Bowdun Offshore Wind Farm, Onshore EIA Report

Volume 1, Chapter 8: Landscape and Visual

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8 Landscape and Visual

8.1 Introduction

8.1.1 This chapter of the Onshore Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Report describes the methodology followed and potential effects identified for the Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment (LVIA) of the Bowdun Offshore Wind Farm ('the Project'). The onshore infrastructure of the Project, is the works landward of Mean Low Water Springs (MLWS), including the intertidal area, and are referred to as 'the Proposed Development'. This Onshore EIA Report accompanies the application to Aberdeenshire Council for Planning Permission in Principle (PPP) for the Proposed Development.

8.1.2 LVIA is the method used to identify and assess the potential effects of the Proposed Development, and the significance of those effects, on the landscape and visual resources of the surrounding study area, during the construction, operation and maintenance (O&M) and decommissioning phases of the Proposed Development.

8.1.3 Landscape character and landscape resources are considered of importance in their own right and are valued regardless of whether they are seen by people. Effects on landscape character and landscape resources are clearly distinguished from, although closely linked to, effects on views and visual amenity as perceived by people. Therefore although similar and closely linked, landscape and visual effects are reported separately within this LVIA chapter.

8.1.4 The LVIA concentrates on the key landscape and visual issues identified during the scoping stage in the Scoping Opinion provided by Aberdeenshire Council informed by advice provided by NatureScot (NS) and Historic Environment Scotland (HES).

8.1.5 An assessment to consider cumulative landscape and visual effects of the Proposed Development in relation to other developments (consented and in planning) in the wider area is included in Volume 2, Appendix 8.3: Cumulative Landscape and Visual Effects (CLVIA).

8.1.6 The assessment methodology for the LVIA and CLVIA has been developed in accordance with the Landscape Institute's Guidelines for Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment (Version 3, 2013) (GLVIA3) and Technical Guidance Note for GLVIA (LITGN-2024-01). The assessment has been undertaken by chartered Landscape Architects at Jacobs; for more details, see Volume 2, Appendix 1.2: Statement of Expertise.

8.1.7 This chapter is informed by, and should be read in conjunction with, the following technical chapters:

- Volume 1, Chapter 1: Introduction;
- Volume 1, Chapter 2: The Proposed Development;
- Volume 1, Chapter 3: EIA Methodology;
- Volume 1, Chapter 4: Stakeholder Engagement and Consultation

- Volume 1, Chapter 5: Site Selection and Reasonable Alternatives Considered; and
- Volume 1, Chapter 9: Cultural Heritage.

8.1.8 The LVIA is supported by LVIA Figures and visualisations shown in Volume 1, Figures 8.1 to 8.7 (Annex – Figures) and Volume 3: Visualisations, Figures 8.8 to 8.15, and the following Appendices:

- Appendix 8.1: Landscape Character Types; and
- Appendix 8.2: Visual Assessment of Individual Dwellings and Property Clusters.

8.1.9 The CLVIA is supported with cumulative site location plans, cumulative ZTVs, cumulative wireframes and photomontages in Volume 3: Visualisations, Figures 8.8 to 8.15 and the following Appendix:

- Appendix 8.3: Cumulative Landscape and Visual Effects.

8.2 LVIA Study Area

8.2.1 A rationale for the extent of the LVIA Study Area was outlined within the Scoping Report (TWP, 2024) and this was agreed with statutory consultees during the scoping process as detailed in Section 8.4.

8.2.2 The LVIA Study Area was subsequently confirmed with Aberdeenshire Council using ZTV mapping for the proposed Substation, to ensure that it was appropriate and proportionate to the likely scale and impact of the Proposed Development. The ZTV has been calculated using a height of 15 m and the maximum available footprint for the Substation to illustrate a worst-case scenario. Whilst the ZTV indicates potential visibility beyond the LVIA Study Area in some directions, it was judged that significant effects on landscape character and visual amenity would be unlikely beyond 5 km distance.

8.2.3 The LVIA Study Area is defined as follows:

- A 3 km radius from the centre of the selected Landfall area;
- 1 km buffer either side of the indicative cable centreline of the 220/275 kV and 400 kV Cable Corridors; and
- A 5 km radius from the Substation Search Area.

8.2.4 The Proposed Development is detailed in Volume 1, Chapter 2: The Proposed Development Description and its location shown on Figure 1.2; the LVIA Study Area is shown on Figure 8.1 (Annex – Figures).

8.3 Legislative and Policy Context

8.3.1 The overarching policy and legislation applicable to the Proposed Development is presented in Volume 1, Chapter 1: Introduction. Policy and legislation specific to landscape and visual on an international level is contained within The European Landscape Convention 2006, on a national level it is contained within The Environment Strategy for Scotland (2020) and National Planning Framework 4 (NPF4), and on a regional level in the Aberdeenshire Local Development Plan 2023 (ALDP).

8.3.2 The ALDP sets out a Spatial Strategy and vision for the future development of Aberdeenshire. Within ALDP, Appendix 11 sets out policy on Conservation Areas (CA) and Appendix 13 sets out policy on Special Landscape Areas (SLA).

8.3.3 A summary of the national legislative provisions relevant to the landscape and visual chapter are provided in Table 8.1, with regional relevant policy provisions set out in Table 8.2.

Table 8.1: Summary of NPF4 legislation relevant to Landscape and Visual

Summary of Relevant Legislation	How and Where Considered in the EIA Report
NPF4 Policy 1 ***"When considering all development proposals significant weight will be given to the global climate and nature crises."*** ***"Policy Intent: To encourage, promote and facilitate development that minimises emissions and adapts to the current and future impacts of climate change."***	The Proposed Development has been designed to minimise the loss of woodland and replacement planting will help to lessen future impacts of climate change. Details of the design evolution are provided within Volume 1, Chapter 5: Site Selection and Consideration of Reasonable Alternatives. The impact of woodland removal and replacement planting has been considered in the landscape and visual assessments within this chapter.
NPF4 Policy 4 ***"d) Development proposals that affect a site designated as a local nature conservation site or landscape area in the LDP will only be supported where:*** ***i. Development will not have significant adverse effects on the integrity of the area or the qualities for which it has been identified; or*** ***ii. Any significant adverse effects on the integrity of the area are clearly outweighed by social, environmental or economic benefits of at least local importance."***	An assessment of impacts and their significance upon the integrity and special qualities of Special Landscape Areas within the LVIA Study Area has been undertaken in Table 8.18.
NPF4 Policy 6 ***"a) Development proposals that enhance, expand and improve woodland and tree cover will be supported.*** ***b) Development proposals will not be supported where they will result in:*** ***i. Any loss of ancient woodlands, ancient and veteran trees, or adverse impact on their ecological condition;*** ***ii. Adverse impacts on native woodlands, hedgerows and individual trees of high biodiversity value, or identified for protection in the Forestry and Woodland Strategy;*** ***iii. Fragmenting or severing woodland habitats, unless appropriate mitigation measures are identified and implemented in line with the mitigation hierarchy;*** ***iv. Conflict with Restocking Direction, Remedial Notice or Registered Notice to Comply issued by Scottish Forestry.*** ***c) Development proposals involving woodland removal will only be supported where they will achieve significant and clearly defined***	The Proposed Development has been designed to minimise the loss of woodland and avoid the loss of ancient woodland or trees of high biodiversity value. The design has also sought to minimise impacts on hedgerows and field boundaries. Details of the design evolution are provided within Volume 1, Chapter 5: Site Selection and Consideration of Reasonable Alternatives. The landscape and visual impacts of woodland removal and replacement planting have been considered in Section 8.10 of this chapter and Volume 2, Appendix 8.3: Cumulative Landscape and Visual Effects. Volume 2, Appendix 6.1: Arboricultural Report considers forestry policies and woodland management whilst Volume 1, Chapter 7: Biodiversity, Terrestrial Ecology and Ornithology considers habitat connectivity.

Summary of Relevant Legislation	How and Where Considered in the EIA Report
additional public benefits in accordance with relevant Scottish Government policy on woodland removal. Where woodland is removed, compensatory planting will most likely be expected to be delivered. ***d) Development proposals on sites which include an area of existing woodland or land identified in the Forestry and Woodland Strategy as being suitable for woodland creation will only be supported where the enhancement and improvement of woodlands and the planting of new trees on the site (in accordance with the Forestry and Woodland Strategy) are integrated into the design."***	
NPF4 Policy 11 ***"a) Development proposals for all forms of renewable, low-carbon and zero emissions technologies will be supported. These include:*** ***i. wind farms including repowering, extending, expanding and extending the life of existing wind farms;*** ***ii. enabling works, such as grid transmission and distribution infrastructure;"*** ***"e) In addition, project design and mitigation will demonstrate how the following impacts are addressed:*** ***i. impacts on communities and individual dwellings, including, residential amenity, visual impact, noise and shadow flicker;*** ***ii. significant landscape and visual impacts, recognising that such impacts are to be expected for some forms of renewable energy. Where impacts are localised and/or appropriate design mitigation has been applied, they will generally be considered to be acceptable;*** ***iii. public access, including impact on long distance walking and cycling routes and scenic routes;...*** ***vii. impacts on historic environment;...*** ***x. impacts on trees, woods and forests;*** ***xi. proposals for the decommissioning of developments, including ancillary infrastructure, and site restoration;...*** ***xiii. cumulative impacts.."***	Significant landscape and visual effects have been minimised using an iterative design approach to key components of the Proposed Development. This design approach is detailed in Volume 1, Chapter 5: Site Selection and Consideration of Reasonable Alternatives, and Embedded Mitigation measures are laid out in Section 9. Impacts on settlements and route corridors have been assessed in Table 8.19 and Table 8.20 respectively. Impacts of the Proposed Development on views from Individual dwellings have been assessed in Volume 2, Appendix 8.2: Visual Assessment of Individual Dwellings and Property Clusters. Decommissioning of the Proposed Development has been considered in Section 8.10. A cumulative assessment has been included in Volume 2, Appendix 8.3: Cumulative Landscape and Visual Effects.
NPF4 Policy 29 ***"a) Development proposals that contribute to the viability, sustainability and diversity of rural communities and local rural economy will be supported, including:..*** ***x. improvement or restoration of the natural environment....*** ***b) Development proposals in rural areas should be suitably scaled, sited and designed to be in keeping with the character of the area..."***	The Proposed Development has been scaled, sited and designed to minimise landscape impacts. The proposed native species restoration planting will enhance the natural environment. Details of the design evolution are provided within Volume 1, Chapter 5: Site Selection and Consideration of Reasonable Alternatives. Impacts upon the rural landscape character have been considered within Section 8.11 of this chapter and Appendix 8.3: Cumulative

Summary of Relevant Legislation	How and Where Considered in the EIA Report
	Landscape and Visual Effects. Embedded mitigation measures are laid out in Section 8.9.

Table 8.2: Summary of ALDP Policy relevant to LVIA

Summary of Relevant ALDP Policy	How and Where Considered in the EIA Report
Policy C2.1 (Renewable Energy) ***"We will support renewable energy developments, including solar, wind, ..., which are in appropriate sites and of the appropriate design. Assessment of the acceptability of such developments will take account of any effects on: socio-economic aspects; renewable energy targets; greenhouse gas emissions; communities; landscape and visual aspects; natural heritage; carbon rich soils; the historic environment; tourism and recreation; aviation, defence, telecommunications and broadcasting interests; road traffic; hydrology; and opportunities for energy storage."***	Effects on landscape and visual aspects are fully considered within the LVIA and CLVIA contained within Chapter 8.
Policy E1 Natural Heritage ***"E1.9 Development will not be allowed if it fragments habitats or is not designed to minimise any adverse impact on the site's environmental quality, ecological status, or viability.*** ***E1.10 Policy P1 also says that all developments should identify measures that will be taken to enhance biodiversity (including woodlands) in proportion to the potential opportunities available and the scale of the development. "***	The Proposed Development has been designed to minimise the fragmentation of habitats and areas of high biodiversity value such as woodland and hedgerows. Details of the design evolution are provided within Volume 1, Chapter 5: Site Selection and Reasonable Alternatives Considered. Embedded mitigation measures including restoration and replacement of habitats are laid out in Section 8.9. Volume 2, Appendix 6.1: Arboricultural Report considers forestry policies and woodland management whilst Volume 1, Chapter 7: Biodiversity, Terrestrial Ecology and Ornithology considers habitat connectivity.
Policy E2.1 Landscape: ***"We will refuse development that causes unacceptable effects through its scale, location or design on key characteristics, natural landscape elements, features or the composition or quality of the landscape character as defined in the Landscape Character Assessments produced by NatureScot. These impacts can be either alone or cumulatively with other recent developments. A Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment (LVIA) may be required to assess the effects of change on a landscape that could be experienced should a development***	As required a Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment has been undertaken and appropriate embedded mitigation has been identified. Embedded measures are set out in Section 8.9.

Summary of Relevant ALDP Policy	How and Where Considered in the EIA Report
proposal be approved. Appropriate mitigation should be identified."	
Policy E2.2 Special Landscape Areas: ***"Development that has a significant adverse impact on the qualifying interests of a SLA will not be permitted unless it is adequately demonstrated that these effects are clearly outweighed by social, environmental or economic benefits of at least local importance. Appendix 13 on SLAs is intended to be used as a guide by prospective developers in assessing potential impact. Development, in terms of its location, scale, design, materials and landscaping, should be of a high standard and enhance the special qualities and character of the SLA."***	An assessment of impacts upon the special qualities of Special Landscape Areas within the LVIA Study Area has been undertaken in Table 8.18.
Policy HE2.1 Conservation Areas: ***"We will resist development, including change of use or demolition, which would fail to preserve or enhance the character or appearance of a conservation area. This applies both to developments within the conservation area and proposals outwith that would affect its character or appearance. We will seek retention, restoration, and sympathetic adaptation of unlisted buildings which contribute positively to the special architectural or historic interest of the area, in preference to allowing their demolition."***	Impacts on Conservation Areas have been assessed within Chapter 9: Cultural Heritage. An assessment of landscape impacts upon the character and setting of Conservation Areas within the LVIA Study Area has been undertaken in Table 8.18.
Policy HE2.3 Battlefields and Gardens and Designed Landscapes ***"Development affecting an inventory battlefield or inventory garden and designed landscape (GDL) will only be permitted if: the proposal would not have an adverse impact that compromises the objectives of the designation of an inventory garden or GDL, or the key landscape characteristics and special qualities of an inventory battlefield; or, any significant adverse effects are outweighed by long-term social or economic benefits of overriding public importance and there is no alternative site for the development. These conditions may also apply to developments outwith the designated sites. In either case, measures and mitigation must be taken to conserve and enhance the essential characteristics of the site as appropriate."***	Impacts on Battlefields and Gardens and Designed Landscapes have been assessed within Chapter 9: Cultural Heritage. An assessment of landscape impacts upon the character and qualities of Gardens and Designed Landscapes within the LVIA Study Area has been undertaken in Table 8.18.
Policy E3 Forestry and Woodland ***"E3.2 We will promote and support the forestry industry while strongly protecting and enhancing trees and woodlands in the planning and construction of built development. To achieve this, there will be a presumption against the***	The Proposed Development has been designed to minimise the loss of woodland and avoid loss of ancient woodland or trees of high biodiversity value. The design has also sought to minimise impacts on hedgerows and field boundaries.

Summary of Relevant ALDP Policy	How and Where Considered in the EIA Report
removal of safe and healthy trees, non-commercial woodlands and hedgerows. Criteria in the Scottish Government's policy on Control of Woodland Removal will be used to determine the acceptability of woodland removal. Development is also required to continue to ensure that opportunities are taken to promote the role of woodlands in providing opportunities for community development, education and recreational access, protecting and enhancing environmental quality and biodiversity, landscape and historic assets."	Details of the design evolution are provided within Volume 1, Chapter 5: Site Selection and Reasonable Alternatives Considered. The landscape and visual impacts of woodland removal and native species restoration and replacement planting have been considered in Section 8.11 of this chapter and Volume 2, Appendix 8.3: CLVIA. Embedded mitigation measures are laid out in Section 8.9. Volume 2, Appendix 6.1: Arboricultural Report considers forestry policies and woodland management whilst Volume 1, Chapter 7: Biodiversity, Terrestrial Ecology and Ornithology considers habitat connectivity.
Policy PR1 Protecting Important Resources ***"Trees and Woodlands*** ***PR1.7 This policy establishes a strong presumption in favour of retaining woodland on development sites. Development resulting in the loss of, or serious damage to, trees and woodlands of significant ecological, recreational, historical, landscape or shelter value will not normally be permitted. In order to determine whether there are significant public benefits that would outweigh any loss or damage to trees and woodlands, the developer must submit a Tree Survey to BS 58377. Where necessary an Ecological Survey and assessment by a suitably qualified professional of the biodiversity and amenity value of the woodland and habitat, including both its current and potential future benefits, should be submitted. For any proposals involving the removal of trees or woodland, the Scottish Government Control of Woodland Removal Policy will apply.*** ***PR1.8 Where development is considered appropriate, damage to existing trees must be minimised and there must be no unnecessary fragmentation of existing or potential woodlands networks. Compensatory planting must also be undertaken to an agreed standard in order to mitigate the impact of the removal on landscape, sequestered carbon, character, amenity and ecological diversity. New planting should be located to enhance connectivity with existing and proposed green infrastructure. Woodland Management Plans are required for all new woodlands."***	The Proposed Development has been designed to minimise the loss of woodland and individual trees and avoid fragmentation of areas of woodland habitat. Details of the design evolution are provided within Volume 1, Chapter 5: Site Selection and Reasonable Alternatives Considered. The landscape and visual impacts of woodland removal and native species restoration and replacement planting have been considered in Section 8.11 of this chapter and Volume 2, Appendix 8.3: CLVIA. Embedded mitigation measures including measures to enhance habitat connectivity and restoration planting are detailed in Section 8.9. Volume 2, Appendix 6.1: Foresty and Arboricultrual Technical Report presents the Tree Surveys and considers compensatory planting and Woodland Management Plans whilst Volume 1, Chapter 7: Biodiversity, Terrestrial Ecology and Ornithology considers habitat connectivity.
Policy R1 Special Rural Areas ***R1.3 In the coastal zone development must require a coastal location or there must be clear social, economic , environmental or community benefits arising. In either case there must be no coalescence of coastal***	The Landfall has been designed to minimise landscape impacts to the coastal area. Details of the design evolution are provided within Volume 1, Chapter 5: Site Selection and Reasonable Alternatives Considered. Impacts upon the coastal landscape character and

Summary of Relevant ALDP Policy	How and Where Considered in the EIA Report
developments or adverse impacts on natural coastal processes or habitats.	coastal landscape designations have been considered within Section 8.10 of this chapter. Embedded Mitigation measures are laid out in Section 8.9.
Policy R2 Development Proposals Elsewhere in the Countryside ***"R2.2 In the accessible and remote rural areas outwith the green belt and coastal zone we will permit small-scale development that would be compatible with the location being in the green belt as listed under R1.2."***	Landscape and visual impacts for rural areas have been considered within Section 8.10 of this chapter and Appendix 8.3: Cumulative Landscape and Visual Effects. Embedded Mitigation measures are laid out in Section 8.9.

8.4 Consultation

8.4.1 The approach to consultation for the Proposed Development is set out in Volume 1, Chapter 4: Stakeholder Engagement and Consultation. A summary of the issues raised during consultation activities undertaken to date specific to the landscape and visual chapter is presented in Table 8.3, together with how these issues have been considered in the production of this assessment.

Table 8.3: Summary of key consultation issues raised during consultation activities undertaken for the Proposed Development relevant to LVIA

Date	Consultee and Type of Consultation	Summary of Issue(s) Raised	Response to Issue Raised and/or Where Considered in this Chapter
Oct 2024	Aberdeenshire Council, Bowdun Scoping Opinion	*"The content of the LVIA approach are noted and generally agreed. Further input from the Planning Service can be provided on specific viewpoint selection through the preapplication process, in consultation with the Landscape Advisor as appropriate. It would be expected that photomontages for any sensitive receptors are provided, in addition to wireframes, and include post construction, a year (or other appropriate 'short' timescale) post construction shown with landscaping and post construction on a longer scale (e.g. 10/12 years) with any established landscaping in order to assist assessment."*	Input on specific viewpoint selection from the Aberdeenshire Council Planning Services was requested and received during the pre-application period. Photomontages for sensitive receptors have been provided at year of opening and at 12 years to assist with assessment (Volume 3: Visualisations, Figures 8.8 to 8.15.).
Oct 2024	Aberdeenshire Council (Built Heritage), Bowdun Scoping Opinion	*"...The resultant report should include a Zone of Theoretical Visibility (ZTV) and a Landscape Visual Impact Assessment (LVIA) study area. Photomontage visualisations would also be expected for any assets identified within the assessment which could be impacted as a result of the proposed works. Built Heritage need to be satisfied that there is limited potential for the development to impact on any nationally designated heritage asset."*	A LVIA Study Area was utilised for the assessment along with production and consideration of ZTV and photomontages. Settings of nationally designated heritage assets were assessed for landscape impacts with a full heritage assessment of heritage assets provided in Volume 1, Chapter 9: Cultural Heritage.

Date	Consultee and Type of Consultation	Summary of Issue(s) Raised	Response to Issue Raised and/or Where Considered in this Chapter
Oct 2024	Aberdeenshire Council (Natural Environment), Bowdun Scoping Opinion	*"Trees: Assessment of impact on trees protected by Tree Preservation Orders (TPO) will be required including Lathallan and Drumlithie. Access: Other core paths and potential rights of way within the search corridor should be included."*	A consideration of TPO within the LVIA Study Area, including Lathallan and Drumlithie, is included in the landscape baseline in Section 8.8. All core paths within the LVIA Study Area have been included in the visual baseline and assessment; see Section 8.8 and Section 8.10 respectively.
Oct 2024	Scottish Forestry, Bowdun Scoping Opinion	*"...should include consideration of the potential cumulative impact of proposed woodland removal, when considering existing development in the surrounding woodland. In particular consideration needs to be given to the implication of felling operations on such things as habitat connectivity, landscape impact, impact on timber transport network and forestry policies"* *in the local and regional Forestry and Woodland Strategies and local development plans.*	The landscape and visual impact of woodland removal and replacement planting has been considered within the landscape and visual assessments and the Volume 2, Appendix 8.3: Cumulative Landscape and Visual Effects. Volume 2, Appendix 6.1: Arboricultural Report considers forestry policies and woodland management whilst Volume 1, Chapter 7: Biodiversity, Terrestrial Ecology and Ornithology considers habitat connectivity.
26 June 2025	Aberdeenshire Council, Strategic Development Delivery Team, (Fiona Rendall)	Cumulative visibility between Bowdun and SSEN-T's proposed Hurlie development should be considered. Request to include Hill of Swanley viewpoint and further viewpoint information required before appropriate viewpoint locations can be confirmed for the assessment.	A cumulative assessment of SSEN-T's Hurlie Substation has been included in Volume 2, Appendix 8.3: Cumulative Landscape and Visual Effects. As requested by Aberdeenshire Council, the Hill of Swanley viewpoint (VP6) has been included in the LVIA, together with a viewpoint at Hillhead of Auquhirie (VP5), to enable comparison with SSEN-T's Hurlie EIA

Date	Consultee and Type of Consultation	Summary of Issue(s) Raised	Response to Issue Raised and/or Where Considered in this Chapter
			Report for Aberdeenshire Council's cumulative assessment purposes.
3 July 2025	Aberdeenshire Council, Strategic Development Delivery Team, (Fiona Rendall)	Suggested viewpoint locations have been included within the assessment and CLVIA.	Aberdeenshire Council's Landscape Consultant confirmed they are content with the revised list of proposed viewpoints.

8.5 Data Sources

8.5.1 Web based information has been reviewed and analysed to inform the Landscape and Visual baseline. In addition, consultation with Aberdeenshire Council has been undertaken to aid the collection of baseline information e.g. projects to be included in the CLVIA.

Desktop Study

8.5.2 Landscape and Visual baseline information within the LVIA Study Area was collected through a detailed desktop review of existing websites, studies and datasets; these are summarised in Table 8.4.

8.5.3 A review of the information contained within the studies and reports together with the production of figures using a Geographic Information System (GIS), Ordnance Survey (OS) and raster datasets was used to characterise the baseline.

8.5.4 The Landscape and Visual technical report (Volume 2, Appendix 8.1: Landscape Character Types) includes full details of the analysis undertaken to develop the landscape character baseline.

Table 8.4: Summary of Key Data Sources

Title	Source	Extent	Year	Author
OS mapping at 1:50,000 (Landranger) and 1:25,000 (Explorer)	Ordnance Survey	UK	2025	Ordnance Survey
OS Terrain 5 and 50 height DTM data	Ordnance Survey	UK	2025	Ordnance Survey
National Cycle Network (NCN)	Walk Wheel Cycle Trust	UK	2025	Sustrans
National Forestry Inventory Scotland (NFIS)	Forestry Commission	Scotland	2025	Forestry Commission
National Tree Map (NTM) data	BlueSky International Ltd	UK	2025	BlueSky International Ltd
Aberdeenshire Council Planning Portal	Aberdeenshire Council website	Aberdeenshire	2025	Aberdeenshire Council
Aberdeenshire Council Special Landscape Areas	Aberdeenshire Council website	Aberdeenshire	2025	Aberdeenshire Council
Aberdeenshire Council Core Path Network	Aberdeenshire Council website	Aberdeenshire	2025	Aberdeenshire Council
Inventory of Gardens and Designed Landscapes	Historic Environment Scotland website	Scotland	2025	Historic Environment Scotland

Title	Source	Extent	Year	Author
Scottish Landscape Character Types	NatureScot website	Scotland	2019	NatureScot

Site-Specific Surveys

8.5.5 A survey was undertaken to verify baseline conditions and to take viewpoints photography, viewpoints having been agreed with Aberdeenshire Council, to inform the LVIA (see Table 8.5 for further details).

8.5.6 Field survey work was carried out during July 2025, and records were made in the form of field notes and photographs. Field survey work included a general survey of the LVIA Study Area to verify data collated during desk surveys and assess views from designated landscapes and adjoining landscape character areas. Photography and notes were taken to aid assessment of potential effects on landscape character, views from specific viewpoints, settlements, routes and historic sites.

Table 8.5: Summary of LVIA Site-Specific Surveys

Title	Extent of Survey	Overview of Survey	Survey Contractor	Date
LVIA survey	LVIA Study Area	LVIA survey and viewpoint photography	Jacobs Landscape Architects	July 2025

8.6 Methodology for Assessment of Effects

Overview

8.6.1 When determining the significance of effects, a process is used which involves defining the magnitude of the potential impacts and the sensitivity of the receptors. This section describes the criteria applied in this chapter to assign values to the magnitude of potential impacts and the sensitivity of the receptors.

Methodology for Landscape and Visual Assessment

8.6.2 The methodology for the LVIA follows the principles contained within the GLVIA3 and Technical Guidance Note for GLVIA.

8.6.3 The following additional guidance documents have also been considered:

- Landscape Institute (LI) Technical Guidance Note 02/21 Assessing landscape value outside of national designations (Landscape Institute, 2021);
- A Handbook on Environmental Impact Assessment, Appendix 2: Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment, Version 5 (SNH 2018);
- Landscape Sensitivity Assessment Guidance (Methodology) (NatureScot, 2022);

- LI Technical Guidance Note 06/19 Visual Representation of Development Proposals (Landscape Institute, 2019);
- Landscape Character Assessment guidance for England and Scotland (Carys Swanwick Department of Landscape University of Sheffield and Land Use Consultants for the Countryside Agency and NatureScot) (2002); and
- Assessing the Cumulative Impact of Onshore Wind Energy Developments (NatureScot, 2021).

Criteria for Assessment of Landscape Receptors

Sensitivity to Change

8.6.4 Sensitivity of landscape receptors is based on professional judgement and results from consideration of susceptibility to the type of development proposed, combined with the value attached to the landscape. The key considerations that influence the establishment of susceptibility and value are summarised in GLVIA 3 (Part 2, Chapters 5 and 6) and detailed below.

Landscape Susceptibility

8.6.5 Susceptibility is defined by GLVIA3 as "*the ability of the landscape receptor … to accommodate the Proposed Development without undue consequences for the maintenance of the baseline situation and/or the achievement of landscape planning policies and strategies*" (GLVIA3 paragraph 5.40).

8.6.6 The degree to which a particular landscape type or area can accommodate change will vary with:

- existing land use;
- the pattern and scale of the landscape;
- visual enclosure/openness of views and distribution of visual receptors; and
- the nature of the Proposed Development and scope for mitigation, which should be in character with the existing landscape.

8.6.7 Landscape susceptibility is assigned as being high, medium, low or negligible.

Landscape Value

8.6.8 The value of landscape receptors is determined with reference to:

- Review of relevant designations and the level of policy importance that they signify (such as landscapes designated at international, national or local level); and/or
- Application of criteria that indicate value (such as scenic quality, rarity, recreational value, representativeness, conservation interests, perceptual aspects and artistic associations) as described in GLVIA3, paragraphs 5.44 - 5.47.

8.6.9 Internationally and nationally designated landscapes would generally indicate landscape of higher value whereas those without formal designation (such as a widespread or common landscape type without high scenic quality) are likely to be of lower value, bearing in mind that all landscapes are valued at some level. There is however variation across both designated and undesignated areas, and so judgements regarding value are also informed by fieldwork.

