8 Landscape and Visual Impact

8.1 Executive Summary

8.1.1 The Proposed Development would introduce a new OHL alignment including steel lattice towers and associated cabling to a rural part of the landscape, characterised by coniferous forestry, rough grassland and open moorland to the east and southeast of Loch Awe.

8.1.2 There would be direct, significant effects on the fabric and host landscape character area within the immediate area of the OHL steel lattice towers during construction and operation. The removal of vegetation cover, modest changes to the landform (OHL tower foundations) and the direct loss of coniferous forestry to facilitate the construction and operation of the Proposed Development would alter the landscape within close proximity to the proposed alignment and increase the presence of transmission infrastructure within the landscape. Significant effects associated with these aspects of the Proposed Development would be highly localised, and would reduce substantially over a short distance from the alignment route.

8.1.3 The Proposed Development would not introduce a wholly new or uncharacteristic element to the existing landscape condition and would be seen in the context of other existing transmission infrastructure, including the Taynuilt – Inveraray 132 kV and Dalmally to Inverarnan 275 kV OHL which are located adjacent to the south west and eastern extent of the Proposed Development.

8.1.4 The Proposed Development would be visible from isolated parts of the Loch Etive Mountains and Ben Lui WLAs; however the development would not be out of character with the existing view from these locations. Therefore, the magnitude of impact would be Negligible and the residual effect would be Moderate/Minor and not significant.

8.1.5 The construction and operation of the existing and proposed cumulative developments would result in some locally significant impacts on the character of the Craggy Upland – Argyll LCT, the significant effects occurring at locations close proximity to the Proposed Development The in-planning developments of Creag Dhubh – Inveraray 275 kV OHL and Creag Dhubh substation would be viewed within the context of existing transmission infrastructure and while it would intensify the presence of OHL structure within the landscape, these significant effects would be high localised and contained. Additionally, there would be localised significant cumulative effects arising from the sequential views of operational and in-planning developments, and the Proposed Development on the character of the Craggy Upland – Argyll LCT, and views from the A819.

8.1.6 Nineteen representative viewpoints were assessed in the LVIA. Significant visual effects attributed to the Proposed Development were identified at one of these locations,VP11: Duncan Ban MacIntyre monument.

8.1.7 Any development of the scale and type proposed has potential to cause some significant landscape and visual effects. The Proposed Development is no different in this regard. However, it is apparent from the limited number of significant effects identified in respect of the Proposed Development, that the siting and design of the Proposed Development has proven to be effective in minimising such significant effects.

8.2 Introduction

8.2.1 This chapter considers the likely significant effects on landscape receptors and visual amenity associated with the construction and operation of the Proposed Development. This chapter (and its associated figures) is not intended to be read as a standalone assessment and reference should be made to the introductory chapters of this Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR) (**Chapters 1-5, EIAR Volume 2**).

8.2.2 The assessment has been carried out by Alexandra Gardiner and Kyle Lafferty, Chartered Landscape Architect and Landscape Architect at Ramboll. The assessors have over 13 years' combined experience in Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment (LVIA) with particular focus on electricity generation, transmission, and renewable energy projects.

8.2.3 This chapter is supported by the following figures (**EIAR Volume 3a and 3b**):

- **Figure 8.1a – ZTV and Study Area – Standard Tower Height;**
- **Figure 8.1b – ZTV and Study Area – Actual Tower Heights plus 20 %;**
- **Figure 8.2 – Topography;**
- **Figure 8.3a – Landscape Character Types;**
- **Figure 8.3b – Landscape Character Types with ZTV – Standard Tower Height;**
- **Figure 8.3c – Landscape Character Types with ZTV – Actual Tower Heights plus 20 %;**
- **Figure 8.4a – Landscape Designations;**
- **Figure 8.4b – Landscape Designations with ZTV – Standard Tower Height;**
- **Figure 8.4c – Landscape Designations with ZTV – Actual Tower Heights plus 20 %;**
- **Figure 8.5 – Visual Receptors;**
- **Figure 8.6 – Viewpoint Locations;**
- **Figure 8.7: Cumulative ZTV;**
- **Figure 8.8a to 8.8s; and**
- **Figure 14.1: Cumulative Developments.**

8.2.4 The chapter is also supported by the following Technical Appendices:

- **Technical Appendix 8.1 – Glossary and Abbreviations;**
- **Technical Appendix 8.2 – Landscape Character Type (LCT) Descriptions;**
- **Technical Appendix 8.3 – Descriptions of Designated and Classified Landscapes;**
- **Technical Appendix 8.4 – Residual Effects on Landscape Character Types;**
- **Technical Appendix 8.5 – Residual Effects on Designated and Classified Landscapes;**
- **Technical Appendix 8.6 – Viewpoint Assessment;**
- **Technical Appendix 8.7 – Wild Land Impact Assessment (WLIA); and**
- **Technical Appendix 8.8 – Residential Visual Amenity Assessment. (RVAA)**

8.2.5 Figures and Technical Appendices are referenced in the text where relevant.

8.3 Assessment Methodology and Significance Criteria

Scope of the Assessment

8.3.1 This chapter assesses the landscape and visual effects of the Proposed Development as described in **Chapter 2: Description of the Proposed Development (EIAR Volume 2).** The Study Area of the LVIA comprises a 10 km[1] radius extending from the proposed overhead line (OHL). The Study Area covers the current and future baseline including existing and consented transmission infrastructure and other relevant large-scale developments, such as substations. This chapter considers effects on:

- landscape fabric, caused by changes to the physical form of the landscape and its elements;
- landscape character, and designations, caused by changes in the key characteristics and special qualities of the landscape; and
- visual amenity arising from changes to views.

8.3.2 Effects on landscape fabric occur when there is physical change to components of the landscape such as the landform, land use or land cover. Effects on landscape character arise when there is change to the key characteristics and features. Visual effects are a subset of landscape effects and comprise changes in views of the landscape and the overall effects on visual amenity.

8.3.3 Whilst there is undoubtedly a relationship between the physical landscape and cultural landscapes and landscapes of historical importance (e.g. Gardens and Designed Landscapes (GDLs) and on listed buildings and ancient monuments), the LVIA is concerned with the contribution such landscapes and features make to the character and scenic quality of the Study Area. Issues pertaining to archaeological or cultural heritage value and consideration of effects on setting are assessed in **Chapter 9: Archaeology and Cultural Heritage** (**EIAR Volume 2**).

8.3.4 Landscape and visual considerations have strongly influenced the design of the Proposed Development, with further details on design evolution provided in **Chapter 3: Consideration of Alternatives (EIAR Volume 2**).

8.3.5 This chapter also assesses cumulative effects (Section 8.5.8 and 8.5.9) arising from the addition of the Proposed Development to the baseline of existing, consented, as well as developments 'in planning' (i.e. which are the subject of a valid planning application). Existing developments approaching the end of their operational life have been included as part of the baseline despite their anticipated removal. Where relevant this is explained in the LVIA. Cumulative effects have been assessed in accordance with Section 5.7 of **Chapter 5: Methodology (EIAR Volume 2**) and consideration has been given to all developments listed in **Table 14.1** of **Chapter 14: Cumulative Assessment (EIAR Volume 2).**

8.3.6 The scope of this assessment has been informed by consultation responses summarised in **Table 4.1** as well as the following guidelines/policies:

- Guidelines for Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment – Version 3 (GLVIA3[2]);
- Landscape Character Assessment[3];
- Techniques for Judging Capacity and Sensitivity[4]; and
- Assessing Effects on Wild Land[5].

[1] The extent of the Study Area was agreed following production of a preliminary Zone of Theoretical Visibility (ZTV) based on the alignment of the Proposed Development and in consultations with the Argyll and Bute Council (ABC) and NatureScot (NS).

2 Landscape Institute and Institute of Environmental Management and Assessment (2013) Guidance for Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment – Third Edition.

3 The Countryside Agency and Scottish Natural Heritage (2002) Landscape Character Assessment.

4 Scottish Natural Heritage and the Countryside Agency (2002) Topic Paper 6: Techniques and Criteria for Judging Capacity and Sensitivity.

5 Scottish Natural Heritage (2017) Consultation on draft guidance: Assessing impacts on Wild Land Areas – technical guidance consultation on draft guidance: Assessing impacts on Wild Land Areas – technical guidance.

Consultation Undertaken to Date

8.3.7 Consultation undertaken to date mainly pertains to the EIA Scoping Report and to specific consultation in relation to the agreement of LVIA Viewpoint selection, the proposed methodology and selection of properties for the Residential Visual Impact Assessment (RVAA).

8.3.8 **Table 8.1**, below, summarises the consultation responses received regarding Landscape and Visual matters and provides information on where and/or how they have been addressed in this assessment.

8.3.9 Full details on the consultation responses can be reviewed in **Technical Appendix(TA) 4.3: Consultation Register (EIAR Volume 4).**

Table 8.1: Consultation Responses

Organisation	Type of Consultation	Response	How Response has been Considered
Argyll and Bute Council (ABC)	Meeting	*Agreed 500 m RVAA Study Area, provided any properties in close proximity to the Study Area were included* *Requested to review the RVAA methodology which would be used for the assessment*	In an email (dated 21/05/2019) the methodology for the RVAA was provided, along with a plan of the properties which were to be included in the assessment. ABC ran their own analysis to identify any additional properties within the Study Area. A full compiled list of properties was taken forward for the preliminary assessment.
	Email (22/07/2021) *(followed up on 12/8/2021 and 27/8/2021)*	*No response*	A full list of LVIA viewpoints was agreed with Argyll and Bute Council (ABC) and NatureScot (then Scottish Natural Heritage) in 2019 for an earlier design iteration of the Proposed Development. The Preferred Alignment (2018) was amended to the north of the Study Area, and no longer passed through the Strath of Orchy. Therefore, seven of the viewpoints were deleted, and some added to ensure a robust assessment was undertaken from the most suitable locations. Additionally, an updated list of properties for the RVAA was set out following the same methodology previously agreed. Due to the amended OHL alignment, a number of properties originally included are now located outwith the Study Area. Details of the identified properties are located in **TA 8.8 (EIAR Volume 4)**
NatureScot (NS)	Consultation letter *(via email 8/08/2021)*	*Thank you for consulting NatureScot on the proposed changes in viewpoints to reflect the changed alignment of the transmission line and also those to be*	Noted. The proposed approach (including proposed changes set out in the consultation letter) has been adopted for the LVIA. Details of the agreed viewpoints are located in **TA 8.6 (EIAR Volume 4)**.

Organisation	Type of Consultation	Response	How Response has been Considered
		used to consider impacts for the Creag Dhubh sub-station. *I writing to confirm that NatureScot are in agreement with those changes as depicted in the attached document.*	
NatureScot	Pre-Application Consultation	1. During our initial site visit with key stakeholders for this proposal we discussed the need for the transmission line not to be on the skyline along the SE side of Loch Awe at its northern end and for the inevitable skyline of the line crossing SE to Creag Dhubh substation to be minimalised. This was to be achieved by utilising landscape features for shielding and low routes to accommodate the line running parallel to Loch Awe (NE to SW). NatureScot also advised that the line should be kept out of the Golden Eagle SPA. 2. From the maps provided It is not possible to determine whether these design principle, and hence minimising these landscape impacts, have been maintained. As such, if they have increased impacts on the setting of the northern part of Loch Awe, I request these specific elements be identified and differences shown in wireline diagrams for further discussion.	1. To address these concerns these following key principles have been adopted through the design process, as detailed in Section 8.5.15: Mitigation during Operation and summarised below: • Siting of the OHL towers low in the landscape to avoid structures being skylined in key or important views; • Located outwith areas subject to nationally recognised landscape designations or classifications such as WLA, and away from settlements and other concentrations of sensitive receptors; • Situated in larger scale upland moorland and forested locations that are more capable of accommodating transmission lines than smaller scale landscapes; • Located in a landscape that is already subject to ongoing modification or change and which contains existing or consented developments and/or other forms of large-scale development; • away from distinctive landscape features, the scale and form of which could be compromised; • to avoid, wherever possible, interrupting views of key landmark landscape features such as Ben Lui and Ben Cruachan; and • to reduce the visibility and prominence of the Proposed Development from key sensitive receptor locations to the west and north, including main settlements, glens and key transportation and tourist/scenic routes and recreational routes in the Study Area. Application of these principles has prevented the entirely of any one OHL tower from being fully skylined, with backclothing provided by the surrounding slopes, particularly on the lower extent of the OHL towers.

