction operations would barely perceptible.	Negligible Not Significant
				Operation: Negligible There is theoretical visibility of a small number of towers – those to the north-east, within the strath. Given the main angles of view from these properties, it is considered that the change to their views would be barely perceptible.	Negligible Not Significant
B43	33 Chilsey Residents (see Volume 2: Figure V5-4.4e)	This property is single storey and is orientated approximately south-west to north-east. There are windows looking north-east and south-west. Views north-eastwards are over the semi-improved grassland on the strath floor towards the A897 with stands of mainly deciduous woodland. Scattered dwellings are visible below the low hillside which has a simple pattern of moorland vegetation and scrub woodland in places. Steel lattice towers are visible, some on the skyline with others partially back clothed by the hills slope. There would be views of some turbines at Melvich Wind Energy Hub to the north.	Medium Dwelling where the changed aspect is an important element in the view and there are some detracting features present (steel lattice towers and wind turbines).	Construction: None Although there is theoretical visibility of construction works there would be no visibility due to the screening effects of garden vegetation and outbuildings.	None
				Operation: None Although there is theoretical visibility of construction works there would be no visibility due to the screening effects of garden vegetation and outbuildings.	None

Ref.	Location/Type/Context	Nature of Main View	Sensitivity	Magnitude	Effect and Significance
B44	51 Dalhalvaig Residents (see Volume 2: Figure V5-4.4e)	This property is orientated approximately west - east. Views northwards are screened by outbuildings. From the rear of the house there are views over the strath to the rising ground to the west with scattered dwellings visible at the break of slope. View eastwards are across the A897 road to neighbouring properties and semi-improved grassland on the lower slopes. Higher up, the vegetation is largely rough grassland and heather with some deciduous scrub woodland. A line of steel lattice towers can be seen running approximately parallel to the road with several of these on the skyline. There would be views of some turbines at Melvich Wind Energy Hub to the north.	Medium Dwelling where the changed aspect is an important element in the view and there are some detracting features present (steel lattice towers and wind turbines).	Construction: None Although there is theoretical visibility of construction works there would be no visibility due to the screening effects of outbuildings.	None
				Operation: None Although there is theoretical visibility of construction works there would be no visibility due to the screening effects of outbuildings.	None
B45	Strath Halladale South – west of the A897 Residents (see Volume 2: Figure V5-4.4e)	These three properties are orientated approximately north - south. The northern two properties look north (secondary views) and south (principal views) along the strath while the southernmost house only has views southwards. There are deciduous scrub trees partially filtering views towards the rising moorland slopes to the northwest. Steel lattice towers are visible on the hillside to the northeast. They also have views south down the strath. There would be views of some turbines at Melvich Wind Energy Hub to the north.	Medium Dwellings where the changed aspect is an important element in the view and there are some detracting features present (steel lattice towers and wind turbines).	Construction: Negligible There is theoretical visibility from this receptor group, but views of construction activity would be heavily filtered by deciduous trees alongside the A897 and would not be likely to be perceptible.	Negligible Not significant
				Operation: Negligible There is theoretical visibility from this receptor group but views of the Alternative Alignment would be heavily filtered by deciduous trees alongside the A897 and would not be likely to be perceptible.	Negligible Not significant

Ref.	Location/Type/Context	Nature of Main View	Sensitivity	Magnitude	Effect and Significance
B46	Strath Halladale south – east of the A897 Residents (see Volume 2: Figure V5-4.4e)	These four properties are all orientated approximately west - east. They range between bungalows to 1 ½ storey properties and all have their views westwards filtered to a greater or lesser extent by deciduous or coniferous trees. The views are of simple composition over the strath to agricultural grazings which give way to moorland vegetation at higher elevation. There would be views of some turbines at Melvich Wind Energy Hub to the north.	High Dwellings where the changed aspect is an important element in the view and there are few detracting features present (wind turbines).	Construction: Negligible There is theoretical visibility from this receptor group, but views of construction activity would be heavily filtered by deciduous trees alongside the A897 and would not be likely to be perceptible.	Negligible Not significant
				Operation: Negligible There is theoretical visibility from this receptor group but vies of construction activity would be heavily filtered by deciduous trees alongside the A897 and would not be likely to be perceptible.	Negligible Not significant
B47	Bowside Lodge Visitors to the accommodation (temporary residents on holiday) <i>Note this property is currently undergoing renovation.</i> (see Volume 2: Figure V5-4.4f)	The orientation of this property is west – east with principal windows on the ground and first floors on these façades (assumed for west elevation). Views are curtailed by mainly coniferous trees in the grounds but there are some views westwards to the forested hillside and views along the driveway to the track and rising ground to the east. Views southwards from outside the property within the garden ground would include the upper parts of turbines at Strath Wood Wind Farm.	Medium Dwelling where a changed aspect is a less important element in the views due to the presence of detracting features (upper portions of wind turbines seen above the garden boundary vegetation when seen from the garden and vehicle movements seen passing the entrance to the property from the east facing windows).	Construction: Low Construction traffic and work associated with the construction of a low number of towers and the dismantling of the existing OHL would be seen in framed views along the driveway; change to the existing view from the house itself would be limited to high level construction works associated with the three steel lattice towers to the south of the property which would be seen above the garden boundary vegetation.	Minor Not significant
				Operation: Low A low number of towers would be seen when looking along the driveway. Changes to the view from the house itself would be limited to visibility of the upper portions of steel lattice towers to the south of the property. These would be seen above garden boundary vegetation in the context of wind turbines in the distance.	Minor Not significant