8.6.10 Landscape value is assigned as being high, medium, low or negligible.

Evaluation of Landscape Sensitivity

8.6.11 There may be a complex relationship between the susceptibility of the landscape to a specific change and the value attached to a landscape. Therefore, the rationale for judgements needs to be clearly set out for each receptor. The determination of the sensitivity of landscape receptors to the Proposed Development is assigned as high, medium, low or negligible or intermediate categories between these.

Magnitude

8.6.12 As noted in GLVIA3, the magnitude of landscape impacts was considered in terms of size or scale, the geographical extent of the area influenced, duration and reversibility.

Size or Scale

8.6.13 The size and/or scale of change in the landscape takes into consideration the following factors:

- the extent/proportion of landscape elements lost or added;
- the degree to which aesthetic/perceptual aspects are altered; and
- whether the change is likely to alter the key characteristics of the landscape, which are critical to its distinctive character.

Geographical Extent

8.6.14 The geographical area that may experience landscape impacts can generally be considered at the following scales:

- at site level, within the Proposed Development site itself;
- at the level of the immediate setting of the site;
- the landscape character area that the Proposed Development would lie within; or
- at a larger scale influencing several landscape character areas.

Duration and Reversibility

8.6.15 In accordance with GLVIA3, consideration is also given to the duration and reversibility of landscape impacts in the evaluation of magnitude. The duration of impacts is assessed on the following scale:

- Short-term effects are those that occur during construction, and may extend into the early part of the O&M phase, e.g. construction activities, generally lasting 0-5 years;
- Medium-term effects are those that occur during part of the O&M phase, generally lasting 5-10 years; and
- Long-term effects are those which occur throughout the O&M phase (in this instance over 10 years).

Evaluation of Magnitude

8.6.16 Magnitude of change is assessed on a scale of high, medium or low, (or where applicable, intermediate levels of medium to high or low to medium magnitude), taking account of the degree of landscape change that would result from the Proposed Development, as described in Table 8.6.

Table 8.6: Magnitude of Landscape Change

Magnitude	Criteria
High	Total loss or major alteration to key elements/features/characteristics of the baseline (pre-development) conditions such that post development character/composition of baseline will be fundamentally changed.
Medium	Partial loss or alteration to one or more key elements/features/characteristics of the baseline (pre-development) conditions such that post development character/composition/attributes of baseline will be partially changed.
Low	Minor loss of or alteration to one or more key elements/features/characteristics of the baseline (pre-development) conditions. Change arising from the loss/alteration will be discernible but underlying character/composition of the baseline condition will be similar to pre-development circumstances/patterns.
Negligible	Very minor loss or alteration to one or more key elements/features/characteristics of the baseline (pre-development) conditions. Change barely distinguishable, approximating to the 'no change' situation.
None	No change.

8.6.17 The permanent impacts of the Proposed Development are considered of long-term duration and largely irreversible, thus increasing magnitude. However, temporary construction phase impacts, for example those arising from haul roads, are often short-term and reversible and thus likely to have a lower magnitude of change.

Judging Levels of Landscape Effect and Significance

8.6.18 The final step in the landscape assessment requires the determinations of landscape sensitivity and magnitude of landscape change described above to be combined to make an informed professional assessment on

the level of landscape effect and their significance. Landscape effects are assessed as major, moderate, minor or no effect.

8.6.19 Where the landscape effect has been classified as major or moderate, this is considered a significant effect in terms of the EIA Regulations. It should be noted that significant effects need not be adverse and may be either negative or positive and may be reversible in respect of the development, however the assumption is that effects are negative unless stated.

8.6.20 The matrix in Table 8.7 is used as a guide to combine landscape sensitivity and magnitude of landscape change, to help determine the significance of landscape effects. The matrix is not a prescriptive tool and the analysis of potential impacts for each landscape receptor must allow for the exercise of professional judgement. Thus, consideration of the relative importance of each aspect should feed into the overall decision and in some instances a particular parameter may be considered as having a determining effect on the analysis. The rationale for these judgements is clearly set out for each receptor.

Table 8.7: Significance of Landscape Effect

Sensitivity of Receptor	Magnitude of Landscape Change			
	Negligible	Low	Medium	High
Negligible	Negligible	Negligible or Minor	Negligible or Minor	Minor or Moderate
Low	Negligible or Minor	Negligible or Minor	Minor or Moderate	Minor or Moderate
Medium	Negligible or Minor	Minor or Moderate	Moderate	Moderate or Major
High	Minor or Moderate or	Minor or Moderate	Moderate or Major	Major

Criteria for Assessment of Visual Receptors

Sensitivity

8.6.21 In accordance with GLVIA3, the assessment of sensitivity for visual receptors combines the susceptibility of the receptor (people) to changes in visual amenity arising from the specific type of development proposed, and the value attributed to the existing views.

Visual Receptor Susceptibility to Change

8.6.22 The susceptibility of visual receptors, as defined in GLVIA3, is mainly a function of "*the occupation or activity of people experiencing the view at particular locations; and the extent to which their attention or interest may therefore be focused on the views and the visual amenity they experience at particular locations*". The criteria in Table 8.8 (based on GLVIA3) were

applied, along with professional judgement, to evaluate the susceptibility of different types of receptors.

Table 8.8: Visual Receptor Susceptibility to Change

Susceptibility	Receptor Type
High	• Residents. • People engaged in outdoor recreation, including users of public rights of way and promoted cycle routes, whose attention is likely to be focused on the landscape and on particular views. • Visitors to heritage assets or other attractions where views of the surroundings are an important part of the experience. • Communities where views contribute to the landscape setting and are enjoyed by residents. • Travellers on scenic routes where awareness of views is likely to be higher than on other routes.
Medium	• Travellers on road, rail or other transport routes. • People at their place of work whose focus may be on the setting or surroundings as part of their work.
Low	• People engaged in outdoor sport or recreation, which does not involve appreciation of views. • People at their place of work, whose attention may be focused on their work and where the setting is not important to the quality of working life.

Value of Views

8.6.23 Value attached to views can be indicated by the presence of heritage assets and planning designations or expressed through published or interpretive material. The criteria in Table 8.9 were used, along with professional judgement, to help determine the value of the views experienced by each visual receptor.

Table 8.9: Value of Views

Value	Views
High	Viewpoints from within or looking towards landscapes of international or national importance, typically recognised by designation or from a highly popular visitor attraction where the view forms an important part of the experience, or where the view has important cultural associations.
Medium	Viewpoints from within or looking towards landscapes of regional/local importance typically recognised by designation or from a visitor attraction where the view forms part of the experience, or where the view has a local cultural association.
Low	Viewpoints within landscapes with no designation, and where a view is not associated with a visitor attraction and has little or no cultural associations.

Evaluation of Visual Receptor Sensitivity

8.6.24 The sensitivity of visual receptors to changes in their views is evaluated in accordance with the criteria provided in Table 8.8 and Table 8.9 based on the susceptibility to change of the receptor and the value of views.

8.6.25 All residential receptors were assessed to be of high sensitivity as they are particularly susceptible to changes in their visual amenity.

8.6.26 Where two or more receptors of different sensitivity follow the same route (e.g. a road and a cycle path), they are assessed as one receptor and were assigned whichever sensitivity was the higher/highest to identify the scenario with the greater/greatest potential for a significant effect on a given route.

Magnitude

8.6.27 As noted in GLVIA3, the magnitude of visual change arising from the Proposed Development that would be experienced by a visual receptor relates to the size or scale of change, its geographical extent, and the duration and reversibility of change.

8.6.28 Magnitude of visual change was assessed on a scale of high, medium, low or negligible in line with the criteria provided in Table 8.10.

Table 8.10: Magnitude of Visual Change

Magnitude	Criteria
High	Where the Proposed Development or elements of it will dominate the view and fundamentally change its character and components over a large geographic area.
Medium	Where the Proposed Development or elements of it will be noticeable in the view, affecting its character and altering some of its components and features over a notable geographic area.
Low	Where the Proposed Development or elements of it will be a minor part of the overall view, over a small geographic area, and likely to be missed by the casual observer and/or scarcely appreciated.
Negligible	Only a small part of the Proposed Development would be discernible and/or at such a distance that no change to the existing view can be appreciated.

Impact Significance

8.6.29 The final step in the visual assessment requires the sensitivity of visual receptors and magnitude of visual impact to be combined to make an informed professional assessment on the significance of visual effect. Visual effects are assessed as major, moderate, minor, negligible or none.

8.6.30 Visual effects classified as major or moderate are considered significant in terms of the EIA Regulations. Effects may be either adverse or beneficial. For the purposes of this assessment all reported impacts are adverse unless otherwise stated.

8.6.31 The matrix in Table 8.11 provides a guide to combining visual sensitivity and magnitude of visual change, to determine the significance of visual effect. The matrix is not as a prescriptive tool and the analysis of potential impacts requires professional judgement and consideration of the relative importance of sensitivity and magnitude feeds into the overall decision and in some instances one or other may be judged as having a determining effect on the analysis. In such cases, where the significance of effect does not correlate with the matrix, the rationale for the departure is clearly set out for each receptor.

Table 8.11: Significance of Visual Effect

Sensitivity of Receptor	Magnitude of Visual Change			
	Negligible	**Low**	**Medium**	**High**
Negligible	Negligible	Negligible or Minor	Negligible or Minor	Minor
Low	Negligible or Minor	Negligible or Minor	Minor	Minor or Moderate
Medium	Negligible or Minor	Minor	Moderate	Moderate or Major
High	Minor	Minor or Moderate	Moderate or Major	Major
Very High	Minor	Moderate or Major	Major	Major

8.7 Key Parameters for Assessment

Maximum Design Scenario

8.7.1 The Maximum Design Scenario (MDS) identified in Table 8.12 has been selected to represent the 'worst-case' scenario with the potential to result in the greatest potential landscape and visual effects. Any other development scenario within the Project Design Envelope (PDE), would result in the same, or lesser effects. The MDS is based on the details provided in Volume 1, Chapter 3: The Proposed Development.

8.7.2 The MDS has been prepared using a precautionary approach taken due in the absence of specific information on the locations or form of individual Substation structures at PPP stage. The assessment has assumed the Substation Site area is raised to a maximum 15 m height from an indicative ground level elevation of 214 m AOD, to represent the maximum visibility of the Substation.

8.7.3 The landscape and visual assessments have taken into account embedded mitigation and an assumption that reinstatement planting would be undertaken. Impacts have been described in relation to a

scenario at winter of the year of opening (WYO) when planting has been implemented but has not yet established and a scenario at summer after 12 years when any planting would be reasonably established.

8.7.4 These scenarios indicate the degree to which mitigation planting would reduce impacts over time and are reported in Section 8.10.

Table 8.12: Maximum Design Scenario Considered for Each Potential Impact as Part of the Assessment of Likely Significant Environmental Effects on Landscape and Visual

Potential Impact	Phase			Maximum Design Scenario
	C	O&M	D	
Landscape and Visual Impact at Landfall	✓	×	×	At the Landfall area a 150 m x 200 m wide construction area has been assumed with access to the shoreline for vehicles and drilling equipment (drill rig) supported by a temporary construction compound and a permanent access in addition to temporary access routes. Indicative locations of HDD pads and access tracks have been used to predict MDS L&V impacts.
Landscape and Visual Impact at Landfall	×	✓	✓	During the O&M phase, the visibility of the Proposed Development within the Landfall area will be limited to a TJB manhole on the landward side of the Landfall area, the permanent access track and new landscape features including mitigation planting and seeding across the construction areas.
Landscape and Visual Impact for the Cable Corridors	✓	×	×	During the construction phase a maximum 50 m wide construction corridor has been assumed for the 220/275 kV Cable and a 35 m construction corridor for the 400 kV Cable. Indicative locations of HDD pads and access tracks have been used to predict MDS L&V impacts.
Landscape and Visual Impact for the Cable Corridors	×	✓	✓	It is anticipated that during the O&M phase the only remaining visible elements within the Cable Corridors will be the manhole covers over TJBs, permanent access tracks and new landscape features including mitigation planting and seeding across the construction areas.
Landscape and Visual Impact for the Substation	✓	×	×	During the construction phase the Substation has been assumed for L&V purposes to comprise one building extending across the Substation site. Construction works will include the introduction of access roads, temporary storage areas, construction compounds, felling of forestry and areas for landscaping and drainage mitigation. Indicative locations of transmission infrastructure, HDD pads and access tracks have been used to predict anticipated MDS L&V impacts.
Landscape and Visual Impact for the Substation	×	✓	✓	The Substation has been modelled and assessed as one building extending across the Substation site with an indicative ground elevation of 214 m AOD and a height of 15 m. Indicative locations of transmission infrastructure have been used to give an indication of anticipated MDS L&V impacts. The Substation will be screened where possible by landscape and ecological planting which may extend to 50 m beyond the final extents of the buildings. Without a detailed design for these buildings, any screening illustrated is indicative.

Impacts Scoped Out of the Assessment

8.7.5 The baseline environment and the Proposed Development description outlined in Volume 1, Chapter 2: The Proposed Development, has allowed

a number of impacts to be scoped out of the LVIA. These were proposed and confirmed to be scoped out in the Scoping Report (TWP, 2024) with no concerns raised by key consultees in the subsequent Scoping Opinion (Volume 2, Appendix 1.1: Scoping Opinion).

8.7.6 These impacts are outlined, together with a justification for scoping them out, in Table 8.13 with a tick confirming that the impact has been scoped out. Project phases refer to construction (C), operation and maintenance (O&M) and decommissioning (D).

Table 8.13: Impacts Scoped Out of the Assessment for Landscape and Visual

Potential Impact	Project Phase			Justification
	C	O&M	D	
Landfall – Landscape Character Impacts	×	✓	✓	O&M phase impacts scoped out as infrastructure at Landfall and within cable corridors would be underground and no significant landscape or visual effects are likely. Decommissioning phase impacts scoped out as no demolition would be required and no significant landscape or visual effects are likely.
Cable Corridors – Landscape Character Impacts	×	✓	✓	
Landfall – Visual Impacts	×	✓	✓	
Cable Corridors - Visual Impacts	×	✓	✓	

8.8 Baseline Environment

Overview of Baseline Environment

8.8.1 The following sections provide a summary of the Landscape and Visual baseline environment. Volume 2, Appendix 8.1: Landscape Character Types includes further details of the analysis undertaken to develop the landscape character baseline.

The PPP Application Boundary

8.8.2 The PPP Application Boundary comprises the Landfall at Benholm Beach, the 220/275 kV Cable Corridor which follows a north-northwest direction from Landfall for approximately 20 km, a Substation which will lie inland within Fetteresso Forest and an onward 400 kV Cable Corridor providing the connection to the National Grid electricity transmission network via the proposed Hurlie Substation.

8.8.3 The infrastructure required for the Proposed Development includes marine export cables above Mean Low Water Springs (MLWS) which would terminate after Landfall at an underground Transition Joint Bay (TJB). Underground HVAC onshore export cables (220/275 kV) which would run from the TJB to the proposed Substation, and underground 400 kV cables to the new SSEN-T Hurlie Substation which would provide the onward transmission of electricity generated by the wind farm to the National Grid electricity transmission network.

The Study Area

8.8.4 The LVIA Study Area covers a broadly north-south corridor of land within Aberdeenshire, lying to the west and south of Stonehaven. It encompasses various distinct land types, with the North Sea coastline to the south of Gourdon; farmland in the 'Howe of the Mearns' area including the villages of Arbuthnott and Drumlithie; and an upland landscape of plantation woodland at Fetteresso Forest, where both the proposed Substation and the SSEN-T Hurlie Substation would be located.

8.8.5 Physical features found within the Howe of the Mearns include numerous watercourses including the Carron Water, Bervie Water, Burn of Benholm, Drumlithie Burn, Peattie Burn, and Forthie Water and several small hills which are prominent within the rolling farmland landscape. These include Carmont Hill (236 m AOD), Craig Hill (AOD 174 m) and Knox Hill (159 m AOD). The Howe of the Mearns is associated with the novels of local author Lewis Grassic Gibbon with a museum, the Grassic Gibbon Centre, celebrating his life and works in Arbuthnott.

8.8.6 Fetteresso Forest, a predominantly commercial coniferous woodland, lies in the northern more elevated part of the LVIA Study Area and incorporates larger peaks including the Hill of Swanley (229 m AOD), the Hill of Three Stones (AOD 291 m) and the Hill of Trusta (320 m AOD). The forest is drained by numerous small watercourses that fall to the Cowie Water whilst the A957 Slug Road runs along the woodland's northeastern edge. The forest is managed as part of the Forestry and Land Scotland (FLS) Mearns Land Management Plan.

8.8.7 There are several existing wind developments that lie close to the LVIA Study Area including the large-scale developments with turbines over 100 m to tip at Tullo Wind Farm on the Hill of Garvock to the southwest of Arbuthnot, Meikle Carewe to the northwest of Stonehaven and Mid Hill Wind Farm located within Fetteresso Forest. Smaller scale wind developments lie within the LVIA Study Area, scattered within the agricultural landscape of the Howe of the Mearns. The most notable of these is Hillhead of Auquerie, which comprises three turbines 96 m to tip and lies on a low ridge of hills southeast of Stonehaven.

Landscape Character

8.8.8 This section outlines the existing landscape character of the Proposed Development and the LVIA Study Area.

National Landscape Character Types

8.8.9 Between 1994 and 1999, SNH (now NatureScot) commissioned, in partnership with others, a series of 30 regional LCA studies. Together, these identified, mapped and described the landscape character of all of Scotland, and provided the landscape foundation for natural heritage and planning policymaking. These documents were reviewed in 2019 and a 2019 Landscape Character Type Map and associated Landscape Character

Type (LCT) descriptions now supersede the original 1990s landscape character descriptions and mapping.

8.8.10 The LVIA Study Area is covered by four of the revised documents describing the LCTs and these documents identify key characteristics which provide a baseline against which the potential impact of any developments upon the landscape and visual amenity of the area can be judged. Key characteristics are considered by NatureScot to act as landscape indicators for decision making, as they encapsulate the predominant aspects of landscape character.

8.8.11 The three host LCTs which cover the LVIA Study Area are briefly described below and summaries of their key characteristics from their NatureScot descriptions together with their distance to the Proposed Development and sensitivity to change are provided in Table 8.14.

8.8.12 Detailed descriptions of the LCTs relating to location and context, topography, landcover, land use, settlement, landscape features, scale and the nature of views together with analysis on susceptibility, value and sensitivity are presented in Volume 2, Appendix 8.1: Landscape Character Types and their locations relative to the Proposed Development are illustrated on Figure 8.2 (Annex – Figures).

Landscape Character Types within the LVIA Study Area

8.8.13 The southern part of the Study Area, including the area at Landfall, is located within LCT 13 (Raised Beach Coast - Aberdeenshire), a narrow coastal strip between Gourdon and Johnshaven. The LCT comprises a raised beach which rises gradually from the coast to form a gently sloping apron of land that extends into a more pronounced landform inland. The raised beach creates a gentle transition between the land and sea which contrasts strongly with the distinctive cliffs and rocky edges of the Aberdeenshire coastline further to the north.

8.8.14 The central part of the Study Area is located within LCT 24 (Coastal Farmed Ridges and Hills - Aberdeenshire). LCT 24 comprises an extensive area of open undulating farmland with narrow ravines and shallow valleys cutting through the broad ridges to the coast. The large scale arable and pasture fields have a distinctive red-pink soil and broadleaf woodlands follow water courses which emphasise the landform.

8.8.15 The northern part of the Study Area, including the Substation Search Area, is located within LCT 29 (Summits and Plateaux - Aberdeenshire), an expansive upland plateau with a smooth rolling landform and rounded hill summits which fringe the Cairngorm massif. LCT 29 has a distinct southern edge which lies within the Study Area with the steep scarp slopes which rise to the plateau contrasting with the adjacent expansive low-lying farmed and settled Howe of the Mearns.

Table 8.14: Landscape Character Types within the LVIA Study Area

Landscape Character Type (LCT)	Key Characteristics (from NatureScot LCT 2019)	Sensitivity
LCT 13 (Raised Beach Coast - Aberdeenshire)	Raised beaches 50 to 600 metres wide are backed by cliffs. Soft Old Red Sandstone cliffs have a tumbling, worn profile rather than a sheer edge although steeper volcanic cliffs occur to the south of St Cyrus. Gently sloping agricultural hinterland descends gradually to cliffs or, where cliffs are low, almost to the sea. Cliff slopes are well-vegetated with grasses and scrub. Raised beach platforms encompass open farmland, marsh and reed beds, with little woodland, and are edged by a narrow sandy and shingle beach with some rocky areas. Villages are perched on, or set back from, cliff tops. Farms and caravan sites are prominent features on sloping agricultural hinterland. Sea views provide a sense of space and immense scale.	High
LCT 24 (Coastal Farmed Ridges and Hills - Aberdeenshire)	A large scale and open landscape of smoothly rolling ridges and shallow valleys. Narrow ravines cutting through the ridges towards the coast. Large fields of arable land and pasture with red-pink soils present a rich tapestry of colours with the strong patchwork pattern influenced by different crops and ploughed fields. Few hedges or dykes. Sparse woodland with coniferous shelterbelts planted on some ridges. Broadleaf woodlands, although small, commonly emphasise the landform, tracing water courses or planted on knolls. Scattered settlement pattern with varied architectural styles including some large stately homes, farms and traditional cottages, often built of local red sandstone. Comprehensive network of minor roads, as well as the main A90 route. A concentration of Bronze Age burial cairns often focussed on hilltops with views to the sea. Telecommunication masts located on the highest hills. Frequent single and small groups of large wind turbines. Strong coastal influence particularly where more open slopes fall gently to the top of cliffs or raised beach allowing views of the sea. Sea views to the east, with views westwards across the Howe of the Mearns.	High

Landscape Character Type (LCT)	Key Characteristics (from NatureScot LCT 2019)	Sensitivity
LCT 29 (Summits and Plateaux - Aberdeenshire)	An expansive upland plateau with a smooth rolling landform and rounded hill summits. Landform is more complex along the Highland Boundary Fault. Foreground to the Cairngorm massif and Cairngorms National Park. Backdrop in views from the north from Lower Deeside and the fringes of Aberdeen city. Extensive central and western ridges covered with expansive heather and grass moorland. Regionally prominent hills. Coniferous forested lower hills, particularly extensive in the north-east. Wind farm development also present in this area. A patchwork of green pasture extends high into narrow valleys on the fringes of these uplands. Unexpected pockets of farmland and isolated farms and estate buildings associated lower ground in part of the core of these uplands. Derelict grey stone cottages are occasional features amidst open moorland. Numerous old routeways popular with walkers and these, and the B974 Cairn O'Mount road, offer commanding views to the Howe of Mearns and the coast, and to Deeside. Wild character experienced in the less modified central and western parts of this landscape. Dramatic juxtaposition of the steep scarp slopes of these rugged uplands with the expansive low-lying farmed and settled Howe of the Mearns.	Medium/ Low

Designations

8.8.16 The LVIA Study Area does not fall within any national landscape designations, but the area around the encompasses a regional landscape designation, the Southeast Aberdeenshire Coast Special Landscape Area (SLA), near the Landfall which covers the Aberdeenshire coastline to the south of Aberdeen, see Figure 8.3a (Annex – Figures).

8.8.17 There are two Garden and Designed Landscapes (GDL) located within the LVIA Study Area; Arbuthnott House GDL and Glenbervie House GDL which both lie to the west of the PPP Application Boundary and at approximately 450 m and 410 m respectively from the indicative 220/275 kV cable centreline, see Figure 8.3b (Annex – Figures).

8.8.18 Three Conservation Areas (CA) lie within the LVIA Study Area outwith the PPP Application Boundary; Benholm CA lies approximately 400 m to the south of the indicative 220/275 kV cable centreline, Johnshaven CA lies approximately 2 km to the south and Kirkton of Fetteresso CA lies approximately 4.8 km to the east, on the western edge of Stonehaven, see Figure 8.3a (Annex – Figures).

8.8.19 Scheduled Monuments (SM) including cairns and historic settlements are located within the Study Area. The settings of these SM are assessed in detail within Volume 1, Chapter 9: Cultural Heritage and shown in Figure 9.1.

8.8.20 Baseline descriptions of the landscape designations detailed above are described below and their locations in relation to the Proposed Development are presented in Figure 8.3a-c (Annex – Figures).

Special Landscape Areas

Southeast Aberdeenshire Coast SLA

8.8.21 Aberdeenshire Council identify and describe the Southeast Aberdeenshire Coast SLA in Appendix 13 of the Aberdeenshire LDP and Policy E2.2 of the Aberdeenshire DLP states that any development should "*enhance the special qualities and character of the SLA*" (see Table 8.2).

8.8.22 The Southeast Aberdeenshire Coast SLA covers the southern extents of the LVIA Study Area and comprises a narrow strip running along the Aberdeenshire coastline from Portlethan to Montrose Bay. Within the LVIA Study Area the extent of the SLA varies from approximately 1 km – 300 m wide. The SLA is orientated southeast towards the North Sea, with long distance views across the generally open agricultural farmland to the sea, a unifying component of the landscape. North of Bervie Bay, the coastline is more rugged, with intricate features such as stacks and arches whilst south of Bervie Bay the coastline forms a low raised beach backed by cliffs.

8.8.23 The following Special Qualities of the SLA are listed within Aberdeenshire DLP Appendix 13 and have potential to be impacted by the Proposed Development:

- Rugged and intricate scenery of weathered coastal cliffs and raised beach landforms, including sites of geological interest.
- Intact traditional fishing villages with diminutive harbours including Gourdon.
- Coastal routes include the A92, east coast railway, footpaths and National Cycle Network (Route 1), all offering expansive views out to sea.
- Panoramic views out to sea from headlands and beaches, and important views along the coast.

Gardens and Designed Landscapes

8.8.24 GDL in Scotland are considered to have national importance and are designated by HES and listed in the GDL Inventory (Historic Environment Scotland (HES), (n.d.)) which provides information on the locations, settings and other aspects of each GDL. Summaries of the information relevant to LVIA and the setting of each of the GDL falling within the LVIA Study Area are provided below.

Arbuthnott House GDL

8.8.25 Arbuthnott House GDL is located outwith the PPP Application Boundary approximately 450 m west from the indicative cable centreline at closest and the eastern part of the GDL lies within the LVIA Study Area.

8.8.26 The GDL comprises a late 18th-century landscape with 19th-century overlay which provides an outstanding setting for the 15th century, Category A listed, Arbuthnott House. The house stands on the north bank of the Bervie Water amid a designed landscape situated mostly within a steep sided wooded valley. The Bothenoth Burn, a tributary of the Bervie Water, runs north-south through the policies before joining the Bervie Water to the east of Arbuthnott House.

8.8.27 The northern boundary of the GDL is formed by the B967 and the policies extend south to Birniehill Plantation, east to Arbuthnott Church and west to the Steps of Arbuthnott. Distant views to the Grampian Mountains in the west are obtained from the GDL but views of the immediate surrounding undulating agricultural landscape of the Mearns district are restricted due to the valley setting and the surrounding estate woodlands.

Glenbervie House GDL

8.8.28 Glenbervie House GDL is located approximately 410 m west from cable centreline and lies within the northern part of the LVIA Study Area.

8.8.29 The GDL comprises Glenbervie House, a Category 'B' listed castle, which is situated by the confluence of the Pilketty Burn and the Bervie Water on the edge of the Howe of the Mearns. The house stands in the south-western corner of the designed landscape which extends north to the main road between Glenbervie and Drumlithie, south to the Water of Bervie, east to the edge of a shelterbelt which encloses the fields, and west to Glenbervie village church and graveyard.

8.8.30 The steep banks of the two river valleys lie to the west and south of Glenbervie House and the surrounding landscape is largely agricultural. There are no significant views out, except to the east across the parkland.

Conservation Areas

8.8.31 Conservation Areas are defined as areas of special architectural or historic interest. Aberdeenshire Council have designated three Conservation Areas within the LVIA Study Area and have produced appraisals and management plans to aid the development process (Aberdeenshire Council, (2014); Aberdeenshire Council, (2017); and Aberdeenshire Council (2019)).

Benholm CA

8.8.32 Benholm CA is located approximately 650 m to the west of the cable centreline and approximately 500 m from the coast. As the village's name suggests, the local topography displays the characteristics of hill (ben) and low lying ground (holme). Two watercourses run through the CA; Burn

of Benholm and Castle Burn, which influence the layout of the settlement and its setting.

8.8.33 Access to the village is via bridges across the burns, with vernacular sandstone and slate roofed buildings located on a promontory between the watercourses whilst the ancient semi-natural woodland which follows the steep sided riverbanks provides a striking wooded setting. Views from within the CA are mostly local and small scale and the settlement's irregular layout together with the wooded character creates a distinct sense of enclosure.

Johnshaven CA

8.8.34 Johnshaven is a traditional Aberdeenshire fishing village set around a natural harbour with a single access road climbing a steep slope to the A92, linking the village to its agricultural hinterland. Johnshaven CA is located on a narrow section of the Aberdeenshire raised beach and lies outwith the PPP Application Boundary and approximately 2.2 km west of the indicative cable centreline.

8.8.35 The CA includes the harbour and the historic village. The buildings mostly comprise simple 18th and 19th century terraced fishing cottages facing the coast, with their dense form contrasting sharply with the openness of the coast and the countryside beyond.

8.8.36 Long distance views out to sea and to Lunen Bay in the south are obtained from the harbour and seaside streets. Views from the CA along the coast to the north are more limited, either by landform or vegetation. Vistas from more inland parts of the CA are restricted by built form giving a character of enclosure and shelter to the heart of the village.