Organisation	Type of Consultation	Response	How Response has been Considered
			Moreover, given the extent of intervening landscape elements such as forestry and roadside vegetation, localised screening would be available. 2. Noted. The concerns around whether these design principles have been incorporated into the Proposed Developments routing have been addressed through the production of visualisations from various viewpoint locations to the northern extent of Loch Awe. Please refer to **Figures 8.9a to 8.31f**

Method of Baseline Data Collation

Extent of the Study Area

8.3.10 The Study Area for the LVIA comprises a 10 km radius extending from the Indicative Proposed Alignment. This Study Area is presented on **Figures 8.1-8.6 (EIAR Volume 3a**). The extent of the Study Area was agreed following production of a preliminary Zone of Theoretical Visibility (ZTV) based on the alignment of the Proposed Development and in consultation with ABC and NatureScot (NS).

Desk Study

8.3.11 Initially, a desk study was undertaken to establish the baseline context of the Proposed Development. This considered physical components of the landscape (i.e. landscape fabric) as well as the distinctive recognisable patterns of elements that form the landscape character of the area and of designated and classified landscapes. Visual elements and receptors/receptor locations were also identified including settlements, transportation corridors and recreational trails and summits, as well as specific landscape character types and designated areas.

8.3.12 LCTs considered in the baseline and subsequent assessment are derived from the NatureScot (2019) Scotland Landscape Character Assessment[6].

8.3.13 The description of landscape designations and classifications contained in the LVIA are derived from the following publications:

- NatureScot Wild Land Area Descriptions[7]; and
- Historic Environment Scotland Gardens and Designed Landscape Inventory[8].

8.3.14 Other datasets utilised in the preparation of the LVIA included:

- Ordnance Survey 1:25,000, 1:50,000 and 1: 250,000 mapping;
- Ordnance Survey 5 m and 50 m Digital Terrain Model;

[6] NatureScot. 2022. *Scottish Landscape Character Types Map and Descriptions*. [online] Available at: <https://www.nature.scot/professional-advice/landscape/landscape-character-assessment/scottish-landscape-character-types-map-and-descriptions> [Accessed 3 February 2022].

[7] https://www.nature.scot/doc/wild-land-areas-map-and-descriptions-2014

[8] https://www.historicenvironment.scot/advice-and-support/listing-scheduling-and-designations/gardens-and-designed-landscapes/search-for-a-garden-or-landscape/ [retrieved 31/07/2019]

- Argyll and Bute Landscape Wind Energy Capacity Study[9] (2017);
- Scottish Landscape Character Assessment data - NatureScot data sets;
- Gardens and Designed Landscapes - Historic Environment Scotland datasets;
- National Scenic Areas - Scottish Government data sets;
- Wild Land Areas - NatureScot data sets;
- Road network - Meridian 2 data; and
- Cumulative data[10] (Ramboll's own dataset).

Field Survey

8.3.15 Desktop findings were verified and augmented by targeted field reconnaissance during which all key sensitive receptor locations were visited. During the field reconnaissance draft wirelines, mapping, data collection systems and augmented reality tools were utilised to verify theoretical visibility (including cumulative visibility).

Illustrative Materials

8.3.16 The LVIA is illustrated by:

- ZTV plans;
- photographs; and
- wireline images, and photomontages.

8.3.17 All outputs have been prepared in accordance with current best practice comprising Landscape Institute (2019) Technical Guidance Note 06/19 – Visual Representation of Development Proposals. Whilst not wholly applicable to the type of development proposed, cognisance was taken of NatureScots' Visual Representation of Wind Farms - Guidance Version 2.2 (2017).

8.3.18 ZTV figures were prepared to assist in the identification of areas from where there is potential visibility of the Proposed Development, illustrated on **Figures 8.3b-c and 8.4b-c: ZTV (EIAR Volume 3a).** ZTVs are based on Ordnance Survey (OS) digital terrain data supplied as gridded height data at 5 m interval resolution. This data does not reflect the screening effect of vegetation or built structures and so the visibility shown on the ZTVs is more extensive than actual visibility on the ground. Where the ZTV shows no visibility, it is predicted that no transmission towers would be visible.

8.3.19 In order to establish the cumulative theoretical visibility, ZTVs were prepared for other proposed cumulative developments found within the 10 km Study Area using 50 m DTM. The cumulative ZTV is included in **Figure 8.7 (EIAR Volume 3a).**

Criteria for the Assessment of Residual Effects

8.3.20 The aim of the landscape and visual impact assessment is to identify, predict and evaluate potential significant effects arising from the Proposed Development. Wherever possible, identified effects are quantified, but the nature of landscape and visual assessment requires interpretation by professional judgement. In order to provide a level of consistency to the assessment, landscape sensitivity to change, the prediction of magnitude of impact and assessment of significance of the residual effects has been based on pre-defined criteria, the level of effects being determined by a comparison of the sensitivity of receptors and the magnitude of impact arising from the Proposed Development.

[9] Argyll and Bute Council (2017) Landscape Wind Energy Capacity Study accessed from https://www.argyll-bute.gov.uk/planning-and-environment/landscape-wind-energy-capacity-study [retrieved 31/07/2019]

[10] This data was compiled by the GIS team within Ramboll, utilising planning information, desktop analysis and local development plans

8.3.21 The LVIA considers landscape and visual effects on designated landscapes in the Study Area, including the Loch Lomond and Trossachs National Park (LLTNP), and Areas of Panoramic Quality (APQs). Additionally, whilst not landscape designations, a number of sensitive landscape classifications have been assessed, including Wild Land Areas (WLAs) and Gardens and Designed Landscapes (GDLs).

8.3.22 To assist in evaluating the potential landscape and visual effects arising from the Proposed Development, a ZTV was generated to identify the potential extent of its visibility over the Study Area (**Figure 8.1a-b, EIAR Volume 3a**). An assessment of the predicted visibility of the Proposed Development from each of the LCTs, designated and sensitive non-designated landscapes in the Study Area has been carried out by analysing the ZTV and verifying the findings during field reconnaissance. The visibility assessment has concentrated on the publicly accessible areas including outdoor recreational areas, cycle routes, roads, and the public footpath network.

8.3.23 Mitigation measures which have been incorporated into the final design and layout of the Proposed Development are described, together with a summary of the design optimisation process carried out in parallel with the LVIA. Further details of the constraints which were identified, and the design process are described in **Chapter 3: Consideration of Alternatives (EIAR Volume 2**).

8.3.24 A selection of representative viewpoints was chosen in consultation with ABC and NS (**Table 8.1**). These viewpoints are considered representative of the main sensitive receptors in the Study Area. The viewpoints have been checked against the cumulative ZTVs for existing/consented and proposed wind farms and transmission infrastructure within the Study Area to ensure that they provide representative coverage of potential cumulative visibility and related effects. Viewpoint locations are detailed in **TA 8.6 (EIAR Volume 4)** and their locations are illustrated in **Figure 8.6** (**EIAR Volume 3b).**

8.3.25 Analysis of the potential effects on landscape and visual amenity arising from the Proposed Development at each of these viewpoints has been carried out. This analysis has involved the production of computer-generated wirelines and/or photomontages to predict the operational views of the Proposed Development from each of the agreed viewpoints. The existing and predicted views from each of these viewpoints have been analysed to identify the magnitude of impact and the residual effects on landscape character and visual amenity at each viewpoint location.

Criteria for Assessing the Sensitivity of Receptors

8.3.26 The sensitivity of the landscape to change is defined as high, medium, or low based on professional interpretation of a combination of its susceptibility to change associated with the type of development proposed, and the value attributed to the landscape. In respect of susceptibility to change, paragraph 5.40 of the GLVIA3[11] notes that:

8.3.27 "*This means the ability of the landscape receptor (whether it be the overall character or quality/condition of a particular character type or area, or an individual element and/or feature, or a particular aesthetic and perceptual aspect) 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.*"

8.3.28 The following parameters were therefore applied in determining the susceptibility of the landscapes within the Study Area (based on guidance in GLVIA3[12] Box 5.1, Page 84):

- Landscape quality;
- Existing land-use;
- The pattern and scale of the landscape;
- Visual enclosure/openness of views and distribution of visual receptors;
- The scope for mitigation, which would be in character with the existing landscape; and

[11] Landscape Institute and Institute of Environmental Management and Assessment (2013) Guidance for Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment – Third Edition.

[12] Landscape Institute and Institute of Environmental Management and Assessment (2013) Guidance for Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment – Third Edition.

- The degree to which the particular element or characteristic contribution to the landscape character and can be replaced or substituted.

8.3.29 In determining value, the LVIA uses, as its primary indicator, formal landscape designations. Where other clearly defined indicators were identified, these have also been referred to.

8.3.30 Visual receptor sensitivity is defined as high, medium, or low based on an interpretation of a combination of parameters, and also relates to the susceptibility and value ascribed to visual receptors or receptor locations. The following criteria were utilised in determining viewpoint sensitivity:

- The land use or main activity at the viewpoint/receptor location;
- The frequency and duration of use of receptor location; and
- The landscape character and quality of the intervening landscape.

8.3.31 In relation to land use at the viewpoint, visual sensitivity is defined in **Table 8.2**.

Table 8.2: Sensitivity in Relation to Receptor Type and Activity

Sensitivity	Receptor Type and Activity
High	• Tourists and those engaged in outdoor recreational activities for which the landscape and views form a key part of their experience, including hill walkers and visitors to formal vantage points; • Passengers and tourists travelling on key routes; • Passengers on trains and ferries where visual amenity and scenic qualities form an integral part of receptors experience and expectations; • Walkers on strategic recreational footpaths or on hills, cycle routes or rights of way; • Visitors to landscapes/sites that have a strong physical, cultural or historic connection with the landscape or a particular view; and • Residential receptors at individual dwellings and within settlements.
Medium	• Local road users/commuters who are generally travelling alone and/or are focused on the road rather than the adjoining landscape.
Low	• People engaged in outdoor sports or recreation (other than appreciation of the landscape); and • Receptors located in commercial buildings, industrial complexes, and other locations where people's attention may be focused on their work or activity.

Criteria for Assessing the Magnitude of Change

8.3.32 The magnitude of impact arising from the Proposed Development may be described as Substantial, Moderate, Slight, Negligible or None based on the interpretation of a combination of largely quantifiable parameters, as follows:

- The distance of receptors from the Proposed Development;
- The duration of the predicted change and whether it is reversible;
- The size and scale of the change anticipated;
- The geographical extent of the Study Area, landscape character unit, designation or route that would be affected;
- The angle of view in relation to main receptor activity;
- The degree of contrast;
- The background context to the Proposed Development; and
- The extent and nature of other built development visible, including vertical elements.

8.3.33 The assessment of effects at viewpoints in **TA 8.6 (EIAR Volume 4)** quantifies the horizontal angle occupied by the Proposed Development in each view.

8.3.34 **Table 8.3,** below, provides a brief definition for different magnitudes of impact.

Table 8.3: Magnitude of Impact

Magnitude	Definition
Substantial	Total loss or considerable alteration/interruption of key elements, features or characteristics of the landscape character and/or composition of views resulting in a substantial change to baseline conditions.
Medium	Partial loss or alteration to one or more key features or characteristics of the baseline, resulting in a prominent, but localised change within a broader unaltered context.
Slight	Discernible loss or alteration to one or more key elements, features or characteristics of the baseline conditions. Change arising from the loss/alteration would be discernible but underlying landscape character or view composition would be broadly consistent with baseline.
Negligible	Very limited or imperceptible loss or alteration to one or more key elements/characteristics of the baseline. Change may be barely discernible.
None	No aspect of the Proposed Development would be discernible. The Proposed Development would result in no appreciable change to the landscape resource or view.

Criteria for Assessing Cumulative Effects

8.3.35 In assessing potential cumulative landscape and visual effects, consideration has been given to cumulative effects arising from combined and/or consecutive (concurrent) visibility (where the observer is able to see two or more developments from one viewpoint location), and sequential effects (where a number of similar developments would be visible individually or simultaneously over a sequence of connected viewpoints, such as would be found along a road or footpath). This is in accordance with current NatureScot guidance[13].

8.3.36 Consideration has also been given to the '*additional*' effects attributable specifically to the Proposed Development, as well as its *'in combination'* effect, where the combined effect of the Proposed Development and other cumulative schemes are taken into account (As per **Chapter 5, EIAR Volume 2).**

8.3.37 **Table 8.4** provides a brief definition for different magnitudes of cumulative impact which have been used as a guide in this assessment.

