



Troston Overhead Line Grid Connection

Appendix 6.4: Viewpoints

1 Introduction

- 1.1.1 A viewpoint assessment has been carried out from a selection of key representative viewpoint locations to inform the assessment of the likely magnitude and significance of landscape and visual effects arising as a result of the proposed development.
- 1.1.2 The locations of the selected viewpoints are shown on Figures 6.1 – 6.4. Details for each viewpoint are provided below. Panoramic photographs and wirelines are provided to illustrate the existing view at each viewpoint location and the likely extent of the proposed development within the view (see Viewpoints 1-4). A summary of the viewpoint analysis is provided in Table 6.5 in the main Landscape and Visual Assessment (LVA) (see Chapter 6).
- 1.1.3 This viewpoint assessment considers the nature of the predicted view and the scale of change. The wider extent of the effect (beyond the individual viewpoint considered), and its duration, are not captured in the viewpoint analysis (as a single viewpoint cannot capture extent or duration), and are considered in the main body of the assessment (see Chapter 6). Extent and duration are factors in the overall judgement on magnitude of change, therefore judgements on magnitude of change and overall level of effect and significance are also provided in the main assessment.
- 1.1.4 The method of assessment used for the viewpoint analysis, which is described in Appendix 6.1, accords with current best-practice guidance for Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment (Landscape Institute and Institute of Environmental Management, 2013). Observations are made of the baseline landscape and visual characteristics at each of the representative viewpoints. Observations, computer modelling and professional judgement are applied to determine the scale of change attributable to the proposed development (Large, Medium, Small and Negligible) upon landscape character and visual amenity at each individual viewpoint in order to determine the scale of effect.
- 1.1.5 The visual assessment takes into account the screening effect of intervening landform, vegetation and built form and the potential for changes to those baseline features. It assumes excellent clear weather conditions; although the influence of different seasons, weather, sunlight and visibility conditions have been considered, where relevant.

2 Viewpoint Analysis

VP	Location	Key Features of Existing View	Predicted Visual Change	Predicted Change to Landscape Character
1	Local Road Near Auchenshinnoch (roadside viewpoint near property entrance) 0.26 km N	Key views from this location are to the west along the road with coniferous forestry on the southern side and open grazing land to the north to a ridgeline of rounded hills on the horizon. Views are open yet shorter to the south, across unimproved grassland to coniferous forestry on an undulating hill to the south of the Black Water (which is out of view). Outlook is truncated by landform to the southeast, east and north, with some close range views into adjacent grazing land beside the road. The view is a relatively commonplace view of moorland and forestry within this area and people would not visit the location specifically to experience the view.	The proposed development would be visible across views to the south, southwest and west. The OHL and wood poles would come into view from behind White Knowe to the south. The OHL would generally be backclothed by landform and forestry as the route crosses lower lying grassland between the viewpoint and nearby forestry and rising land. The proposed development would be located in forestry on the southern side of Black Water from Pole 26 onwards into the east of the route. Some partial visibility of poles and lines may be possible along the construction corridor, in which there would be some stacking of the wood poles within the felled corridor within the forestry. The route would likely be screened at the southwestern end from c. Pole 16 onwards. The OHL would be a new feature in the landscape and would alter the existing view, but the scale of the wood poles mean that the OHL would not dominate the view or alter perceptions of the landscape and visual amenity of the area.	The proposed development would appear mainly in the context of commercial forestry, which is a key feature of the LCT. There would be some felling visible from this location to accommodate the proposed development, although the viewing angle would vary and remaining forestry would screen much of the route as it passes through the forestry from this location. The Proposed development would not change any key features or character of the landscape.
2	Local Road Beside Catherine's Pool (Roadside viewpoint above the Black Water) 0.23 km NW	Views here are directed along the road to both the north-east and south-west. Key outlook is to the south-west along the course of the Black Water, with dense coniferous forestry to the south and grazing land rising to the north. A	The OHL would span approximately 110 degrees of views to the south and would be partially screened by forestry from this location, particularly the closest section of the route between Poles 12-20. Photowire 2a illustrates the extent of visibility of the	Changes to key landscape elements include the felling of forestry to accommodate the OHL route corridor in which the proposed development would be established. Linear felling to the forestry would be discernible to the east and south, which would form a