Ref.	Location/Type/Context	Nature of Main View	Sensitivity	Magnitude	Effect and Significance
B48	The Bothy Visitors to the accommodation (temporary residents on holiday) <i>Note this property is currently undergoing renovation.</i> (see Volume 2: Figure V5-4.4f)	This property is orientated north - south with principal windows on the south façade looking over the garden grounds with the upper slopes of the distant hills to the south and the upper portions of wind turbines at Strathy Wood seen above the garden boundary vegetation. There are secondary windows on the western and eastern sides which look over the garden area with views west curtailed by vegetation; views east are also limited by garden vegetation although there is a narrow slot view along the access track to the hill slope to the east. Bedroom windows face north and views are limited to the garden ground due to the presence of mature trees along the northern boundary.	Medium Dwelling where a changed aspect is a less important element in the views due to the presence of detracting features (upper portions of wind turbines seen above the garden boundary vegetation when seen from the garden).	Construction: Low Construction traffic and work associated with a low number of towers would be seen only in framed views along the driveway. Change to the existing view from the house itself would be limited to high level construction works associated with the three steel lattice towers to the south of the property and dismantling of the existing OHL which would be seen above the garden boundary vegetation.	Minor Not significant
				Operation: Low A low number of towers would be seen when looking along the driveway. Changes to the view from the house itself would be limited to visibility of the upper portions of steel lattice towers to the south of the property. These would be seen above garden boundary vegetation in the context of wind turbines in the distance.	Minor Not significant
B49	Bowside Cottage (Gamekeepers Cottage) Visitors to the accommodation (temporary residents on holiday) <i>Note this property is currently undergoing renovation.</i> (see Volume 2: Figure V5-4.4f)	The orientation of this property is north – south with windows on the southern façade and a skylight on the northern side of the property. There is a north facing window in an outbuilding to the north of the cottage. Views south and south-west are along the access track over moorland vegetation and towards the operational Strathy North Wind Farm, the turbines of which are visible above the forest canopy. The turbines at Strathy Wood would also be visible interrupting the view towards Ben Giam Mòr and Ben Giam Beg: the view south would be of a man modified landscape dominated by wind turbines and commercial forest.	Medium Dwelling where a changed aspect is a less important element in the views due to the presence of detracting features wind turbines at Strathy North and Strathy Wood wind farms, commercial forest and tracks.	Construction: Medium Construction traffic and work associated with three towers would be seen in the context of the existing towers associated with Strathy Wood Wind Farm (which have been assumed as part of the baseline) and the turbines at Strathy North Wind Farm. Operations would be visible at close range from the south facing windows. Construction operations associated with the towers to the north of the property would not be visible from within the house.	Moderate Significant
				Operation: Medium	Moderate Significant

Ref.	Location/Type/Context	Nature of Main View	Sensitivity	Magnitude	Effect and Significance
				Three towers would be seen at close range from the south facing windows of the property. They would be seen in the context of moving turbines at Strathy North, Strathy Wood and Strathy South wind farms and the steel lattice towers of the Strathy Wood Wind Farm Grid Connection. Towers to the north of the property would not be visible from within the house.	
B50	Dallangwell Employees Note: Formerly a keeper's cottage, this building was in use as site accommodation at the time of survey. It has been assumed for the purposes of the assessment that it will revert to residential accommodation after 2027. (see Volume 2: Figure V5-4.4f)	There are views eastwards from some parts of this property over moorland towards Beinn Ruadh. Forest felling and haulage activity can be seen looking down across the Strath. Turbines at Strathy Wood Wind Farm would be visible looking to the south. There would be views of some turbines at Melvich Wind Energy Hub to the north-east.	Low Workplace where a changed aspect is less important and where some detracting features are present (portacabins, machinery, laydown areas, Strathy substation, forest harvesting activity, wind turbines).	Construction: Low Construction traffic and work associated with a low number of towers would be seen in oblique views looking north and north-east. Works would be seen in the context of the steel lattice towers of the Strathy Wood Wind Farm Grid Connection.	Minor Not significant
				Operation: Low A low number of towers would be seen in oblique views looking north and north-east. These would be seen as an extension to the Strathy Wood Wind Farm Grid Connection.	Minor Not significant

Table 2: Route-based Receptors

Ref.	Location / Type / Context	Nature of Main View	Sensitivity	Magnitude	Effect and Significance
R1a	A836 / NCR1 (west-bound) Road users including cyclists and people travelling the North Coast (NC) 500 (see Volume 2: Figure V5-4.5)	<p>Views are initially over rough grassland and moorland vegetation. The sea is visible to the north with views south being limited by rising topography with wood pole mounted overhead lines visible approximately parallel to the road. Melvich Wind Energy Hub would be prominent on the skyline to the west.</p> <p>The view ahead then takes in the semi-improved grassland on the lower slopes of Strath Halladale with the telecommunications mast at Cnoc a' Choire Mhòir and wind turbines at Melvich Wind Energy Hub being prominent man-made vertical features on the skyline. Seaward views are blocked by gently sloping ground on the coastal fringe. Scattered dwellings at Melvich become more visible on the approach to the settlement and the summits of Ben Hope and Ben Loyal are visible in the distance.</p> <p>Views are then curtailed by roadside cuttings and vegetation, opening out only briefly at the bridge over the Halladale River where there are views north and south along the strath. Ascending the hill through Melvich, views inland are again curtailed by rising ground.</p> <p>After the junction to Portskerra, the view is dominated by grassland and moorland vegetation with wood pole mounted overhead lines visible to the south of the road. The route then descends towards Strathy with views opening up to the south over agricultural grasslands on the valley floor towards Strathy Forest and Strathy North Wind Farm.</p>	Medium - recreational route/road where a changed aspect is an important element in the view but there are some detracting features present (wind turbines, wood pole mounted overhead lines, telecommunications masts, quarries and ancillary structures).	Construction: Medium Visibility of construction operations would be seen in the context of Melvich Wind Energy Hub. There would be visibility of ground-based operations associated with the improvement and/or formation of access tracks in addition to ground and high-level works associated with the construction of the OHL and installation of conductors as well as works associated with the dismantling of the section of existing OHL east of Achridigil Burn. Construction operations would be more noticeable on the approach to Halladale Bridge where works would be seen, together with turbines at Melvich Wind Energy Hub, ahead of road users with activity taking place on the hillside on the west of the strath with high level works breaching the skyline and ground level works associated with some towers also being visible. The magnitude of change applies to the route overall.	Moderate Significant
				Operation: Medium The Alternative Alignment is theoretically visible from approximately three quarters of its length. Visibility would be greatest from high ground and on the descent towards Halladale Bridge when road users would see towers on the skyline before they descend the hillside in views along the road corridor. On crossing the Halladale River visibility continues and towers would be seen in sidelong views in the context of turbines at Melvich Wind Energy Hub looking inland. Through Melvich, most views in the direction of the Alternative Alignment would be obscured by roadside buildings and/or rising ground to the west of the road. There would be no visibility for a stretch of the road in central Melvich where rising ground would screen the OHL. The Alternative Alignment would become more prominent on the approach to the junction to Portskerra and would lie within	Moderate Significant