Table 8.4: Magnitude of Cumulative Impact

Magnitude	Definition
Substantial	The Proposed Development would represent a considerable increase in the influence of energy developments on the character of the landscape and/or the composition of views.
Medium	The Proposed Development would represent a notable increase in the influence of energy development on the character of the landscape and/or the composition of views. Moderate cumulative change equates to a localised change within an otherwise unaltered context.
Slight	The Proposed Development would represent a minor addition to the influence of energy development on the character of the landscape and/or the composition of views. The change would be discernible, but the original baseline conditions would be largely unaltered.
Negligible	The Proposed Development would represent a barely discernible addition to influence of energy development on the character of the landscape and/or the composition of views.
None	No other cumulative development would be apparent.

8.3.38 The cumulative developments considered in this assessment are presented in **Table 8.8** in Section 8.3 of this chapter and on **Figure 14.1 (EIAR Volume 3a).**

[13] NatureScot. 2022. *Guidance - Assessing the cumulative landscape and visual impact of onshore wind energy developments*. [online] Available at: <https://www.nature.scot/doc/guidance-assessing-cumulative-landscape-and-visual-impact-onshore-wind-energy-developments> [Accessed 11 February 2022].

Criteria for Assessing Significance

8.3.39 **Table 8.5** illustrates how residual effects are determined by comparing the sensitivity of receptors with the magnitude of predicted change. For the purposes of this assessment significant effects are **Major** or **Major/Moderate**. It should be noted, however, that significance in landscape and visual terms does not necessarily equate to significance in planning terms, or unacceptable effects in planning terms, especially where significant seascape/landscape or visual effects are highly localised.

Table 8.5: Residual Effects

Landscape and Visual Sensitivity	Magnitude of Impact				
	Substantial	Medium	Slight	Negligible	None
High	**Major**	**Major/Moderate**	Moderate	Moderate/Minor	None
Medium	**Major/moderate**	Moderate	Moderate/Minor	Minor	None
Low	Moderate	Moderate/Minor	Minor	Minor/None	None

8.3.40 In line with the recommendations in the GLVIA the matrix is not used as a prescriptive tool or arithmetically, and the methodology and analysis of potential effects at any particular location must allow for the exercise of professional judgement. Descriptions of residual effects, especially those considered significant, are described in narrative text.

8.3.41 Landscape and visual effects can be adverse (i.e. having a detrimental effect on the physical elements, character, and visual amenity of the area) or beneficial (i.e. having a positive effect on the landscape and visual amenity of the area through strengthening or augmentation of baseline conditions and/or improvement of the existing landscape or views). Moreover, it is also the case that effects will change over time with gradual maturation of mitigation for example, however for the purposes of this assessment residual effects are assumed to be adverse, unless stated otherwise.

Limitations and Assumptions

8.3.42 The LVIA has been prepared utilising an average tower height of 60 m for each tower location, as this was deemed to represent the most reasonable worst case scenario. However, consideration has been given to the vertical LOD (20% above the actual tower height), and a series of comparative ZTVs (**Figures 8.3a-b and Figures 8.4a-b, EIAR Volume 3a)** have been produced. Comparative ZTVs have also been produced for the RVAA (**TA 8.8, EIAR Volume 4**). These comparative ZTVs illustrate there is very little increase in the viewshed of the Proposed Development within the surrounding landscape and residential receptors. Therefore, any increase in the vertical LOD is unlikely to have any material effect on the assessment.

8.3.43 The assessment considers receptors in publicly accessible locations. Where assessment of individual residential properties has been undertaken this was completed from publicly accessible locations unless access was agreed with the property owner. Access was agreed with the following properties, Millfield, Achlian, Blarchaorain, Brackley and North Brackley (Cnoc an t-Sabhail).

8.3.44 The data utilised in completion of the LVIA has a number of inherent limitations related to data tolerances and levels of accuracy. However, these have been considered in the assessment.

8.4 Baseline Conditions

Landscape Baseline

Topography

8.4.1 Topography within the Study Area is shown on **Figure 8.2 (EIAR Volume 3a).**

8.4.2 The landform of the Study Area comprises a complex series of irregular uplands and mountains, often with rocky outcrops and hollows. The landscape is bisected by steep sided glens such as Glen Lochy, Glen Orchy, Glen Strae, Glen Shira and Glen Aray. Topography around the edges of Loch Awe and Loch Shira is similarly steep.

Hydrology

8.4.3 Loch Awe is the key water feature within the Study Area, located to the west of the Proposed Development. In the southeast, the northern shores of Loch Fyne extend partially into the Study Area. There are several small lochans present at higher elevations across the elevated moorland landscape found in the east and western areas of the Study Area.

8.4.4 The River Awe runs through a steep, incised valley in the west of the Study Area, connecting Loch Etive with Loch Awe. From its northern banks, the topography rises steeply to the summit of Ben Cruachan.

8.4.5 In the north of the Study Area, the River Orchy and River Strae flow in a north east/south-westerly direction, through the valleys of Glen Strae and Glen Orchy/Strath of Orchy to outfall at Loch Awe. Numerous minor tributaries flow from the high hills, connecting with these water courses and lochs and creating minor valley and glens along the hillslopes.

8.4.6 In the south-eastern part of the Study Area the landscape is bisected by the incised landscape of Glen Shira, which contains the Lochan Shira reservoir and the meandering course of the River Shira, which outfalls into Loch Shira, north east of Inveraray.

8.4.7 To the South of the Proposed Development there a number of river courses that wind across the landscape, including Claddich River and the River Aray.

8.4.8 Further details on hydrology are in **Chapter 10: Hydrology, Hydrogeology and Geology and Soils** (**EIAR Volume 2**).

Land Cover

8.4.9 Land cover is varied throughout the Study Area. Broadleaved woodland is present across lower hill sides and along the shoreline of Loch Awe and within the floor of Strath of Orchy, Glen Strae and Glen Shira, enclosing the landscape and adding to a sense of containment. Broadleaved woodland is also encountered sporadically bordering watercourses, through the Study Area from Dalmally heading southwest towards Claddich.

8.4.10 Areas of unimproved grassland used for rough grazing are present amongst large swathes of commercial forestry which characterise much of the Study Area and create irregular patterns across the hillsides. Patches of forestry are currently being felled, leaving piles of brash which contribute to the mosaic of colour which characterises the landscape.

8.4.11 As the topography rises to the north, south and southeast of the Study Area, land cover is dominated by open heather moorland interspersed with rocky outcrops.

Land Use

8.4.12 Commercial forestry is the key land use across the majority of the Study Area, particularly across the hillslopes which fall towards Loch Awe. Further details on forestry are located in **Chapter 11: Forestry (EIAR Volume 2).**

8.4.13 Other land uses within the Study Area include crofting and extensive farming activity, electricity transmission and generation infrastructure (such as the Cruachan Power Station) and water-based uses such as fish farming. The area is used by tourists traveling to and from Oban to recreational destinations including hilltops and sites such as Kilchurn Castle.

8.4.14 A key pattern of land use is a series of uplands that are typified by open moorland, interspersed with commercial forests. Within the incised landscapes/seascape of Loch Awe these large-scale forests descend slopes and are edged by a higher proportion of deciduous woodland around Loch edges. Settlement and transportation routes are focused on the edges of lochs and on the lower slopes in and around the watercourses or valleys.

Settlement and Transport

8.4.15 Dalmally is the main settlement within the Study Area and contains a railway station, post office, livestock mart and community centre. The village is separated into two discrete built-up areas, with more recent development at Glenview (including a school, a store and the Dalmally Post office and Community Centre). Houses in this area are characterised by 1950s style semi-detached 1.5/two-storey properties, with front and rear gardens. Houses are set out along a network of cul-de-sacs, and are oriented to face the street network, rather than for any scenic view. Views do extend to the north, while views to the south are foreshortened by rising topography. However, forestry has recently been removed to the south of this satellite settlement, making views to the hills in the south more available where not screened by topography.

8.4.16 Further west, the original Dalmally village centre is arranged along a central local street, bounded to the north by the A85 and to the south by the West Highland Railway Line. Buildings are a mix of traditional detached and semi-detached two-storey stone houses, interspersed with more recent block houses, designed to reflect the more traditional buildings. The Dalmally Railway Station is located within the centre of the village. Views extend north, across the Strath of Orchy towards Ben Cruachan, as steep topography covered in forestry truncates views to the south. Within the wider Study Area, settlement is sparse and is largely scattered along the edges of glens, and along the shoreline of Loch Awe.

8.4.17 The A85, the A819 and the West Highland Railway line are the primary transportation routes through the Study Area, following the path of Strath of Orchy and the shore of Loch Awe and making use of the lower lying topography. A small number of local roads provide connections to small clusters of settlement and properties however due to the elevated topography at the edges of the Study Area, these are limited in number.

Landscape Character

8.4.18 **Figure 8.3a (EIAR Volume 3a)** shows the location of the Landscape Character Types (LCTs) within the LVIA Study Area.

8.4.19 The 2019 NatureScot Landscape Character Assessment has been used for the purposes of this appraisal as it provides the most up to date descriptions of the character of the landscape and detailed in terms of classification of landscape areas. Those LCTs which are found within the Study Area are:

- LCT 40 – Craggy Uplands;
- LCT 37 – Upland Glens;
- LCT 35 – Rugged Mountains;
- LCT 34 – Steep Ridges and Mountains;
- LCT 53 – Rocky Coastland;
- LCT 39 – Plateau Moor and Forest; and
- LCT 251 – Highland Summits.

8.4.20 The Landscape Character Assessment provided in Argyll and Bute's 2017 Landscape Wind Energy Capacity Study[14] (ABLWECS) has also been used to gain a more detailed understanding of the character of the landscape within the Study Area[15]. whilst this study was intended for use in the consideration of wind energy development it contains useful baseline information that is germane to the Proposed Development.

8.4.21 In general the boundaries of the NatureScot and ABLWECS LCTs are aligned in areas where there is theoretical visibility of the Proposed Development. However in some places, the larger NatureScot LCTs, such as the Craggy Uplands, have been divided into smaller areas. The ABLWECS LCTs found within the Study Area, and which have theoretical visibility of the Proposed Development are:

[14] Argyll and Bute Council (2017). Wind Energy Capacity Study (Volume 1) – Carol Anderson Landscape Associates

[15] In consultation with Argyll and Bute Council it was requested that alongside SNH landscape character types, we include the landscape character types described in the Argyll and Bute Wind Energy Capacity Study.

- LCT 7c – North Loch Awe Craggy Upland;
- LCT 7 – Craggy Upland;
- LCT 7a – Craggy Upland with Settled Glens;
- LCT 2 – High Tops;
- LCT 20 – Rocky Mosaic; and
- LCT 6a – Loch Fyne Upland Forest Moor Mosaic.

8.4.22 **Table 8.3.1** in **TA 8.3 (EIAR Volume 4)** provides a description of each of the LCTs which are subject to theoretical visibility of the Proposed Development.

Landscape Designations and Classifications

8.4.23 All landscape designations and classifications within the 10 km LVIA Study Area are shown on **Figure 8.4a (EIAR Volume 3a)** and their special qualities are described below.

Loch Lomond and the Trossachs National Park

8.4.24 A small part of the north western edge of the Loch Lomond and Trossachs National Park (LLTNP) extends into the Study Area. The key characteristics and qualities of the LLTNP are (as described in the SNH Commissioned Report No. 376[16]):

- A world-renowned landscape famed for its rural beauty;
- Wild and rugged highlands contrasting with pastoral lowlands;
- Water in its many forms;
- The rich variety of woodlands;
- Settlements nestled within a vast natural backdrop;
- Famous through-routes;
- Tranquillity; and,
- The easily accessible landscape splendour.

8.4.25 The area of the park which extends into the Study Area includes the summits of Ben Oss and Ben Lui. This extent of the LLTNP is classified as being within the Breadalbane Landscape Area.

8.4.26 The ZTV indicates that there would be marginal theoretical visibility of the Proposed Development within the LLTNP. Given the distance from the Proposed Development, the level of forestry and woodland in the intervening landscape and the nature of the Proposed Development, it is considered unlikely that actual views of the Proposed Development would result in significant effects on the special qualities of the LLTNP. Therefore, effects on the LLTNP are not considered further.