Kirkton of Fetteresso CA

8.8.37 Kirkton of Fetteresso CA is located approximately 4.8 km to the east of the cable centreline on the western boundary of Stonehaven although its special character comes largely from its retained separation for the larger settlement. The landscape within the CA is undulating and the pattern of development informal and meandering and surrounded by mature woodland which gives a sense of intimacy. The settlement has a traditional vernacular character with the Kirk and kirkyard located at a higher level forming a viewpoint.

Tree Preservation Orders and Ancient Woodland

8.8.38 Five areas of trees or woodland have been given Tree Preservation Orders (TPO) by Aberdeenshire Council within the LVIA Study Area. One TPO area surrounds Lathallan School in Benholm, two TPO areas are located in the southern part of Inverbervie and two TPO areas lie on the northern and eastern edges of Drumlithie, within the churchyard and close to the Glenbervie Road. None of these lie within the PPP Application Boundary and due to their distance from the Proposed Development, none of the

TPO are at potential risk of any damage or felling so they have not been included within the impact assessment.

8.8.39 There are pockets of ancient woodland (AWI) within the LVIA Study Area that have been designated in NatureScot's Ancient Woodland Inventory. Most notably these surround the numerous watercourses that flow through the area including the Burn of Benholm, Bervie Water at Arbuthnott and Glenbervie and the Carron Water. There are also stands of AWI woodland in the northern part of Fetteresso Forest, Arbuthnott House GDL and along some older field boundaries within the Howe of the Mearns. None of the areas lie within the PPP Application Boundary or have potential risk of damage or felling and thus they have not been further considered within the chapter.

8.8.40 The locations of TPO and AWI within the LVIA Study Area are shown on Figure 8.3 (Annex – Figures).

Visual Baseline

8.8.41 The aim of the visual assessment is to evaluate the possible impacts on views and visual amenity that receptors (people) are likely to experience. This section identifies the visual receptors who are likely to be affected by the Proposed Development and evaluates their sensitivity to the visual changes resulting from the Proposed Development. Key viewpoints have been chosen in consultation with Aberdeenshire Council to represent the views potentially experienced by these receptors. The cluster of viewpoints to the north of the LVIA Study Area reflects the likely visibility of the Proposed Development, with the cables and landfall mostly concealed from view underground and the Substation predicted to be the most noticeable element within the landscape.

8.8.42 The types of visual receptors considered include:

- Residents within settlements (towns, villages hamlets) and individual residential properties.
- Travellers on roads.
- Travellers on railways.
- Walkers on public rights of way.
- Cyclists on National Cycle Network (NCN) routes.
- Visitors to historic monuments, outdoor recreational resources and tourist attractions.

8.8.43 The locations of settlements and route corridors in relation to the Proposed Development are shown on Figure 8.4 (Annex – Figures).

Settlements

8.8.44 The Proposed Development lies approximately 20 km southwest of the city of Aberdeen. Stonehaven, the nearest large town, lies approximately 5 km east of the Substation Search Area and 16 km north of the Landfall area. The ZTV in Figure 8.6 (Annex – Figures) indicates no theoretical

visibility of the proposed Substation from either of these larger settlements or the smaller settlements within the LVIA Study Area, with the exception of Rickarton.

8.8.45 The smaller settlements that fall within the LVIA Study Area are described below.

Arbuthnott

8.8.46 Arbuthnott is a hamlet set on a gently sloping hillside to the north of the Bervie Water. The settlement lies to the north and east of the estate of Arbuthnott House within the rolling fields of the Howe of the Mearns. The settlement comprises two parts, a linear collection of properties accessed from the B967 and a group of properties lying close to Arbuthnott Church. The nationally renowned author, Lewis Grassic Gibbon grew up near Arbuthnott and wrote about rural life in the Mearns. Bloomfield, his home, which lies approximately 2.6 km to the north of the settlement is currently proposed to be listed. A museum and café named the Lewis Grassic Gibbon Centre is located within Arbuthnott Village Hall. The indicative 220/275 kV Cable centreline runs approximately 450 m to the east of the village and 400 m to the west of Bloomfield.

Benholm

8.8.47 Benholm is small, nucleated village set amongst the wooded confluence of the Burn of Benholm and Castle Burn. The village is centred around the kirk and much of the settlement is designated as a Conservation Area. The Landfall area and indicative 220/275 kV Cable centreline run to the north and east of Benholm at 650 m at the closest point.

Newmill and Buckie's Mill

8.8.48 Newmill and Buckie's Mill are adjoining hamlets which comprise approximately eight and four properties respectively, located on the lower slopes of the Carron Water valley. The buildings are centred around several former mills and the Dundee to Aberdeen railway line runs to the east of Newmill. The indicative 220/275 kV Cable centreline runs across the valley approximately 210 m to the west of the Buckie's Mill at the closest point.

Drumlithie

8.8.49 Drumlithie is a former weaving village located on the southern bank of the Drumlithie Burn and set amongst open gently undulating countryside of the Howe of the Mearns. It is a nucleated settlement set low into the landscape with its most notable landmark the steeple of the kirk. The indicative 220/275 kV Cable centreline runs to the west of Drumlithie at 90 m at the closest point.

Gourdon

8.8.50 Gourdon is a coastal fishing village which comprises two distinct upper and lower areas separated by a steep landform. The picturesque lower part of the village is located on the Aberdeenshire raised beach and

comprises traditional fishing cottages densely set around a natural harbour. The upper part of the village lies above a steep brae with many locations having extensive views out to sea and to the south along the coastline. The Landfall area and indicative 220/275 kV Cable centreline run to the south and west of Gourdon at 1.4 km at closest.

Inverbervie

8.8.51 Inverbervie is a small town located on the southern bank of the mouth of the river Bervie. It lies on a raised beach behind the curving shingle Bervie Bay and was previously important for fishing and the flax industry. Although the town is located adjacent to the coast, it is mostly built above the bay on flat land which gives the dense townscape an enclosed character. Only a few locations on the edge of the town afford long distance views either out to sea or inland. The indicative 220/275 kV Cable centreline runs to the south and west of Inverbervie at 1.4 km at closest.

Johnshaven

8.8.52 Johnshaven is a traditional coastal fishing village set around a rocky natural inlet. The historic centre of the village surrounding the inner and outer harbours is built on a narrow strip of the Aberdeenshire raised beach and as set out above, is designated as a Conservation Area. The rest of the village comprises a more recent inland residential extension which rises a steep slope towards the A92. The Landfall area and indicative 220/275 kV Cable centreline run to the northeast of the village at approximately 2 km at closest.

Rickarton

8.8.53 Rickarton is a linear hamlet located along the elevated A957 Slug Road, within the open pastural foothills which lie to the north of Fetteresso Forest. The properties are mostly clustered around the southern edge of Slug Road and some have aspects south onto the forested Hill of Swanley. The ZTV in Figure 8.1 (indicates theoretical visibility of the proposed Substation from all the properties in Rickarton. The Substation is located to the southeast of Rickarton at 1.8 km at closest.

Tannachie

8.8.54 Tannachie comprises a remote hamlet of modern properties located on a flat area on the southern slopes of the Hill of Tannachie, which allows extensive views across the surrounding rural landscape of open pasture. The indicative 220/275 kV Cable centreline runs to the north and west of Tannachie at approximately 330 m at closest.

Individual properties

8.8.55 A number of scattered individual farmsteads and other properties outwith the main settlements lie close to and potentially have views towards elements of the Proposed Development. Individual properties and property clusters have been identified as being at risk of significant visual

effects from the Proposed Development after an evaluation of baseline factors, consideration of theoretical visibility of the Substation indicated in the Zone of Theoretical Visibility (ZTV) in Figure 8.6 (Annex – Figures) and their proximity to elements of construction works. These properties are listed with their baseline information and assessed separately in Volume 2, Appendix 8.2: Visual Assessment of Individual Dwellings and Property Clusters. Their locations are shown on Figure 8.5 (Annex – Figures).

Transport Routes

8.8.56 The ZTV in Figure 8.6 (Annex – Figures) indicates theoretical visibility of the proposed Substation from a section of the A957 Slug Road and from some of the local paths within Fetteresso Forest. None of the other roads, rail lines, cycle routes or core paths within the LVIA Study Area display theoretical visibility of the Substation.

Roads

A92

8.8.57 The A92 runs through the LVIA Study Area close to the coast from Johnshaven to Inverbervie, passing across the indicative 220/275 kV Cable Corridor close to the access road for Nether Benholm. The road is roughly parallel to the coastline, crossing the raised beach between Benholm and Gourdon through open agricultural fields which allow extensive views inland and over the North Sea. On the southern approach to Gourdon the road lies at the foot of a cutting with a large curved engineered slope screening views inland and to the south.

A90

8.8.58 The A90 runs from Perth to Aberdeen and cuts through the arable fields of the Howe of the Mearns which are interspersed with small blocks of woodland. Further north the route bypasses Stonehaven, following the settlement's western edge. The section of the route that passes through the LVIA Study Area runs relatively level, frequently passing the undulating landscape on low cuttings or embankments and crosses the indicative 220/275 kV Cable Corridor to the south of Drumlithie.

A957 (Slug Road)

8.8.59 The A957 is known locally as the Slug Road and runs northwest from the centre of Stonehaven, the road rises to the forested plateau, passing the smaller scale farmed valleys on the edge of Fetteresso Forest. The ZTV in Figure 8.6 (Annex – Figures) indicates theoretical visibility of the proposed Substation from a section of the road between Rickarton and Cairn Mon Earn. The Substation is located to the south of the road at 1.6 km at closest.

B967

8.8.60 The B967 connects the A92 to the A90, running from the A92 north of Inverbervie, passing the village of Arbuthnott and joining the A90 close to Fordoun. The road passes thorough the rolling agricultural landscape of the Howe of the Means and crosses over the indicative 220/275 kV Cable Corridor to the east of Arbuthnott.

Glenbervie Road

8.8.61 The Glenbervie Road runs roughly parallel with and to the north of the A90, connecting the A90 and the villages of Drumlithie and Glenbervie. The route runs through open gently undulating arable fields and crosses the indicative 220/275 kV Cable Corridor approximately 200 m to the west of Drumlithie.

Auchenblae Road

8.8.62 The Auchenblae Road runs east to west along the base of the Brae of Glenbervie connecting Stonehaven with Auchenblae. This mostly straight road gives panoramic views across fields laid to pasture and crosses the indicative 220/275 kV Cable Corridor close to the bridge across the Burn of Annamuick.

Rail Lines

Dundee to Aberdeen Railway Line

8.8.63 The Dundee to Aberdeen railway line runs inland from west to northeast through the LVIA Study Area, crossing over the Bervie Water, passing close to Drumlithie and Newmill and then following the Carron Water valley to the western edge of Stonehaven. The route frequently runs in cutting but the section south of Drumlithie where it crosses the indicative 220/275 kV Cable Corridor is on embankment.

Core Paths

8.8.64 Aberdeenshire Council have published a Core Paths Plan and Map detailing a framework of routes which service the community. The Core Paths which fall within the LVIA Study Area are listed and described below.

Coastal Path: Johnshaven to Gourdon

8.8.65 A section of the Aberdeenshire coastal path from Johnshaven to Inverbervie which follows the route of the disused Montrose to Bervie railway. The path follows the shoreline and crosses the LVIA Study Area adjacent to Benholm Beach where there are panoramic views east out to the North Sea, northeast-southwest along the coastline and west inland across the open rolling fields to the raised beach landform above. Longer distance views inland at Gourdon and Johnshaven are restricted by landform.

Inverbervie: Old Post Road

8.8.66 The route follows the Old Coach Road through a rolling landscape of large scale open arable fields from Benholm village to Balandro.

Mill of Benholm to Coast

8.8.67 The route follows the wooded glen of the Burn of Benholm from Benholm village joining the coastal path at Haughs Bay.

Mid Kinmonth Circular – by Drumlithie

8.8.68 A short circular route of approximately 3 km which starts at Drumlithie Church and follows the course of the Drumlithie Burn before passing through open rolling fields to the northwest of the village.

Benholm Bridge to Johnshaven

8.8.69 This route follows the footpath of the A92 from Benholm Bridge to Johnshaven. As it follows exactly the same route as the A92 it has been included within the A92 assessment and receptor sensitivity has been adjusted accordingly.

Cycle Routes

8.8.70 Within the LVIA Study Area, there is one National Cycle Network (NCN) route.

NCN 1

8.8.71 NCN 1 crosses the LVIA Study Area running parallel to the coast, following the course of the Johnshaven to Gourdon coastal path; it has been assessed with the core path.

Visitor Attractions

8.8.72 Fetteresso Forest, a predominantly commercial coniferous woodland lies in the northern more elevated part of the LVIA Study Area where the Substation is to be located. The woodland is popular with walkers, mountain bikers and horse riders and there are two FLS managed car parks, enabling public access to the southern part of the forest at Hill of Quithel and to the northern part from the A957 Slug Road near Blackburn Bridge.

8.8.73 Routes within Fetteresso Forest are not included within the Core Path plan but are well used so have been included within the assessment. These include the Fetteresso Forest Circular, the Hill of Three Stones Circular and local paths on the Hill of Trusta and Hill of Swanley.

8.8.74 Visitor attractions within the LVIA Study Area include the Grassic Gibbon Centre in Arbuthnott, Maggie Law Maritime Museum in Gourdon and the Mill of Benholm, a restored water powered meal mill with gardens and a café.

8.8.75 Outdoor activities and tourist facilities within the LVIA Study Area include a holiday centre specialising in paddleboarding at Catterline Bay, a campsite at Johnshaven and Inverbervie Caravan Park.

Viewpoints

8.8.76 Assessment viewpoints have been selected in consultation with Aberdeenshire Council and chosen to represent a variety of different visual receptors and a range of distances, directions and elevations from the Landfall area, the Cable Corridors and the Substation of the Proposed Development. The ZTV was used to identify areas within the LVIA Study Area that would have theoretical visibility of the Substation and viewpoints chosen to illustrate representative views where there would be potential for visual impacts from the Proposed Development.

8.8.77 The representative viewpoints are set out in Table 8.15 and their locations illustrated on Figure 8.4 (Annex – Figures). The sensitivity of both residents, cyclists and walkers is evaluated as High. Baseline descriptions of the viewpoints are presented within Table 8.21.

Table 8.15: Viewpoint Locations

VP No.	Viewpoint	Grid Reference	Distance to Cable Centreline/ Substation	Receptor(s)	Sensitivity
VP1	A92 nr Nether Knox Cottage / NCN1/ Southeast Aberdeenshire Coast SLA	381434, 769671	80 m to cable centreline	Residents/ Road Users /Cyclists	High
VP2	Drumlithie / Mid Kinmonth Circular Core Path	378331, 781000	170 m to cable centreline	Residents / Walkers	High
VP3	Carron Water valley near Buckie's Mill	378235, 783071	170 m to cable centreline	Residents / Road Users	High
VP4	Auchenblae Road near Annamuick	379543, 784802	180 m to cable centreline	Residents / Road Users	High
VP5	Hillhead of Auquhirie	383223, 783597	4.3 km to Substation	Residents / Road Users	High
VP6	Hill of Swanley, Fetteresso Forest	381241 787268	760 m to Substation	Walkers	High
VP7	Smiddy Cottage / Clachanshiels	379960, 787956	540 m to Substation	Residents	High
VP8	A957 (Slug Road) at Rickarton nr Bogheadly	381043, 788922	1.7 km to Substation	Residents / Road Users	High

Future Baseline Scenario

8.8.78 The EIA Regulations require that "*a description of the relevant aspects of the current state of the environment (baseline scenario) and an outline of the likely evolution thereof without implementation of the project as far as natural changes from the baseline scenario can be assessed with reasonable effort, on the basis of the availability of environmental information and scientific knowledge*" is included within the EIA Report. An assessment of the '*without development*' future baseline conditions has been carried out and is described within this section.

8.8.79 If the Proposed Development does not come forward, the Substation Search Area within Fetteresso Forest is likely to continue as an actively managed commercial forest and its land use is not expected to change.

8.8.80 The landscape and visual amenity of the wider LVIA Study Area is likely to be subject to 'forces for change' affecting the evolution of the landscape and the perception of it in the future. Although prediction of these is necessarily speculative, those of particular relevance are discussed below.

8.8.81 Settlements are likely to continue to change the nature of the area on a local level. It is likely that there would be some expansion of settlements which may result in the construction of additional individual homes across the rural area and the expansion of existing hamlets and villages.

8.8.82 Current proposals indicate that it is likely that the electricity transmission network will be reinforced and extended within the LVIA Study Area, predominantly to connect further renewable energy generation. Examples of this include the construction of SSEN-T's Hurlie Substation and additional Overhead Lines (OHLs) connecting to the existing Fetteresso Substation.

8.8.83 Sustainable energy developments are being promoted by the Scottish Government and have potential to increase in number within the LVIA Study Area. Energy development for both domestic and commercial use is likely to intensify within the LVIA Study Area with many small-scale wind turbines, solar and battery storage developments already proposed by local farmers and landowners along with the further development of larger wind farms on uplands and forestry land by larger developers. Cumulatively these may influence the existing rural character of the current agricultural landscape within the Howe of the Mearns.

Data Limitations and Assumptions

8.8.84 The Project Design Envelope (PDE) described in Volume 1, Chapter 3: The Proposed Development has been used to inform the assessment and assumptions and limitations to the assessment have arisen due to the inherently indicative nature of the PDE design.

8.8.85 The assessments are based on an indicative cable routes and a maximum design envelope (MDS) for the Substation location. These elements will

be subject to further detailed design post consent and may change; the Substation MDS provides a worst case scenario and the indicative Cable Route provides a realistic scenario for assessment and have been based on pre-FEED taking account of environmental and technical constraints and together provide an appropriate MDS for assessment.

8.8.86 For the construction of the Substation, it has been assumed that during the construction period vegetation will be cleared up to the indicative Bowdun Substation Site area with retention of some forestry to the north of the Substation (see Plate 2.9 within Volume 1, Chapter 2: The Proposed Development.

8.8.87 An indicative 220/275 kV Cable Route has been used, with associated assumptions including a maximum construction corridor of 50 m centred upon the centreline within which all vegetation is expected to be cleared. Indicative locations of HDD pads and access routes have aided analysis of landscape and visual effects. The locations of these elements are indicated on the drawing presented in Volume 1, Chapter 1: Introduction, Figure 1.2 and shown within the wireframes on the viewpoint Volume 3: Visualisations, Figures 8.8 to 8.15.

8.8.88 The field assessment and photography were undertaken during the summer months with trees and woodland in leaf, so professional judgement was required to anticipate the changes within the landscape in the winter months when the trees would not be in leaf.

8.8.89 The baseline for the assessment has been informed by O.S. digital mapping and O.S, Addressbase data which will not necessarily include all newly built features and housing within the LVIA Study Area.

8.8.90 Uncertainty regarding the details of the construction process and phasing is a limitation of the LVIA and CLVIA, however, professional judgement and experience, in addition to the constructability review undertaken by the engineering team has been used to inform the assessment of impacts.

8.9 Embedded Measures and Mitigation

8.9.1 As part of the Proposed Development design process, a number of embedded measures have been proposed to reduce the potential for impacts on Landscape and Visual (see Table 8.16); these will be included in a Landscape Design and Management Plan which will be developed at the MSC stage.

8.9.2 In accordance with the conditions of contract between the Applicant and the Principal Contractor a Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP) would be produced in discussion with statutory stakeholders, prior to the commencement of the construction of the Proposed Development. It is anticipated that the CEMP would include embedded measures and be secured through a suitably worded planning condition.

8.9.3 There is a commitment to implementing these Embedded Mitigation measures, and thus they are assumed as integral to the design in the assessment presented in Section 8.10 (i.e. the determination of magnitude, and therefore significance, assumes implementation of these measures).

Table 8.16: Embedded Measures Adopted as Part of the Proposed Development

Reference	Embedded Measures Adopted as Part of the Proposed Development	Justification
GEN1	The design of buildings and structures would be informed by specialist aesthetic advice to reduce impacts on both landscape and visual receptors and aid landscape fit. This approach may be particularly important as screening for visual receptors to the north may not be always practical due to the inherent restraints of the local landform. Earthwork design will aim to minimise the impact of cuttings and embankment slopes and to allow visual integration of the Proposed Development with the surrounding hills. Lighting design should achieve the necessary safety standards of useful light, while minimising intrusiveness in the form of spillage, glare and reflection.	Reduce landscape and visual impacts
GEN 2	Construction vehicles will be confined to their defined working areas and access corridors.	Limit damage to soils from heavy plant compaction to ensure undisturbed areas are maximised.
	The construction programme will be kept to, as minimum a practicable time as feasible and clearing of areas for construction will be carried out as close as possible to works commencing. Reinstatement shall be undertaken as soon as practicable after sections of work are complete.	Reduce the duration of any landscape and visual impacts.
	As far as practicable, construction plant and material storage areas will be appropriately sited to minimise their landscape and visual impact and will not be left in place for longer than required for construction purposes.	Minimise adverse effects on views and visual amenity from plant and construction works.

Reference	Embedded Measures Adopted as Part of the Proposed Development	Justification
	An Aboricultural Method Statement (AMS) will be prepared to mitigate and manage impacts on existing trees and shrubs	Existing landscape features to be protected to maintain the quality of the local landscape character and ecological resource.
GEN3	Soil management measures will be incorporated into the detailed CEMP in a Soil Management Plan (SMP), which will be prepared in accordance with Defra Construction Code of Practice for the Sustainable Use of Soils on Construction Sites (PB13298), Institute of Quarrying (IQ) Good Practice Guide for Handling Soils in Mineral Workings (IQ, 2021) and British Society of Soil Science (BSSS) Working with Soil Guidance Note on Benefitting from Soil Management in Development and Construction (BSSS, 2022).	To protect soil quality for the purposes of landscape planting and agricultural restoration.
LAN1	Planting design would be implemented to aid integration of the Proposed Development into the existing woodland setting. This would be achieved by careful design to maximise screening where possible whilst complementing the existing adjacent landscape and will be delivered in a Landscape Design & Management Plan	To protect existing landscape features and enhance where feasible and appropriate.

8.10 Assessment of Significance

8.10.1 This section summarises the potential effects arising from the construction, O&M and decommissioning phases of the Proposed Development. An assessment of the likely significance of the effects of the Proposed Development on the Landscape and Visual receptors caused by each identified impact is given below.

Construction Phase

Potential Sources of Construction Effects

8.10.2 During the proposed construction period, there would be landscape and visual effects arising from the presence of partially constructed infrastructure and construction activities (as described in Chapter 3: The Proposed Development).

8.10.3 Construction activities related to the introduction of the Substation at Fetteresso Forest are expected to occur over a period of up to four years.

8.10.4 Construction activities at the Landfall area are expected to occur over a period of 12 to 15 months. Construction activities for the Cable Corridors, although highly dependent on local conditions, have an assumed progression rate of approximately 400 m every 4-6 weeks, with HDD locations taking approximately 3 months.

8.10.5 Landscape and visual effects occurring during the construction phase are mostly considered to be short-term and partly reversible. Potential sources of effects during the four year construction period include:

- phased felling of commercial woodland at Fetteresso Forest;
- removal of areas of woodland, hedgerow and scrub vegetation;
- construction of temporary and permanent access tracks;
- introduction of construction activity and haulage routes with vehicles moving machinery and materials to and from the site;
- topsoil stripping and temporary soil storage heaps;
- erection of control buildings and site compounds;
- introduction of drainage channels and Sustainable Drainage System (SuDS) features;
- changed appearance of the landform as a result of large-scale earthworks and/or rock cuttings on the hillside and the potential requirement for reinforced slopes and/or retaining structures within Fetteresso Forest;
- introduction of Transition Joint Bays (TJBs), drilling pads and drilling equipment;
- installation of the transformers, conductors and associated electrical equipment together with steel work supporting the electrical equipment;
- use of lighting associated with working during hours of darkness, notably during Autumn and Winter;
- removal of temporary compounds and restoration of disturbed areas;
- preliminary planting for early establishment of vegetation to filter and/or screen views; and
- implementation and establishment of remaining landscape planting.

Operation and Maintenance Phase

Potential Sources of Operation and Maintenance Effects

8.10.6 Landscape and visual effects occurring during the operation and maintenance phase will include:

- The introduction of large-scale structures associated with the Substation including the platform, Substation buildings and car park.
- The introduction of SuDS features.
- The introduction of directional lighting for the Substation.

- A changed appearance of the landform as a result of large-scale earthworks and/or rock cuttings on the hillside and the potential requirement for reinforced slopes and/or retaining structures.
- Operation of new permanent access tracks across the Substation Site with associated elements including signage, fencing and road traffic.
- Visibility of manhole covers over link boxes within the Cable Corridors and associated Cable maintenance.
- The loss of vegetation including scrub, field boundary hedgerows, woodland and forestry.
- The loss of farmland, alteration to field patterns and changes to field boundaries.
- Establishment of reinstatement seeding and planting.

Landscape Assessment

Landscape Character

8.10.7 The following section provides an assessment of the construction phase and O&M phase on the three LCTs which fall within the LVIA Study Area, all of which would receive direct, physical impacts as a result of the Proposed Development.

8.10.8 Baseline descriptions of each of the LCT are detailed in Volume 2, Appendix 8.1: Landscape Character Types, together with explanatory text on the sensitivity of each landscape receptor which has been derived from judgements on susceptibility and value. The assessment of the impact the Proposed Development would have on the landscape during the construction and O&M phases is presented in Table 8.17.

8.10.9 The locations of the LCT are illustrated in Figure 8.2 (Annex – Figures) and in combination with the Substation ZTV in Figure 8.6 (Annex – Figures).

Table 8.17: Assessment of LCT during Construction and Operation and Maintenance Phases

LCT 13 (Raised Beach Coast - Aberdeenshire)	
Sensitivity	High
Assessment of Landscape Impact during Construction Phase	Physical effects on LCT 13 during the construction phase would occur within the PPP Application Boundary, which covers a relatively small 3 km central section of this long narrow coastal LCT. Physical disturbance would include the introduction of permanent and temporary access roads across a field, the construction of drilling pads and stripping of topsoil for the cable trenches. Perceptual effects would result from minor changes to the open rural landscape with direct views obtained to the construction works at the Landfall area and the most southerly part of the 220/275 kV Cable Corridor within 1 km distance, particularly from the elevated A92 and the Johnshaven to Gourdon coastal path. Construction works close to the coast will be notable from the LCT within views which are generally orientated eastward across the Landfall and out to the sea. Elements that would be visible during the construction phase would include permanent access roads and temporary haulage roads, drilling pads, drilling rigs, TJBs, compounds, storage areas, associated fencing, equipment, lighting, signage and movement of construction plant and traffic. There would be a negligible loss of vegetation and temporary disruption of some agricultural land. The need for access points from the A92 would necessitate intermittent traffic management measures and construction lighting may be required during winter months. Restoration of the construction working areas and temporary access tracks would be undertaken towards the end of the construction period and on completion areas would be restored to their pre-existing condition as agricultural or scrub land to aid visual integration into the landscape. Disturbed areas would be revegetated by seeding and planting of locally native species, to tie in with existing adjacent vegetation types. Construction effects would be short term (12 to 15 months) and partly reversible, with the remaining permanent features visible during the operation and maintenance phase modest in scale.
Magnitude of Change during Construction Phase	Changes will be limited in scale, very small in the overall context of the LCT and would not alter the defining characteristics of the LCT. The overall magnitude of change to LCT 13 during the construction phase would be Low.
Significance of Effect during Construction Phase	Minor (temporary)) **Not Significant**
Assessment of Landscape Impact during Operation and Maintenance Phase	Landscape assessment of the Landfall area and Cable Corridors during the operation and maintenance phase has been scoped out. No visibility of the Substation will be experienced from LCT 13 so no impact predicted.

LCT 24 (Coastal Farmed Ridges and Hills - Aberdeenshire)	
Sensitivity	High
Assessment of Landscape Impact during Construction Phase	Physical effects on LCT 24 during the construction phase would occur within the PPP Application Boundary, which runs through the central part of the LCT, south to north from Haughs Bay to Elf Hill. Physical impacts would generally be restricted to a 50m wide construction corridor and disturbance would include the introduction of permanent and temporary access roads across fields, the construction of drilling pads and TJB, removal of landscape features including trees, hedgerows and field boundaries and the loss of agricultural land. Perceptual effects would result from the introduction of construction works to the tranquil rural landscape of the Howe of the Mearns. Direct views would be obtained to the construction works from many locations within the LVIA Study Area with the undulating nature of the landscape often providing elevated vantage points. Similarly, views to the construction works from many locations on the edges of the LCT would be contained by the undulating landform. Elements that would be visible during the construction phase would include permanent and temporary access roads, drilling pads, TJBs, temporary compounds, storage areas, associated fencing, equipment, lighting, signage and movement of construction plant. There would be a loss of field boundaries such as post and wire fencing and stone walls and some removal of vegetation including trees, hedgerows, scrub and mire. Across fields there would be stripping of topsoil above the cable trenches and temporary disruption of agricultural land. The need for access points from the local road network would necessitate intermittent traffic management measures and construction lighting may be required at some locations especially during winter months. Restoration of the construction working areas and temporary access tracks would be undertaken as the cable trenching progresses and on completion areas of temporary works would be restored to their pre-existing condition with landscape features reinstated and agricultural or scrub land restored to aid visual integration into the landscape. Disturbed areas would be revegetated by seeding and planting of locally native species, to tie in with existing adjacent vegetation types. Construction effects would be short term (33 months) and partly reversible, with the remaining permanent features visible during the operation and maintenance phase modest in scale.
Magnitude of Change during Construction Phase	Construction works will be widespread within the central part of the LCT and will give rise to changes to some landscape features which may be particularly noticeable where the 220/275 kV Cable Corridor crosses road and rail corridors and at river crossings. These changes would be due to the temporary presence of HDD construction areas either side of the road/rail and river crossings, but these changes would not alter the defining characteristics of the LCT. The overall magnitude of change to LCT 24 during the construction phase would be Medium.