Ref.	Location / Type / Context	Nature of Main View	Sensitivity	Magnitude	Effect and Significance
		After crossing the River Strathy, road users would be heading away from the Alternative Alignment and the existing visual amenity is therefore not described.		400 m of the route at the closest point. On passing Strathy Bay, road users would be heading away from the Alternative Alignment and would have no view.	
R1b	A836 / NCR 1 (east-bound) Road users including cyclists and people travelling the NC500 (see Volume 2: Figure V5-4.5)	<p>Turbines at Melvich Wind Energy Hub would be intermittently visible until reaching Melvich where road users would be heading away from the wind turbines. West of Strathy, views are over rough grassland and moorland vegetation with outcropping boulders and glimpses of the sea to the north. There are wood pole mounted overhead lines to the south and glimpses of the turbines at Strathy North Wind Farm.</p> <p>Approaching Strathy, the cliffs on the eastern side of the bay come into view and settlement becomes noticeable. There are views inland down the strath with more productive land uses on the strath floor.</p> <p>East of Strathy, the view returns to being similar to the first section of this route although views to the coast are more frequent. Rising slopes south of the road limit the extent of visibility in this direction and there are wood pole mounted overhead lines running approximately parallel to the road.</p> <p>Approaching Melvich, settlement becomes visible with the beach at Melvich Bay and the cliffs to the east forming focal features of the view.</p> <p>The route then descends into the strath and views are over agricultural grazings with some lochans and sand and gravel workings west of the river. The horizon is formed by the low hills either side of the strath.</p>	Medium – recreation route/road where a changed aspect is an important element in the view but there are some detracting features present (wind turbines, wood pole mounted overhead lines, telecommunications masts, quarries and ancillary structures).	Construction: Medium There would be intermittent theoretical visibility of construction works associated with towers and access tracks from just east of Armadale Bay with continuous visibility on the approach to Strathy. East of Strathy, there is a short section of road which would have no views of construction works due to the screening effects of local landform. Thereafter, visibility is continuous and would be seen in the context of Melvich Wind Energy Hub, other than a short section in central Melvich where rising ground west of the road would screen views. On crossing the Halladale River, road users would be heading away from the Alternative Alignment. At Melvich, there is theoretical visibility of construction works associated with the CSE compound and underground cable but as it is at around 5 km distant and not in the focus of the view from vehicles, it is unlikely to be perceptible.	Moderate Significant
				Operation: Medium The Alternative Alignment would be theoretically visible from almost three quarters of its length. Initially only low numbers of towers would be visible intermittently with tower visibility increasing to medium numbers on the approach to Strathy. The Alternative Alignment would come to within 400 m of this route receptor. It would be seen in the context of wind turbines at Melvich Wind Energy Hub. At Melvich, the CSE compound is theoretically visible but at approximately 5 km distant. It is unlikely to be noticeable. At Strathy, steel lattice towers would be seen breaching the skyline on the eastern side of the strath; at Melvich, the towers would be seen	Moderate Significant

Ref.	Location / Type / Context	Nature of Main View	Sensitivity	Magnitude	Effect and Significance
		After crossing the Halladale River, road users would be heading away from the Alternative Alignment and the existing visual amenity is therefore not described.		descending the hillside on the western side of the strath and crossing the strath with some skylining of towers. In both cases, they would be seen in the context of turbines at Melvich Wind Energy Hub.	
R2a	A897 (north-bound) Road users (see Volume 2: Figure V5-4.5)	Views to the west are over agricultural fields, moorland and the Halladale River system to low moorland hills. Areas of scrub woodland are intermittent along the route and scattered dwellings lie either side and on the western side of the strath. Around Craigtown where the river is further away from the road, views open out over larger fields on the strath floor with dispersed dwellings along the minor road on the western side of the strath. Steel lattice towers of the existing 275 kV OHL are visible skylining above the hillside east of the road. Beyond Cuilfearen Croft, the river meanders to run closer to the road and there are wood pole mounted OHLs to the west of the road which are visible above scrub woodland on the river banks with moorland vegetation and rock outcroppings visible on the hill slope west of the river. Approaching Connagill, the foreground is dominated by the rough grassland of the strath floor. Wood pole mounted OHLs are visible at low level with steel lattice towers skylining to the north-east. The existing substation is briefly visible in sidelong views with steel lattice towers seen above the horizon. Turbines at Melvich Wind Energy Hub would also be visible to the west.	Medium - road where a changed aspect is an important element in the view but there are some detracting features present (wood poles, steel lattice towers, turbines at Melvich Wind Energy Hub, Connagill 275/132 kV substation)	Construction: Medium Construction works associated with a medium to high number of towers would be visible over the northern part of this route. Works associated with the CSE compound and underground cables are theoretically visible from just north of Loch Earacha. Works would be seen in oblique views. Most notable construction works would be those associated with the river and road crossing and tie into the existing substation. South of Connagill, road travellers would be heading away from the construction works.	Moderate Significant
				Operation: Medium The Alternative Alignment would be theoretically visible from just over one third of the route's length, including towers being prominent on the skyline to the west. Visibility would be continuous from the junction with the A836 until Connagill with the Alternative Alignment being less than 2.5 km distant. There is theoretical visibility of a medium to high number of towers. Those on the western side of the strath would be seen in sidelong views. They would be seen descending the hillside, then crossing the strath in views ahead with many of the towers having their upper portions seen above the skyline.	Moderate Significant