Areas of Panoramic Quality

8.4.27 Areas of Panoramic Quality (APQs) are designated by ABC as areas of regional importance in terms of their very high scenic value and are an important part of Argyll and Bute's identity. Their landscape quality derives from their physical landform, flora and fauna, and scenic value, in addition to the environmental assets they represent. To protect these qualities, ABC has designated these areas to limit insensitive development. There is no formal citation which describes the special qualities of the North Argyll APQ, but the ABLWECS does contain some information on the qualities of the APQs

[16] Scottish Natural Heritage and Loch Lomond and The Trossachs National Park Authority (2010). The special landscape qualities of the Loch Lomond and The Trossachs National Park. Scottish Natural Heritage Commissioned Report, No.376

8.4.28 The full alignment of the Proposed Development, and the majority of the central and northern portions of the Study Area are located within the North Argyll APQ. The special qualities of the APQ, according to the Capacity Study, are *"likely"* to comprise the dramatic mountainous landforms and the juxtaposition of these mountains with narrow lochs and the sea and with the settled loch fringes which produce a richly scenic landscape composition. These qualities are primarily appreciable from the interior of glens and lochsides, and from key elevated summits in this APQ from where the contrast between uplands and glen and loch interiors would be most evident.

8.4.29 The landscape within the APQ is sparsely settled. Where settlement occurs, it is mainly concentrated along the edges of Loch Awe and within glens, as the uplands and high tops are relatively inaccessible, rugged and in some places relatively wild. These contrasts between landscape types and scales are some of the characteristics that add to the scenic quality of the area.

The sensitivity of the landscape designation is considered High as it has a high value and a high susceptibility to the type of development proposed.

Wild Land Areas

8.4.30 Two Wild Land Areas (WLAs) are located within the 10 km Study Area. A detailed Wild Land Impact Assessment (WLIA) has been carried out for both WLAs, please refer to **TA 8.7**: **Wild Land Impact Assessment (EIAR Volume 4).**

8.4.31 The Loch Etive Mountains WLA is located approximately 4.3 km to the north of the OHL, at its closest point. This WLA extends across the mountain ranges to the north of the Proposed Development and is characterised by dramatic, steep, high mountains and sheer rock tops and ridges. The geology and hydrology which have formed the landscape create a strong sense of naturalness and remoteness.

8.4.32 The key wild land characteristics of the Loch Etive Mountains WLA are summarised as:

- arresting, steep, high mountains with precipitous rocky tops and ridges that offer panoramic views of elevated tops continuing far into the distance;
- a series of deep glens carved through the mountains, with arresting side slopes and spectacular geological features that contribute to a strong sense of naturalness; and
- a high number of visitors that seek different wild land qualities and are able to experience a wide range of remoteness, risk, and physical challenge.

8.4.33 Ben Lui WLA is located within part of the eastern portion of the Study Area, located approximately 2 km southeast of the Proposed Development at its closest point. This WLA is characterised by rugged and highly natural mountains, with steep-sided glens. The hills of the WLA, as it lies within Study Area, are massive in scale and complex with interlinking ridges. The ranges are rugged and physically challenging and are less frequented by hill walkers than the more popular arresting and awe-inspiring distinctive mountains in the north east. They are also further from a public road so more difficult to access, this combination of factors means they provide a greater sense of solitude.

8.4.34 The key wild land characteristics of the Ben Lui WLA are summarised as:

- contrast between the more massive and remote hills in the southwest and the arresting, more visible and popular hills to the north-east;
- rugged and highly natural mountains, penetrated by steep-sided glens that contain well-used routes and provide arresting views;
- a landscape that is generally well-defined by surrounding human elements in views from higher slopes; and
- few human artefacts within much of the upland area, in contrast to some of the glens where hydro development is a recurring feature.

8.4.35 WLAs are considered to be of High sensitivity as they are deemed of national importance and have a High intrinsic susceptibility to the type of development proposed.

Gardens and Designed Landscapes

8.4.36 Gardens and Designed landscapes are ground which have been laid out for artistic effect, in appropriate cases, include references to any buildings, land, or water on, adjacent, or contiguous to such ground. Most importantly, sites included within the inventory of Gardens and Designed Landscape are nationally important.

8.4.37 There are two Garden and Designed Landscapes (GDLs) located within the Study Area:

- Ardanaiseig House (GDL00018) - located 2.6 km to the west of the Proposed Development; and
- Inveraray Castle (GLD00223) - located 6.6 km to the south of the Proposed Development on the northwest shore of Loch Fyne.

8.4.38 The Ardanaiseig House GDL is located on the western shore of Loch Awe, at the mouth of the River Awe. The GDL is an 18th century designed landscape centred around a lochside estate surrounded by formal gardens and terraces within parkland and woodland which contain a high degree of views. It is identified as having a high level of artistic, horticultural, architectural, scenic and nature conservation value.

8.4.39 Inveraray Castle GDL is identified as one of the most culturally significant designed landscapes in Scotland. The GDL makes use of the natural topography and inland sea setting and comprises parklands, woodland plantations and key buildings sited around Inveraray Castle. The planned town of Inveraray is a fundamental and intrinsic component of the designed landscape.

8.4.40 There is marginal theoretical visibility of the Proposed Development from the Inveraray Castle GDL. Actual visibility would be substantially reduced due to the level of mature woodland within the GDL boundary and along the sides of Glen Aray which would provide a substantial level of screening. Therefore, effects on the Inveraray Castle GDL are not considered further.

8.4.41 GDLs are of High sensitivity, similarly they are considered highly susceptible[17] to the type of development proposed.

Visual Baseline

8.4.42 Visual receptors are individuals or defined groups of people whose visual amenity or viewing experience may be affected by development, and include:

- residents and visitors to settlements;
- road users;
- tourists visiting cultural heritage locations and viewpoints;
- walkers on long range recreational trails including Core Paths;
- cyclists on national cycleways; and
- hill walkers at summits.

8.4.43 Where distances to the Proposed Development are noted, these distances are measured from the visual receptor to the closest tower location. Although the overhead lines would be visible, the towers would form the largest and most prominent part of the Proposed Development and would be visible from greater distances.

[17] This is based upon GDL's sensitivity to the type of development proposed, plus the receptor sensitivity, specifically tourists.

Visual Receptors

Settlements

8.4.44 Dalmally is one of the few settlement within the Study Area which would have views of the Proposed Development. Dalmally is a small village located along a central street which extends from the A85 at the Dalmally Hotel, on the southern edge of the Strath of Orchy.

8.4.45 Dalmally Station is located within the centre of the village, adjacent to the oldest part of the settlement which comprises traditional stone cottages that align the main street. As the road rises to the centre of the village, more elevated views are available from properties that extend north towards the Strath of Orchy. Beinn Donachain, Beinn Eunaich and Ben Cruachan form the dominant backdrop to views to the north and north west.

8.4.46 Residential development at Glenview to the east of the old village, and more recently developed residential properties to the west of main street (at the northern junction with the A85) has extended the village envelope in recent times. These newer houses are generally larger than those within the settlement and views from these properties primarily extend to the north. Views also extend to the south towards the forested slopes of the uplands. Some views of the open undulating uplands are also provided but are subject to some restriction by existing commercial forestry. However, some connecting views of the open moorland and hillsides are provided to the south of Brackley Farm.

8.4.47 A satellite settlement that is loosely associated with Dalmally is located to the northwest of the main village. Stronmilchan is formed of a number of standalone properties located along the B8077, along the northern edge of the Strath of Orchy. Residential properties are a mix of traditional cottages or farmhouses, and more modern housing. These properties are predominantly set back from the B8077, making use of the rise in topography and provide elevated views across the Strath of Orchy towards Loch Awe, Kilchurn Castle and Ben Cruachan.

8.4.48 Throughout the rest of the Study Area settlement is sparse and scattered. Dispersed hamlets, farmsteads and individual properties are generally located along the shores of Loch Awe, with a small number of more isolated properties found on single track roads which provide access to the upland moors and at the head of glens. There is no settlement across upper elevations and mountain tops.

8.4.49 Views from residential properties within settlements have a high degree of constancy, the same views being obtained daily, and often from the same part of properties as well as public realm locations. The value attached to these views is considered high, and the susceptibility of receptors to the type of development proposed is judged to be high. The sensitivity of all residential receptors within settlements is therefore regarded as high.

Transport Routes

8.4.50 Due to the nature of the topography within the Study Area, there are a small number of key transport routes which pass through the Study Area. Those which are located within the Study Area are:

- the A85;
- the A819 from Dalmally to Inveraray, along which the Proposed Development runs parallel before crossing it south of Cladich Steading; and
- The Crianlarich to Oban spur of the West Highland Line.

8.4.51 Other local routes within the Study Area include:

- the B8077;
- the B8074;
- the B840; and
- the B845.

8.4.52 Transport routes within the Study Area generally follow valley floors or loch edges, where the topography is flattest.

8.4.53 For the purposes of this assessment, people travelling on roads and by rail are considered to be of high sensitivity due to their use by tourists. Additionally, it is considered tourists would have a high susceptibility to the type of development being proposed.

The A85

8.4.54 The A85 runs east-west between Dundee and Oban. As it passes through the Study Area the road routes along Glen Lochy and the Strath of Orchy, before running along the northern and western shores of Loch Awe and then the River Awe. This trunk road is a key tourist route for those visiting Oban and the Outer Hebrides and is valued for its role in illustrating the transition between different scenic landscapes and lochs, and for connecting views into adjoining landscapes such as Glen Orchy, Glen Strae, Glen Noe and along Loch Awe.

8.4.55 As the A85 enters the Study Area from the north east, native woodland or commercial forestry borders much of the carriageway and views are generally contained to within the road corridor. The cyclical nature of commercial forest plantations means that views change over time as trees are felled and saplings planted to replace them. Recent felling near the Strone Forest Park has opened views from the road west along the valley for a short duration, however as the road passes through Dalmally, views remain contained by roadside woodland. However, as the route passes progresses westwards around the Lochhead by Kilburn Castle intermittent and filtered views down Loch Awe are provided from this road. Thereafter, views are channelled along the River Awe.

8.4.56 Progressing along this route in an easterly direction, between Taynuilt and Loch Awe, views are intermittent, often filtered through roadside tree cover and channelled along the River Awe. As the route approaches the northern part of Loch Awe connecting views along Loch Awe and into Glen Strae are revealed.

The A819

8.4.57 The A819 forms a junction with the A85 at the north eastern end of Loch Awe. It follows the eastern shore of the loch for approximately 8 km to Cladich before routing south, through Glen Aray, to Inveraray.

8.4.58 Views from the road are generally contained by topography and woodland and are focussed along the road carriageway. Where the road runs alongside the loch, occasional views open to the west across the water, and include views to Kilchurn Castle. A layby adjacent to the castle is a popular viewing location.

The B8077

8.4.59 The B8077 follows the route of an Old Military Road from Dalmally, routing north and crossing the River Orchy before turning northwest along the northern edge of the Strath of Orchy. The B8077 is largely used by residents at Stronmilchan, as well as occasional workers and maintenance vehicles that service the Dalmally substation.

8.4.60 Views from the road are contained to the east and north by topography. To the west and south, intermittent views extend across the strath. Longer distance views are generally screened by intervening woodland within the strath landscape.

The B8074

8.4.61 The B8074 forms a junction with the A85 at Inverlochy, north of Dalmally. It routes along the south eastern bank of the River Orchy until it joins the A82 close to the Bridge of Orchy (outwith the Study Area). Native deciduous woodland and managed conifer forests planted on the lower slopes of Beinn na Sroine and Beinn Udlaidh grow along the eastern edge of this single-track road providing a sense of enclosure and directing views west across Glen Orchy, towards Beinn Donachain, with copses of native woodland occasionally filtering views.

The B840

8.4.62 The B840 is a single lane road which extends from the A819 at Cladich Steading and follows the eastern shore of Loch Awe to a junction with the A816 near Kilmarten at its southern end (outwith the Study Area). Views from the road are largely directed north/northwest across the loch, as topography and woodland contain views to the south of the carriageway.

The B845

8.4.63 B845 passes between Taynuilt to North Port, routing in a generally north – south direction along the floor of Glen Nant. Low stone walls, hedges, post and wire fences and woodland align the single-track road. The surrounding valley sides, combined with roadside trees, contain views to within the carriageway. However, some more open sections of the road provide views south towards Loch Awe and the hills beyond.

The West Highland Railway Line

8.4.64 The West Highland Railway Line from Crianlarich to Oban routes through the Study Area, running parallel with the A85. The railway line is a popular tourist route. As it passes through the Study Area, views will be similar to those of the A85, except for locations where the railway runs through cuttings and areas of coniferous forestry on the eastern outskirts of Dalmally.

Recreational Receptors

8.4.65 There are a number of recreational routes and tourist destinations found within the 10 km LVIA Study Area. Those which are of relevance to this assessment are described below.

8.4.66 For the purposes of this assessment, all recreational receptors are considered to be of High sensitivity. This is because the landscape and views from the recreational facility forms a key part of the user experience. Any alterations to the view from these locations may impact upon the experience of using the recreation route.