Significance of Effect during Construction Phase	**Moderate (temporary)** **Significant**
Assessment of Landscape Impact during Operation and Maintenance Phase	Landscape assessment of the Landfall area and Cable Corridors during the operation and maintenance phase has been scoped out. Visibility to permanent elements of the Proposed Development from LCT 24 would be extremely limited, with visibility focussed around the mostly uninhabited ridge of Carmont Hill. At WYO some earthworks and areas of felling where mitigation planting has not yet established may be discernible and views to the substation would be obtained from this area. However, views to the Proposed Development would not be experienced from most of LCT 24 and there would be no change to the defining characteristics of the LCT.
Magnitude of Change during Operation and Maintenance Phase	WYO: Negligible SY12: Negligible
Significance of Effect during Operation and Maintenance Phase	WYO: Negligible **Not Significant** SY12: Negligible **Not Significant**
LCT 29 (Summits and Plateaux - Aberdeenshire)	
Sensitivity	Medium/Low
Assessment of Landscape Impact during Construction Phase	Physical effects on LCT 29 during the construction phase would occur within the PPP Application Boundary, which covers a small eastern part of the LCT. Physical disturbance would include the introduction of permanent and temporary access roads, the construction of the Substation, construction compound, drilling pads and TJB and temporary storage areas. Notable areas of felling would need to be undertaken within Fetteresso Forest and drainage channels provided. Perceptual effects would entail the introduction of construction works to the commercial forestry setting of Fetteresso Forest. Direct views would be obtained to the construction works from some locations within the LCT, these mostly being from the more open farmland to the north of Fetteresso close to and beyond Slug Road. Views to the construction works from locations within Fetteresso will be obtained locally but generally contained by the intervening forestry. Elements that would be visible during the construction phase would include permanent and temporary access roads, drilling pads, TJBs, temporary compounds, storage areas, associated fencing, equipment, lighting, signage and movement of construction plant. There would be a loss of forestry and the removal of some other vegetation including deciduous trees, hedgerows, scrub and mire. There would be stripping of topsoil above the cable trenches and the need for access points from the local road network would necessitate intermittent traffic management measures and construction lighting may be required at some locations especially during winter months.

	Restoration of the construction working areas and temporary access tracks would be undertaken towards the end of the construction period and on completion all areas of temporary works would be restored to their pre-existing condition as forestry land. Planting of trees and shrubs with whips and transplants, typically 2-5 years old, would be undertaken towards the end of the construction period to provide a landscape framework, and to assist in filtering and screening of views. These would take in the order of 10-15 years to grow to semi-maturity. Construction effects would be considered short term (four years) and partly reversible.
Magnitude of Change during Construction Phase	Construction works will be localised within a relatively small eastern part of the LCT and will be seen within the context of the existing commercial forestry and wind and electrical infrastructure. The Proposed Development would introduce large scale construction works to a limited area of Fetteresso Forest but would not alter the overall defining characteristics of the LCT. The overall magnitude of change to LCT 29 during the construction phase would be Low.
Significance of Effect during Construction Phase	Minor (temporary) **Not Significant**
Assessment of Landscape Impact during Operation and Maintenance Phase	At WYO some earthworks and areas of felling where mitigation planting has not yet established may be discernible and views to the Substation would be obtained from limited eastern elevated parts of LCT 29. The Proposed Development would introduce new large-scale elements of electrical transmission infrastructure but these would be seen within the context of the existing transmission towers, substation and wind farm development which already form part of the character of forested LCT 29. By SY12 any mitigation planting would have fully established, and this would aid the fit of the substation into the overall landscape. There would be no change to the defining characteristics of the LCT at WYO or SY12.
Magnitude of Change during Operation and Maintenance Phase	WYO: Low SY12: Negligible
Significance of Effect during Operation and Maintenance Phase	WYO: Minor **Not Significant** SY12: Negligible **Not Significant**

Landscape Designations

8.10.1 Table 8.18 provides an assessment of the construction phase on the landscape designations, GDL and CA which fall within the LVIA Study Area.

8.10.2 Baseline descriptions of the above are set out in Section 8.8 and the locations of landscape designations are illustrated in Figure 8.3 (Annex – Figures) and shown in combination with the ZTV in Figure 8.6 (Annex – Figures).

Table 8.18: Assessment of Landscape Designations

Southeast Aberdeenshire Coast Special Landscape Area (SLA)	
Sensitivity	High
Assessment of Landscape Impact during Construction Phase	Viewpoint 1: A92 near Nether Knox Cottage (Volume 3: Visualisations, Figure 8.8) has been included as a representative viewpoint from the SLA within the visual assessment. Physical effects on the SLA during the construction phase would occur within the PPP Application Boundary, which extends across a 1 km section of this long narrow coastal designation which is 43 km long in its entirety. Physical disturbance would include the introduction of permanent and temporary access roads across fields, the construction of drilling pads and stripping of topsoil above the cable trenches. The Special Qualities of the SLA which would be impacted during the construction phase would be "*Coastal routes include the A92, east coast railway, footpaths and National Cycle Network (Route 1), all offering expansive views out to sea*" and "*Panoramic views out to sea from headlands and beaches, and important views along the coast*". Direct views will be obtained from the coastal strip and beach locations within 1 km distance of the construction works, particularly from elevated locations which have views along the coastal corridor, such as the A92/ NCN 1, and from the Johnshaven to Gourdon coastal path. Construction elements that would be visible during the construction phase would include permanent access roads and temporary haulage roads, drilling pads, drilling rigs, TJBs, compounds, storage areas, associated fencing, equipment, lighting, signage and movement of construction plant and traffic. There would be a minor loss of vegetation including some sections of field boundary hedgerow and temporary disruption to some agricultural land. The need for access points from the A92 would necessitate intermittent traffic management measures and construction lighting may be required during winter months. Restoration of the construction working areas and temporary access tracks would be undertaken towards the end of the construction period and on completion most areas would be restored to their pre-existing condition as agricultural or scrub land to aid visual integration into the landscape. Disturbed areas would be revegetated by seeding and planting of locally native species, to tie in with existing adjacent vegetation types. Construction effects would be considered short term (12 to 15 months) and partly reversible, with the remaining permanent features visible during the operation and maintenance phase modest in scale.
Magnitude of Change during Construction Phase	Changes will be across a relatively small area of the SLA and will not alter any of the defining Special Qualities of the SLA. The objectives of designation and the overall integrity of the SLA will not be

	compromised. The overall magnitude of change to the Southeast Aberdeenshire Coast SLA during the construction phase would be Low.
Significance of effect during Construction Phase	Minor (temporary) Not Significant
Assessment of Landscape Impact during Operation and Maintenance Phase	Landscape assessment of the Landfall area and Cable Corridors during the operation and maintenance phase has been scoped out. No visibility of the Substation will be experienced from the SLA so no impact predicted.
Gardens and Designed Landscapes (GDL)	
Arbuthnott House GDL	
Sensitivity	High
Assessment of Landscape Impact during Construction during Construction Phase	Arbuthnott House GDL is located outwith the PPP Application Boundary and approximately 450 m from the indicative cable route centerline at closest. There would be no physical effects on the GDL during the construction phase. Arbuthnott House GDL is situated within a steep sided wooded valley with the western part of the estate lying close to Arbuthnott Church. Views from the GDL to construction works would be screened by the intervening undulating landform of the Howe of the Mearns. However, the movement of heavy plant and traffic management measures on the B967 which forms the northern boundary of the GDL, may be intermittently apparent.
Magnitude of Change during Construction Phase	There would be no changes to the overall character or setting of the GDL during the construction phase. The overall magnitude of change during the construction phase would be Negligible.
Significance of effect during Construction Phase	Minor (temporary) Not Significant
Assessment of Landscape Impact during Operation and Maintenance Phase	Landscape assessment of the Landfall area and Cable Corridors during the operation and maintenance phase has been scoped out. No visibility of the Substation would be experienced from Arbuthnott House GDL.
Glenbervie House GDL	
Sensitivity	High
Assessment of Landscape Impact during Construction Phase	Glenbervie House GDL is located outwith the PPP Application Boundary approximately 410 m west from the indicative cable route centreline at closest. There would be no physical effects on the GDL during the construction phase.

	Views from the GDL to construction works would be mostly screened by the surrounding undulating landform and a mature deciduous shelter belt that demarcates the eastern boundary of the estate parkland. However, during winter months, taller elements of the construction works, lighting during hours of darkness and the movement of heavy plant on the Glenbervie Road may be discernible, filtered through the branches of the shelter belt.
Magnitude of Change during Construction Phase	There would be no changes to the overall character or setting of the GDL during the construction phase. The overall magnitude of change during the construction phase would be Negligible.
Significance of effect during Construction Phase	Minor (temporary) Not Significant
Assessment of Landscape Impact during Operation and Maintenance Phase	Landscape assessment of the Landfall area and Cable Corridors during the operation and maintenance phase has been scoped out. No visibility of the Substation would be experienced from Glenbervie House GDL.
Conservation Areas	
Benholm CA	
Sensitivity	High
Assessment of Landscape Impact during Construction Phase	There would be no physical effects on the CA during the construction phase. Benholm CA lies approximately 650 m from the indicative cable route centreline at closest and views outwith the CA are generally limited by woodland. There would be no visibility from Benholm CA to construction works, however the movement of heavy plant and traffic management measures on the A92 may be apparent from southern parts of the CA intermittently during the construction phase. Lighting during hours of darkness may also be apparent from these locations during the winter months.
Magnitude of Change during Construction Phase	There would be no changes to the character or setting of the CA during the construction phase. The overall magnitude of change during the construction phase would be Negligible.
Significance during Construction Phase of effect	Minor (temporary) Not Significant
Assessment of Landscape Impact during Operation and Maintenance Phase	Landscape assessment of the Landfall area and Cable Corridors during the operation and maintenance phase has been scoped out. No visibility of the Substation would be experienced from Benholm CA.
Johnshaven CA	
Sensitivity	High

Assessment of Landscape Impact during Construction Phase	There would be no physical effects on the CA during the construction phase. Johnshaven CA lies on the coast approximately 2.2 km southwest from Landfall area. Views from the CA towards construction works, north along the coast would be screened by intervening landform and vegetation.
Magnitude of Change during Construction Phase	There would be no changes to the character or setting of the CA during the construction phase. The overall magnitude of change during the construction phase would be None.
Significance of effect during Construction Phase	None Not Significant
Assessment of Landscape Impact during Operation and Maintenance Phase	Landscape assessment of the Landfall area and Cable Corridors during the operation and maintenance phase has been scoped out. No visibility of the Substation would be experienced from Johnshaven CA.
Kirkston of Fetteresso CA	
Sensitivity	High
Assessment of Landscape Impact during Construction Phase	There would be no physical effects on the CA during the construction phase. Kirkston of Fetteresso CA lies approximately 4.8 km east from the Substation. Views from the CA towards construction works, would be screened by intervening landform and vegetation.
Magnitude of Change during Construction Phase	There would be no changes to the character or setting of the CA during the construction phase. The overall magnitude of change during the construction phase would be None.
Significance of effect during Construction Phase	None Not Significant
Assessment of Landscape Impact during Operation and Maintenance Phase	No visibility of the Cable Corridors or Substation would be experienced from Kirkston of Fetteresso CA. The overall magnitude of change during the operation and maintenance phase would be None.

Visual Assessment

Settlements and Route Corridors

8.10.3 Tables 8.19 to 8.20 provide a visual assessment of the construction and operation and maintenance phases on the visual receptors within the settlements and route corridors which fall within the LVIA Study Area. As detailed in Section 8.4 the visual assessment of the Cable Corridors and Landfall area during the operation and maintenance phase has been scoped out.

8.10.4 Baseline descriptions of settlements and routes are provided in Section 8.8 and the locations of visual receptors are illustrated in Figure 8.4 (Annex – Figures) and shown in combination with the ZTV in Figure 8.6 (Annex – Figures). The ZTV indicates that only one of the settlements, Rickarton, has theoretical visibility of the Substation.

8.10.5 An additional assessment of individual properties which are located outwith the main settlements but close to the Proposed Development has been provided in Volume 2, Appendix 8.2: Visual Assessment of Individual Dwellings and Property Clusters; their locations are shown on Figure 8.5 (Annex – Figures).

Table 8.19: Assessment of Settlements

Settlements	
Arbuthnott	
Sensitivity	High
Assessment of Visual Impact during Construction Phase	Arbuthnott is located outwith the PPP Application Boundary and approximately 400 m from the indicative 220/275 kV Cable centreline at closest. There would be no direct physical impacts on Arbuthnott during the construction phase. The settlement comprises two parts, a linear area running along the B967 and properties lying lower in the Bervie Water valley adjacent to Arbuthnott Church. Views from both areas of the village to construction works would be screened by the surrounding undulating landform or intervening woodland. However, the movement of heavy plant and traffic management measures on the B967 may be intermittently visible. Lighting of the construction works during hours of darkness may also be apparent from these locations during the winter months. Individual properties that are located outwith the main village, at Pitcharles, Bloomfield, Little Wairds, Peattie and Kirkton, lie close to the Proposed Development and have potential to experience direct views. These properties have been assessed separately in Volume 2, Appendix 8.2: Visual Assessment of Individual Dwellings and Property Clusters.
Magnitude of Change during Construction Phase	The overall magnitude of change experienced by residents in Arbuthnott during the construction phase would be Negligible.
Significance of effect during	Minor (temporary) Not Significant

Settlements	
Construction Phase	
Assessment of Visual Impact during Operation and Maintenance Phase	The visual impact assessment of the Cable Corridors during the operation and maintenance phase has been scoped out.
Benholm	
Sensitivity	High
Assessment of Visual Impact during Construction Phase	Benholm is located outwith the PPP Application Boundary and approximately 650 m from the 220/275 kV Cable centreline at closest. There would be no direct physical impacts on Benholm during the construction phase. Views from Benholm towards the construction works would generally be screened by the dense woodland which encloses the village. There would be limited visibility from a few properties on the eastern and southern edges of the village with intermittent views of heavy plant movement. Lighting during hours of darkness may be apparent during the winter months. Traffic management measures on the A92 may also result in visual impact in southern parts of the village during the construction phase. Several individual properties outwith the main village lie close to, and have the potential to gain direct views of the Proposed Development. These include properties at Haughs of Benholm, Nether Knox, Nether Benholm, Tillygrain, Middle Knox, Mains of Benholm and Upper Knox. These properties have been assessed separately in Appendix 8.2.
Magnitude of Change during Construction Phase	The overall magnitude of change experienced by residents in Benholm during the construction phase would be Negligible.
Significance of effect during Construction Phase	Minor (temporary) Not Significant
Assessment of Visual Impact during Operation and Maintenance Phase	The visual impact assessment of the Landfall area and Cable Corridors during the operation and maintenance phase has been scoped out.
Buckie's Mill & Newmill	
Sensitivity	High

Settlements	
Assessment of Visual Impact during Construction Phase	Viewpoint 3 (Volume 3: Visualisations, Figure 8.10) has been included within the visual assessment as a publicly accessible view of the Proposed Development close to the properties at Newmill and Buckie's Mill. Newmill and Buckie's Mill are located outwith the PPP Application Boundary approximately 480 m and 210 m respectively from the 220/275 kV Cable centreline at closest. There would be no direct physical impacts on either of the hamlets during the construction phase. Properties at Newmill would generally be screened by either landform or by intervening built form from views of the 220/275 kV Cable Corridor construction works. Some properties at Buckie's Mill with aspects facing west would have direct views across the open valley to the 220/275 kV Cable Corridor construction works. Vertical elements that would be temporarily visible across a medium distance during the construction phase include heavy plant, temporary compounds and storage areas. A temporary haulage road down the north facing slope of the Carron Valley would also be visible along with associated movement of construction vehicles, from some elevated vantage points. There would be a negligible loss of vegetation and a temporary disruption of some agricultural land. Restoration of the construction working areas and the temporary haulage road would be undertaken towards the end of the construction period and on completion most areas would be restored to their pre-existing condition as agricultural or scrub land to aid visual integration into the landscape. Disturbed areas of scrub would be revegetated by seeding and planting of locally native species, to tie in with existing adjacent vegetation types. Construction effects would be short term (3 months) and partly reversible, with the remaining permanent features visible during the operation and maintenance phase almost imperceptible within the landscape. An individual property (Blererno) outwith the hamlets is located within 80 m of the Proposed Development and may experience some views. This property has been assessed separately in Appendix 8.2.
Magnitude of Change during Construction Phase	The overall magnitude of change experienced by residents in Newmill during the construction phase would be Negligible. The overall magnitude of change for residents in Buckie's Mill during the construction phase would be Low.
Significance of effect during Construction Phase	Newmill - Minor (temporary) Not Significant Buckie's Mill – Minor (temporary) Not Significant
Assessment of Visual Impact during Operation and Maintenance Phase	The visual impact assessment of the Cable Corridors during the operation and maintenance phase has been scoped out.
Drumlithie	
Sensitivity	High

Settlements	
Assessment of Visual Impact during Construction Phase	Viewpoint 2 (Volume 3: Visualisations, Figure 8.9) has been included within the visual assessment as a representative viewpoint for residents of Drumlithie. The village of Drumlithie is set amongst open gently undulating agricultural fields with the PPP Application Boundary passing its western edge, the cable centreline approximately 130 m at closest. There would be no direct physical impacts on Drumlithie during the construction phase. Most of the properties within Drumlithie would be screened by landform or intervening buildings from views to the 220/275 kV Cable Corridor construction works, however a few properties lying on the western and northwestern edge with aspects to the west will experience some direct views to the construction works across the open farmland. At some properties on High Street, oblique views to the construction works would be partially filtered by existing vegetation. A temporary haulage road would be visible across the south facing slope of the Drumlithie Burn valley with the associated movement of construction vehicles. There would be a negligible loss of vegetation and a minor loss of some agricultural land. At Westfield House on School Road direct views would be obtained across a short distance (85 m) to construction elements including heavy plant, drilling pads, drilling rigs, TJBs, temporary compounds and storage areas. A temporary haulage road would also be visible with associated movement of construction vehicles. Due to the direct views that would be obtained from this property it has been assessed separately and included within the assessment of individual properties in Appendix 8.2. Restoration of the construction working areas and the temporary haulage road would be undertaken towards the end of the construction period and on completion most areas would be restored to their pre-existing condition as agricultural or scrub land to aid visual integration into the landscape. Disturbed areas of scrub would be revegetated by seeding and planting of locally native species, to tie in with existing adjacent vegetation types. Construction effects would be short term (3 months) and partly reversible, with the remaining permanent features visible during the operation and maintenance phase almost imperceptible within the landscape.
Magnitude of Change during Construction Phase	The overall magnitude of change experienced by residents in Drumlithie during the construction phase would be Low.
Significance of effect during Construction Phase	Minor (temporary) Not Significant
Assessment of Visual Impact during Operation and Maintenance Phase	The visual impact assessment of the Cable Corridors during the operation and maintenance phase has been scoped out.

Settlements	
Gourdon	
Sensitivity	High
Assessment of Visual Impact during Construction Phase	Gourdon is a fishing village located outwith the PPP Application Boundary approximately 1.6 km north from the Landfall area at closest. There would be no direct physical impacts on the village during the construction phase. Views towards the construction works would be screened by intervening landform from properties within the village. Distant views may be obtained to the Landfall area from some public areas adjacent to the coast with lighting during the hours of darkness noticeable from these locations during the winter months. Construction effects at Landfall would be short term (6 months) and partly reversible, with the remaining permanent features visible during the operation and maintenance phase almost imperceptible within the landscape.
Magnitude of Change during Construction Phase	The overall magnitude of change experienced by residents in Gourdon during the construction phase would be Negligible.
Significance of effect during Construction Phase	Minor (temporary) Not Significant
Assessment of Visual Impact during Operation and Maintenance Phase	The visual impact assessment of the Landfall area and Cable Corridors during the operation and maintenance phase has been scoped out.
Inverbervie	
Sensitivity	High
Assessment of Visual Impact during Construction Phase	Inverbervie is located outwith the PPP Application Boundary approximately 1.4 km east from the cable centreline at closest. There would be no direct physical effects on the village during the construction phase. Views from Inverbervie towards all elements of the construction works would be screened by intervening landform. Individual properties outwith Inverbervie at Three Wells lie close to the Proposed Development and have potential to gain direct views. These properties have been assessed separately in Appendix 8.2.
Magnitude of Change during Construction Phase	The overall magnitude of change experienced by residents in Inverbervie during the construction phase would be None.
Significance of effect	None Not Significant

Settlements	
during Construction Phase	
Assessment of Visual Impact during Operation and Maintenance Phase	The visual impact assessment of the Landfall area and Cable Corridors during the operation and maintenance phase has been scoped out.
Johnshaven	
Sensitivity	High
Assessment of Visual Impact during Construction Phase	Johnshaven is a fishing village located outwith the PPP Application Boundary approximately 2 km southwest from the Landfall area at closest. There would be no direct physical impacts on the village during the construction phase. Views from Johnshaven towards all elements of the construction works would be screened by intervening landform and vegetation.
Magnitude of Change during Construction Phase	The overall magnitude of change experienced by residents in Johnshaven during the construction phase would be None.
Significance of effect during Construction Phase	None Not Significant
Assessment of Visual Impact during Operation and Maintenance Phase	The visual impact assessment of the Landfall area and Cable Corridors during the operation and maintenance phase has been scoped out.
Rickarton	
Sensitivity	High
Assessment of Visual Impact during Construction Phase	Viewpoint 8 (Volume 3: Visualisations, Figure 8.15) has been included within the visual assessment and shows a view close to Rickarton from the A957. Rickarton is a small hamlet located on an elevated site within the open pastural foothills which lie to the north of Fetteresso Forest. The hamlet's properties are set along the southern edge of the A957 Slug Road and some have aspects south onto the forested Hill of Swanley. The ZTV in Figure 8.6 (Annex – Figures) (representing a worst-case scenario for the Substation) indicates that oblique mid distance views to construction works would be obtained from some properties in Rickarton with southerly aspects. Due to the existing coniferous plantation of

Settlements	
	Fetteresso Forest, views would generally be limited to the taller construction elements such as cranes. These elements would extend above the treetops, however there is potential that some ground level construction activity, including the presence of construction machinery, temporary access roads, earthworks, vehicle movements, and the felling of trees would also be visible. Lighting of construction works during hours of darkness may also be apparent from the hamlet during the winter months. Several individual properties outwith the main settlement are located either on the A957 or in the adjacent Cowie Water valley. The ZTV in Figure 8.6 (Annex – Figures) indicates that people at some of these properties on the A957 (Roadside Cottage, Hillside, Millsburn, Hillhead and Westerton of Bogheadly) and in the Cowie Water valley (Smiddy Cottage, Clachanshiels, Whitehill, Haughhead, Snob Croft, Bossholes, Tentyhillocks, Mergie House, Mergie Stables, Little Mergie and Mergie Steading) have theoretical visibility of the Substation with potential to experience direct views. These properties have been assessed separately in Appendix 8.2. Construction effects as listed above would be short term (4 years) and partly reversible, in that some construction effects will completely cease once construction is complete (e.g. use of cranes and construction lighting).
Magnitude of Change during Construction Phase	Views would be at an oblique angle and the construction works would not constitute a major element in views from the hamlet. The overall magnitude of change experienced by residents in Rickarton during the construction phase would be Low.
Significance of effect during Construction Phase	Minor (temporary) Not Significant
Assessment of Visual Impact during Operation and Maintenance Phase	During the WYO, the Substation and felled areas surrounding it would be visible in mid-distance oblique views from some properties in Rickarton with southerly aspects. Due to screening from landform and the forestry on the Hill of Swanley, views would be partial, with the roof of the Substation seen against the horizon on the eastern slopes of the Hill of Trusta. The Proposed Development would be seen 1.8 km away within the context of the existing forested landscape of Fetteresso Forest. At SY12 once planting has established, the lower parts of the Substation would be further screened aiding the developments' integration into the landscape. Some individual properties which lie outwith the main settlement have potential to experience impacts during the operation and maintenance phase (listed above in the construction phase assessment). These properties have been assessed separately in Appendix 8.2.
Magnitude of Change during Operation and maintenance Phase	WYO: Low SY12: Low

Settlements	
Significance of Effect during Operation and Maintenance Phase	WYO: Minor Not Significant SY12: Minor Not significant
Tannachie	
Sensitivity	High
Assessment of Visual Impact during Construction Phase	Tannachie comprises a small hamlet of modern properties clustered on the brow of a low hill and surrounded by open pasture fields. The Cable centreline lies to the north of the hamlet, approximately 330 m at closest but the temporary access tracks could run within 50 m of the nearest property. Generally, properties within Tannachie would be screened from the 220/275 kV Cable Corridor construction works by intervening built form, however views would be obtained from some properties to the work being undertaken in the higher fields to the north. Long distance views of the construction works in the Carron Water valley across the open farmland would be experienced from properties with southerly aspects. Elements that would be temporarily visible during the construction phase include drilling pads, drilling rigs, TJBs, heavy plant, temporary compounds and storage areas. Several temporary haulage roads lie close to the hamlet and these would bring associated movement of construction vehicles. There would be a negligible loss of vegetation and a minor loss of some agricultural land. Restoration of the construction working areas and the temporary haulage road would be undertaken towards the end of the construction period and on completion most areas would be restored to their pre-existing condition as agricultural land to aid visual integration into the landscape. It is unlikely that additional mitigation measures, such as screen fencing, would be effective in reducing visual impacts at this location and so no specific additional mitigation has been identified. This will be reviewed during the detailed design stage. Construction effects would be short term (3 months) and partly reversible, with the remaining permanent features visible during the operation and maintenance phase almost imperceptible within the landscape.
Magnitude of Change during Construction Phase	Due to the proximity of the temporary access roads to Tannachie the overall magnitude of change experienced by residents in Tannachie during the construction phase would be Medium.
Significance of effect during Construction Phase	**Moderate (temporary)** **Significant**
Assessment of Visual Impact during Operation	The visual impact assessment of the Cable Corridors during the operation and maintenance phase has been scoped out.

Settlements	
and Maintenance Phase	

Table 8.20: Assessment of Routes

Routes	
Roads	
A90	
Sensitivity	Medium
Assessment of Visual Impact during Construction Phase	The 220/275 kV Cable Corridor route crosses the A90 to the south of Drumlithie, slightly on embankment and close to some small blocks of woodland. Direct views to elements of the 220/275 kV Cable Corridor construction works will be obtained from a short section (2 km) of the A90 between the Forthie Water crossing and Meikle Fiddes. Views to the construction works for both east and westbound travellers would be limited due to screening by roadside embankments and woodland. Elements visible during the construction phase would include temporary access roads including a 650 m section which runs parallel to the eastbound carriageway from Candy to the indicative cable centreline, drilling pads, drilling rigs, TJBs, compounds, storage areas, associated fencing, equipment, lighting, signage and movement of construction plant and traffic. There would be a loss of some semi mature roadside trees and a minor loss of some agricultural land. Traffic management measures and construction lighting may be required during winter months. Restoration of the construction working areas and temporary access tracks would be undertaken towards the end of the construction period and on completion most areas would be restored to their pre-existing condition as agricultural or scrub land to aid visual integration into the landscape. Disturbed areas would be revegetated by seeding and planting of locally native species, to tie in with existing adjacent vegetation types. Construction effects would be short term (3 months) and partly reversible, with the remaining permanent features visible during the operation and maintenance phase modest in scale.
Magnitude of Change during Construction Phase	Changes will be across a relatively small area of the route. The overall magnitude of change experienced by road users on the A90 during the construction phase would be Low.
Significance of effect during Construction Phase	Minor (temporary)

Routes	
	Not Significant
Assessment of Visual Impact during Operation and Maintenance Phase	The visual impact assessment of the Cable Corridors during the operation and maintenance phase has been scoped out.
A92 / Benholm Bridge to Johnshaven Core Path	
Sensitivity	High
Assessment of Visual Impact during Construction Phase	Viewpoint 1 (Volume 3: Visualisations, Figure 8.8) has been included within the visual assessment as a representative viewpoint for road users of the A92. Direct views to the Landfall area and to the 220/275 kV Cable Corridor would be obtained from a short section of the elevated route (1.8 km) between from Benholm and the cutting to the south of Gourdon. Elements visible during the construction phase would include permanent access roads and temporary haulage roads, drilling pads, drilling rigs, TJBs, compounds, storage areas, associated fencing, equipment, lighting, signage and movement of construction plant and traffic. There would be a loss of some sections of field boundary hedgerow and a minor loss of some agricultural land. Traffic management measures and construction lighting may be required during winter months. Restoration of the construction working areas and temporary access tracks would be undertaken towards the end of the construction period and on completion most areas would be restored to their pre-existing condition as agricultural or scrub land to aid visual integration into the landscape. Field boundaries would be restored as hedgerow or with fencing as appropriate. Disturbed areas would be revegetated by seeding and planting of locally native species, to tie in with existing adjacent vegetation types. Construction effects at Landfall would be short term (12 to 15 months) and partly reversible, with the remaining permanent features visible during the operation and maintenance phase almost imperceptible within the landscape.
Magnitude of Change during Construction Phase	Changes will be across a relatively small area of the route. The overall magnitude of change experienced by road users on the A92 during the construction phase would be Low.

