Section 5
Routes 5A, 5B and 5C have good existing access opportunities. Route 5B would result in the greatest extent of forestry removal. All routes are within the vicinity of the West Inverness-shire Lochs SPA but following the existing steel lattice overhead line would avoid any novel impacts to qualifying bird species, in contrast to routes in areas where there is currently no electricity infrastructure. Fewer landscape and visual sensitivities along route 5A.

Preferred
Route 5A (Existing)

Section 6
Route 6A has visual amenity and landscape character sensitivities in the Auchterawe area. However, combining Route 6A with Route 6C, reduces these potential impacts. Route 6D crosses the Caledonian Canal and would potentially impact this Scheduled Monument, and views and recreational enjoyment of this area. The options present good access opportunities, whilst all would require some removal of forestry to accommodate a new or widened wayleave.

Preferred
Combination of Route 6A and 6C