Ref.	Location / Type / Context	Nature of Main View	Sensitivity	Magnitude	Effect and Significance
		Beyond this point, views widen out over the strath and forest plantations are visible to the west. Approaching Halladale Bridge, settlement comes into view together with sand and gravel workings.		Approaching Connagill substation, the Alternative Alignment would be prominent in views with towers skylining as they traverse the strath and cross the river and the A897, to tie into the substation. They would be seen at close range and would detract from views south along the Halladale River and strath and would introduce further electricity infrastructure into a view where the existing substation is prominent and existing steel lattice towers are notable features on the skyline. The CSE compound would also be visible at close range. On passing the substation, road users would be heading away from the Alternative Alignment and would have no view.	
R2b	A897 (south-bound) Road users (see Volume 2: Figure V5-4.5)	Views from the northern portion of this route are along the strath with the river forming a prominent feature as it meanders through improved, semi-improved and rough grassland. The strath is enclosed by adjacent hill slopes with wood pole mounted overhead lines visible to the west and crossing the strath floor. Steel lattice towers are visible to the east and some of the turbines at Melvich Wind Energy Hub would be visible. Connagill substation is a prominent man-made feature of the view. Beyond the existing substation, the Alternative Alignment would be behind the road users and the existing visual amenity is therefore not described.	Medium - road where a changed aspect is an important element in the view but there are some detracting features present (wood poles, steel lattice towers, wind turbines, substation)	Construction: Medium Construction works associated with a medium to high number of towers would be visible over the northern part of this route. Works associated with the CSE compound and underground cables are theoretically visible from just north of Loch Earacha. Works would be seen in oblique views. Most notable construction works would be those associated with the river crossing and tie into the existing substation. South of Connagill, road travellers would be heading away from the construction works.	Moderate Significant
				Operation: Medium The Alternative Alignment would be theoretically visible from just over a one third of its length, including towers being prominent on the skyline to the west. Visibility would be continuous from the junction with the A836 until Connagill with the Alternative Alignment being less than 2.5 km distant.	Moderate Significant

Ref.	Location / Type / Context	Nature of Main View	Sensitivity	Magnitude	Effect and Significance
				<p>There is theoretical visibility of a medium to high number of towers. Those on the western side of the strath would be seen in sidelong views. They would be seen descending the hillside, then crossing the strath in views ahead with many of the towers having their upper portions seen above the skyline.</p> <p>Approaching Connagill substation, the Alternative Alignment would be prominent in views with towers skylining as they traverse the strath to tie into the substation. They would be seen at close range and would detract from views south along the Halladale River and strath and would introduce further electricity infrastructure into a view where the existing substation is prominent and existing steel lattice towers are notable features on the skyline. The CSE compound would also be visible at close range. On passing the substation, road users would be heading away from the Alternative Alignment and would have no view.</p>	
R3a	Minor Road to Kirkton (north-bound) Road users (see Volume 2: Figure V5-4.5)	On leaving the cemetery, views ahead take in the strath floor and agricultural grasslands on the lower slopes of the low hills to the east. Moorland vegetation is at higher elevation. The road meanders through agricultural fields with gorse scrub curtailing views in places. Approaching Kirkton Farm, there is a house to the west of the road and grassland gives way to rough grassland/moorland with gorse. The road passes through the farmyard where views westwards are curtailed by trees in the grounds of Kirkton Cottage. Views ahead then open up to the hillside to the west and the sand and gravel workings come into view. There is a development plot to the west of the road and derelict buildings to the north. Views east are across improved grasslands to the moorland slopes east of the strath. The road then	Medium - road where a changed aspect is an important element in the view but there are some detracting features present (wind turbines, sand and gravel workings, derelict buildings)	Construction: Low There would be some visibility of construction works associated with a low to medium number of towers, mostly limited to high level works. This would be seen to the west of the road looking uphill.	Minor Not significant
				Operation: Low The Alternative Alignment is theoretically visible from just over 40% of its length. Visibility is continuous with the Alternative Alignment being less than 2.5 km distant. Low to medium numbers of towers are theoretically visible and would generally be seen in oblique views uphill as the Alternative Alignment runs approximately parallel to the road. Actual visibility would be less due to the presence of roadside scrub woodland and gorse.	Minor Not significant

Ref.	Location / Type / Context	Nature of Main View	Sensitivity	Magnitude	Effect and Significance
		<p>passes the sand and gravel quarry to the east of the road and Loch Mòr comes into view before the road meets the A836.</p> <p>Turbines at Melvich Wind Energy Hub would be partially visible from this route.</p>			
R3b	Minor road to Kirkton (south-bound) Road users (see Volume 2: Figure V5-4.5)	<p>On leaving the A836, the route passes Loch Mòr with scrub woodland on its western shore and rising moorland above. The route passes the sand and gravel workings which lie to the east and derelict buildings to the west. Views then open out to look south along the strath floor. Approaching Kirkton Farm there are small blocks of woodland and views are then further curtailed as the road passes through the farmyard. Beyond the farm, views again open out over the strath floor and to the flanking hillsides. The substation at Connagill is visible on the eastern side of the strath.</p> <p>Turbines at Melvich Wind Energy Hub would be partially visible from this route.</p>	Medium – road where a changed aspect is an important element in the view but there are some detracting features present. (wind turbines, derelict buildings, sand and gravel workings, substation).	Construction: Medium The road would be used by construction traffic. High level works associated with a small number of towers would be visible uphill from the northern part of this route. Progressing along the road, further construction activity would be seen in views south with high level works seen above the skyline. These works would include those associated with towers on the strath floor and the tie into the substation at Connagill. Works associated with the CSE compound are theoretically visible intermittently along the route at distances of just over 2 km.	Moderate Significant
				Operation: Medium The Alternative Alignment is theoretically visible from the entire route with the CSE compound intermittently visible at more than 2 km distant. Initially, towers on the slope to the west of the road would be seen skylining. Progressing south along the road, these would disappear from view due to intervening topography and vegetation before reappearing on passing Kirkton Farm. Towers would then be seen descending the hillside to cross the strath floor to tie into Connagill substation.	Moderate Significant
R4a	Scottish Hill Track 344 – Strath Halladale (Trantlebeg) to Strathy	<p>The route leaves the A836 and heads south through semi-improved grassland with scattered dwellings mainly to the east of the road. Wood pole mounted overhead lines are visible and the dominant landcover is moorland vegetation with</p>	Medium – recreation route where a changed aspect is an important element in the view but there are some detracting	Construction: Medium The construction works would initially be seen in views southwards with high level works skylining. Traffic, plant and materials would be very prominent and in relatively close proximity to the track. Construction operations would continue to be in views along the route as people head south	Moderate Significant