Routes	
Significance of effect during Construction Phase	Minor (temporary) Not Significant
Assessment of Visual Impact during Operation and Maintenance Phase	The visual impact assessment of the Landfall area and Cable Corridors during the operation and maintenance phase has been scoped out.
A957 (Slug Road)	
Sensitivity	Medium
Assessment of Visual Impact during Construction Phase	Viewpoint 8 (Volume 3: Visualisations, Figure 8.15) has been included within the visual assessment as a representative viewpoint for road users on the A957. The A957 is known locally as the Slug Road and runs northwest from the centre of Stonehaven, rising as it passes the farmed valleys and forestry which cover the southern slopes of the upland plateau. Some of the construction works would be visible over approximately 6 km of the route between Rickarton and Craigs of the Slugs in the northwest of the LVIA Study Area. The coniferous woodland of Durris Forest would screen views from the northern part of this route. Direct views to the construction works would be obtained by southbound drivers on the A957 Slug Road from the Durris Forest car park until Rickarton over a 4.2 km section of the route and northbound drivers would experience views over 2.7 km from Rickarton. Views would be experienced over distances from 1.7 km to 4 km. Due to the screening from the existing Fetteresso Forest surrounding construction works, views would generally be limited to the taller construction elements, such as cranes which would extend above the treetops. From parts of the road within 2 km there is potential that some ground level construction activity, including the presence of construction machinery, temporary access roads, earthworks, vehicle movements, and the felling of trees would be visible. Lighting of construction works during hours of darkness may also be apparent from the road during the winter months. Construction effects as listed above would be short term (4 years) and partly reversible, in that some construction impacts will completely cease once construction is complete (e.g., use of cranes and construction lighting).

Routes	
Magnitude of Change during Construction Phase	Views to the construction works would be obtained at distance and over a limited section of the road. The overall magnitude of change experienced by road users on the A957 Slug Road during the construction phase would be Low.
Significance of effect during Construction Phase	Minor (temporary) Not Significant
Assessment of Visual Impact during Operation and Maintenance Phase	Volume 3: Visualisations, Figure 8.15 shows that the Substation and felled areas surrounding it would be clearly visible from a section of the A957 Slug Road. The Substation would lie across the eastern slopes of the Hill of Trusta with the roofs of the buildings seen against the horizon. The ZTV in 8.6shows theoretical visibility of the Substation over approximately 6 km of the route from Rickarton to Craigs of the Slugs in the northwest of the LVIA Study Area. The coniferous woodland of Durris Forest would screen views from the northern part of this route. Direct views would be obtained by southbound drivers on the A957 Slug Road from the Durris Forest car park to Rickarton over a 4.2 km section of the route and northbound drivers would experience views over 2.7 km from Rickarton. These views from the A957 would be experienced at distances of between 1.7 km to 4 km from the Substation. The Proposed Development would be viewed from a short section of the road by transient receptors and seen within the context of the existing forested landscape which already has some large scale elements of wind and electrical infrastructure. At WYO some residual felling and earthworks would be discernible surrounding the Substation. At SY12 once planting has established, the lower parts of the Substation would be screened, aiding the developments' integration into the landscape.
Magnitude of Change during Operation and Maintenance Phase	WYO: Low SY12: Low
Significance of Effect during Operation and Maintenance Phase	WYO: Minor Not Significant SY12: Minor Not significant
B967	
Sensitivity	Medium

Routes	
Assessment of Visual Impact during Construction Phase	The B967 connects the A92 to the A90, running from the A92 north of Inverbervie, passing the village of Arbuthnott and joining the A90 close to Fordoun. The route runs through open gently undulating arable fields and crosses the 220/275 kV Cable Corridor approximately 500 m to the east of Arbuthnott. Direct views to elements of the 220/275 kV Cable Corridor construction works would be obtained from a 1.5 km section of the road between the eastern edge of Arbuthnott and Crossroads Cottages. Elements visible during the construction phase would include a temporary access road, drilling pads, drilling rigs, TJBs, compounds, storage areas, associated fencing, equipment, lighting, signage and movement of construction plant and traffic. There would be minor loss of some agricultural land. Traffic management measures and construction lighting may be required. Restoration of the construction working areas and temporary access tracks would be undertaken towards the end of the construction period and on completion most areas would be restored to their pre-existing condition as agricultural land to aid visual integration into the landscape. Field boundaries would also be restored. Construction effects would be short term (3 months) and partly reversible, with the remaining permanent features visible during the operation and maintenance phase modest in scale.
Magnitude of Change during Construction Phase	Changes will be across a relatively small area of the route. The overall magnitude of change experienced by road users on the Drumlithie Road during the construction phase would be Low.
Significance of effect during Construction Phase	Minor (temporary) Not Significant
Assessment of Visual Impact during Operation and Maintenance Phase	The visual impact assessment of the Cable Corridors during the operation and maintenance phase has been scoped out.
Glenbervie Road	
Sensitivity	Medium
Assessment of Visual Impact during Construction Phase	The Glenbervie Road runs roughly parallel with and to the north of the A90, connecting the villages of Drumlithie and Glenbervie. The route runs

Routes	
	through open gently undulating arable fields and crosses the 220/275 kV Cable Corridor approximately 200 m to the west of Drumlithie. Direct views to elements of the 220/275 kV Cable Corridor construction works would be obtained from a short section (500 m) of the route between the junction with the Broombank Farm road and the western edge of Drumlithie. Elements visible during the construction phase would include a temporary access road, drilling pads, drilling rigs, TJBs, compounds, storage areas, associated fencing, equipment, lighting, signage and movement of construction plant and traffic. There would be minor loss of some agricultural land. Traffic management measures and construction lighting may be required during winter months. Restoration of the construction working areas and temporary access tracks would be undertaken towards the end of the construction period and on completion most areas would be restored to their pre-existing condition as agricultural or scrub land to aid visual integration into the landscape. Disturbed areas would be revegetated by seeding and planting of locally native species, to tie in with existing adjacent vegetation types. Construction effects would be short term (3 months) and partly reversible, with the remaining permanent features visible during the operation and maintenance phase modest in scale.
Magnitude of Change during Construction Phase	Changes would be across a relatively small section of the route. The overall magnitude of change experienced by road users on the Glenbervie Road during the construction phase would be Low.
Significance of effect during Construction Phase	Minor (temporary) Not Significant
Assessment of Visual Impact during Operation and Maintenance Phase	The visual impact assessment of the Cable Corridors during the operation and maintenance phase has been scoped out.
Auchenblae Road	
Sensitivity	Medium
Assessment of Visual Impact during Construction Phase	Viewpoint 4 (Volume 3: Visualisations, Figure 8.11) has been included within the visual assessment as a representative viewpoint for road users of the Auchenblae Road.

Routes	
	The Auchenblae Road runs east to west along the base of the Brae of Glenbervie through undulating open fields set to pasture and interspersed with blocks of woodland and scrub demarking burns. The indicative cable centreline crosses the road close to the Burn of Elfhill and then runs to the south of the road traversing the northern slopes of the Hill of Tannachie to Quithel. Physical effects on road users may comprise intermittent traffic management measures during the construction works necessitated by the adjacent temporary access roads. The Auchenblae Road has open views to the south and direct views to elements of the 220/275 kV Cable Corridor construction works would be obtained from a 2.5 km stretch from Elfhill to Quithel. Elements visible during the construction phase would include temporary access roads drilling pads, drilling rigs, TJBs, compounds, storage areas, associated fencing, equipment, lighting, signage and movement of construction plant. There would be a loss of some scrub vegetation surrounding the Burn of Elfhill and some visible loss of forestry at Fetteresso Forest, seen on the skyline above the road. There would also be a loss of some agricultural land. Traffic management measures and construction lighting may be required during winter months. Restoration of the construction working areas and temporary access tracks would be undertaken towards the end of the construction period and on completion most areas would be restored to their pre-existing condition as agricultural or scrub land to aid visual integration into the landscape. Disturbed areas would be revegetated by seeding and planting of locally native species, to tie in with existing adjacent vegetation types. Construction effects would be short term (3 months) and partly reversible, with the remaining permanent features visible during the operation and maintenance phase modest in scale.
Magnitude of Change during Construction Phase	Changes would be noticeable within the tranquil rural context but would occur across a relatively short section of the route. The overall magnitude of change experienced by road users on the Auchenblae Road during the construction phase would be Low.
Significance of effect during Construction Phase	Minor (temporary) Not Significant

Routes	
Assessment of Visual Impact during Operation and Maintenance Phase	The ZTV in Figure 8.6 (Annex – Figures) shows no theoretical visibility of the Substation from the Auchenblae Road. At WYO some residual felling within Fetteresso Forest surrounding the Proposed Development may be discernible from the road. By SY12, mitigation planting would have established, aiding integration into the landscape. The visual impact assessment of the Cable Corridors during the operation and maintenance phase has been scoped out.
Magnitude of Change during Operation and Maintenance Phase	WYO: Low SY12: Negligible
Significance of Effect during Operation and Maintenance Phase	WYO: Minor Not Significant SY12: Negligible Not significant
Rail Lines	
Dundee to Aberdeen Railway Line	
Sensitivity	Medium
Assessment of Visual Impact during Construction Phase	No views to the construction works would be obtained from the section of the Dundee to Aberdeen railway line close to Newmill. South of Drumlithie where the line is on embankment, rail passengers would have direct views to the 220/275 kV Cable Corridor construction works over a short section (1 km) of the route. These views would be transitory and seen for a short period of time during the journey. Elements visible during the construction phase would include temporary access roads, drilling pads, drilling rigs, TJBs, compounds, storage areas, associated fencing, equipment, lighting, signage and movement of construction plant and traffic. There would be a minor loss of agricultural land. Restoration of the construction working areas and temporary access tracks would be undertaken towards the end of the construction period and on completion most areas would be restored to their pre-existing condition as agricultural or scrub land to aid visual integration into the landscape. Disturbed areas would be revegetated by seeding and planting of locally native species, to tie in with existing adjacent vegetation types.

Routes	
	Construction effects would be short term (3 months) and partly reversible, with the remaining permanent features visible during the operation and maintenance phase modest in scale.
Magnitude of Change during Construction Phase	Changes would occur across a relatively small proportion of the route. The overall magnitude of change experienced by rail users on Dundee to Aberdeen Rail Line during the construction phase would be Low.
Significance of effect during Construction Phase	Minor (temporary) Not Significant
Assessment of Visual Impact during Operation and Maintenance Phase	The ZTV in Figure 8.6 (Annex – Figures) no theoretical visibility of the Substation from the Dundee to Aberdeen rail line within the LVIA Study Area. At WYO some residual felling surrounding the Proposed Development may be visible to rail travellers. By SY12, mitigation planting would have established, aiding integration into the landscape. The visual impact assessment of the Cable Corridors during the operation and maintenance phase has been scoped out.
Magnitude of Change during Operation and Maintenance Phase	WYO: Negligible SY12: Negligible
Significance of Effect during Operation and Maintenance Phase	WYO: Negligible Not significant SY12: Negligible Not significant
Core Paths and Cycle Networks	
Coastal Path: Johnshaven to Gourdon / NCN 1	
Sensitivity	High
Assessment of Visual Impact during Construction Phase	A section of NCN 1, which is also an Aberdeenshire core path, crosses the LVIA Study Area where it passes adjacent to Benholm Beach and the Landfall area. There are unrestricted views from the route in all directions; across the beach, along the coast and inland across the fields that accommodate the 220/275 kV Cable Corridor as it climbs the hills behind. Elements visible during the 220/275 kV Cable Corridor construction phase would include a permanent access road and temporary haulage roads, drilling pads, drilling rigs, TJBs, compounds, storage areas, associated fencing, equipment, lighting, signage and movement of

Routes	
	construction plant and traffic. There would be a negligible loss of vegetation and a minor loss of some agricultural land. Construction lighting may be required during winter months. The introduction of the construction works at this undeveloped tranquil location will be noticeable, affecting the surrounding character and altering some of the components and features of Haughs Bay. Changes will be seen at short distance close to Haughs Bay and at longer distances by southbound walkers and cyclists near Gourdon. The area affected would be a tiny proportion of the route of NCN 1 but comprises a relatively sizable proportion of the core path. It is unlikely that additional mitigation measures, such as screen fencing, would be effective in reducing visual impacts at this location and so no specific additional mitigation has been identified. This will be reviewed during the detailed design stage. Restoration of the construction working areas and temporary access tracks would be undertaken towards the end of the construction period and on completion most areas would be restored to their pre-existing condition as agricultural or scrub land to aid visual integration into the landscape. Disturbed areas would be revegetated by seeding and planting of locally native species, to tie in with existing adjacent vegetation types. Construction effects would be short term (12 months) and partly reversible, with the remaining permanent features visible during the operation and maintenance phase modest in scale.
Magnitude of Change during Construction Phase	The overall magnitude of change experienced by walkers and cyclists on Coastal Path: Johnshaven to Gourdon during the construction phase would be Medium.
Significance of effect during Construction Phase	**Moderate (temporary)** **Significant**
Assessment of Visual Impact during Operation and Maintenance Phase	The visual impact assessment of the Landfall area and Cable Corridors during the operation and maintenance phase has been scoped out.
Inverbervie: Old Post Road	
Sensitivity	High

Routes	
Assessment of Visual Impact during Construction Phase	Inverbervie: Old Post Road passes through an elevated landscape of large scale open fields from Benholm village to Balandro. The core path crosses the indicative 220/275 kV Cable Corridor close to Tillygrain. Some construction elements would be visible from the core path during the construction phase, these would primarily comprise two temporary access tracks and the movement of construction plant. Effects would be transitory, and walkers would experience them across a relatively short section of the core path. There would be a negligible loss of vegetation and a temporary disruption of some agricultural land. Restoration of the construction working areas and temporary access tracks would be undertaken towards the end of the construction period and on completion most areas would be restored to their pre-existing condition as agricultural or scrub land to aid visual integration into the landscape. Disturbed areas would be revegetated by seeding and planting of locally native species, to tie in with existing adjacent vegetation types. Construction effects would be short term (12 months) and partly reversible, with the remaining permanent features visible during the operation and maintenance phase modest in scale.
Magnitude of Change during Construction Phase	The overall magnitude of change experienced by walkers on Inverbervie: Old Post Road core path during the construction phase would be Low.
Significance of effect during Construction Phase	Minor (temporary) Not Significant
Assessment of Visual Impact during Operation and Maintenance Phase	The visual impact assessment of the Landfall area and Cable Corridors during the operation and maintenance phase has been scoped out.
Mill of Benholm to Coast	
Sensitivity	High
Assessment of Visual Impact during Construction Phase	The Mill of Benholm to Coast core path follows the wooded glen of the Burn of Benholm from Benholm village joining the coastal path at Haughs Bay. Views from the path towards the 220/275 kV Cable Corridor construction works would generally be screened by the dense woodland which encloses the Burn of Benholm. There would be limited visibility to the construction works through trees bordering the Benholm road and from

Routes	
	the open section of the path close to the coast which lies 800 m from Landfall. Intermittent visibility of heavy plant movement and lighting during hours of darkness may be apparent from this part of the path. These effects would be transitory, and walkers would experience them across a relatively short section of the route.
Magnitude of Change during Construction Phase	The overall magnitude of change experienced by walkers on Mill of Benholm to Coast core path during the construction phase would be Negligible.
Significance of effect during Construction Phase	Minor (temporary) Not Significant
Assessment of Visual Impact during Operation and Maintenance Phase	The visual impact assessment of the Landfall area and Cable Corridors during the operation and maintenance phase has been scoped out.
Mid Kinmonth Circular	
Sensitivity	High
Assessment of Visual Impact during Construction Phase	Viewpoint 2 (Volume 3: Visualisations, Figure 8.9) has been included within the visual assessment as a representative viewpoint for walkers on the Mid Kinmonth Circular core path. Mid Kinmonth Circular is short route of approx. 3 km which starts at Drumlithie Church and follows the course of the Drumlithie Burn before climbing the slopes of Kinmonth Hill passing through open fields and then back down the hill to the church in the northwest of the village. The cable centreline crosses the route of the core path twice, with a temporary access track following its route. Where the cable crosses the path to the south, it runs through a shelter belt of mature mixed woodland trees and some of these trees would require felling during the construction works. Direct views to the 220/275 kV Cable Corridor construction works would be obtained from most of the route either at close range or mid distance. Elements visible during the construction phase would include temporary access roads and movement of construction plant. There would be a loss of some mature mixed woodland and a temporary disruption of some agricultural land.

Routes	
	Restoration of the construction working areas and temporary access tracks would be undertaken towards the end of the construction period and on completion most areas would be restored to their pre-existing condition as agricultural land to aid visual integration into the landscape. Where felling has been undertaken over the 220/275 kV Cable Corridor, reinstatement tree planting would not be appropriate but areas would be revegetated by seeding and planting of locally native shrub species, to tie in with existing adjacent vegetation types and aid visual reintegration into the landscape. Construction effects would be considered short term (3 months) and partly reversible, with no permanent features visible from the route during the operation and maintenance phase.
Magnitude of Change during Construction Phase	Due to the loss of mature trees and the proximity of temporary access roads, the overall magnitude of change experienced by walkers on Mid Kinmonth Circular core path during the construction phase would be Medium.
Significance of effect during Construction Phase	**Moderate (temporary)** **Significant**
Assessment of Visual Impact during Operation and Maintenance Phase	The visual impact assessment of the Cable Corridors during the operation and maintenance phase has been scoped out.
Fetteresso Forest Local Paths	
Sensitivity	High
Assessment of Visual Impact during Construction Phase	Various routes within Fetteresso Forest are not included within the Core Path plan, but are popular walking and running trails and so have been included within the assessment. These include the Fetteresso Forest Circular, the Hill of Three Stones Circular and local paths on the Hill of Trusta and Hill of Swanley. Access is provided for walkers from two public car parks, one off the A957 (Slug Road) and one at the Hill of Quithel. The ZTV in Figure 8.6 (Annex – Figures) (representing a worst-case scenario for the Substation) shows that none of the construction works would be visible from the parking areas, Fetteresso Forest Circular or the Hill of Three Stones Circular route. Additionally, although theoretical

Routes	
	visibility is indicated, views from local paths on the Hill of Trusta would generally be limited by the existing woodland. Views would be obtained to construction works from some local routes within 1 km of construction works on the more elevated western slopes of the Hill of Swanley. Viewpoint 6 (Volume 3: Visualisations, Figure 8.13) has been included within the visual assessment as a representative viewpoint for walkers, runners and riders with elevated views from the local path that encircles the summit of Swanley Hill. It is likely that there would be views to ground level construction activity including construction machinery, temporary access roads, earthworks, vehicle movements, and the felling of trees surrounding the site and for access routes would increase visibility. From some locations on the paths, views would be limited to the taller construction elements, such as cranes, which would extend above the treetops. Lighting of construction works during hours of darkness may also be apparent during the winter months. It is unlikely that additional mitigation measures such as screen fencing would be effective in reducing visual impacts during rhte construction phase and so no specific additional mitigation has been identified. This will be reviewed during the detailed design stage. Construction effects as listed above would be short term (4 years) and partly reversible, in that some construction effects would completely cease once construction is complete (e.g. use of cranes and construction lighting).
Magnitude of Change during Construction Phase	A limited proportion of the overall path network in Fetteresso Forest would be affected by the construction works but tree felling required for the construction site and 220/275 kV and 400kV cable corridors, construction traffic and construction works will be apparent from several routes. The overall magnitude of change experienced by walkers within Fetteresso Forest path network during the construction phase would be Medium.
Significance of effect during Construction Phase	**Moderate (temporary)** **Significant**
Assessment of Visual Impact during Operation and Maintenance Phase	Figure 8.6 (Annex – Figures) shows that the theoretical visibility of the Substation extends across an eastern part of Fetteresso Forest, broadly

Routes	
	centred around an area within 1 km of the Proposed Development. There would be no visibility to the Proposed Development from the majority of local paths within the forest, including Fetteresso Forest Circular path, the Hill of Three Stones Circular path or the two public car parks at Slug Road and the Hill of Quithel. Local paths within the forest that may experience sections with visibility to the Substation include those around the Hill of Trusta, Hurlie Bog and Hill of Swanley. The dense coniferous plantation of Fetteresso Forest will screen many views from receptors with direct views to the Substation most likely from areas where trees have been cleared close to the building or on the more elevated western slopes of the Hill of Swanley. From these locations the Proposed Development would introduce large-scale built form into the existing forested landscape. (see Viewpoint 6 in Volume 3: Visualisations, Figure 8.13). The visibility of this new development would be mostly limited to these Fetteresso Forest path networks which lie within 1 km of the Proposed Development. At WYO, the earthworks and felled areas surrounding the Substation following the construction phase would be clearly noticeable within the forest. As mitigation planting establishes, these impacts would merge into the overall landscape and by SY12 would not be apparent.
Magnitude of Change during Operation and Maintenance Phase	WYO: Medium SY12: Low
Significance of Effect during Operation and Maintenance Phase	WYO: **Moderate** **Significant** SY12: Minor Not Significant

Viewpoint Assessment

8.10.6 As detailed in Section 8.4 representative viewpoints have been selected in consultation with Aberdeenshire Council and chosen to represent a variety of different visual receptors and a range of distances, directions and elevations from Landfall, the Cable Corridors and the Substation of the Proposed Development.

8.10.7 The representative viewpoints and their sensitivity to the Proposed Development are set out in Table 8.15. Table 8.21 provides baseline descriptions of the representative viewpoints and a visual assessment of the construction and operation and maintenance phases of the Proposed Development on the visual receptors.

8.10.8 The locations of the viewpoints are shown in combination with the ZTV in Figure 8.6 (Annex – Figures).

8.10.9 As detailed in Table 8.13 the visual assessment of the Cable Corridors and Landfall during the operation and maintenance phase has been scoped out. For the purposes of the assessment the operation and maintenance phase has been considered for two scenarios; the winter of the proposed year of opening (WYO) which assesses the completed project and the traffic using it, representing a maximum impact scenario before any planted mitigation can take full effect; and in the summer of the 12th year after opening (SY12), which assesses the completed project and the traffic using it, representing a minimum impact scenario, where any planted mitigation measures would be established and can be expected to be reasonably effective

Table 8.21: Viewpoint Assessment

Viewpoint Assessment	
Viewpoint 1: A92 nr Nether Knox Cottage / NCN1 / Southeast Aberdeenshire Coast SLA	
Volume 3: Visualisations, Figure 8.8 **Grid Reference: 381484, 769690**	
Receptor(s)	Residents / Road Users / Cyclists
Sensitivity	High
Baseline Description	Viewpoint 1 illustrates the view from the southbound layby on the A92. The road traverses the raised beach above Haughs Bay and sheet 1 shows long distance open views south across arable fields bound by low hedgerows to the rocky shoreline of Haughs Bay and out to sea. Sheet 2 shows the view west with an open landscape of large-scale arable fields rising to the hill above, slightly obscured by a low roadside embankment. Apart from the transport corridor the scene is rural in character with little development.
Assessment of Visual Effect during Construction Phase	Volume 3: Visualisations, Figure 8.8 illustrates that from this location there will be direct views to the 220/275 kV Cable Corridor and also to the Landfall area encompassing a 180º angle of view. Construction elements visible during the construction phase would include permanent access roads and temporary haulage roads, drilling pads, drilling rigs, TJBs, compounds, storage areas, associated fencing, equipment, lighting, signage and movement of construction plant and traffic. There would be a loss of some sections of field boundary hedgerow and a minor loss of some agricultural land. Traffic management measures and construction lighting may be required during winter months. Restoration of the construction working areas and temporary access tracks would be undertaken towards the end of the construction period and on completion most areas would be restored to their pre-existing condition as agricultural or scrub land to aid visual integration into the landscape. Field boundaries would be restored as hedgerow or with fencing as appropriate. Disturbed areas would be revegetated by seeding and planting of locally native species, to tie in with existing adjacent vegetation types. Construction effects at Landfall would be considered short term (12 to 15 months) and partly reversible, with the remaining permanent features visible during the operation and maintenance phase almost imperceptible within the landscape. The viewpoint lies at a higher elevation than Landfall and this would negate any additional mitigation measures, such as screen fencing, from being effective in reducing the visual effect at this location, thus no additional mitigation has been identified. This will be reviewed during the detailed design stage.
Magnitude of Change during Construction Phase	Due to the temporary introduction of multiple construction elements which would contrast with the existing open rural landscape, the overall magnitude of change experienced by receptors at Viewpoint 1 during the construction phase would be High.

Viewpoint Assessment	
Significance of effect during Construction Phase	**Major (temporary)** **Significant**
Assessment of Visual Effect during Operation and Maintenance Phase	The visual impact assessment of the Cable Corridors during the operation and maintenance phase has been scoped out as effects would be not significant.
Viewpoint 2: Drumlithie / Mid Kinmonth Circular Core Path	
Volume 3: Visualisations, Figure 8.9	**Grid Reference: 378336, 780988**
Receptor(s)	Walkers
Sensitivity	High
Baseline Description	Viewpoint 2 illustrates the view from the Mid Kinmonth Circular path at the northwestern edge of Drumlithie. Sheet 1 looks west along the valley of the Drumlithie Burn which is crossed by telegraph poles and covered by a mixture of rough grassland, arable fields and small blocks of deciduous woodland. Sheet 2 shows the view north as the path climbs a gentle hill to run alongside a mature deciduous shelterbelt. The surrounding large arable fields are open but the rolling landform and blocks of woodland limit long distance views. The view is rural in character with the buildings of Hillrise and Mid Kinmonth Farm seen interspersed amongst the fields.
Assessment of Visual Effect during Construction Phase	Volume 3: Visualisations, Figure 8.9 illustrates that there would be 180° views to the 220/275 kV Cable Corridor as it crosses the Drumlithie Burn valley and passes through arable fields and a mature shelter belt to the higher land to the north. The main construction element visible would be a temporary haulage road which would follow the 220/275 kV Cable Corridor across the Drumlithie Burn valley and pass through the shelter belt necessitating the felling of some mature trees and a minor loss of some agricultural land. The temporary road would introduce associated movement of construction vehicles. Restoration of the construction working areas and temporary access tracks would be undertaken towards the end of the construction period and on completion most areas would be restored to their pre-existing condition as agricultural land to aid visual integration into the landscape. Where felling has been undertaken over the 220/275 kV Cable Corridor reinstatement tree planting would not be appropriate but areas would be revegetated by seeding and planting of locally native shrub species, to tie in with existing adjacent vegetation types and aid visual reintegration into the landscape. It is unlikely that additional mitigation measures, such as screen fencing, would be effective in reducing visual impacts at this location and so no other additional mitigation has been identified. This will be reviewed during the detailed design stage.

Viewpoint Assessment	
	Construction effects would be considered short term (3 months) and partly reversible, with the remaining permanent features visible during the operation and maintenance phase almost imperceptible within the landscape.
Magnitude of Change during Construction Phase	Due to the introduction of the temporary access track and the loss of mature trees, the overall magnitude of change experienced by receptors at Viewpoint 2 during the construction phase would be Medium.
Significance of effect during Construction Phase	**Moderate (temporary)** **Significant**
Assessment of Visual Effect during Operation and Maintenance Phase	The visual impact assessment of the Cable Corridors during the operation and maintenance phase has been scoped out as effects would be not significant.
Viewpoint 3: Carron Water valley near Buckie's Mill	
Volume 3: Visualisations, Figure 8.10	**Grid Reference: 378227, 783073**
Receptor(s)	Road Users
Sensitivity	Medium
Baseline Description	Viewpoint 3 comprises an elevated panoramic view from an access road to Buckie's Mill and Newmill. Sheet 1 shows the view south across a field to a small block of woodland and a wind turbine on the ridge of Kinmonth Hill. Sheet 2 shows the view west across the rolling open fields of the Carron Water valley. Two other wind turbines are visible with a block of woodland in the mid distance surrounding Blererno. Sheet 3 shows a long-distance view north across open rolling fields with the land rising to Fetteresso Forest on the skyline. The residential properties of Buckie's Mill are seen in the foreground with some of the Newmill buildings scattered across the opposing slopes of the Carron Water valley. In the distance large scale vertical infrastructure includes a wind turbine and electrical transmission towers.
Assessment of Visual Effect during Construction Phase	Volume 3: Visualisations, Figure 8.10 illustrates that there would be 270° views to the 220/275 kV Cable Corridor from viewpoint 3 with views encompassing Kinmonth Hill in the south and traversing the Carron Water valley to climb to Fetteresso Forest in the north. Elements that would be temporarily visible during the construction phase include drilling pads, drilling rigs, TJBs, compounds, storage areas, associated fencing, equipment, lighting, signage and movement of construction plant and traffic. Temporary haulage roads would be visible crossing the Carron Valley along with the associated movement of construction vehicles. There would be a small loss of sections of field boundary hedgerow and the loss of some agricultural land.