8.4.67 Loch Awe Sailing and Kayakers

There are a number of water borne receptors within the Study Area, these generally comprise sea kayakers, sailors, and general water sport users. The Proposed Development would be fully visible from Loch Awe particularly from the north-eastern extent as it sits within the Study Area. However, the Proposed Development would be backclothed by the surrounding topography and landcover, reducing its prominence within the view. Moreover, it is anticipated there would be some localised screening of sections of the alignment from Loch Awe, afforded by the intervening woodland/coniferous forestry vegetation.

National Cycle Network

8.4.68 An unofficial section[18] of the National Cycle Network (NCN) Route 78 crosses through the western extent of the Study Area, located approximately 5.4 km to the west of the Proposed Development at its closest point. The route follows the alignment of the B845 as it extends from the A85 near Taynuilt before routing west along an unnamed road at Annat, connecting with the A816 (outwith the Study Area).

8.4.69 Views from the NCN route are largely contained by dense roadside vegetation and topography. Some glimpsed views are available across the loch, but often these are filtered by intervening lochside vegetation.

Core Paths

8.4.70 Within the western part of the Study Area there is a network of Argyll and Bute Adopted Core Paths. Those found within the Study Area are described in **Table 8.6**. The table also indicates which of those Core Paths will be taken forward for assessment.

Table 8.6: Core Paths within Study Area

Code	Name Distance from Proposed Development	Route Description	Scoped in/ out
C409	Glen Orchy B8074	Follows the B8074 from the A85 through Glen Orchy to the A82	Included within the assessment

[18] Unofficial cycle network route between Bellanoch to the southwest and Barranrloch to the northwest. This route is not officially recognised as part of the National Cycle Network.

Code	Name Distance from Proposed Development	Route Description	Scoped in/ out
	1.58 km north/northeast		
C424	Strone Hill 1.7 km northeast	• Circular route through commercial forestry at Strone. • No actual views of Proposed Development	Scoped out of LVIA due to no actual views of the Proposed Development
C450 (includes also Core Paths C522 and C528)	Duncan Ban MacIntyre Monument, Dalmally Village and Dalmally Circular 600 m north/northeast	Path links Duncan Ban MacIntyre Monument with Dalmally, following a local road. Path routes though Dalmally and provides a circular path to Edendonich on the B8077	Included within the assessment
C425	Kilchurn Castle Path 2.63 km north/northeast	Provides pedestrian access from the carpark to Kilchurn Castle across an area of marshy grassland	Included within the assessment
C300	Kilchrenan – Taynuilt 6.29 km northwest	• Extends from Taynuilt along the B845 (and the route of National Cycle Network route 78) to Kilcrenan • Marginal or no actual views of the Proposed Development	Scoped out of LVIA due to no actual views of the Proposed Development
C523	Loch Nant, Loch Awe-side 7.35 km west/northwest	• Extends from minor road on western shore of Loch Awe, near Kilcrenan through the Caledonian Forest Reserve to Loch Nant. • No actual views of the Proposed Development	Scoped out of LVIA due to no actual views of the Proposed Development
C173(e)	Ford – Annat 5.4 km north/northwest	Follows line of NCN73/minor road as it routes along the western shore of Loch Awe	Included within the assessment
C324	Inverinan circular, Loch Aweside 9.28 km west/ southwest	• Extends from C173(e) west through Gleann Meisean to Loch Avich. • No actual views of the Proposed Development	Scoped out of LVIA due to no actual views of the Proposed Development

Kilchurn Castle

8.4.71 Kilchurn Castle is located on a peninsula at the north eastern end of Loch Awe. It is a Scheduled Monument and is open to the public in the summer months.

8.4.72 The large landmark hills associated with the Ben Cruachan ridges, Na Cruachan and Ben Lui dominate views to the north and east whilst Loch Awe and its adjoining uplands forms a prominent constituent of views to the south and south east from this receptor location.,

8.4.73 Views from the castle comprise a combination of land uses. Dramatic, undeveloped mountain tops form the skyline in views to the northeast. At lower elevations the view contains a mix of elements including the existing Scottish Power Energy Networks (SPEN) high voltage transmission line (averaging 50 m in height, with a max height of 60 m) which routes along the eastern toe of Monadh Driseig (part of the Ben Cruachan mountain range), large areas of woodland along the loch shores and extensive commercial forestry across the moorland hills to the south east. The A85 and A819 are visible to the north and east.

Cumulative Context

8.4.74 **Table 8.7** in Section 8.3.69 presents a full list of cumulative developments within 10 km of the Proposed Development. These are presented on **Figure 14.1 (EIAR Volume 3a).**

8.4.75 For the purposes of the LVIA, and in order to keep the assessment proportionate, only those cumulative developments associated with electricity transmission, and which are considered likely to contribute to significant cumulative effects when the Proposed Development is introduced have been taken forward in the cumulative assessment.

8.4.76 **Table 8.7**, below, summarises those cumulative developments within 10 km of the Proposed Development which have been considered in the LVIA.

Table 8.7: Cumulative Development Context

Status	Name	Development Type	Distance and Direction from the Proposed Development
Operational/ Under Construction	Dalmally to Inverarnan 275 kV connection	Overhead transmission line	150 m north
	Stronmilchan to Cruachan Reservoir 275 kV connection	Overhead transmission line	3.4 km north/ northwest
	Taynuilt to Inveraray 132 kV connection	Overhead transmission line	300 m south/ southwest
In Development	ITE/ ITW[19] Tie-In Connection to Creag Dhubh Substation	Overhead transmission line	50 m south-west of the Proposed Development
	Blarghour Wind Farm OHL Connection	Overhead transmission line	250 m south
	Creag Dhubh to Inveraray 275 kV Connection	Overhead transmission line	200 m southeast
In Planning	Creag Dhubh Substation	Substation	The Proposed Development joins into the north-eastern side of the proposed Creag Dhubh Substation.

Future Baseline

8.4.77 In addition to the cumulative developments in **Table 8.7**, the assessment considered the effects of felling commercial forestry in the Study Area to the landscape and visual receptors in respect of the Proposed Development.

8.4.78 It is anticipated that the commercial forestry operations across the alignment and adjoining areas will continue to take place should the Proposed Development not be taken forward, resulting in areas of clear felling, and restocking in line with the forest plans for the area for the foreseeable future. This is likely to be the key change of the baseline within the vicinity of the Proposed Development, particularly to the western extent of the alignment.

8.4.79 Outwith the immediate site area, the greatest changes taking place in the future are likely to relate to the expansion and changes in settlement pattern, improvements to road infrastructure, introduction of wind farms and the expansion of power transmission infrastructure.

8.4.80 In the absence of the Proposed Development and without dramatic changes to policy or economic drivers in the area, the established trends in respect of land use/landcover and the baseline landscape and visual context will remain largely consistent with the scenario described.

[19] Inveraray to Taynuilt East and Inveraray to Taynuilt West

8.5 Effects Scoped Out

8.5.1 Effects related to the decommissioning of the Proposed Development were not assessed within the LVIA as such effects are anticipated to be equivalent to, or possibly less than, those expected to occur during its construction.

8.6 Assessment of Effects, Mitigation and Residual Effects

Assessment of Likely Effects

8.6.1 The layout and design of the Proposed Development are described in **Chapter 2 (EIAR Volume 2)** and illustrated in **Figures 2.1 to 2.1j (EIAR Volume 3a).**

8.6.2 The key components of the Proposed Development with the potential to affect the landscape and visual resource of the Study Area include those related to construction, operation and decommissioning stages of the development.

Potential Construction Effects

8.6.3 During construction (30-month period) the following elements have the potential to result in effects on the landscape fabric within the site, as well as the landscape character and/or visual amenity of the site and wider Study Area:

- Site clearance;
- construction of a new site access tracks (permanent and temporary);
- construction of site infrastructure;
- construction of laydown areas;
- excavation and construction of tower foundations;
- erection of towers;
- HGV and abnormal load deliveries to site and movement of vehicles on site; and
- reinstatement work, including restoration of temporary tracks and other areas, removal of temporary accommodation works, reinstatement of disturbed areas, and establishment of replacement forest/woodland planting (as required).

8.6.4 Most of the effects occurring during this phase relate to disturbance of existing landcover at the site and potential for long term change or loss of characteristic vegetation with consequent effects on the character and amenity of the site and the adjoining area. However, a large proportion of the construction effects would be managed through adoption of good practice and careful construction management and monitoring regimes (such as those presented in **TA 2.2:Outline Construction and Environmental Management Plan (CEMP) (EIAR Volume 4**).

8.6.5 Despite the phased manner of the felling and construction activities of the Proposed Development, short term significant effects are anticipated on landscape fabric, primarily within the OHL alignment/track network footprint and on the immediate area of the Craggy Upland LCT. These would primarily be associated with the scale of felling activities and consequent temporary loss of characteristic vegetation cover. Such activities are not uncharacteristic in the Craggy Upland LCT which contains a high degree of commercial forestry on rotational felling cycles.

Potential Operational Effects

8.6.6 For the purpose of he LVIA the Proposed Development is assumed to be permanent (i.e. of 50 years duration or greater). The operational elements with the potential to affect the landscape and visual amenity of the Study Area are:

- 48 self-supporting fabricated galvanised steel lattice towers, that are on average 50 (m) high (maximum height 60 m[20]) and separated by an average distance of 280 m;
- A 13.3 km double circuit 275 kV OHL supported by the towers. Each tower would carry two circuits, with three horizontal cross arms on each side of the tower, each carrying an insulator string and two conductors. An earth wire, containing an optical fibre ground wire (OPGW), would be strung between the tower peaks;
- Ancillary works for the maintenance of the OHL, including:
    - tree and vegetation clearance and maintenance; and
    - maintenance of junction bell-mouths and access tracks.

8.6.7 Effects arising during the operational period of the Proposed Development would mainly arise from the transmission towers, which represent the most visible and prominent aspects of the operational development.

Potential Cumulative Construction Effects

8.6.8 Potential cumulative effects would arise as a result of the Proposed Development in-addition and in-combination with the existing, consented and in-planning OHL development within the Study Area.

8.6.9 The following elements and activities associated with the construction phase of the cumulative developments which have the potential to result in significant in-combination/ in-addition cumulative construction effects on the landscape and visual amenity of the Study Area.

- Site clearances, particularly for the west extent of the Proposed Development, where the Creag Dhubh substation, northern extent of the Creag Dhubh – Inveraray overhead power line (OHL), the ITE / ITW Tie-In Connection and the eastern extent Blarghour Wind Farm OHL Connection are all located in close proximity;
- Excavation of the existing ground for the Creag Dhubh substation, Creag Dhubh – Inveraray OHL, the ITE / ITW Tie-In Connection, the Blarghour Wind Farm OHL connection;
- Installation of new tracks for the Proposed Development, Creag Dhubh – Inveraray OHL, the ITE / ITW Tie-In Connection and the Blarghour Wind Farm OHL connection and the consented Blarghour Wind Farm. There would be upgrading of existing tracks leading to the proposed Creag Dhubh substation and ITE/ ITW Tie-In Connection;
- Loss of vegetation with the construction of the cumulative developments, with consequent construction of OHL towers for the Creag Dhubh – Inveraray OHL, ITE / ITW Tie-In Connection and the Blarghour Wind Farm OHL Connection, Turbines for the Blarghour Wind Farm and new buildings associated with the Creag Dhubh substation; and
- Presence of construction activity (including movement) and construction equipment such as excavators, tractors, cranes and scaffold tunnels.

8.6.10 It is conceivable that some of the developments listed in **Table 8.7** would be constructed at the same time or overlap with the construction period of the Proposed Development. In which case there is potential for some cumulative construction impacts on landscape fabric, landscape character and effects on visual amenity, particularly in and around the proposed Creag Dhubh Substation, to the southwestern extent of the alignment. Such effects would, however, be of short duration and partly reversed upon cessation of construction operations and are therefore not anticipated to be significant.

[20] Considered to represent the reasonable worst case scenario.

Potential Cumulative Operational Effects

8.6.11 The following elements and activities with the operational period of the cumulative developments which have the potential to result in locally significant in-combination / in-addition cumulative effects on the landscape and visual amenity of the Study Area:

- Presence of additional OHL infrastructure within the landscape; and
- Disturbance, movement, and activity associated with maintenance activities.