Ref.	Location / Type / Context	Nature of Main View	Sensitivity	Magnitude	Effect and Significance
	(south-bound) Cyclists, Walkers, and Forest workers. (see Volume 2: Figure V5-4.5)	<p>the coniferous plantation at Strathy Wood being visible in the distance.</p> <p>Views are then generally limited to the strath floor by flanking rising moorland slopes to the east and forested slopes to the west. Views are heavily influenced by the presence of wood pole mounted OHLs close to the track with the turbines at Strathy North prominent above the forest canopy. The turbines at Strathy Wood would also be prominent in the view.</p> <p>The relationship with the river becomes closer as the route passes Bowside where the steep, lower slopes of Beinn Ruadh abut the eastern side of the track.</p> <p>The wind turbines at Strathy North distract from the natural focus of the view south to Ben Griam Mòr and Ben Griam Beg, and Strathy Wood Wind Farm would add further turbines to this array, lying in front of these hills.</p> <p>Melvich Wind Energy Hub would be visible from this route from the junction with the A836 at distances of around 1.5 km to the south-east to just north of Strathy Forest when track users would be heading away from the wind turbines.</p>	features present (existing OHL, forest access tracks, forest plantations, Strathy North, Strathy Wood wind farms and Melvich Energy Hub).	<p>and would become more prominent with proximity to the OHL and associated temporary tracks and working areas. As people approach the point where the OHL deviates to head south, high level works would dominate the view; ground level operations would be partially screened briefly where slopes east of the road afford some localised screening. Operations would be seen in the context of the moving turbines at Strathy North and those at Strathy Wood and Strathy South. Approaching Bowside Lodge, works would take place either side of the track. After this point, the Alternative Alignment would be behind the track users.</p> <p>Operation: Medium</p> <p>The Alternative Alignment would initially be seen in views southwards with towers skylining until they pass behind the low hills at Cnoc a' Bhodaich and Cnoc an Ruffer. They would continue to be in views along the route as people head south and they would become more prominent with proximity to the line. As people approach the point where the OHL deviates to head south, the steel lattice towers would dominate the view, disappearing only briefly where slopes east of the road afford some localised screening. They would be seen in the context of the moving turbines at Strathy North and those at Strathy Wood and Strathy South. Approaching Bowside Lodge, the towers would straddle the track before tying into the Strathy Wood Wind Farm Grid Connection. After this point, the Alternative Alignment would be behind the users of the track. The Alternative Alignment would be visible for just over 40% of the route.</p>	Moderate Significant
R4b	Scottish Hill Track 344 – Strath Halladale (Trantlebeg)	Views are initially restricted by flanking forest plantations, opening out just west of the former Braerathy Lodge (site of the Strathy Wood Wind Farm substation) where there are views of the River Strathy. Crossing the bailie bridge, the focus	Medium Medium - recreational route where a changed aspect is an important	Construction: Medium Construction operations would come into view on rounding the bend south of Strathy Forest. High level works would be seen breaching the horizon to the north but at more than 3 km distant. Operations would be seen in the context of the	Moderate Significant

Ref.	Location / Type / Context	Nature of Main View	Sensitivity	Magnitude	Effect and Significance
	to Strathy (north-bound) Cyclists, Walkers, Forest workers (see Volume 2: Figure V5-4.5)	of the view is north, along the meandering river with pockets of birch scrub and self-seeded conifers. The turbines at Strathy North Wind Farm are prominent above the forest and there are distant views towards low moorland covered hills. The turbines at Strathy Wood would also be prominent. Passing Dallangwell, the existing wood pole mounted overhead lines become visible but are not prominent until they are seen skylining north of Bowside. Beyond Bowside, the wood pole mounted overhead lines lie closer to the road and are seen with a backcloth of coniferous forest west of the river. Landcover east of the river is moorland vegetation. North of the forest plantation, the composition of the view is simple with rough grassland either side of the track and moorland covered slopes to the west. The wood poles remain noticeable features and are seen above the skyline in places. Nearing the junction with the A836, landcover changes to semi-improved grassland with gorse on lower lying areas with moorland at higher elevation. Scattered settlement is visible along the road and the cliffs west of Strathy Bay are seen in the distance.	element in the view but there are some detracting features present (existing OHL, forest access tracks, forest plantations, Strathy North and Strathy Wood wind farms and Melvich Energy Hub).	Strathy Wood Wind Farm Grid Connection. Construction activity would become more prominent as track users head north and high-level works would be seen above the skyline. Approaching Bowside Lodge, ground level and high-level works associated with the construction of the OHL and the dismantling of the existing wood pole mounted OHL would be seen at relatively close proximity and straddling the track. Passing under the alignment, construction activity would be seen on the eastern side of the track. Once road users pass by the point at which the alignment diverts to head north-east, the ground and high-level construction works would be seen for a short time in side long views before being screened by intervening slopes.	
				Operation: Medium The towers would come into view on rounding the bend south of Strathy Forest. They would be seen breaching the horizon to the north but at more than 3 km distant. They would be seen in the context of the Strathy Wood Grid Connection. They would become more prominent as track users head north and would be seen above the skyline. Approaching Bowside Lodge, the towers would be seen straddling the track with substantial parts of the towers being seen above the horizon formed by Strathy Forest. Passing under the line, the towers would be seen on the eastern side of the track: they would replace the wood pole mounted overhead line west of the track but would be substantially larger. Once road users pass by the point at which the alignment diverts to head north-east, the Alternative Alignment would be seen for a short time in-side long views before it is screened by intervening slopes.	Moderate Significant
R5	Forest/ Estate Access	There are views from the bailie bridge looking north and south along the forest edge, with wind turbines being prominent moving, man-made	Low Route where a changed aspect is	Construction: Low Visibility of construction operations would vary along the lengths of the tracks and would be dependent on the	Minor Not significant