Viewpoint Assessment	
	Restoration of the construction working areas and the temporary haulage roads would be undertaken towards the end of the construction period and on completion most areas would be restored to their pre-existing condition as agricultural land to aid visual integration into the landscape. Field boundaries would be restored as hedgerow or with fencing as appropriate. Disturbed areas of vegetation would be revegetated by seeding and planting of locally native species, to tie in with existing adjacent vegetation types. It is unlikely that additional mitigation measures, such as screen fencing, would be effective in reducing visual impacts at this location and so no specific additional mitigation has been identified. This will be reviewed during the detailed design stage. Construction effects would be considered short term (3 months) and partly reversible, with the remaining permanent features visible during the operation and maintenance phase almost imperceptible within the landscape.
Magnitude of Change during Construction Phase	Construction elements will be apparent across much of this open rural landscape but generally seen in long or mid distance views. The overall magnitude of change experienced by receptors at Viewpoint 3 during the construction phase would be Medium.
Significance of effect during Construction Phase	**Moderate (temporary)** **Significant**
Assessment of Visual Effect during Operation and Maintenance Phase	The visual impact assessment of the Cable Corridors during the operation and maintenance phase has been scoped out as effects would not be significant.
Viewpoint 4: Auchenblae Road near Annamuick	
Volume 3: Visualisations, Figure 8.11	**Grid Reference: 379520, 784831**
Receptor(s)	Residents/Road Users
Sensitivity	High
Baseline Description	Viewpoint 4 illustrates the mid distance view from the Auchenblae Road which traverses the southern slopes of the Brae of Glenbervie. Sheet 1 shows the view north across open fields laid to pasture which rise to the edge of the coniferous plantation of Fetteresso Forest at Elf Hill. The road follows the contours of the slope. Sheets 2 and 3 show the view south across rolling open fields which fall to the Annamuick Burn valley and then rise up to the ridge of the Hill of Tannachie. The view is open with mixture of pasture and arable fields bound by hedgerow, hedgerow trees, fencing, shelterbelts and small blocks of woodland. The buildings of Cuttiesouter are partially visible on sheet 3 lying low in the Annamuick Burn valley.

Viewpoint Assessment	
Assessment of Visual Effect during Construction Phase	Volume 3: Visualisations, Figure 8.11 illustrates that there would be 270º views to the 220/275 kV Cable Corridor from viewpoint 4 with the route travelling across the landscape from Elf Hill in the north to the Hill of Tannachie in the south. Several HDD pads will be visible as the cable crosses both the Burn of Elfhill and the Burn of Annamuick at this location. Elements that would be temporarily visible during the construction phase include drilling pads, drilling rigs, TJBs, compounds, storage areas, associated fencing, equipment, lighting, signage and movement of construction plant and traffic. Temporary access tracks would be visible at Annamuick and across the valley on the Hill of Tannachie along with the associated movement of construction vehicles. There would be a loss of sections of hedgerow, scrub surrounding the burns and agricultural land. Physical effects on road users may comprise intermittent traffic management measures during the construction works necessitated by the adjacent temporary access routes. Direct views to elements of the 220/275 kV Cable Corridor construction works will be obtained from a 2.5 km section of the Auchenblae Road from Elfhill to Quithel. Construction elements visible during the construction phase would include temporary access roads drilling pads, drilling rigs, TJBs, compounds, storage areas, associated fencing, equipment, lighting, signage and movement of construction plant. There would be a loss of some scrub vegetation surrounding the Burn of Elfhill and temporary disruption of some agricultural land. Traffic management measures and construction lighting may be required during winter months. Restoration of the construction working areas and temporary access tracks would be undertaken towards the end of the construction period and on completion most areas would be restored to their pre-existing condition as agricultural or scrub land to aid visual integration into the landscape. Disturbed areas would be revegetated by seeding and planting of locally native species, to tie in with existing adjacent vegetation types. It is unlikely that additional mitigation measures, such as screen fencing, would be effective in reducing visual impacts at this location and so no specific additional mitigation has been identified. This will be reviewed during the detailed design stage. Construction effects would be considered short term (3 months) and partly reversible, with the remaining permanent features visible during the operation and maintenance phase modest in scale.
Magnitude of Change during Construction Phase	Construction elements at both short and long distances would be noticeable within the context of the existing rural setting. The overall magnitude of change experienced by receptors at Viewpoint 4 during the construction phase would be Medium.
Significance of effect during Construction Phase	**Moderate (temporary)** **Significant**
Assessment of Visual Effect during Operation and Maintenance Phase	The visual impact assessment of the Cable Corridors during the operation and maintenance phase has been scoped out as effects would be not significant.

Viewpoint Assessment	
Viewpoint 5: Hillhead of Auquhirie	
Volume 3: Visualisations, Figure 8.12 **Grid Reference: 383190, 783720**	
Receptor(s)	Residents/Road Users
Sensitivity	High
Baseline Description	Viewpoint 5 is located on an elevated position on the Hillhead of Auquhirie road adjacent to Hillhead of Auquhirie Farm. The view looks northwest across the Carron Water valley, rising up the Braes of Glenbervie to the Hill of Swanley and Hill of Trusta. In the foreground a tall coniferous hedge bordering the farm limits views to the east whilst mown grass land surrounding Clochnahill Wind Farm is seen, with views across this to an open patchwork of pasture and arable fields, shelterbelts and small blocks of woodland which rise to the plantation woodland of Fetteresso Forest on the skyline. In the distance large scale vertical infrastructure includes the communications mast on the Hill of Mossmaud and a line of electrical transmission towers crossing the rolling hills.
Assessment of Visual Effect during Construction Phase	Due to the open landscape views would be obtained to construction works of both the Cable Corridors and the Substation from Viewpoint 5, however due to the long separation distances many elements would be difficult to distinguish. The construction works for the 220/275 kV and 400kV Cable Corridors would be theoretically visible crossing the slopes of the Brae of Glenbervie. These works would be seen at a distance of 4 km at closest and elements that could be plausibly visible from this location would include temporary access roads, drilling rigs, lighting, and movement of construction plant. The construction works for the Substation would be partially visible from this viewpoint, seen between the Hill of Swanley and Hill of Trusta at a distance of 4km. Elements likely to be visible during good weather conditions would include taller construction elements, such as cranes, which would extend above the treetops, construction machinery, vehicle movements, lighting and the felling of woodland. Construction effects as listed above would be considered short term (4 years) and partly reversible, in that some construction effects will completely cease once construction is complete (e.g., use of cranes and construction lighting). However, the main works for the Proposed Development are non-reversible as the Substation and its associated infrastructure would become a permanent feature. This is addressed within the operation and maintenance Phase assessment.
Magnitude of Change during Construction Phase	Construction elements would be seen over long distances and within the context of the existing vertical infrastructure on the Hill of Trusta. The overall magnitude of change experienced by receptors at Viewpoint 5 during the construction phase would be Low.
Significance of effect during Construction Phase	Minor Not Significant

Viewpoint Assessment	
Assessment of Visual Effect during Operation and Maintenance Phase	Volume 3: Visualisations, Figure 8.12 shows that permanent features visible from this location would comprise the upper part of the Substation, with the lower parts screened by landform and intervening forestry. The Substation would be seen nestled between the Hill of Swanley and Hill of Trusta 4 km away. The Proposed Development would extend across a relatively small angle of view and would be seen within the context of the existing wind and electrical transmission infrastructure within Fetteresso Forest. At WYO some residual felling, earthworks and mitigation planting may be discernible along the routes of the Cable Corridors and temporary tracks but seen at 4km away but thus would form minor elements within the wider panorama. As seeding and planting establish the routes would merge into the overall landscape and by SY12 would not be apparent.
Magnitude of Change during Operation and Maintenance Phase	WYO: Low SY12: Negligible
Significance of effect during Operation and Maintenance Phase	WYO: Minor Not Significant SY12: Minor Not Significant
Viewpoint 6: Hill of Swanley, Fetteresso Forest	
Volume 3: Visualisations, Figure 8.13	**Grid Reference: 381243, 787291**
Receptor(s)	Walkers
Sensitivity	High
Baseline Description	Viewpoint 6 is located on a forestry track which passes just below the summit of the Hill of Swanley. The long-distance view westward shows the expansive plantation woodland of Fetteresso Forest covering the upland landform which rises to the Hill of Trusta in the centre of the image and the Hill of Mossmaud to the right of the image. The coniferous forestry stands of varying ages are interspersed with areas which have been left open. In the foreground the landform is planted with young trees and sharply drops to the valley of the Burn of Day. On the skyline large scale vertical infrastructure is visible including a communications mast located on the Hill of Mossmaud and a line of electrical transmission towers crossing the Hill of Trusta.
Assessment of Visual Effect during Construction Phase	Direct views would be obtained to construction works from this elevated location on the Hill of Swanley. Views would be experienced over distances of 550m at closest and it is likely that there would be views to ground level construction activity, including construction machinery, temporary access roads, earthworks, vehicle movements, and the felling of trees surrounding the site and the 220/275 kV and 400kV cable corridors. Lighting of construction works during hours

Viewpoint Assessment	
	of darkness would be apparent during the winter months although it is unlikely many receptors would be at this location during hours of darkness. Construction effects as listed above would be considered short term (4 years) and partly reversible, in that some construction effects will completely cease once construction is complete (e.g., use of cranes and construction lighting).
Magnitude of Change during Construction Phase	Construction elements would be seen over relatively short distances and due to the elevated location of Viewpoint 6 would look across construction works with it becoming a focal point within the view. The overall magnitude of change experienced by receptors at Viewpoint 6 during the construction phase would be High.
Significance of effect during Construction Phase	**Major (temporary)** **Significant**
Assessment of Visual Effect during Operation and Maintenance Phase	Volume 3: Visualisations, Figure 8.13 shows that the Substation would form a major element and focal point in views from this location, extending across a wide angle of view and introducing large-scale built form into the existing forested landscape. Receptors would look down onto the Substation roof which would be seen centrally in front of the Hill of Trusta 740m away. At WYO the earthworks and felled areas surrounding the Substation following the construction phase would be clearly noticeable. As mitigation planting establishes these impacts would merge into the overall landscape and by SY12 would not be apparent. The viewpoint lies at a higher elevation than the site and this would negate any additional mitigation measures, such as screen fencing, from being effective in reducing the visual effect at this location, thus no additional mitigation has been identified. This will be reviewed during the detailed design stage.
Magnitude of Change during Operation and Maintenance Phase	WYO: High SY12: Medium
Significance of effect during Operation and Maintenance Phase	WYO: **Major** **Significant** SY12: **Moderate** **Significant**
Viewpoint 7: Smiddy Cottage/Clachanshiels	
Volume 3: Visualisations, Figure 8.14	**Grid Reference: 380165, 787981**
Receptor(s)	Residents
Sensitivity	High

Viewpoint Assessment	
Baseline Description	Viewpoint 7 is located southwest of Clachanshiels. The view looks south towards the edge of Fetteresso Forest with Smiddy Cottage and an outbuilding seen in the foreground. The landform gradually rises but views to the hills beyond are screened by dense coniferous forestry.
Assessment of Visual Effect during Construction Phase	Volume 3: Visualisations, Figure 8.14 shows that there will be limited visibility of the construction works for the Substation from Viewpoint 7. The PPP Application Boundary lies approximately 480m from the viewpoint and intervening mature coniferous trees will screen ground level activity, including the construction of temporary access roads, earthworks, vehicle movements, and the felling of trees. Some taller construction elements, such as cranes and larger construction plant might been seen above the treetops, but until a more detailed design is provided for the Substation this is difficult to assess. Lighting of construction works during hours of darkness may also be apparent as glare above the trees from this location. Construction effects as listed above would be considered short term (4 years), with all construction effects ceasing once construction is complete.
Magnitude of Change during Construction Phase	Visible construction elements would be limited to possible partial views of construction plant over the treetops and lighting glare. The overall magnitude of change experienced by receptors at Viewpoint 7 during the construction phase would be Low.
Significance of effect during Construction Phase	Minor Not Significant
Assessment of Visual Effect during Operation and Maintenance Phase	Volume 3: Visualisations, Figure 8.14 shows that permanent elements of the Proposed Development including the Substation would not be visible from this viewpoint due to screening from the intervening mature forestry.
Magnitude of Change during Operation and Maintenance Phase	WYO: None SY12: None
Significance of effect during Operation and Maintenance Phase	WYO: None Not Significant SY12: None Not Significant
Viewpoint 8: A957 (Slug Road) at Rickarton nr Bogheadly	
Volume 3: Visualisations, Figure 8.15	**Grid Reference: 381150, 788921**

Viewpoint Assessment	
Receptor(s)	Residents / Road Users
Sensitivity	High
Baseline Description	Viewpoint 8 is located on the westbound side of the A957 (Slug Road) between Bogheadly and Millsburn. The elevated long-distance view southwest looks across a mixture of farmland and riparian woodland covering the rolling landscape of the Cowie Water valley and then rises to Hill of Swanley to the left of the image and the Hill of Trusta to the right. These hills are covered with the coniferous plantation woodland of Fetteresso Forest with forested stands of varying ages interspersed with open areas. On the skyline electrical transmission towers are visible crossing the Hill of Trusta.
Assessment of Visual Effect during Construction Phase	Direct views would be obtained to the south towards construction works from this elevated location on the A957. Views would comprise ground level construction activity, including construction machinery, temporary access roads, earthworks, vehicle movements, and the felling of trees surrounding the site. Lighting of construction works during hours of darkness would be apparent during the winter months. The construction activity will be seen within the context of the wide-ranging views across the rolling forested hills at this location and existing trees will screen views to some activities. Due to these broad panoramic views, the separation distance of 1.6km to construction works and the limited field of view covering the site, the construction activity will not form a major element in views. Construction effects as listed above would be considered short term (4 years) and partly reversible, in that some construction effects will completely cease once construction is complete (e.g., use of cranes and construction lighting).
Magnitude of Change during Construction Phase	The Proposed Development will comprise a relatively small field of view of the overall panorama from this location but will be partially seen against the skyline and so construction activity is likely to be noticed. The overall magnitude of change experienced by receptors at Viewpoint 8 during the construction phase would be Medium.
Significance of effect during Construction Phase	**Moderate (temporary)** **Significant**
Assessment of Visual Effect during Operation and Maintenance Phase	Volume 3: Visualisations, Figure 8.15 shows that the Substation and felled areas surrounding it would be clearly visible from Viewpoint 8 with the roof of the Substation seen against the horizon. The Substation would be lie across the eastern slopes of the Hill of Trusta at a distance of 1.6 km. The Proposed Development would extend across a relatively acute field of view and would be seen within the context of the existing forested landscape of Fetteresso Forest. At WYO residual felling and earthworks would be discernible surrounding the Substation although seen 1.6km away. At SY12 once planting has established, the lower parts of the Substation would be screened aiding the developments' integration into the landscape.
Magnitude of Change during	WYO: Medium SY12: Low

Viewpoint Assessment	
Operation and Maintenance Phase	
Significance of effect during Operation and Maintenance Phase	WYO: **Moderate** **Significant** SY12: Minor Not significant

Landscape Assessment – Decommissioning Phase

8.10.10 As set out in Volume 1, Chapter 2: The Proposed Development, if decommissioning takes place, it is anticipated that all structures above ground will be completely removed. The decommissioning sequence will generally be the reverse of the construction sequence and involve similar types and numbers of vehicles and equipment.

8.10.11 It is expected that the 220/275 kV and 400 kV Cables will be removed via the TJBS to minimise the environmental disturbance during decommissioning and if complete decommissioning of the Substation is required, then all electrical infrastructure will be removed and foundations will be broken up and the site reinstated to its original use or for an alternative use.

8.10.12 The removal of the Substation would result in a reversal of the negligible landscape effects on the character of LCT 24 and LCT 29 identified during the operation and maintenance phase SY12. This would result in a Negligible positive effect on landscape character. The decommissioning effects would be temporary in nature and would be Not Significant.

Visual Assessment – Decommissioning Phase

8.10.13 It is recognised that there would be some temporary visual effects during decommissioning of the Proposed Development. The additional effects resulting from decommissioning activities would be localised and relatively incidental when viewed in the context of removal of the Proposed Development.

8.10.14 Visual receptors identified with views to the Substation during the operation and maintenance phase SY12 would experience the greatest effects during decommissioning whilst removal of the buildings and infrastructure is undertaken. Visual effects would decrease incrementally as decommissioning progresses and as more elements of the Proposed Development are removed.

8.10.15 Overall, it is considered that there would be a low magnitude of change (over that during the operation and maintenance phase SY12) for the reasons outlined above. This would result in no greater than a Minor temporary effect on the visual amenity. The decommissioning effects would be temporary in nature and would be Not Significant.

Additional Mitigation and Residual Effects

Additional Mitigation

8.10.16 Significant visual effects (temporary) have been identified due to the introduction of the Proposed Development during the Construction Phase. It is unlikely that any additional mitigation measures, such as screen fencing, would be effective in reducing landscape and visual impacts at these locations and so no additional mitigation has been identified. It should be noted that these effects will be temporary during construction, and as per Embedded Mitigation, reinstatement will be phased as construction of the cable is progressed to minimise the visual effects of construction.

8.10.17 No significant effects have been identified due to the introduction of the 220/275 kV Cable Corridor for the Operation and Maintenance phase and thus no additional mitigation would be required.

8.10.18 Significant visual effects have been identified for the Operation and Maintenance phase at WYO for users of the Fetteresso Local Paths, residents at Westerton of Bogheadly, Rickarton and visual receptors at Viewpoint 6: Hill of Swanley, Fetteresso Forest and Viewpoint 8; A957 (Slug Road) at Rickarton, due to the introduction of the Substation and associated earthworks and infrastructure.

8.10.19 Additional mitigation measures to prevent, reduce and offset visual impacts at these locations are listed below and will be developed further after the PPP stage during the later stages of the design of the Proposed Development:

- The design, finishes and colour of all buildings, structures and noise cladding will be given consideration to reduce impacts on visual receptors, particularly to the north of the substation where screening for long distance visual receptors may not be feasible or practical due to the inherent constraints of the local landform.
- Planting and seeding will be designed and implemented to aid integration of the Proposed Development into the existing woodland setting. This will be achieved by careful design to maximise screening where possible whilst complementing the existing adjacent habitats.

Residual Effects

8.10.20 Residual impacts at Landfall would be limited to the introduction of at grade TJB inspection covers, a permanent access track and reinstatement planting or seeding.

8.10.21 Residual impacts from the introduction of the 220/275 kV and 400kV Cable Corridors would comprise at grade joint bay/link box covers, permanent access tracks and reinstatement planting or seeding.

8.10.22 Residual impacts from the introduction of the Substation would comprise the Substation and associated infrastructure, buildings, earthworks, permanent access tracks, drainage and compensatory and replacement planting or seeding.

8.10.23 Residual effects are those that remain once the additional mitigation measures have been implemented. The assessment has considered a SY12 scenario for the operation and maintenance phase when any planted mitigation measures would be established and can be expected to be reasonably effective.

8.10.24 Significant residual effects were identified for SY12 following establishment of additional mitigation planting at one receptor location; Viewpoint 6: Hill of Swanley, Fetteresso Forest where the Substation would remain a major element and focal point in views.

8.11 Inter-Related Effects

8.11.1 Inter-relationships are considered to be the impacts and associated effects of different aspects of the Proposed Development on the landscape or visual receptor.

8.11.2 The potential for inter-related effects (see Volume 1, Chapter 6: EIA Methodology) were considered as part of the assessment presented in Section 10.10 above. Potential Inter-related effects were identified and are presented in Table 8.22.

8.11.3 Impacts on Landscape and Visual also have the potential to have secondary effects on other receptors and these effects are fully considered in the topic-specific chapters within Volume 1: Chapter 6: Land Use, Chapter 7: Biodiversity, Terrestrial Ecology and Ornithology, Chapter 9: Cultural Heritage, Chapter 14: Traffic and Transport and Chapter 16: Socio-Economics, Tourism and Recreation, and within Volume 2, Appendix 6.1 Foresty and Arboricultrual Technical Report

Table 8.22: Summary of Likely Inter-Related Effects

Topic	Phase			Likely Significant Inter-Related Effects
	C	O&M	D	
Project Lifetime Effects				
Forestry	✓	✓	×	Loss of forestry from the introduction of the Proposed Development and future felling plans have the potential to affect the extents and/or quality of screening for receptors and prompt changes to landscape character.
Ecology	×	✓	✓	Ecological proposals will provide increased opportunities for biodiversity and habitat and help to visually integrate the Proposed Development into its setting and improve landscape quality.
Socio-Economics, Tourism and Recreation	×	✓	×	The permanent introduction of the Substation to Fetteresso Forest has potential to affect landscape character and the visual amenity of users of the forest including walkers, cyclists and horse riders within 1.5kn of the Proposed Development due to the increase of industrial infrastructure within the woodland setting.
Receptor-led Effects				
Land Use	✓	×	×	Temporary disruption of agricultural land, loss of forestry, closure of paths and the introduction of construction compounds have potential to affect landscape character and visual amenity.
Cultural Heritage	✓	×	×	Temporary visual impacts on the setting of GDL and CA during the construction phase have potential to influence temporary change to landscape character.
Traffic and Transport				Increased vehicle movements and the introduction of large plant during construction may increase visual effects for receptors.
Socio-economics,	✓	×	×	The introduction of construction works have potential to temporarily affect the visual amenity of recreational users of

Topic	Phase			Likely Significant Inter-Related Effects
	C	O&M	D	
Tourism and Recreation				coastal paths and NCN 1. The introduction of the construction works to Fetteresso Forest has potential to temporarily affect recreational users of the forest including walkers, cyclists and horse riders due to temporary disruption of path routes, loss of forestry and the introduction of construction compounds, temporary access tracks and movement of heavy plant.

8.12 Cumulative Effects Assessment

Methodology

8.12.1 The methodology used for the cumulative landscape and visual impact assessment (CLVIA) that are predicted to result from the Proposed Development in combination with other, third-party future development is described in Section 1.3 of Volume 2, Appendix 8.3: Cumulative Landscape and Visual Effects.

8.12.2 Table 8.23 below provides a list of the other future projects considered in combination with the Proposed Development in Volume 2, Appendix 8.3: Cumulative Landscape and Visual Effects. Only those other projects that are predicted to result in significant cumulative overall landscape and visual effects when considered against the existing baseline in combination with the Proposed Development during operation and maintenance phase have been included in the CLVIA.

Table 8.23: Screening of Other Projects for Consideration within the CEA for Landscape and Visual

Project	Overlap with the Proposed Development	Screened into CEA (Yes/No)
Tier 2		
Hurlie 400 kV Substation APP/2024/1951, ENQ/2024/1176, ENQ/2024/0146	Significant cumulative landscape and visual effects are predicted due to the proximity (approx. 0.75 – 1.9km) and visual prominence of the two substations.	Yes
The Waters BESS ENQ/2024/1615, ENQ/2024/1830	No significant cumulative landscape or visual effects are predicted due to the distance (approx. 3.6km) between the Grid Battery Energy Storage Facility and the proposed substation.	No
Fetteresso 132 kV Substation Upgrade ENQ/2025/1103, ENQ/2025/1000	No significant cumulative landscape or visual effects are predicted due to the low magnitude of change that would result from the Fetteresso 132 kV Substation Upgrade.	No
Grains Of Fetteresso Indoor Play Area APP/2025/0058	No significant cumulative landscape or visual effects are predicted due to the low magnitude of change that would result from the Grains Of Fetteresso Indoor Play Area.	No

Project	Overlap with the Proposed Development	Screened into CEA (Yes/No)
S36 Windfarm, Fetteresso Forest ECU00001851, APP/2019/1341	Significant cumulative visual effects are predicted due to the visually prominent proposed substation in combination with the consented 10 wind turbines (up to 200 m to blade tip).	Yes
Glenskinnan Renewable Energy Park ENQ/2025/0960	Significant cumulative landscape and visual effects are predicted due to the visually prominent proposed substation in combination with the proposed 14 wind turbines (up to 220m to blade tip).	Yes
Craigneil Wind Farm ENQ/2024/0640	Significant cumulative landscape and visual effects are predicted due to the visually prominent proposed substation in combination with the proposed wind farm (up to seven wind turbines (180m to blade tip).	Yes
Meetlaw Farm Battery Energy Storage System APP/2022/2676	No significant cumulative landscape or visual effects are predicted due to the distance (approx. 6km) between the Battery Energy Storage System and the proposed substation.	No
East Coast Viners Solar Storage Project APP/2022/1701	No significant cumulative landscape or visual effects are predicted due to the distance (approx. 6.4km) between the Solar Storage Project and the proposed substation.	No
Tier 3		
Tealing to Kintore 400 kV OHL ENQ/2024/1397, ECU00005225	Significant cumulative visual effects are predicted due to the visually prominent proposed substation in combination with the proposed towers and overhead lines	Yes
Droop Hill Solar Park ENQ/2025/0368, APP/2025/0560	No significant cumulative landscape or visual effects are predicted due to the distance (approx. 6.8km) between the Solar Park and the proposed substation.	No
Glendye Wind Farm 132 kV OHL ENQ/2024/1818, ECU0005197	No significant cumulative landscape or visual effects are predicted due to the low magnitude of change that would result from the 132 kV OHL.	No
Bridgend Farm BESS ENQ/2024/0747, APP/2025/0089	No significant cumulative landscape or visual effects are predicted due to the distance (approx. 7.7km) between the Battery Electricity Storage System and the proposed substation.	No
Quithel 50 MW BESS ENQ/2023/1713	No significant cumulative landscape or visual effects are predicted due to the distance (approx. 2.9km) between the Battery Electricity Storage System and the proposed substation.	No
Northeast Of Drumlithie BESS ENQ/2023/0093	No significant cumulative landscape or visual effects are predicted due to the distance (approx. 5.1km) between the Battery Electricity Storage System and the proposed substation.	No

Summary of Significant Cumulative Effects

SSEN-T Hurlie 400 kV substation and associated elements

8.12.3 Moderate (significant) combined cumulative effects on landscape character within LCT 24 are predicted (within 4 km, concentrated along north-facing slopes south of Carron Water, stretching between Carnmont Hill and Hillhead of Auquhirie) during the winter of the year of opening, reducing to Minor (not significant) by the summer 12 years after opening.

8.12.4 Moderate (significant) combined cumulative effects on landscape character within LCT 29 are predicted (within 1.5 km, across elevated slopes to the east and south) during both the winter of the year of opening and the summer 12 years after opening.

8.12.5 It should be noted that the main effects contributing to the combined cumulative effects on LCT 24 and LCT 29 would result from the Hurlie Substation project and the additive cumulative effects resulting from the Proposed Development are unlikely to be significant.

8.12.6 Moderate (significant) combined cumulative visual effects are predicted during both the winter of the year of opening and the summer 12 years after opening for people travelling along sections of path within Fetteresso Forest around Upper Baulk, Hill of Trusta and Hill of Swanley.

8.12.7 Major (significant) combined cumulative visual effects are predicted during the winter of the year of opening at Viewpoint 6: Hill of Swanley, Fetteresso Forest, reducing to Moderate (significant) by the summer 12 years after opening.

SSEN-T Tealing to Kintore 400kV Overhead Line

8.12.8 Moderate (significant) combined cumulative visual effects are predicted during both the winter of the year of opening and the summer 12 years after opening for people travelling along sections of path which lie within 1km of the Proposed Development in Fetteresso Forest, including paths located on the more elevated western slopes of the Hill of Swanley.

8.12.9 Major (significant) combined cumulative visual effects are predicted during the winter of the year of opening at Viewpoint 6: Hill of Swanley, Fetteresso Forest, reducing to Moderate (significant) by the summer 12 years after opening.

8.12.10 Moderate (significant) combined cumulative visual effects are predicted during the winter of the year of opening at Viewpoint 8: A957 (Slug Road) at Rickarton nr Bogheadly, reducing to Minor (not significant) by the summer 12 years after opening.

Glenskinnan Renewable Energy Park

8.12.11 Moderate (significant) combined cumulative effects on landscape character (concentrated along north-facing slopes south of Carron Water, stretching between Carnmont Hill and Hillhead of Auquhirie) within LCT 24 are predicted during the winter of the year of opening, reducing to Minor (not significant) by the summer 12 years after opening.

8.12.12 Moderate (significant) combined cumulative effects on landscape character within the central and eastern parts of LCT 29 are predicted during both the winter of the year of opening and the summer 12 years after opening.

8.12.13 It should be noted that the main effects contributing to the combined cumulative effects on LCT 24 and LCT 29 would result from the Glenskinnan Renewable Energy Park project and the additive cumulative effects resulting from the Proposed Development are unlikely to be significant.

8.12.14 Moderate (significant) combined cumulative visual effects are predicted during the winter of the year of opening at Viewpoint 5: Hillhead of Auquhirie and Viewpoint 8: A957 (Slug Road) at Rickarton nr Bogheadly, reducing to Minor (not significant) by the summer 12 years after opening at both of these viewpoint locations.

8.12.15 Major (significant) combined cumulative visual effects are predicted during the winter of the year of opening at Viewpoint 6: Hill of Swanley, Fetteresso Forest, reducing to Moderate (significant) by the summer 12 years after opening.

Craigneil Wind Farm

8.12.16 Moderate (significant) combined cumulative effects on landscape character within the eastern part of LCT 29 are predicted during both the winter of the year of opening and the summer 12 years after opening.

8.12.17 It should be noted that the main effects contributing to the combined cumulative effects on LCT 29 would result from the Craigneil Wind Farm project and the additive cumulative effects resulting from the Proposed Development are unlikely to be significant.