8.6.12 Significant effects arising during the operational period of the in-planning and operational transmission infrastructure, in addition to the Proposed Development, could arise from new permanent towers as these represent the most visible components of the cumulative and Proposed Development. The effects are mostly concentrated to the southwest extent of the alignment, where the cumulative and Proposed Development converge at the proposed Creag Dhubh Substation. However, these potential significant effects would be highly localised and could be otherwise mitigated by a combination of topography and vegetation and effects would reduce over time with the implementation of a Landscape Mitigation Plan. Whilst it is not possible to include landscape mitigation within the Operational Corridor, compensatory off-site planting could contribute to reductions in the visibility and prominence of the Proposed Development at key receptor locations and in the wider landscape. Such proposals would be subject to further detailed evaluation and discussions with relevant landowners.

8.6.13 Potential cumulative effects would arise as a result of the Proposed Development in-addition and in-combination with the operational, consented and in-planning OHL developments within the Study Area. Two scenarios are used to assess cumulative effects: in-addition cumulative effects and in-combination cumulative effects. In-addition cumulative effects are anticipated with the Proposed Development and the existing 132kV Taynuilt – Inveraray OHL at the south west extent of the proposed alignment. In-combination effects are likely to occur with the proposed Creag Dhubh – Inveraray 275 kV OHL, the proposed Creag Dhubh substation and the ITE/ITW Tie-In Connection, with a concentration of this infrastructure to the south west extent of the proposed alignment.

Mitigation

Mitigation during Construction

General Construction Mitigation Measures

8.6.14 The location and management of construction elements has been carefully considered to minimise environmental effects including potential landscape and visual effects during the construction stage. Additionally, the following general precautionary measures would be adopted to minimise landscape and visual effects:

- All working areas would be restricted as far as practicable to the specified areas and demarcated to prevent incursion of site plant into non-construction locations;
- Material storage/temporary stockpiles would be retained for the shortest duration practicable. They would be sited to avoid visual intrusion to neighbouring receptor locations and would avoid sky-lining in views from neighbouring low-lying receptor locations such as the Rocky Coastland/Rocky Mosaic landscapes along the shoreline of Loch Awe;
- Where they occur, peat materials would be excavated and placed directly, wherever practicable, to avoid double handling, reduce vehicle movements, and to reduce potential drying and oxidisation of the peat resource. Where this is not possible the peat would be stored in accordance with the **EIAR Volume 4: TA 2.5: Draft Peat Management Plan;**
- Temporary site compounds would be reinstated prior to the commencement of the operational phase to avoid the necessity of retaining restoration materials on site over the operational period and to avoid sustained effects on landscape fabric character and visual amenity;

- The surface of lay-down areas would be reinstated to replicate the appearance of adjoining land. Habitat enhancement and/or Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) may be incorporated as part of the reinstatement works. If agreed with relevant authorities, this could result in a differing appearance to the adjoining land (e.g. wildflower meadows as opposed to agricultural fields);
- Excavations for tower foundations, laydown areas and temporary tracks would be reinstated prior to commencement of the operational phase of the Proposed Development; and
- All track sides would be reinstated with suitable material to ensure they blend in with the adjoining ground at the site.

Concrete for Tower Bases

8.6.15 It is the intention that concrete required for the construction of tower foundations would be brought to site ready mixed. It is anticipated that these construction works would be screened from the majority of receptor locations (e.g., along key transport routes and nearby settlements), due to intervening topography, roadside vegetation and coniferous forestry. In any event, this would be a temporary element and would be removed and ground cover restored to tie-in with the surrounding land cover during reinstatement works at the site.

Crane Pads and Laydown Areas

8.6.16 These elements of the Proposed Development would be kept to a minimum size and would be surfaced to match the track construction.

Mitigation during Operation

8.6.17 Mitigation of operational effects is primarily a matter of the siting/ alignment and design of different aspects of the Proposed Development, and as such constitutes embedded mitigation.

8.6.18 This involved a staged process including a Red Amber Green (RAG) Assessment to determine a suitable alignment and design that takes into consideration cost considerations, technical, and environmental constraints and opportunities. Details of the key design drivers and decisions made during the design of the Proposed Development are discussed in **Chapter 2: Description of the Proposed Development and Chapter 3: Consideration of Alternatives (EIAR Volume 2)**

8.6.19 Landscape and visual considerations, such as the existing landscape and visual baseline context as well as published guidance, were key to the design development. Those pertaining to the siting and design of the Proposed Development are summarised below.

Siting

8.6.20 The alignment evolved to ensure that the Proposed Development would be located:

- Low in the landscape to avoid structures being skylined in key or important views;
- Outwith areas subject to nationally recognised landscape designations or classifications such as WLA, and away from settlements and other concentrations of sensitive receptors;
- In larger scale upland moorland and forested locations that are more capable of accommodating transmission lines than smaller scale landscapes;
- In a landscape that is already subject to ongoing modification or change and which contains existing or consented developments and/or other forms of large-scale development;
- Away from distinctive landscape features, the scale and form of which could be compromised;
- To avoid, wherever possible, interrupting views of key landmark landscape features such as Ben Lui and Ben Cruachan; and
- To reduce the visibility and prominence of the Proposed Development from key sensitive receptor locations to the west and north, including main settlements, glens and key transportation and tourist/scenic routes and recreational routes in the Study Area.

Layout and Design

8.6.21 Priority considerations in respect of the design from a landscape and visual perspective included:

- The preference for towers of a size that would be suitable within the scale of the Craggy Upland landscape character type, in order to ensure that the Proposed Development would have limited impacts upon the perceived size and scale of any landscape features; and
- Preferential use of existing tracks on site to minimise effects associated with this aspect of the Proposed Development.

Assessment of Residual Effects

Residual Construction Effects

Residual Effects on Landscape Fabric during Construction

8.6.22 **Chapter 2: Description of Proposed Development (EIAR Volume 2**) provides details of the land take needed for the construction of the Proposed Development. The Site area is approximately 107.5 ha (**EIAR Volume 3a: Figures 2.1a-i: Overhead Line Route and Access Tracks)**. Within this area the permanent land take would be limited to the operational corridor, and the new permanent access tracks (plus 20 m felling buffer). The Proposed Development would result in the construction of approximately 9.3 km of new temporary track. A temporary 0.6 km diversion between existing SPEN 275 kV OHL towers YW17 and YW19 and two temporary towers, are required as part of the construction works for the Tie-In connection. The total temporary land take required for these diversion works would be 3.8 ha. Diversions would also be required to the existing distribution network infrastructure which are crossed by the OHL (between T9 – T10 and T31-T32).

8.6.23 The Proposed Development would have no effect on topography and has been devised to minimise effects on substrates. The key residual effect on landscape fabric would be:

- Long-terms clearance of woodland/ coniferous vegetation;
- Removal of the forest floor to create an operation corridor/ wayleave for the OHL; and
- Reinstatement of that corridor comprising a combination of native, low growing shrubs and tree vegetation.

8.6.24 The creation of access tracks to facilitate the construction and operational maintenance of the OHL would also require an additional woodland removal in some locations, as described in **Chapter 11: Forestry (EIAR Volume 2)** and shown in **Figure 11.4: Forestry Projected Felling Maps (EIAR Volume 3a)**. The widening of existing tracks, and the creation of new temporary and permanent access tracks to facilitate the construction and operational maintenance of the OHL would require additional woodland/forestry removal, which would have additional long-term construction impacts. These impacts would be long term for locations where temporary tracks are constructed, until trees, shrubs and/or grassland vegetation is able to regenerate following the removal of temporary tracks. Impacts would be permanent where tracks are retained for maintenance purposes.

8.6.25 Whilst construction of access tracks and the OHL would entail the loss of a corridor of characteristic vegetation, the area of forestry and woodland removal would be of comparatively modest scale in the context of the geographical extent of existing forest cover in the area, assuming that vegetation clearance would be limited to only that which is required for construction and operation of the OHL.

8.6.26 The Proposed Development would result in the loss of 51.19 ha (0.03% of the regional resource 200,000 ha). of commercial forest and 12.62 ha (0.04% of the regional resource 200,000 ha). A potential further area of 111.49 ha has been identified for additional felling, outside of the operational corridor and access track corridor, to address wind throw risk and would represent 0.06% of the regional resource (200,000 ha). The additional felling, outside of the operation corridor, would be reversible for areas of commercial plantation. The woodland removal would be broadly consistent with similar features elsewhere where grid infrastructure is present and such clearances have already occurred. As such, felling operations are not uncharacteristic for landscapes containing areas of commercial forestry and would be accompanied by some notable diversification of forest habitats where reinstatement is implemented. Consequently, the magnitude of impact would be slight and the residual effect on landscape fabric would be **Moderate / Minor** and not significant.

Residual Effects on Landscape Character during Construction

8.6.27 The effect of construction operations at the site would be localised to tower and access track locations and would be of relatively short duration. Much of the disturbance associated with construction operations would be ameliorated or removed during subsequent reinstatement activities. It is predicted construction works on the proposed alignment would last for approximately 30 months.

8.6.28 Consequently, the effect of construction operations is considered to represent **no significant residual effects** on landscape character either within or in the adjacent landscape.

Residual Effects on Designated Landscapes during Construction

8.6.29 There would be direct impacts on the North Argyll APQ as a result of the construction of the Proposed Development.

8.6.30 The Proposed Development would be wholly located within this designated landscape. Areas of forestry and rough grassland would be permanently lost as a result of the construction of the proposed tower foundations, Operational Corridor and permanent access tracks. Some areas would also be lost temporarily due to creation of laydown areas and temporary access tracks.

8.6.31 It is anticipated that visual impacts would be experienced from the Ben Lui and Loch Etive Mountains WLAs, and from the Ardanaiseig House GDL. The construction of the Proposed Development would introduce an increased level of activity and plant into the landscape for an approximately 30 month construction period. The Proposed Development would be built in four key phases (Phase 1 – Enabling, Phase 2 – Construction, Phase 3 – Commissioning, Phase 4 – Reinstatement).

8.6.32 Temporary construction impacts would be localised and would be of a short duration. Permanent impacts would be contained to within the immediate footprint of the Proposed Development and, while long term, any effects would be localised to the site area. The magnitude of impact would be **Slight**. Consequently, construction effects arising from the Proposed Development would be locally **Moderate**, and not considered to represent significant residual effects on the wider North Argyll APQ or on any adjacent designated landscapes.

8.6.33 **TA 8.5: Residual Effects on Landscape Designations and Classifications (EAIR Volume 4)** highlights there would be no significant operational effects on the special qualities of any of the landscape designations or classifications within the Study Area.

Residual Effects on Visual Amenity during Construction

8.6.34 Construction operations would be confined to locations within the site corridor and screened from the majority of key external receptor locations, including settlements, transportation routes and the majority of recreational routes as defined in Section 8.3, the exception being the operation of site cranes and erection of towers. However, even these aspects of the construction operations would be of relatively short duration and the magnitude of impact is considered to be **Slight**.

8.6.35 In this context, residual construction effects on visual amenity are considered to be **Moderate** and are unlikely to be significant.

Residual Cumulative Effects during Construction

8.6.36 Construction of cumulative developments (identified in Table 8.7) may overlap or occur at the same time as the Proposed Development. The cumulative developments are concentrated to the south west of the alignment where they converge at the proposed Creag Dhubh Substation. The duration of construction operations at these sites would be relatively short and geographically confined and each of the developments would be required to implement construction mitigation to reduce any identified construction impacts Consequently, no significant cumulative construction effects are anticipated.

Residual Operational Effects

Effects on Landscape Fabric during Operation

8.6.37 No additional effects on landscape fabric would occur during the operational life of the Proposed Development. Reinstated ground within the site area would gradually recover and mature, re-establishing the land cover and productive use of the site.

8.6.38 Ongoing maintenance would be required to ensure clearances within the wayleave corridor are achieved. This is not considered to cause any notable effect on landscape fabric.

Effects on Landscape Character during Operation

8.6.39 The location and geographical extent of LCTs within the Study Area are presented on **Figure 8.3a (EIAR Volume 3a)**. A detailed description of each of these LCTs is presented in **TA 8.2** and a detailed residual effects assessment is presented in **TA 8.4 (EIAR Volume 4)**. A summary of findings is presented below.

Craggy Uplands – Argyll LCT

8.6.40 Localised significant effects are predicted on the Craggy Upland LCT. The Proposed Development would notably alter the character of the landscape in the area surrounding the Proposed Development and would likely form a prominent but localised change within a broader, unaltered context.

8.6.41 Due to the nature of the Proposed Development, and the large-scale and expansive character of the Craggy Upland LCT, significant residual effects on the LCT would reduce rapidly with distance. The Proposed Development is located within and adjacent to large areas of forestry and is positioned towards the base of the hillside, away from the more open and expansive moorland hilltops. The influence of the Proposed Development would be experienced over a localised area of the LCT which is currently characterised by forestry and other linear infrastructure, such as roads, railway corridors and existing transmission lines. The characteristic features of the upland moorland landscape further to the northeast of the LCT would not be significantly affected. Forestry and woodland within the lower lying parts of the LCT would assist with limiting the influence of the OHL and associated infrastructure by providing screening.