Ref.	Location / Type / Context	Nature of Main View	Sensitivity	Magnitude	Effect and Significance
	Tracks at Dallagwell Forest and Wind Farm / Substation workers (see Volume 2: Figure V5-4.5)	elements in views south and steel lattice towers and overhead lines in views east. Melvich Wind Energy Hub would be partially visible from this route almost 5 km to the north-east.	less important and where some detracting features are present (portacabins, machinery, laydown areas, Strathy North substation, forest harvesting activity, wind turbines, steel lattice towers and overhead lines).	<p>direction of travel. A low – medium number of tower construction operations would be visible looking to the north and north-east. Generally, operations would be seen in sequential rather than simultaneous views as users of the tracks move along them. Construction operations would be perceptible but would not detract from the existing views east and south.</p> <p>Operation: Low Visibility of the Alternative Alignment would vary along the length of the track and would be dependent on the direction of travel. A low – medium number of towers would be visible looking north and north-east. These would generally be seen in sequential rather than simultaneous views as users of the tracks move along them. The Alternative Alignment would be perceptible but would not detract from the existing views east and south.</p>	<p>Minor Adverse Not significant</p>
R6a	Core Path SU19.03 (north-bound) Walkers (see Volume 2: Figure V5-4.5)	<p>Lattice tower mounted overhead lines are visible above the skyline to the east of the path on the southern half of this route. The wood pole mounted OHL is visible to the north on the approach to Connagill. The path then passes below the wood pole mounted OHL with poles and conductors visible to the west of the path.</p> <p>Halladale River is visible intermittently within a rolling landscape of rough moorland and farmland closer to the river itself. Bands of woodland straddle the strath with forest plantations visible at higher level.</p>	Medium - recreational route where a changed aspect is an important element in the view and there are some detracting features (wind turbines, wood pole mounted OHL).	<p>Construction: High This route would be improved and used by construction traffic. Construction operations associated with a low number of towers would initially be seen at distance. On passing through Am Bealach, construction works would be seen at increasingly closer range as users of the path approach the location of the river crossing where ground level and high-level works would be very close to the route. Works associated with the CSE compound and underground cable would also be visible along parts of the route close to Connagill substation. Beyond this point, construction works would be visible to the west of the path.</p> <p>Operation: Moderate – High Over the southern section of the route only very low numbers of towers would be visible, with some skylining across the strath, until users of the route pass through Am Bealach</p>	<p>Major Significant</p> <p>Moderate – Major Significant</p>

Ref.	Location / Type / Context	Nature of Main View	Sensitivity	Magnitude	Effect and Significance
				when medium to high numbers of towers would be visible for a short distance. Some of these would be seen at very close range as the core path approaches and passes below the OHL. The CSE compound is also theoretically visible on the approach to Connagill. Thereafter, low to medium numbers of towers would be seen running approximately parallel to the path. Towers would be seen by users of this route for almost the entire length.	
R6b	Core Path SU19.03 (south-bound) Walkers (see Volume 2: Figure V5-4.5)	Heading south from Kirkton, the Halladale River is close by on the lefthand side with wood pole mounted overhead lines on the righthand side. Approaching Connagill, the existing OHL is visible ahead until the route passes below and people on the track head away from the OHL. Land is grazed on either side of the river, with rough moorland on slopes beyond. Turbines of Melvich Wind Energy Hub would be behind walkers when heading south along this route.	Medium - recreational route where a changed aspect is an important element in the view.	Construction: Medium – high This route would be improved and used by construction traffic. Construction works would be seen to the west of the route and in views ahead. Both ground level and high-level works would be visible with the latter skylining. On the approach to the location of the OHL crossing the river, construction works would become more prominent and at close range, including those associated with the CSE compound and underground cable. Beyond the river crossing, people on the path would be heading away from the Alternative Alignment and their view would not be affected.	Moderate - Major Significant
				Operation: Medium Heading south, there would be views of towers to the right and ahead. These would be seen at relatively close range and would be seen skylining. Towers at the river crossing would be backclothed for part of the route, then skylined as path users approach and pass below the OHL. The CSE compound is theoretically visible as the route approaches Connagill. After this point, the Alternative Alignment would be behind path users. Towers would be seen from under half of the route.	Moderate Significant

Table 3: Outdoor-based Receptors

Ref.	Location/Type/Context	Nature of Main View	Sensitivity	Magnitude	Effect and Significance
Rec 1	Strathy Cemetery / Strathy Bay Car Park Visitors to the cemetery and bay (see Volume 2: Figure V5-4.5)	The view from the cemetery entrance which is at a higher elevation than the car park is described here. The view northwards is over the cemetery towards Strathy Bay and Strathy Point. Looking east, the view is along the minor road with adjacent wood pole overhead lines and grassland either side of the road. Views to the south are over agricultural grasslands at lower level with moorland vegetation on upper slopes. Scattered habitation is visible, sometimes breaching the skyline. Views west are towards the houses to the east of the river with the A836 clearly visible as it ascends towards the junction with the minor road to Strathy Point.	Medium - High – outdoor location where a changed aspect is an important element in the view and there are some detracting features present (wind turbines).	Construction: Low Construction operations associated with a low to medium number of towers would be visible in views to the south. Generally, only high-level works would be visible with a limited amount of ground level construction visible at distances in excess of 2 km. The works would be seen in the context of moving rotors at Melvich Wind Energy Hub. Views towards the cemetery and the coast would be unaffected.	Minor Not significant
				Operation: Low Looking southwards, a low to medium number of towers would be visible with some of these breaching the skyline. They would be seen at distances in excess of 2 km and would be seen in the context of turbines at Melvich Wind Energy Hub. Views towards the cemetery and the coast would be unaffected. Refer to Volume 3a - Figure V5-VL1a-c: Strathy Cemetery and Volume 3b - Figure V5-VL1a-e: Strathy Cemetery .	Minor Not significant
Rec 2	Strathy War Memorial Visitors to the memorial (see Volume 2: Figure V5-4.5)	The memorial sits above Strathy village hall on a small knoll close to the A836. To the north, views are over the A836 and agricultural grasslands towards the coast. Looking east the road and scattered settlement lying within improved and semi-improved grassland are visible with moorland vegetation at higher level. Existing wood pole mounted overhead lines are visible to the south with steel lattice towers seen above the horizon to the far south-east. Trees in the grounds of an adjacent dwelling partially screen views in a south westerly direction.	Medium - location where a changed aspect is an important element in the view but there are some detracting features present (Melvich Wind Energy Hub, A836, minor road and	Construction: Low There is theoretical visibility of construction work associated with a low to medium number of towers looking to the south-east in the direction of Melvich Wind Energy Hub. Ground level and high-level works would be seen at more than 2 km distant. Views over the mouth of the river and the bay would be unaffected.	Minor Not significant
				Operation: Low	Minor Not significant