8.12.18 Moderate (significant) combined cumulative visual effects are predicted during both the winter of the year of opening and the summer 12 years after opening for people travelling along sections of path within Fetteresso Forest around Hill of Trusta and Hill of Swanley.

8.12.19 Major (significant) combined cumulative visual effects are predicted during the winter of the year of opening at Viewpoint 6: Hill of Swanley, Fetteresso Forest, reducing to Moderate (significant) by the summer 12 years after opening.

8.12.20 Major (significant) combined cumulative visual effects are predicted during both the winter of the year of opening and the summer 12 years after opening at Viewpoint 8: A957 (Slug Road) at Rickarton nr Bogheadly.

Fetteresso Wind Farm

8.12.21 Moderate (significant) combined cumulative visual effects are predicted during the winter of the year of opening for people travelling along sections of path within Fetteresso Forest around Hill of Trusta and Hill of Swanley.

8.12.22 Major (significant) combined cumulative visual effects are predicted during the winter of the year of opening at Viewpoint 6: Hill of Swanley, Fetteresso Forest, reducing to Moderate (significant) by the summer 12 years after opening.

8.13 Summary of Significant Landscape and Visual Effects

8.13.1 Table 8.24 summarises the significant Effects of the Proposed Development on landscape and visual receptors during the construction and operation and maintenance phases both prior to and following application of additional mitigation.

8.13.2 As detailed in Table 8.13 the visual assessment of the 220 kV/275 kV and 400kV Cable Corridors and Landfall during the operation and maintenance phase has been scoped out and is shown greyed out in Table 8.25.

8.13.3 Table 8.25 summarises the significant in-combination Cumulative Effects of the Proposed Development on landscape and visual receptors during the operation and maintenance phase both prior to and following application of additional mitigation.

Table 8.24: Summary of Significant Effects for Landscape and Visual Receptors

Receptors	Construction		Operation & Maintenance			
			Year 0		Year 12	
	Significance of Effect	Significance	Significance of Effect WYO	Significance Year WYO	Significance of Effect SY12	Significance SY12
Landscape Receptors						
LCT						
LCT 24: Coastal Farmed Ridges and Hills – Aberdeenshire	Moderate	**Significant**	Negligible	Not Significant	Negligible	Not Significant
Visual Receptors						
Settlements						
Tannachie	Moderate	**Significant**	-	-	-	-
Individual Properties and Clusters						
Haughs of Benholm	Moderate	**Significant**	-	-	-	-
Nether Knox, Benholm	Moderate	**Significant**	-	-	-	-
Nether Benholm	Moderate	**Significant**	-	-	-	-
Tillygrain, Benholm	Moderate	**Significant**	-	-	-	-
Upper Knox, Benholm	Moderate	**Significant**	-	-	-	-
Three Wells Inverbervie	Moderate	**Significant**	-	-	-	-
Peattie, Arbuthnott	Moderate	**Significant**	-	-	-	-
Kirkton, Arbuthnott	Moderate	**Significant**	-	-	-	-
Kirkton House, Arbuthnott	Moderate	**Significant**	-	-	-	-
Pitcharles Farm and Cottages, Arbuthnott	Moderate	**Significant**	-	-	-	-
Little Wairds, Arbuthnott	Moderate	**Significant**	-	-	-	-
Broombank Cottage, Drumlithie	Moderate	**Significant**	-	-	-	-
Westfield House, Drumlithie	Major	**Significant**	-	-	-	-
Hillrise, Drumlithie	Moderate	**Significant**	-	-	-	-
Blererno, Buckie's Mill	Moderate	**Significant**	-	-	-	-
Annamuick	Moderate	**Significant**	-	-	-	-
Elfhill	Moderate	**Significant**	-	-	-	-
Westerton of Bogheadly, Rickarton	Moderate	**Significant**	Moderate	**Significant**	Minor	Not Significant
Routes						
Coastal Path: Johnshaven to Gourdon/ NCN 1	Moderate	**Significant**	-	-	-	-
Mid Kinmonth Circular	Moderate	**Significant**	-	-	-	-

Receptors	Construction		Operation & Maintenance			
			Year 0		Year 12	
	Significance of Effect	**Significance**	**Significance of Effect WYO**	**Significance Year WYO**	**Significance of Effect SY12**	**Significance SY12**
Fetteresso Forest Local Paths	Moderate	**Significant**	Moderate	**Significant**	Minor	Not Significant
Viewpoints						
Viewpoint 1: A92 nr Nether Knox Cottage/NCN1/Southeast Aberdeenshire Coast SLA	Major	**Significant**	-	-	-	-
Viewpoint 2: Drumlithie/Mid Kinmonth Circular Core Path	Moderate	**Significant**	-	-	-	-
Viewpoint 3: Carron Water valley near Buckie's Mill	Moderate	**Significant**	-	-	-	-
Viewpoint 4: Auchenblae Road near Annamuick	Moderate	**Significant**	-	-	-	-
Viewpoint 6: Hill of Swanley, Fetteresso Forest	Major	**Significant**	Major	**Significant**	Moderate	**Significant**
Viewpoint 8: A957 (Slug Road) at Rickarton nr Bogheadly	Moderate	**Significant**	Moderate	**Significant**	Minor	Not Significant

Table 8.25: Summary of Significant In-Combination Cumulative Effects for Landscape and Visual Receptors

Cumulative Development and Receptors	Operation & Maintenance			
	Year 0		Year 12	
	Significance of Effect WYO	Significance Year WYO	Significance of Effect SY12	Significance SY12
SSEN Hurlie 400 kV substation and associated elements + The Proposed Development				
Landscape Receptors				
LCT 24: Coastal Farmed Ridges and Hills – Aberdeenshire (within 4 km)	Moderate	**Significant**	Minor	Not Significant
LCT 29: Summits and Plateaux – Aberdeenshire (within 1.5 km)	Moderate	**Significant**	Moderate	**Significant**
Visual Receptors				
Fetteresso Forest Local Paths (at Upper Baulk, Hill of Trusta and Hill of Swanley)	Moderate	**Significant**	Moderate	**Significant**
Viewpoint 6: Hill of Swanley, Fetteresso Forest	Major	**Significant**	Moderate	**Significant**
SSEN Tealing to Kintore 400kV Overhead Line + The Proposed Development				
Visual Receptors				
Fetteresso Forest Local Paths (within 1 km)	Moderate	**Significant**	Moderate	**Significant**
Viewpoint 6: Hill of Swanley, Fetteresso Forest	Major	**Significant**	Moderate	**Significant**
Viewpoint 8: A957 (Slug Road) at Rickarton nr Bogheadly	Moderate	**Significant**	Minor	Not Significant
Glenskinnan Renewable Energy Park + The Proposed Development				
Landscape Receptors				
LCT 24: Coastal Farmed Ridges and Hills – Aberdeenshire (between Carnmont Hill and Hillhead of Auquhirie)	Moderate	**Significant**	Minor	Not Significant
LCT 29: Summits and Plateaux – Aberdeenshire (central and eastern parts)	Moderate	**Significant**	Moderate	**Significant**
Visual Receptors				
Fetteresso Forest Local Paths (at Hill of Trusta and Hill of Swanley)	Moderate	**Significant**	Moderate	**Significant**
Viewpoint 5: Hillhead of Auquhirie	Moderate	**Significant**	Minor	Not Significant
Viewpoint 6: Hill of Swanley, Fetteresso Forest	Major	**Significant**	Moderate	**Significant**
Viewpoint 8: A957 (Slug Road) at Rickarton nr Bogheadly	Moderate	**Significant**	Minor	Not Significant
Craigneil Wind Farm + The Proposed Development				

Cumulative Development and Receptors	Operation & Maintenance			
	Year 0		Year 12	
	Significance of Effect WYO	Significance Year WYO	Significance of Effect SY12	Significance SY12
Landscape Receptors				
LCT 29: Summits and Plateaux – Aberdeenshire (eastern part of LCT)	Moderate	**Significant**	Moderate	**Significant**
Visual Receptors				
A957 Slug Road (between Durris Forest car park and Bogheadly)	Moderate	**Significant**	Moderate	**Significant**
Fetteresso Forest Local Paths (at Hill of Swanley)	Moderate	**Significant**	Moderate	**Significant**
Viewpoint 6: Hill of Swanley, Fetteresso Forest	Major	**Significant**	Moderate	**Significant**
Viewpoint 8: A957 (Slug Road) at Rickarton nr Bogheadly	Major	**Significant**	Major	**Significant**
Fetteresso Wind Farm + The Proposed Development				
Visual Receptors				
Fetteresso Forest Local Paths (at Upper Baulk, Hill of Trusta and Hill of Swanley)	Moderate	**Significant**	Minor	Not Significant
Viewpoint 6: Hill of Swanley, Fetteresso Forest	Major	**Significant**	Moderate	**Significant**

8.14 References

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Annex – Figures

Legend

- PPP Application Boundary
- Indicative Bowdun Substation
- Indicative 220/275 kV Cable Centreline
- Indicative 400 kV Cable Centreline
- LVIA Study Area

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Figure 8.1

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Banff Hill
Jack's Gorse
Brownieleys
Kenshot Hill 201
Cairn
Easter Tulloch
Nether Tulloch
Philla Cairn
Haremuir
Greenleys
Anniston
Peattie
Upper Knox
Dendoldrum
Three Wells
Hillside of Dendoldrum
Knox Hill
159
Hallgreen Mains
Upper Mill
The Haughs
Inverbervie
Menmi
Kinghornie
Big Rob's Cove
King's Step
Bervie Bay
Hallgreen Castle
Sillyflatt
Brighead Bush
Cemy
Horse Crook Bay
Gourdon
Long Cairn
Doolie Ness
PH
Harbour
Mus
Whitehouse
Mains of Benholm
Middler Knox
Castle
Fort
Tillygrain
Tullo of Benholm
Moathillter
Brawleymuir
Forgie
Forth
Craighead
Paul Matthew Hill 172
Muirtons
Upper Birnie
Mill of Benholm
Nether Benholm
Nether Knox
Couts Rocks
Haughs of Benholm
Nether Birnie
Haughs Bay
Point o'Bard
Stone of Benholm
Cloch Hill 152
Cairn
Boghead
Mains of Brotherton
Lathallan School
Jackston
Parkhead
Johnshaven
Cemy
PH
Mains of Bridgeton
Balandro
East Long Skelly
Harbour
Bridgeton Castle
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East Mathers
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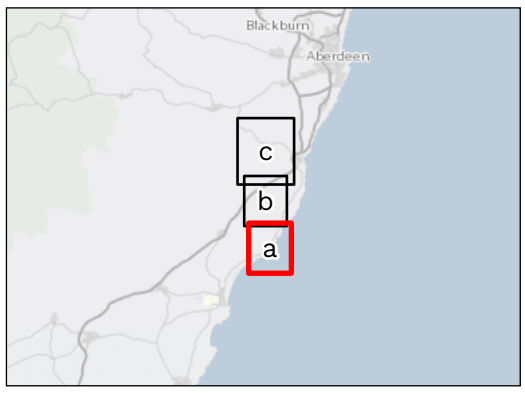
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Legend

- PPP Application Boundary
- Indicative Bowdun Substation
- Indicative 220/275 kV Cable Centreline
- Indicative 400 kV Cable Centreline
- LVIA Study Area

Landscape Character Types (LCT)

- LCT 13: Raised Beach Coast - Aberdeenshire
- LCT 24: Coastal Farmed Ridges and Hills - Aberdeenshire



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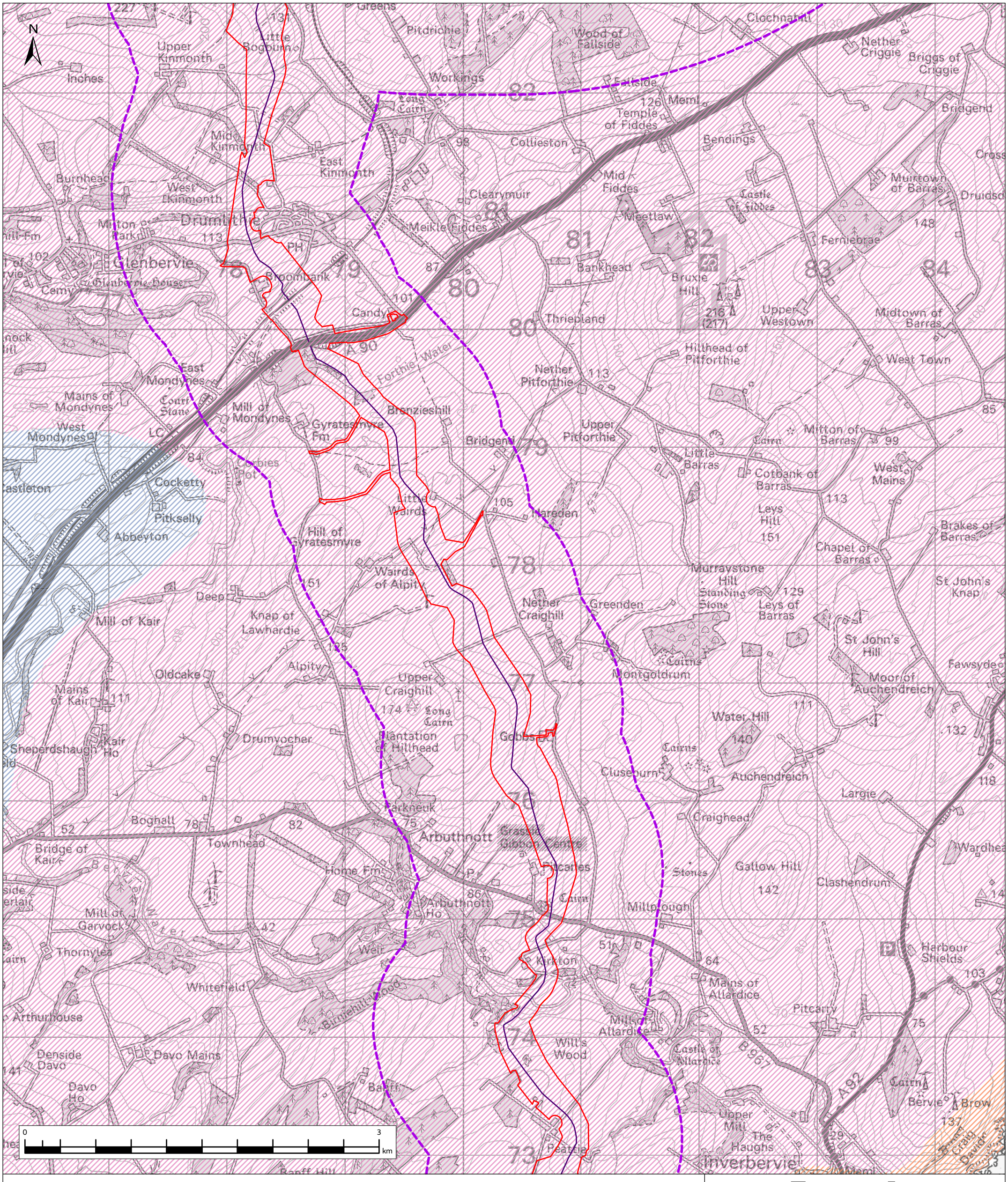
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Figure 8.2a

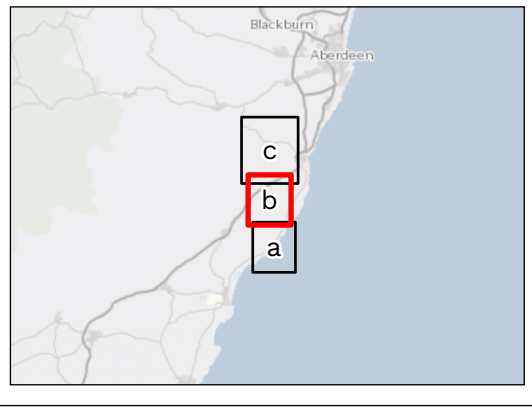


Legend

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- Indicative Bowdun Substation
- Indicative 220/275 kV Cable Centreline
- Indicative 400 kV Cable Centreline
- LVIA Study Area

Landscape Character Types (LCT)

- LCT 13: Raised Beach Coast - Aberdeenshire
- LCT 22: Broad Valley Lowlands - Aberdeenshire
- LCT 24: Coastal Farmed Ridges and Hills - Aberdeenshire



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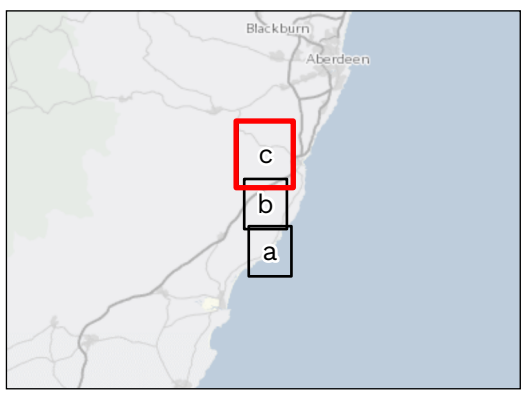
Figure 8.2b

Legend

- PPP Application Boundary
- Indicative Bowdun Substation
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- Indicative 400 kV Cable Centreline
- LVIA Study Area

Landscape Character Types (LCT)

- LCT 11: Fragmented Rocky Coast
- LCT 24: Coastal Farmed Ridges and Hills - Aberdeenshire
- LCT 27: Farmed Moorland Edge - Aberdeenshire
- LCT 29: Summits and Plateaux - Aberdeenshire
- LCT 31: Broad Wooded and Farmed Valley



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Figure 8.2c

Kirkton Of Fetteresso CA

Glenbervie House GDL

Arbuthnott House GDL

Benholm CA

Johnshaven CA

0 5 km

Legend

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- Indicative 400 kV Cable Centreline
- LVIA Study Area
- Conservation Areas (CA)
- Gardens and Designed Landscapes (GDL)

Special Landscape Areas (SLA)

- Braes of the Mearns SLA
- Dee Valley SLA
- South East Aberdeenshire Coast SLA

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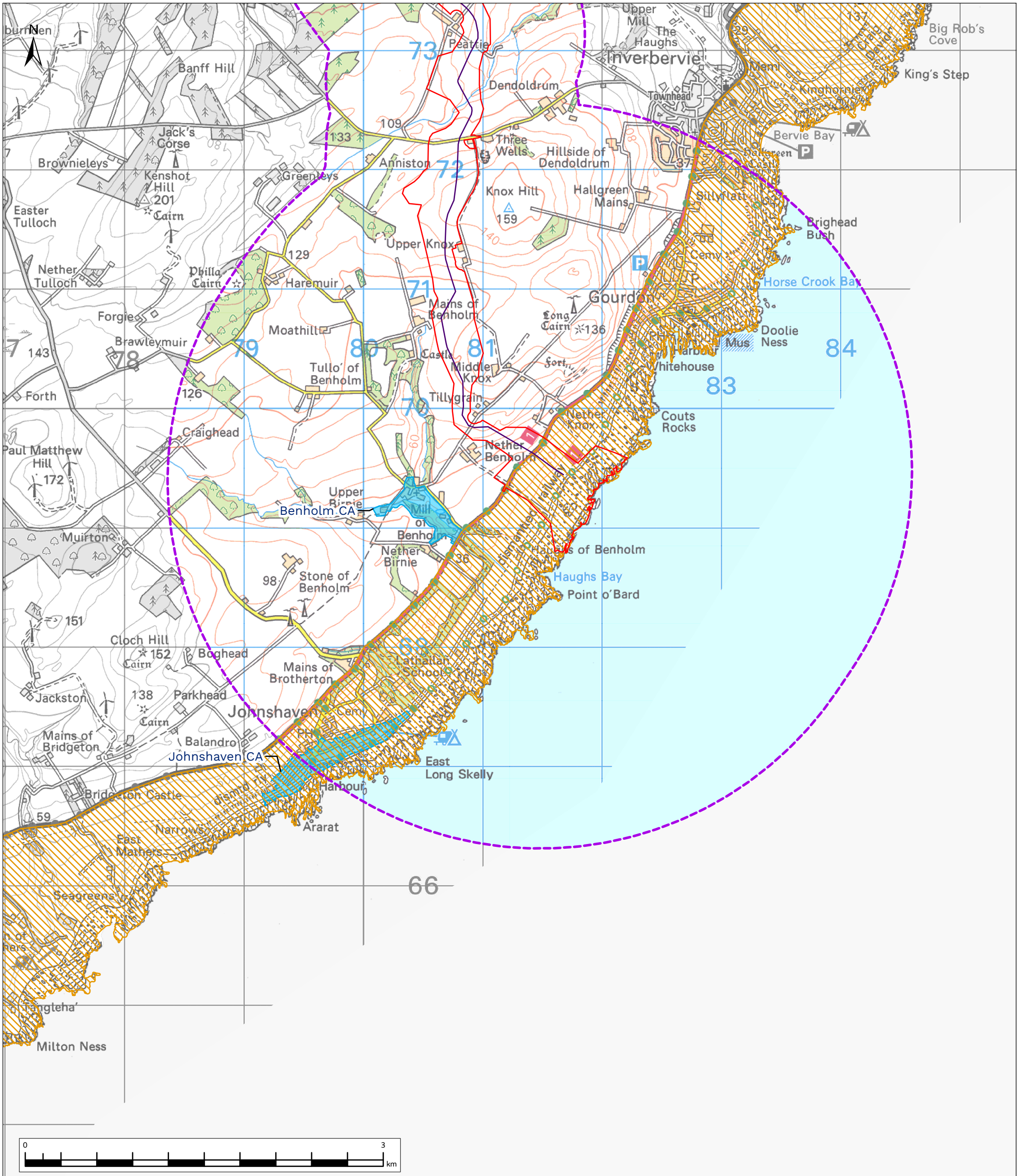
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Figure 8.3

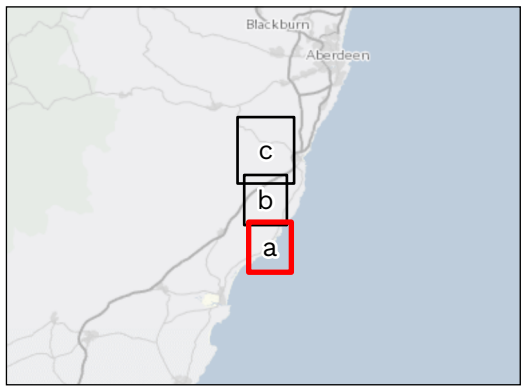


Legend

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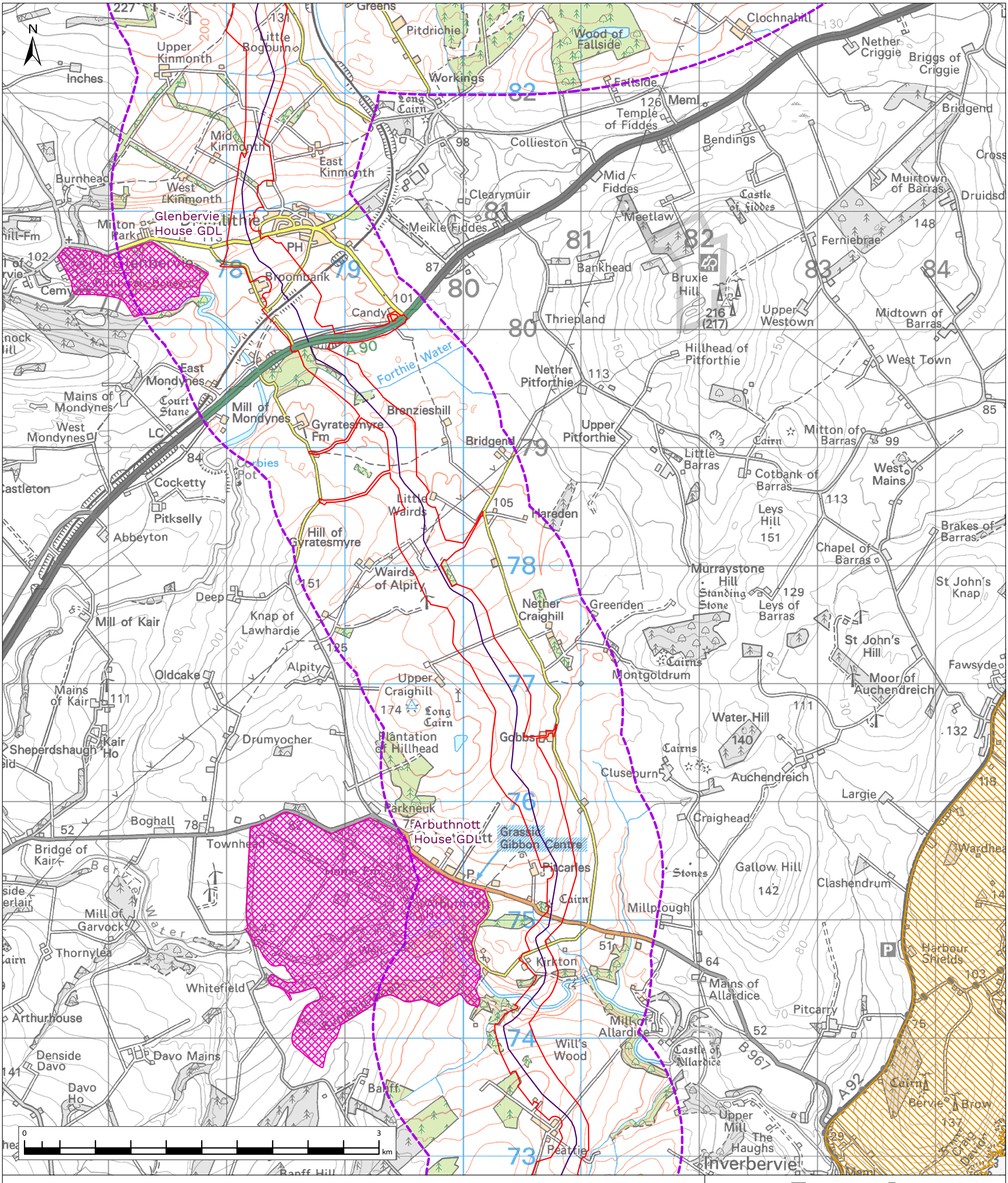
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Figure 8.3a

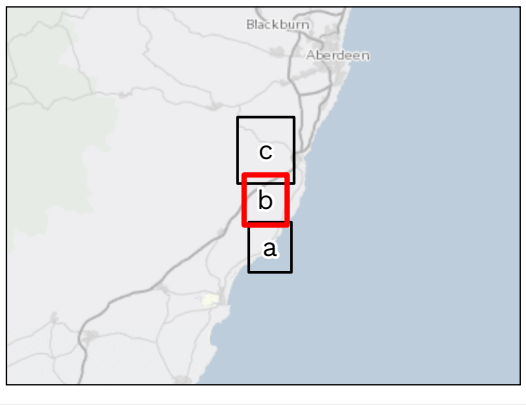


Legend

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- Indicative Bowdun Substation
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- Indicative 400 kV Cable Centreline
- LVIA Study Area
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Special Landscape Areas (SLA)

- South East Aberdeenshire Coast SLA



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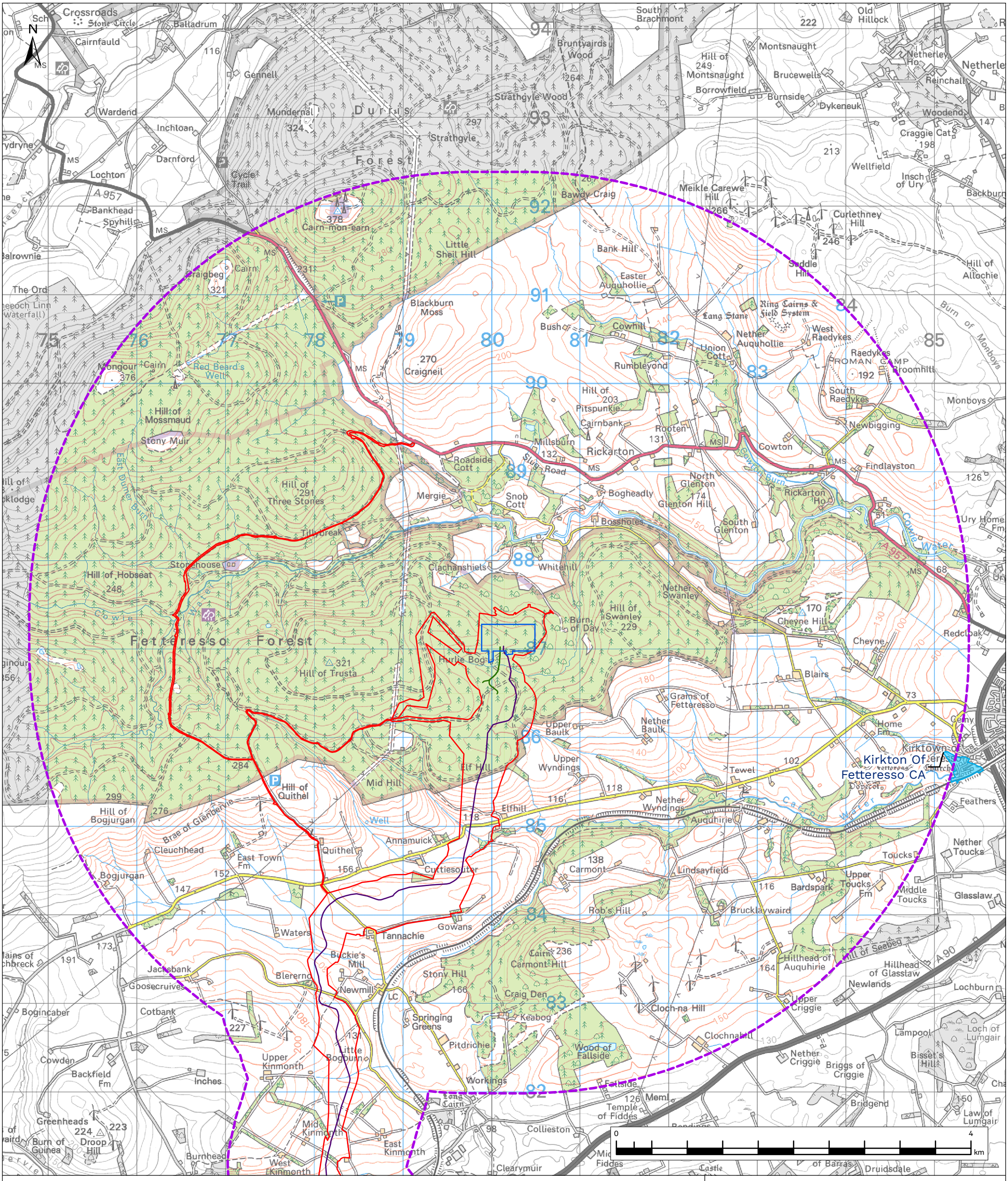
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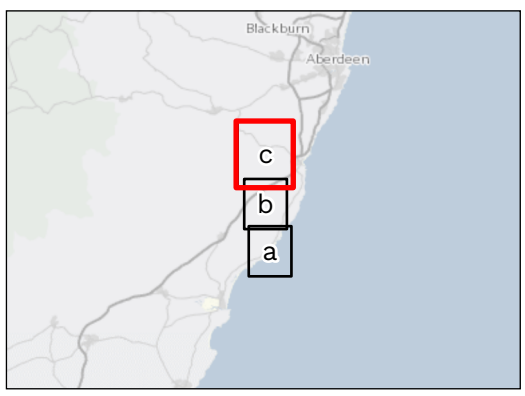
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Figure 8.3b