8.6.42 The Proposed Development would represent a notable alteration to the characteristics of the landscape character, the key characteristics are gently undulating topography and extensive coniferous forestry cover that surround the Proposed Development site. In the area of the development, it is likely that the OHL would become one of the defining characteristics of the landscape, resulting in a **Moderate** magnitude of impact and a localised **Major/Moderate** (significant) effect.

8.6.43 However, the Craggy Upland LCT is an extensive character type across the Study Area and extends across large expanses of landscapes on either side of Loch Awe, to the southeast of Mull and the Kyles of Bute to the south of Loch Fyne. Any effects arising from the Proposed Development would be highly localised and would not affect the broader LCT overall. The magnitude of impact on the Craggy Upland LCT overall would be **Negligible** (not significant).

8.6.44 Effects on other LCTs within the Study Area would not exceed **Moderate/Minor** and would therefore not be significant, as detailed within **TA 8.4: Residual effects on Landscape Character Types (EIAR Volume 4).** The character of these landscapes is derived from their expansive nature, uninhabited summits, provision of panoramic views and intervisibility between summits as well as by their proximity and relationship to loch shores. The Proposed Development would not impact upon these characteristics to a notable level to alter these key characteristics.

Residual Effects on Landscape Designations and Classifications

8.6.45 The location and geographical extent of Landscape Designations and Classifications within the Study Area are presented on **Figure 8.4 (EIAR Volume 3a)**. A detailed description of each of these designations is presented in **TA 8.2 (EIAR Volume 4)** and a detailed residual effects assessment is presented in **TA 8.4 EIAR Volume 4**. A Wild Land Impact Assessment for the Ben Lui and Loch Etive Mountains WLAs is presented in **TA 8.6 (EIAR Volume 4)**.

8.6.46 A summary of findings of effects on all landscape designations and classifications is presented below.

Area of Panoramic Quality – North Argyll

8.6.47 The Proposed Development is located wholly within the North Argyll APQ. Policy SG LDP ENV 13 of the Argyll and Bute Local Development Plan describes these areas as "*important not only for their physical landforms and scenic value, but also for the environmental assets that they represent. These qualities could easily be destroyed or damaged by even a relatively small, insensitive development. They therefore must be protected.*"

8.6.48 The Proposed Development would introduce a new linear infrastructural element within the landscape. From elevated locations within the APQ, but would be seen below the skyline, back clothed by the surrounding landscape, with some localised screening afforded by intervening forestry cover, within an area characterised by a complex mosaic of forests and woodland, open moorland, Strath, loch and Lochshore, and would therefore be backclothed and filtered (or partially screened) within a largely expansive and panoramic view. From lower elevations, views of receptors near the Proposed Development would notably change (such as from the north-western extent of Loch Awe and the A85). However, the impact would reduce quickly with distance as the high levels of woodland and forestry within the landscape (and within the area of the APQ) would substantially filter or screen views of the OHL.

8.6.49 The magnitude of impact on this designation would be **Negligible**, but with localised impacts in locations at lower elevations where receptors are in direct view of the Proposed Development (i.e. properties along the north western extent of Loch Awe, along the A85). On this basis, residual effect would overwhelmingly be **Moderate/Minor** and therefore not significant.

Wild Land Areas

8.6.50 The Loch Etive Mountains WLA is situated approximately 5 km north of the Proposed Development as routes across the southern extent Loch Awe, on the lower slopes of Beinn Bhalgairean and Cruach Mhor. The WLA is identified for its steep, high mountains with rocky tops and ridges which offer panoramic views of elevated tops in the distance, and its deep glens, with steep side slopes and a strong sense of naturalness. The WLA experiences a high number of visitors seeking remoteness, risk and physical challenge. The ZTV indicates that intervisibility with the Proposed Development would be restricted to the southern facing slopes of Meall Cuanail, Monadh Driseig, Stob Garbh and Ben Cruchan.

8.6.51 The Proposed Development is located partly within an inhabited strath (where existing transmission infrastructure, existing OHLs and substation), road and rail infrastructure are already present), and along the eastern side of Loch Awe. Whilst the Proposed Development would introduce a new element into the panoramic views from the surrounding mountains, it would not be out of character within the existing views from these locations and its prominence (and consequent influence) would be lessened by back clothing by topography. Therefore, the magnitude of impact on the aesthetic and perceptual aspects of the WLA would be **Negligible**, resulting in a **Moderate/ Minor** (not significant) residual effect on the wild land characteristics of the Loch Etive Mountains WLA.

8.6.52 The Bein Lui WLA is situated to the east and south east of the Proposed Development as it crosses the northern lower slopes of Beinn Bhalgairean and Cruach Mhor. At its closest, the WLA is around 2 km from the Proposed Development. This WLA is classified for its mountain ranges which range from massive and remote hills in the southwest and the more popular, arresting hills to the northeast of the WLA. It is a rugged landscape, highly natural with steep sided glens which provide striking views from well used routes. Human artefacts are well defined and visible around the edges of the WLA, particularly in views from higher slopes. Within the centre there is a lack of human intervention except for hydro development in some of the glens.

8.6.53 The ZTV indicated that views of the Proposed Development would be limited to locations on the north-western fringes of the WLA, across the northern slopes of Beinn Bhreac, Beinn an t-Sithein and Tom a' Phiobaire.

8.6.54 The Proposed Development would be viewed within the wider context of the A85, A819, the West Highland railway line, scattered development along the north/ north-western edge of Loch Awe, as well as other transmission infrastructure, such as the Stronmilchan to Cruachan Reservoir 275 kV connection and the Dalmally to Inverarnan 275 kV connection. Similar to those impacts on the Loch Etive Mountains WLA, the Proposed Development would introduce a new linear feature into panoramic views from the north-western extent of the WLA. However, it would not be out of character within the existing view, from these locations, would be partially screened by intervening topography and coniferous forestry, and would be backclothed by topography on the opposite side of Loch Awe. Consequently, the magnitude of impact on the aesthetic and perceptual aspects of the WLA would be **Negligible**; equating to a **Moderate Minor** (not significant) effect on the Ben Lui WLA.

Gardens and Designed Landscapes

8.6.55 The Proposed Development would be visible from certain points within Ardanaiseig House, notably from the shoreline however would not form a key element in views from these locations. The Proposed Development would be viewed within a large-scale landscape along the lower northern slopes of Beinn Bhalgairean and Cruach Mhor, and while it would result in a discernible change in the view, it is not anticipated that this would exert such an influence upon the qualifying features of the GDL to the extent where they would be impacted, or their enjoyment diminished.

8.6.56 The magnitude of impact would be Negligible. The effect would be **Moderate/ Minor** and not significant.

Residual Effects on Visual Amenity

Residual Effects on the Amenity of Settlements

Dalmally and Stronmilchan

8.6.57 From Dalmally, views of the Proposed Development would largely be screened by dense, mature woodland which surrounds the village and line the A85, as illustrated in VPs 1, 2 and 3 in **Figures 8.8a to and 8.8c (EIAR Volume 3b).** Even during winter months when trees are not in leaf, the density of the woodland areas would achieve a substantial level of screening. Consequently, impacts would be **Negligible**, and the residual effect on the amenity of residents would be Minor, and therefore **not significant.**

8.6.58 From the small settlement of Stronmilchan, which comprises a linear settlement of approximately 36 scattered detached houses along the B8077. The northernmost part of the Proposed Development would be viewed crossing the hillside around 2 km to the south from the majority of the houses. The Proposed Development would, however, be backclothed by topography of the uplands and would be partially obscured by intervening landforms and vegetation on the southern side of Strath of Orchy. The Proposed Development would be a discernible element within the view but would not be a prominent feature. The underlying character of the landscape and visual composition of the view would remain broadly consistent with the baseline view.

8.6.59 The magnitude of impact experienced by receptors at the settlement of Stronmilchan would be **Slight**. The Proposed Development would represent a discernible alteration to the composition of the view, introducing linear infrastructure across the hillside which forms the backdrop to the view, however the OHL would only be viewed intermittently given the screening afforded by intervening vegetation in the foreground. The residual effect would be **Moderate** and not significant.

Scattered Settlement

8.6.60 Viewed from scattered properties within the Study Area, including areas to the northwest of Loch Awe on the A85 and in and around Cladich. The Proposed development would be seen at varying distances, within the context of an expansive, and diverse landscape. The majority of properties would be located greater than 1 km from the Proposed Development, with three properties located within 500 m of the alignment. The nearest property to the alignment would be Brackley (Property RVA04, please see **Volume 4: TA 8.8: Residential Visual Amenity Assessment**) which is approximately 450 m north of the alignment. The Proposed Development traverses through established areas of commercial forestry, according to the ZTV (**TA Figure 8.8.5a**) 10 towers would be theoretically visible from Cladich with up to 40 towers being theoretically visible at distances of over 2.5 km from the properties along the north-western extent of Loch Awe on the A85. Given the extent of intervening coniferous forestry, topography and the backclothing effect afforded by the lower slopes of Beinn Bhalgairean and Cruach Mhor, the Proposed Development would not be prominent within the view.

8.6.61 It is noted that the Proposed Development would introduce a new linear feature to views from properties along the north-western extent on Loch Awe. Properties situated at a lower elevation would be subjected to localised screening/ filtering of views due to intervening deciduous vegetation along the Lochside. In isolated locations there are properties that are elevated above the woodland. At these properties, the Proposed Development would be a notable but not prominent element across the hill side southeast/ east (see VP 6 in **Figure 8.8f, EIAR Volume 3b**) and the impact would be greater.

8.6.62 The magnitude of impact on scattered properties within the Study Area would range from None to Low. The effect would range from minor to **Moderate** but is considered to be **Minor** overall and therefore not significant.

Residual Effects on the Amenity of Transport Routes

A85

8.6.63 Views from this section of the A85 are primarily directed outwards to the east, along the banks of Loch Awe, with the western view being highly restricted by the adjacent topographical high points of Beinn a' Bhuiridh and Monadh Driseig. Open views across Loch Awe are attainable from this section of the A85 as it traverses the landscape from Dalmally to Cruachan. The Proposed Development would be seen across the lower slopes Beinn Bhalgairean and Cruach Mhor, traversing through coniferous forestry, moorland and rough grassland.

8.6.64 The Proposed Development would represent a notable addition of transmission infrastructure to the view from the A85, particularly to the east. However, there are sections of Lochside vegetation that would provide some localised screening, combined with the backclothing of the alignment the overall change would be discernible. The Magnitude of users along the A85 would be **Slight**, reducing to **Low** or **None** towards the eastern and western ends of the route, where the Proposed Development would not be available, due to intervening topography. Based on the preceding analysis, the residual effect on the amenity of this route would range from None to **Moderate/ Minor** and therefore, not significant.

A819

8.6.65 Views from the transport route are strongly contained by topography and woodland, with views focused along the carriageway. Where the A819 routes along the side of Loch Awe, intermittent and filtered views are provided to the west/ northwest across the loch and towards Kilchurn Castle. The Proposed Development would be situated to the east/ south east of the route, with the majority of the alignment being partially screened by the intervening topography, coniferous forestry, woodland and roadside vegetation.

8.6.66 The Proposed Development would be extensively screened/ filtered from the majority of the route, with exception to the southern extent near Cladich, where the Proposed Development would cross the road itself, and so would be momentarily prominent in views from a short section of this route features in the skyline of the view from the road.. Therefore, the magnitude of impact on users of the A819 would be **Negligible**, reducing to **Low** or **None** towards the southern extent of the route, resulting in an imperceptible alteration to the composition of views from a small section of the overall route, compared to the baseline view. Based on the preceding analysis, the residual effect on the amenity of this route would range from **None** to **Minor** (not significant).

B8077

8.6.67 Views from the B8077 are strongly contained to the east and north by intervening topography, such as Beinn a' Bhuiridh and Monadh Driseig. To the west and south, intermittent views extend across the Strath, longer views are generally screened by intervening woodland within the Strath. The Proposed Development would be seen to the south / southeast, across the lower slopes of Beinn Bhalgairean and Cruach Mhor.