Ref.	Location/Type/Context	Nature of Main View	Sensitivity	Magnitude	Effect and Significance
			scattered dwellings and buildings).	A low to medium number of towers would be visible with some of these breaching the horizon and in front of the turbines at Melvich Wind Energy Hub in south easterly views. They would be seen at more than 2 km distant. Views over the mouth of the river and the bay would be unaffected.	
Rec 3	Melvich and Portskerra War Memorial Visitors to the memorial (see Volume 2: Figure V5-4.5)	The memorial is situated on a position above and to the south of the A836. It has a panoramic view over the surrounding landscape with Melvich Bay visible to the north. Looking east, the settlement of Melvich is visible within a lightly wooded setting. Moorland hills are visible in the distance with the telecommunications mast on Cnoc a' Choire Mhòir being a notable man-made feature on the skyline. Looking south, the view is over moorland vegetation and gorse with wood pole mounted overhead lines. Views westwards views look over agricultural grasslands and the A836.	Medium – outdoor location where a changed aspect is an important element in the view but there are some detracting features present (Melvich Wind Energy Hub, A836, scattered dwellings and buildings, telecommunications mast).	Construction: Low High level construction operations associated with a very small number of towers would be visible from this location at a distance of just less than 2 km. Works would be seen in the context of moving turbines at Melvich Wind Energy Hub. Views towards the bay and coastline would be unaffected.	Minor Not significant.
				Operation: Medium The upper portions of a very low number of towers would be visible in front of the turbines at Melvich Wind Energy Hub at a distance of just less than 1 km above the moorland vegetation in views to the south-west. They would occupy a relatively small proportion of the view and would not affect views to the bay and along the coast. Refer to Volume 3a - Figure V5-VL6a-c: Melvich War Memorial and Volume 3b - Figure V5-VL6a-e: Melvich War Memorial .	Moderate Significant.
Rec 4	Portskerra Car Park Visitors to the car park/slipway	Views north take in the slipway and skerries which enclose the bay. Looking east, views are along the coastline and the cliffs on the eastern side of Strathy Bay, with rough grassland forming the foreground to the view. Southerly views are short range, curtailed by rising ground with grassland cover and post and wire	Medium – High – outdoor location where a changed aspect is an important element in the view and	Construction: None No theoretical visibility	None
				Operation: None No theoretical visibility	None

Ref.	Location/Type/Context	Nature of Main View	Sensitivity	Magnitude	Effect and Significance
	(see Volume 2: Figure V5-4.5)	field boundaries. Views west are along the access track towards the adjacent house which overlooks the car park.	there would be some detracting features present from the Melvich Wind Energy Hub)		
Rec 5	Portskerra Drownings Memorial and car park Visitors to memorial and bay (see Volume 2: Figure V5-4.5)	The main foci of the view from this location is eastwards over Melvich Bay to the eastern headland, and southwards to the pier and sandy beach beyond. Views west are short range and limited by the rising rough grassland beyond the car park.	Medium – High - outdoor location where a changed aspect is an important element in the view and there would be detracting features present from the Melvich Wind Energy Hub)	Construction: None No theoretical visibility	None
				Operation: None No theoretical visibility	None
Rec 6	Melvich Bay car park Visitors to the bay (see Volume 2: Figure V5-4.5)	There are views northwards over grassy dunes and out to sea. Looking east, the view takes in the meandering Halladale River which is crossed by a timber bridge to Bighouse. There is a strong horizontal emphasis to of the view in this direction. Views south take in the scattered settlement at Portskerra backclothed by rising ground and a simple pattern of narrow croft strips descending towards the river.	Medium – High - outdoor location where a changed aspect is an important element in the view and there would be some detracting features present from the Melvich Wind Energy Hub)	Construction: Negligible Very little construction activity would be visible from the car park when looking to the south. The focus of the view is to the north-east and the changes to the view would be barely perceptible.	Negligible Not significant
				Operation: Negligible A very low number of towers would be visible or partly visible from the car park when looking south and south westwards. The focus of the view is northwards towards the bay and eastwards to Bighouse and the river, the change to the view would be barely perceptible.	Negligible Not significant
Rec 7	North Coast Touring Park	There is no particular focus to the views from the touring park – there is a small extent of sea visible to	Low – outdoor location where there	Construction: Low	Minor Not significant