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Client: THISTLE WIND PARTNERS

Project: Bowdun Offshore Wind Farm
Onshore EIA Report

Drawing Title: Landscape and Visual Assessment
Landscape Designations

Aconnex Number	Drawing Status
TWP-BOW-JCB-ONE-DWG-00041	FINAL

Figure 8.3c

A957 Slug Road

Auchenblae Road

Glenbervie Road

A90

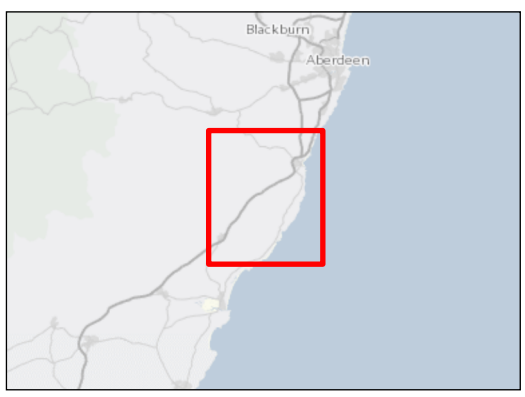
A92

Viewpoint Number	Name
1	A92 / NCN1/ Southeast Aberdeenshire Coast SLA
2	Drumlithie / Mid Kinmonth Circular Core Path
3	Carron Water valley near Buckie's Mill
4	Auchenblae Road near Annamuick
5	Hillhead of Auquhirie
6	Hill of Swanley, Fetteresso Forest
7	Smiddy Cottage/Clachanshiels
8	A957 (Slug Road) at Rickarton nr Bogheadly

0 5 km

Legend

- PPP Application Boundary
- Indicative Bowdun Substation
- Indicative 220/275 kV Cable Centreline
- Indicative 400 kV Cable Centreline
- LVIA Study Area
- Viewpoint Locations
- Dundee to Aberdeen Rail Line
- Core Paths (Aberdeenshire Council)
- National Cycle Network (NCN) Routes
- Fetteresso Forest Local Paths



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Jacobs

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Project: Bowdun Offshore Wind Farm
Onshore EIA Report

Drawing Title: Landscape and Visual Assessment
Visual Receptors

Aconnex Number	Drawing Status
TWP-BOW-JCB-ONE-DWG-00042	FINAL

Figure 8.4

Inverbervie: Old Post Road

Mill Of Benholm To Coast

Inverbervie Old Post Road

Benholm Bridge To Johnshaven

NCN1

A92

Coastal Path: Johnshaven To Gourdon

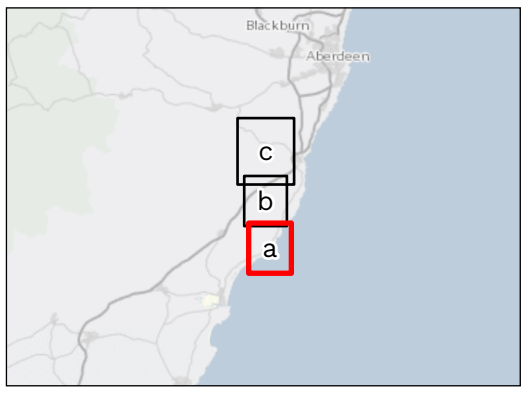
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Viewpoint Number	Name
1	A92 / NCN1/ Southeast Aberdeenshire Coast SLA

0 3 km

Legend

- PPP Application Boundary
- Indicative Bowdun Substation
- Indicative 220/275 kV Cable Centreline
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Onshore EIA Report

Drawing Title: Landscape and Visual Assessment
Visual Receptors

Aconnex Number	Drawing Status
TWP-BOW-JCB-ONE-DWG-00042	FINAL

Figure 8.4a

Mid Kinmonth Circular

Glenbervie Road

A90

A92

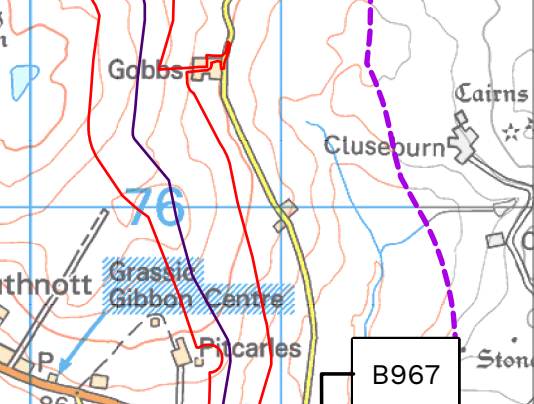
B967

Viewpoint Number	Name
2	Drumlithie / Mid Kinmonth Circular Core Path

0 3 km

Legend

- PPP Application Boundary
- Indicative Bowdun Substation
- Indicative 220/275 kV Cable Centreline
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Drawing Title: Landscape and Visual Assessment
Visual Receptors

Aconnex Number	Drawing Status
TWP-BOW-JCB-ONE-DWG-00042	FINAL

Figure 8.4b

Viewpoint Number	Name
2	Drumlithie / Mid Kinmonth Circular Core Path
3	Carron Water valley near Buckie's Mill
4	Auchenblae Road near Annamuick
5	Hillhead of Auquhirie
6	Hill of Swanley, Fetteresso Forest
7	Smiddy Cottage/Clachanshiels
8	A957 (Slug Road) at Rickarton nr Bogheadly

A957 Slug Road

Auchenblae Road

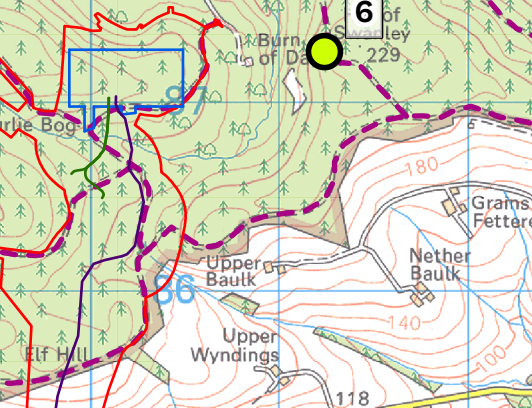
A90

Mid Kinmonth Circular

0 4 km

Legend

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- Indicative Bowdun Substation
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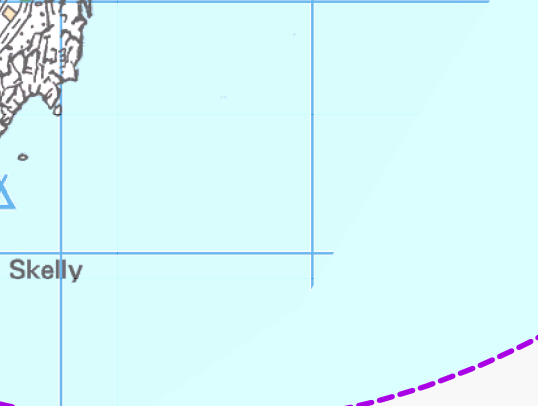
Figure 8.4c

ID No.	Individual Property / Cluster
1	Haughs of Benholm (Nether Knox Cottage / Bayview / Seaview / Pipers Cottage / Orlock)
2	Nether Knox (1 & 2 Nether Knox Cottages), Benholm
3	Nether Benholm (Nether Benholm Farm, Benholm View)
4	Nether Knox (Nether Knox House, Nether Knox Steading, Seaview House), Benholm
5	Tillygrain (Tillygrain, 1 - 3 Nether Benholm Cottages), Benholm
6	Middle Knox (Middle Knox, Middle Knox Cottage, Knoxhill House, Old Mill), Benholm
7	Mains of Benholm (Mains of Benholm, Mains of Benholm Cottage, Burnside Cottage, Mains of Benholm Steading), Benholm
8	Upper Knox (Upper Knox Farm, Upper Knox Farm Steading, Oakfield), Benholm
9	Three Wells (Three Wells Farmhouse, Three Wells Cottage, 1 – 4 Three Wells Steading), Inverbervie
10	Peattie (Peattie Farm, 1 & 2 Peattie Farm Cottages, Shepherds Cottage), Arbuthnott

0 3 km

Legend

- PPP Application Boundary
- Indicative Bowdun Substation Site
- Indicative 220/275 kV Cable Centreline
- Indicative 400 kV Cable Centreline
- Indicative 50m Construction Corridor for 275kV Cable
- LVIA Study Area
- Individual Properties & Clusters
- NTM Indicative Tree Canopy (extent limited to 200m from PPP boundary)
- Tree Preservation Orders (TPOs)
- Ancient Woodland Inventory



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Project: Bowdun Offshore Wind Farm
Onshore EIA Report

Drawing Title: Landscape and Visual Assessment
Existing Vegetation and Individual Residential Receptors

Aconnex Number	Drawing Status
TWP-BOW-JCB-ONE-DWG-00044	FINAL

Figure 8.5a

ID No.	Individual Property / Cluster
10	Peattie (Peattie Farm, 1 & 2 Peattie Farm Cottages, Shepherds Cottage), Arbuthnott
11	Kirkton (Kirkton of Arbuthnott Farm, Kirkton of Arbuthnott Cottage), Arbuthnott
12	Kirkton (Kirkton House), Arbuthnott
13	Pitcharles Farm and Cottages, Arbuthnott
14	Bloomfield Steading and Cottage, Arbuthnott
15	Little Wairds, Arbuthnott
16	Broombank Cottage, Drumlithie
17	Broombank Farm, Drumlithie
18	Westfield House, Drumlithie
19	Hillrise, Drumlithie
20	Mid Kinmonth Farm, Drumlithie
21	East Kinmonth Cottages (Barbary, Cumbrae, Highland), Drumlithie

Legend

- PPP Application Boundary
- Indicative Bowdun Substation Site
- Indicative 220/275 kV Cable Centreline
- Indicative 400 kV Cable Centreline
- Indicative 50m Construction Corridor for 275kV Cable
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Onshore EIA Report

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Existing Vegetation and Individual Residential Receptors

Aconnex Number	Drawing Status
TWP-BOW-JCB-ONE-DWG-00044	FINAL

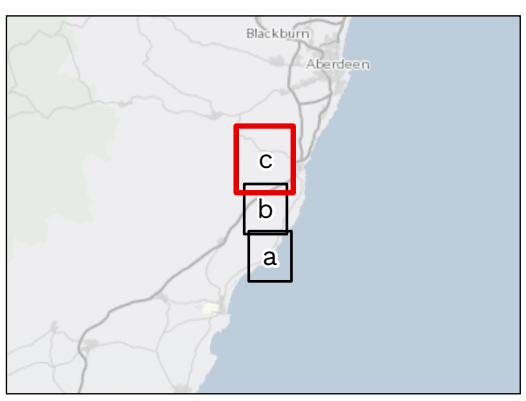
Figure 8.5b

ID No.	Individual Property / Cluster
19	Hillrise, Drumlithie
20	Mid Kinmonth Farm, Drumlithie
21	East Kinmonth Cottages (Barbary, Cumbrae, Highland), Drumlithie
22	Blererno, Buckie's Mill
23	Quithel (Nether Quithel Farm, Upper Quithel Farm)
24	Annamuick Cottages (1 & 2, Clerkswell, Downswell)
25	Cuttiesouter & Thistlebank Steading
26	Annamuick (Annamuick Farm, Springwood)
27	Elfhill (Elfhill Farm, Elfstone Cottage, Elfhill Steading, Trusta)
28	Westerton of Bogheadly, Rickarton
29	Millsburn, Rickarton
30	Hillside, Rickarton
31	Roadside Cottage, Rickarton
32	Hillhead, Rickarton
33	Smiddy Cottage, Rickarton
34	Clachanshiels, Rickarton
35	Whitehill, Rickarton
36	Haugh Head, Rickarton
37	Snob Cottage, Rickarton
38	Snob Croft, Rickarton
39	Bossholes & Tentyhillocks, Rickarton
40	Mergie House, Mergie Stables, Little Mergie, Mergie Steading, Rickarton

0 4 km

Legend

- PPP Application Boundary
- Indicative Bowdun Substation Site
- Indicative 220/275 kV Cable Centreline
- Indicative 400 kV Cable Centreline
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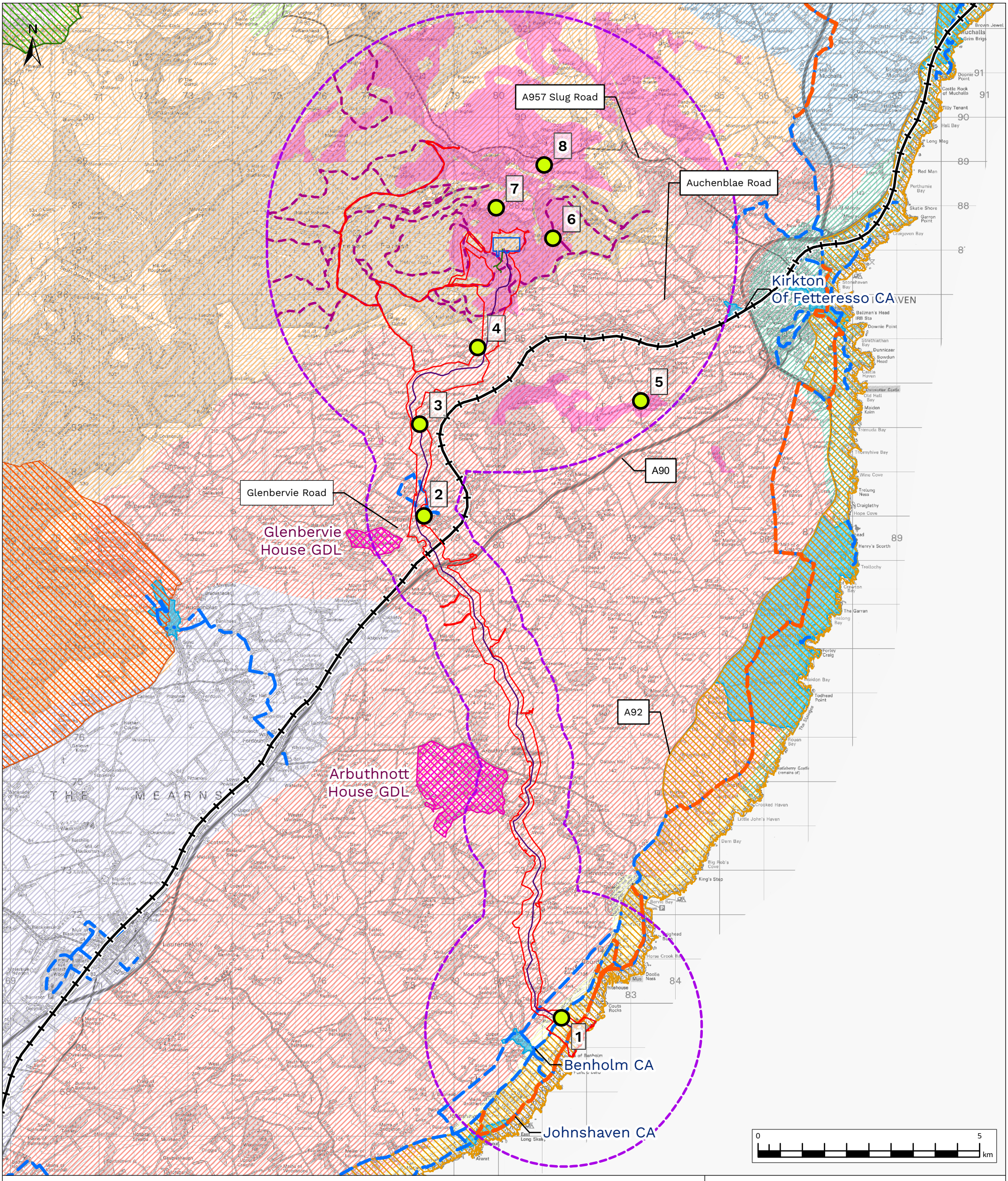
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Project: Bowdun Offshore Wind Farm
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Drawing Title: Landscape and Visual Assessment
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Aconnex Number	Drawing Status
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Figure 8.5c



Legend

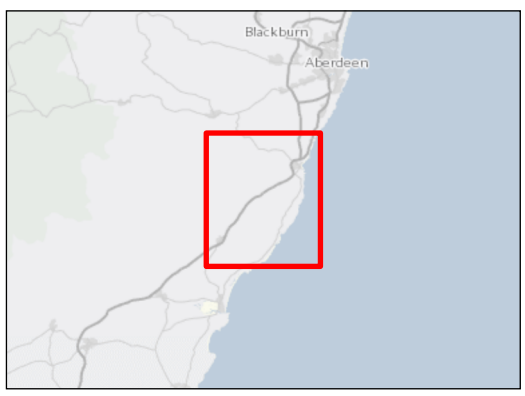
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- Viewpoint Locations
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- Fetteresso Forest Local Paths
- National Cycle Network (NCN) Routes
- Conservation Areas (CA)
- Gardens and Designed Landscapes (GDL)

Special Landscape Areas (SLA)

- Braes of the Mearns SLA
- Dee Valley SLA
- South East Aberdeenshire Coast SLA

Landscape Character Types (LCT)

- LCT 11: Fragmented Rocky Coast
- LCT 13: Raised Beach Coast - Aberdeenshire
- LCT 22: Broad Valley Lowlands - Aberdeenshire
- LCT 24: Coastal Farmed Ridges and Hills - Aberdeenshire
- LCT 27: Farmed Moorland Edge - Aberdeenshire
- LCT 29: Summits and Plateaux - Aberdeenshire
- LCT 31: Broad Wooded and Farmed Valley
- LCT 33: Broad Wooded Valley with Estates



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Project: Bowdun Offshore Wind Farm
Onshore EIA Report

Drawing Title: Landscape and Visual Assessment
ZTV with Landscape and Visual Receptors

Aconnex Number	Drawing Status
TWP-BOW-JCB-ONE-DWG-00043	FINAL

Figure 8.6

Inverbervie: Old Post Road

Mill Of Benholm To Coast

Inverbervie Old Post Road

Benholm Bridge To Johnshaven

NCN1

A92

Coastal Path: Johnshaven To Gourdon

Benholm CA

Johnshaven CA

Viewpoint Number	Name
1	A92 / NCN1/ Southeast Aberdeenshire Coast SLA

0 3 km

Legend

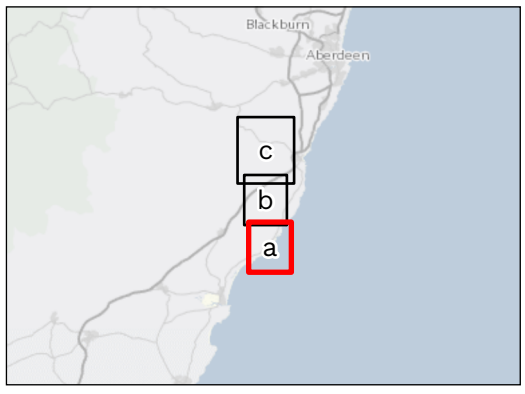
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- LCT 13: Raised Beach Coast - Aberdeenshire
- LCT 24: Coastal Farmed Ridges and Hills - Aberdeenshire



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ZTV with Landscape and Visual Receptors

Aconnex Number	Drawing Status
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Figure 8.6a

Mid Kinmonth Circular

Glenbervie Road

Glenbervie House GDL

Arbuthnott House GDL

A90

A92

B967

Viewpoint Number	Name
2	Drumlithie / Mid Kinmonth Circular Core Path

0 3 km

Legend

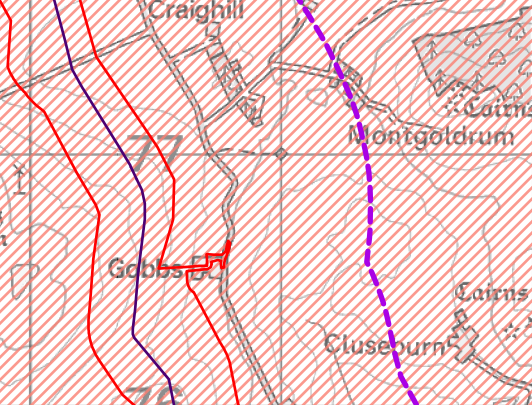
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Drawing Title: Landscape and Visual Assessment ZTV with Landscape and Visual Receptors

Aconnex Number	Drawing Status
TWP-BOW-JCB-ONE-DWG-00043	FINAL

Figure 8.6b

Viewpoint Number	Name
2	Drumlithie / Mid Kinmonth Circular Core Path
3	Carron Water valley near Buckie's Mill
4	Auchenblae Road near Annamuick
5	Hillhead of Auquhirie
6	Hill of Swanley, Fetteresso Forest
7	Smiddy Cottage/Clachanshiels
8	A957 (Slug Road) at Rickarton nr Bogheadly

NOTES
The ZTV indicates the extent of theoretical visibility of the Proposed Development. The terrain model is based on Ordnance Survey Terrain 5 digital terrain model (DTM) data using a viewer height of 1.75m and does not take into account any surface features such as trees and buildings. The ZTV was calculated using ArcGIS Pro, Viewshed Analysis software.

The ZTV calculation has used an indicative ground elevation of 214m AOD, an indicative height of 15m for the Bowdun Substation and the maximum available footprint for the substation to illustrate a worst-case scenario.

A957 Slug Road

Auchenblae Road

Mid Kinmonth Circular

A90

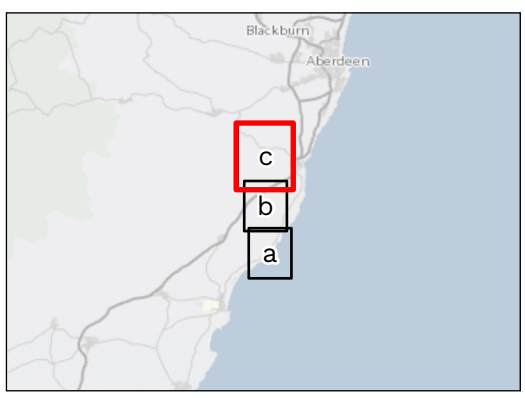
0 4 km

Legend

- PPP Application Boundary
- Indicative Bowdun Substation Site
- Indicative 220/275 kV Cable Centreline
- Indicative 400 kV Cable Centreline
- LVIA Study Area
- Viewpoint Locations
- Bowdun Substation ZTV
- Dundee to Aberdeen Rail Line
- Core Paths (Aberdeenshire Council)
- Fetteresso Forest Local Paths
- Conservation Areas (CA)

Landscape Character Types (LCT)

- LCT 11: Fragmented Rocky Coast
- LCT 24: Coastal Farmed Ridges and Hills - Aberdeenshire
- LCT 27: Farmed Moorland Edge - Aberdeenshire
- LCT 29: Summits and Plateaux - Aberdeenshire
- LCT 31: Broad Wooded and Farmed Valley



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Jacobs

Client: THISTLE WIND PARTNERS

Project: Bowdun Offshore Wind Farm
Onshore EIA Report

Drawing Title: Landscape and Visual Assessment
ZTV with Landscape and Visual Receptors

Rev.	Date	Purpose of revision	Drawn	Check'd	Rev'd	Appr'd
02	NOV 25	Initial Issue	TM	AH	LR	GG
Scale @ A3		Scale: 1:40,000	DO NOT SCALE			
Jacobs No.		B2487500				

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Aconnex Number: TWP-BOW-JCB-ONE-DWG-00043

Drawing Status: FINAL

Figure 8.6c

Craigneil Wind Farm
ENQ/2024/0640

Hurlie 400 kV Substation
APP/2024/1951

Fetteresso Wind Farm
ECU00001851

Glenskinnan Renewable Energy Park
ENQ/2025/0960

Tealing to Kintore 400 kV OHL
ENQ/2024/1397

NOTES

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The ZTV calculation has used an indicative ground elevation of 214m AOD, an indicative height of 15m for the Bowdun Substation and the maximum available footprint for the substation to illustrate a worst-case scenario.

The ZTV calculation for the SSEN Hurlie Substation has used an indicative ground elevation of 222m AOD, an indicative height of 15m and the proposal's site boundary as shown on planning application APP/2024/1951.

0 5 km

Legend

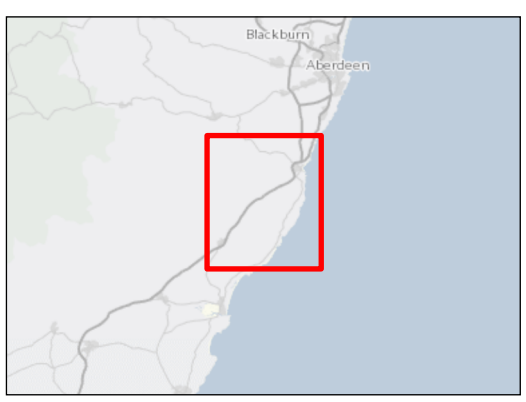
- PPP Application Boundary
- Indicative Bowdun Substation Site
- Indicative 220/275 kV Cable Centreline
- Indicative 400 kV Cable Centreline
- LVIA Study Area

Cumulative Assessment Projects (as of Sept 2025)

- Applications Consented
- Applications Submitted/Under Consideration

Zones of Theoretical Visibility

- Bowdun Substation ZTV
- SSEN Hurlie Substation ZTV
- Combined Visibility of Bowdun and SSEN Hurlie Substations



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02	NOV 25	FINAL	TM	AH	LR	GG
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Jacobs

Client: THISTLE WIND PARTNERS

Project: Bowdun Offshore Wind Farm
Onshore EIA Report

Drawing Title: Landscape and Visual Assessment
Cumulative Developments

Aconnex Number	Drawing Status
TWP-BOW-JCB-ONE-DWG-00045	FINAL

Figure 8.7

NOTES

The ZTV indicates the extent of theoretical visibility of the Proposed Development. The terrain model is based on Ordnance Survey Terrain 5 digital terrain model (DTM) data using a viewer height of 1.75m and does not take into account any surface features such as trees and buildings. The ZTV was calculated using ArcGIS Pro, Viewshed Analysis software.

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The ZTV calculation for the SSEN Hurlie Substation has used an indicative ground elevation of 222m AOD, an indicative height of 15m and the proposal's site boundary as shown on planning application APP/2024/1951.

Craigneil Wind Farm
ENQ/2024/0640

Tealing to Kintore 400 kV
OHL ENQ/2024/1397

Hurlie 400 kV Substation
APP/2024/1951

0 2.5 km

Legend

- PPP Application Boundary
- Indicative Bowdun Substation Site
- Indicative 220/275 kV Cable Centreline
- Indicative 400 kV Cable Centreline
- LVIA Study Area

Cumulative Assessment Projects (as of Sept 2025)

- Applications Consented
- Applications Submitted/Under Consideration

Zones of Theoretical Visibility

- Bowdun Substation ZTV
- SSEN Hurlie Substation ZTV
- Combined Visibility of Bowdun and SSEN Hurlie Substations

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Jacobs

Client: THISTLE WIND PARTNERS

Project: Bowdun Offshore Wind Farm
Onshore EIA Report

Drawing Title: Landscape and Visual Assessment
Cumulative Developments

Rev.	Date	Purpose of revision	Drawn	Check'd	Rev'd	Appr'd
02	NOV 25	FINAL	TM	AH	LR	GG
Scale @ A3		Scale: 1:40,000	DO NOT SCALE			
Jacobs No.		B2487500				

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Aconnex Number: TWP-BOW-JCB-ONE-DWG-00045

Drawing Status: FINAL

Figure 8.7