8.6.68 As illustrated by Viewpoint 3 in **Figures 8.8c (EIAR Volume 3b)**, the Proposed Development would be extensively screened from this transport route, due to the extent of intervening shelterbelt woodland and coniferous forestry, with a 15 OHL towers being visible extending along the opposing hillside. Notably, the Proposed Development would not be skylined and would be partially obscured by intervening topography and vegetation, therefore reducing its prominence within the view. It is predicted the Proposed Development would represent a very limited alteration to the composition of the view from this route and a **Negligible** magnitude of impact on users of the B8077, reducing to **Low** or **None** eastwards towards Dalmally. Consequently, the residual effect on the amenity of this route would range from **None** to **Minor** (not significant).

Other Transport Routes

8.6.69 Due to the level of woodland which borders the West Highland Railway line, impacts would largely be experienced as the rail user passes in close proximity to OHL at Dalmally. Rail passengers on this route would view the Proposed Development over a short duration and at an oblique and/or acute angle. Consequently, the impact on views from this route would be Negligible and the residual effect would be Minor and not significant.

8.6.70 Viewed from the B8074, B840, and B845 carriageways, the Proposed Development would be seen distantly and intermittently, often being glimpsed through intervening vegetation, and would generally be backclothed by topography. On this basis, these routes are predicted to be subject to **Negligible** impacts and Minor visual effects which would not be significant.

Residual Effects on the Amenity of Recreational Receptors

Loch Awe Sailing and Kayakers

8.6.71 The Proposed Development would be highly visible from Loch Awe, particularly from the north-eastern extent as it lies within the Study Area, however, the Proposed Development would be fully backclothed by the surrounding slopes of Beinn Bhalgairean and Cruach Mhor, reducing its prominence within the view. Moreover, some localised screening / filtering of views would be afforded by the intervening clumps of woodland and coniferous forestry present on the Lochside and lower slopes.

8.6.72 The magnitude of impact on waterborne receptors is anticipated to be **Slight**, with the residual effect being **Moderate** and not significant. The overall change would be discernible, with the composition of the view broadly consistent with the baseline view.

National Cycle Network (NCN)

8.6.73 Views of the Proposed Development would be largely screened from the NCN route, due to the extent of intervening topography and woodland vegetation, particularly the east. There are some areas where glimpsed views of the loch are available, of these views the majority are filtered by intervening Lochside vegetation. It is anticipated the Proposed Development would cause a very limited alteration to the composition of the view to the southwest / west from a series of small sections of the NCN route. The change would be barely discernible.

8.6.74 Based on the proceeding analysis, the overall magnitude of impact of users of the NCN would be **Negligible**, with the residual effect being **Moderate/ Minor** and not significant.

Core Paths

8.6.75 Core Path C450.

8.6.76 The Proposed Development would be largely screened or filtered in views from this core path, but localised **Moderate** impacts and **Major/Moderate** (significant) effects would occur at the Duncan Ban Macintyre monument which is an elevated vantage point from where the Proposed Development would be seen spanning across much of the middle ground of views to the south and south east (as illustrated at Viewpoint 11).

8.6.77 Another part of this route that would afford clear views of the Proposed Development would be in low lying positions within Dalmally village from where the Proposed Development would be seen at distances of over 1 km and would be backclothed by topography. The existing OHL is a prominent feature in locations within Dalmally, due to its relative proximity and skylined appearance. Given the transitory and intermittent visibility predicted on this route, coupled with the Proposed Developments distance and generally backclothed position in views from Dalmally, the impact on the amenity of this route would be **Slight**, equating to a **Moderate** (non-significant) residual effect.

8.6.78 Similarly, significant effects are not predicted on the amenity of any other core path due to a combination of distance from the OHL, and intervening landscape features providing a high level of screening. This is evident on Core Paths C409 and C173 where the Proposed Development would be viewed against a wider landscape view and would form a minor element in an expansive view.

Kilchurn Castle

8.6.79 From Kilchurn Castle, the Proposed Development would be fully screened in views to the south, southwest and southeast, due to the intervening topography and woodland. Given the Proposed Development would be fully screened from this location, the magnitude of impact would be **None**. The residual effect would be **None**.

Residual Effects on Viewpoints

8.6.80 An assessment of the 19 viewpoints (VPs) was undertaken, and the findings recorded in **Volume 4: TA 8.6 Viewpoint Assessment**.

8.6.81 Of the 19 VPs assessed, only Viewpoint 11: Duncan Ban McIntyre Monument was predicted to experience significant visual effects. This is due to the proximity of the Proposed Development to this elevated receptor location and the extent of the available view the Proposed Development would occupy.

Residual Cumulative Effects

8.6.82 Nearby developments, including those associated with the reinforcement of the transmission network and other mixed developments within 10 km of the OHL Route, are listed in Table 8.7 and further discussed in **Chapter 14** and **Figure 14.1: Cumulative Developments**.

8.6.83 The cumulative operational transmission infrastructure, within the study area, are situated to the west, north and east of the proposed alignment (Figure 2.2: Cumulative Developments). They comprise the following:

- 132 kV OHL from Inveraray to Taynuilt, positioned to the south and west of the proposed alignment between Taynuilt to the north and Inveraray to the south, this route crosses Loch Awe near Ardbrecknish.
- Stronmilchan – Cruachan OHL, traverses along the lower slopes of Ben Cruachan, Beinn a' Bhuiridh and Monadh Driseig, on the north-western shore of Loch Awe, to the north and west of the proposed alignment.
- Dalmally to Inverarnan OHL to the north and east of the proposed alignment, comprising a 275 kV line.

8.6.84 As the topography gradually transitions from the upper slopes of the Craggy Upland – Argyll to the lower slopes of the Rocky Coastline – Argyll LCTs 40 and 3, respectively, as shown in **Figure 8.3a (EIAR Volume 3a)**, the prominence of the OHL towers begin to decrease due to the backclothing effect afforded by the adjacent and surrounding topography and vegetation, reducing their prominence within the landscape.

8.6.85 The in-planning schemes of the Creag Dhubh – Inveraray 275 kV OHL, Creag Dhubh substation and the ITE/ITW Tie-In Connection would add to the concentration of transmission infrastructure within the landscape. However, the siting and location of these developments would allow for their screening from key neighbouring receptor locations by a combination of topography and forest cover. The OHL towers from the in-planning Creag Dhubh – Inveraray 275kV OHL that would add to impacts on landscape fabric in and around the substation and is likely to add to the sequence of views of OHLs from locations along the A819. Such sequential visibility would be intermittent and highly localised.

8.6.86 The operational and in-planning OHL routes within the local area tend to comprise large scale steel lattice towers on the upper and lower slopes of Craggy Upland – Argyll LCT and Rocky Coastline – Argyll respectively. The proposed terminal towers that are to be located at the substation, would represent localised cumulative effects and would be mitigated by , to a large extent by topography and forest cover, the proposed temporary diversion would be wholly contained within the Craggy Upland – Argyll LCT, and whilst seen in the context of other transmission developments, would be temporary in nature with any cumulative impacts associated with the diversion reducing to None, with the fabric of the landscape being reinstated.

8.6.87 In general, the location of the proposed alignment is rarely visible in isolation, as it is located between the two existing OHL routes, on the lower slopes Beinn Chas, Beinn Bhalgairean and Beinn Bhuidhe, thereby minimising the skylining of any OHL towers, as illustrated in all but one of the assessment viewpoints (Viewpoint 19), with interspersed sections of forestry that would screen/filter sections of the route. Should the Creag Dhubh – Inveraray 275 kV OHL and Creag Dhubh substation be consented, the Proposed Development would add to the concentration of transmission infrastructure, particularly to the south west extent of the route; however, this would be highly localised and contained within a small topographical valley, preventing widespread intervisibility. The Proposed Development would represent filling in and extending the influence of transmission development along the southeast extent of Loch Awe, however, as above, these would be highly localised.

8.7 Summary

8.7.1 The Proposed Development would introduce a new OHL alignment including steel lattice towers and associated cabling to a rural part of the landscape, characterised by coniferous forestry, rough grassland and open moorland to the east and southeast of Loch Awe.

8.7.2 The Proposed Development would require the permanent removal of coniferous forestry, heather moorland, and other vegetation, with the addition of permanent OHL towers and permanent and temporary access tracks. Mitigation measures have been set out within the final design and layout of the Proposed Development to minimise the impacts to the existing landscape.

8.7.3 There would be direct, significant effects on the fabric and host landscape character area within the immediate area of the OHL steel lattice towers during construction and operation. The removal of vegetation cover, modest changes to the landform (OHL tower foundations) and the direct loss of coniferous forestry to facilitate the construction and operation of the Proposed Development would alter the landscape within close proximity to the proposed alignment and increase the presence of transmission infrastructure within the landscape. Significant effects associated with these aspects of the Proposed Development would be highly localised, and would reduce substantially over a short distance from the alignment route. The localised removal of vegetation cover, whilst directly impacting on the fabric of the landscape within the alignment corridor, would not detract from, or significantly alter, the distinct pattern of landscape structure that characterises the wider landscape. Operational effects would be mitigated through the implementation of the mitigation specified in Section 8.5.11: Mitigation and the measures recorded in **Chapter 15: Schedule of Mitigation (EIAR Volume 2**).

8.7.4 The Proposed Development would not introduce a wholly new or uncharacteristic element to the existing landscape condition and would be seen in the context of other existing transmission infrastructure, including the Taynuilt – Inveraray 132 kV and Dalmally to Inverarnan 275 kV OHL which are located adjacent to the south west and eastern extent of the Proposed Development.

8.7.5 The Argyll and Bute Area of Panoramic Quality would be directly affected by the Proposed Development; however, these impacts would be highly localised, quickly reducing with distance, due to intervening forestry and woodland. The Proposed Development would be visible from Ardanaiseig House GDL. However, given the extent of backclothing and intervening elements such as forestry it would result in a discernible change within the view, and is not anticipated to exert such an influence upon the qualifying features of the GDL to the extent they would be impacted, or their enjoyment diminished. The Proposed Development would be visible from isolated parts of the Loch Etive Mountains and Ben Lui WLAs; however the development would not be out of character with the existing view from these locations. Therefore, the magnitude of impact would be Negligible and the residual effect would be Moderate/Minor and not significant.

8.7.6 Moreover, there would not be any impacts on designated landscapes which would adversely affect their special qualities or characteristics, or impact upon the justification for their designation. Therefore, overall magnitude of impact anticipated for all designations within the Study Area would be Negligible and the residual effect would be Moderate/Minor and not significant.

8.7.7 The views towards the Proposed Development from several scattered residential properties would be seen at varying distances, and within the context of an expansive diverse landscape. As the Proposed Development routes through dense commercial forestry, a large proportion of the Proposed Developments towers would be screened in views, particularly those provided from the A819 and at Cladich. From more distant locations along the western extent of Loch Awe, properties would have long distance views of the Proposed Development, those properties situated at lower elevations would be subjected to filtered/restricted views. However, those properties at a higher elevation would view the Proposed Development as a new notable element within the hillside, albeit at a distance and backclothed by the surrounding topography and landcover.

8.7.8 The main routes (A85, A819 and B8077) and other minor transport routes were included within the detailed assessment process. No significant residual effects were identified. Of the many recreational routes within the LVIA Study Area, only one Duncan Ban MacIntyre core path (C450) would be subjected to locally significant effects as a result of the Proposed Development. Significant effects are not predicted on the amenity of any other core path due to a combination over distance and intervening landscape features, such as coniferous forestry and woodland vegetation and the generally backclothed appearance of the Proposed Development.

8.7.9 The construction and operation of the existing and proposed cumulative developments would result in some locally significant impacts on the character of the Craggy Upland – Argyll LCT, the significant effects occurring at locations close proximity to the Proposed Development The in-planning developments of Creag Dhubh – Inveraray 275 kV OHL and Creag Dhubh substation would be viewed within the context of existing transmission infrastructure and while it would intensify the presence of OHL structure within the landscape, these significant effects would be high localised and contained.

8.7.10 Additionally, there would be localised significant cumulative effects arising from the sequential views of operational and in-planning developments, and the Proposed Development on the character of the Craggy Upland – Argyll LCT, and views from the A819.

8.7.11 Nineteen representative viewpoints were assessed in the LVIA. Significant visual effects attributed to the Proposed Development were identified at one of these locations,VP11: Duncan Ban MacIntyre monument.

8.7.12 Any development of the scale and type proposed has potential to cause some significant landscape and visual effects. The Proposed Development is no different in this regard. However, it is apparent from the limited number of significant effects identified in respect of the Proposed Development in Section 8.5.20: Residual Construction Effects and Section 8.5.34: Residual Operational Effect, and the preceding summary, that the siting and design of the Proposed Development has proven to be effective in minimising such significant effects.