Ref.	Location/Type/Context	Nature of Main View	Sensitivity	Magnitude	Effect and Significance
	Users of campsite (see Volume 2: Figure V5-4.5)	the north. Views east are over low lying moorland and rough grassland with some improved and semi improved grassland on lower slopes. Looking southwards, the view takes in street lighting along the roadside with scattered distant settlement and plant at the Kirkton gravel workings. There are patches of coniferous woodland with gorse along roadsides and scrub woodland and rough grassland elsewhere. Looking west, the views take in scattered dwellings close to the road with a backcloth of rising moorland and grassland.	are numerous detracting features present (Melvich Wind Energy Hub, buildings and structures within the park, scattered dwellings, roads and street lighting, wind turbine, gravel workings and forest plantation).	<p>Construction operations associated with a small to medium number of towers would be visible, together with blade tips of turbines at Melvich Wind Energy Hub, and would form a perceptible but not detracting feature within the view, resulting in a small deterioration to the existing view. The CSE compound and underground cable construction works are theoretically visible but at around 5 km distant are unlikely to the perceptible.</p> <p>Operation: Low A small to medium number of towers would be visible together with blade tips of turbines at Melvich Wind Energy Hub and would form a perceptible but not detracting feature within the view, resulting in a small deterioration to the existing view. The CSE compound is theoretically visible but at around 5 km distant are unlikely to the perceptible.</p>	<p>Minor</p> <p>Not significant</p>
Rec 8	Kirkton Cemetery Visitors to cemetery (see Volume 2: Figure V5-4.5)	Views from the cemetery look north and south along the strath, east across the strath and west uphill over moorland slopes. Existing wood pole mounted overhead lines are visible crossing the strath and the Connagill substation is clearly visible just over 2 km to the south-east. The existing steel lattice tower overhead line on the east side of the strath is also visible	Medium – outdoor location where a changed aspect is an important element in the view but there are some detracting features present (Melvich Wind Energy Hub, steel lattice towers, wood pole OHL and substation).	<p>Construction: Medium The road to the cemetery would be used by construction vehicles. Construction operations of a medium number of towers would be visible (along with blade tips of Melvich Wind Energy Hub in views north westwards) at distances ranging from approximately 600 m to just over 2 km where construction activity associated with the river crossing and connection into the substation at Connagill would be seen in the context of the substation buildings and structure. High level activity would be seen breaching the skyline in views to the south.</p>	Moderate Significant

Ref.	Location/Type/Context	Nature of Main View	Sensitivity	Magnitude	Effect and Significance
				Operation: Medium A medium number of towers would be visible (along with blade tips of Melvich Wind Energy Hub in views north westwards) at distances in excess of approximately 600 m. Many of the towers would be seen breaching the skyline and the connection into the existing Connagill substation would be clearly visible at just over 2 km distant.	Moderate Significant
Rec 9	Strath Halladale War Memorial Visitors to the memorial (see Volume 2: Figure V5-4.5)	The memorial is located to the east of the A897 behind roadside birch woodland scrub which screens views in a westerly direction. Views north are curtailed by vegetation in the grounds of neighbouring properties. The existing OHL is visible to the north-east, east and south-east from the memorial and its approach.	Medium - outdoor location where a changed aspect is an important element in the view but there are some detracting features present (Melvich Wind Energy Hub, steel lattice towers and OHLs).	Construction: Negligible Although there is theoretical visibility, views towards construction works would be heavily filtered by deciduous woodland and would be unlikely to be perceptible.	Negligible Not Significant
				Operation: Negligible No theoretical visibility	Negligible Not Significant
Rec 10	River Strathy Fly fishers and ghillies. (see Volume 2: Figure V5-4.5)	Fly fishers and ghillies attention would be focussed on the river and immediate environs which comprise moorland and rough grassland interspersed with pockets of deciduous scrub and patches of self-seeded conifers.	Medium - outdoor location where a changed aspect is an important element in the view but there are some detracting features present (forest access track, forest plantations, and wind turbines associated with Strathy North,	Construction: Low Depending on which beat of the river is being fished, construction operations would vary from not being visible at all to there being theoretical visibility of works associated with a low to medium number of towers. Where there is theoretical visibility of construction activity, this would not be experienced in simultaneous views: e.g. people fishing some of the beats in would see construction of parts of the Alternative Alignment in successive views (i.e. where they would have to turn their head to look over a 180 degree arc of view). The focus	Minor Not significant

Ref.	Location/Type/Context	Nature of Main View	Sensitivity	Magnitude	Effect and Significance
			Strathy Wood and Melvich Wind Energy Hub).	of the view for users of this outdoor location would be on the river itself and as such, the construction works would be perceptible but would not detract from the existing views.	
				Operation: Low The number of towers visible would depend on which beat of the river is being fished. From locations with theoretical visibility parts of the Alternative Alignment the towers would generally be seen in successive rather than simultaneous views. Given that the focus of users of the River Strathy fly fishing beats would be on the river itself, it is considered that the Alternative Alignment would be perceptible but would not detract from the existing views.	Minor Not significant
Rec 11	Halladale River Fly fishers and ghillies. (see Volume 2: Figure V5-4.5)	Fly fishers and ghillies attention would be focussed on the river and immediate environs which comprise agricultural grass lands interspersed with pockets of deciduous scrub and coniferous trees.	Medium - outdoor location where a changed aspect is an important element in the view but there are some detracting features present (Melvich Wind Energy Hub, existing OHL east of the strath).	Construction: Low Depending on which beat of the river is being fished, construction operations would vary from not being visible at all to there being theoretical visibility of works associated with some of the towers. Assuming that the majority of anglers cast upstream, the Alternative Alignment would only affect anglers fishing beat 4 as the other beats are south of where the OHL would cross the river. Where there is theoretical visibility of construction activity for some of the towers and the CSE compound and underground cable construction, this would be experienced in simultaneous and successive views: e.g. people fishing some of the beats would see construction of the easternmost parts of the Alternative Alignment in simultaneous views looking south along the river and looking west	Minor Not significant

Ref.	Location/Type/Context	Nature of Main View	Sensitivity	Magnitude	Effect and Significance
				in successive views (i.e. where they would have to turn their head to look over a 180 degree arc of view). The focus of the view for users of this outdoor location would be on the river itself and as such, the construction works would be perceptible but would not detract from the existing views.	
				<p>Operation: Low</p> <p>Depending on which beat of the river is being fished, visibility of the Alternative Alignment would vary from not being visible at all to there being theoretical visibility of some of the towers and the CSE compound. Assuming that the majority of anglers cast upstream, the Alternative Alignment would only affect anglers fishing beat 4 as the other beats are south of where the OHL would cross the river.</p> <p>Where there is theoretical visibility of some of the towers and the CSE compound this would be experienced in simultaneous and successive views: e.g. people fishing see the easternmost parts of the Alternative Alignment in simultaneous views looking south along the river and looking west in successive views (i.e. where they would have to turn their head to look over a 180 degree arc of view). The focus of the view for users of this outdoor location would be on the river itself and as such, the construction works would be perceptible but would not detract from the existing views.</p>	Minor Not significant