<p>VP</p>	<p>Location</p> <p>Viewpoints 2a and 2b are from the same location, with 2a orientated east and 2b orientated south.</p>	<p>Key Features of Existing View</p> <p>ridgeline of rounded hills forms a horizon above the course of the road. The southern outlook is into adjacent rising forestry. Views along the road to the northeast are long, yet uphill with forestry on the low side of the road and grazing land surrounding elsewhere. Distinct landform rises in the background to form an undulating horizon. Views are truncated by sloping landform to the north. The view is a relatively commonplace view of moorland and forestry within this area and people would not visit the location specifically to experience the view.</p>	<p>Predicted Visual Change</p> <p>proposed development in the eastern outlook, where there would be views along the 60 m wide felled corridor from Pole 21 onwards. There would be some stacking of the wood poles in this direction, with partial screening from forestry. The construction corridor and OHL route would also be visible to the south, as illustrated in photowire 2b, where views would be along the route from Pole 11 – 3. There would be some stacking of wood poles along the route as it extends uphill to the south. Forestry may provide partial screening to the route, although the felled corridor would be clearly discernible. The OHL would be a new feature in the landscape and would alter the existing view, in particular the creation of the corridor along the route of the OHL, but the scale of the wood poles mean that the OHL would not dominate the view or alter perceptions of the landscape and visual amenity of the area.</p>	<p>Predicted Change to Landscape Character</p> <p>dividing line in dense forestry and may alter the skyline when looking along the construction corridor. However, regular forestry felling is also a key characteristic of the forestry in this area, although no recent felling is visible from this location. The proposed development would not change any key features or character of the landscape.</p>
<p>3</p>	<p>Southern Upland Way (On the trail to the north-west above the local road) 0.64 km NW</p>	<p>Outlook is open in the direction of the site to the south-east and south across grassland that slopes away from the viewpoint to the Black Water and into rising coniferous forestry opposite. Recent felling is visible at Glenshimmeroch Hill to the southeast, which rises behind and to the side of the forestry. Key views are west with overlapping upland hills forming a distinct horizon in the distance. Small OHL poles are visible in grassland to west, south and east. Land rises at the</p>	<p>The proposed development would be visible to the south and east from this location. The southern section of the route from Poles 1 – 8, including the terminus at Pole 1, would be visible in open ground extending from Craigencorr Hill into forestry below the viewpoint. Felling in the construction corridor would be visible from Poles 9 -24, with remaining forestry between Black Water and the route providing partial screening to the proposed development. The level of screening would vary along the route, which passes through</p>	<p>Changes to key landscape elements include the felling of forestry to accommodate the construction corridor in which the proposed development would be established. The felled corridor would be visible in its entirety from this location, though it would appear in the context of rotational felling and restocking as evident in the surrounds of the southern extent of the route on Glenshimmeroch and Craigencorr Hills. The proposed OHL and wood poles would appear in the context of an existing lower voltage</p>

VP	Location	Key Features of Existing View	Predicted Visual Change	Predicted Change to Landscape Character
4	Auchenshinnoch Hill (in grazing fields on the southern slope of Auchenshinnoch Hill) 1.3 km N	<p>viewpoint to truncate northern views. Outlook is open to the north-east and east across improved and unimproved pasture with the Auchenshinnoch/ Bennan Hills forming a horizon with operational turbines at Wether Hill wind farm behind.</p> <p>The view is a relatively commonplace view of moorland and forestry within this area and people would not visit the location specifically to experience the view.</p> <p>Outlook from this location is open to the south across gently undulating grassland that slopes away from the viewpoint to the Black Water. Coniferous forestry rises beyond to form an undulating horizon. Recent felling and restocking is visible to the southwest and southeast at either end of the site. Views to the east are over pasture to a rolling horizon of forestry and grassed hills with operational turbines at Blackcraig Hill Wind Farm to the south-east on grassland Hills and in recently felled forestry behind the site. Views are truncated by landform at Auchenshinnoch/ Bennan Hills to the north. Key views from this location are to the west where upland landforms forming an overlapping horizon in the distance above foreground grassland.</p>	<p>gently undulating topography as the angle of view changes. The eastern extent of the route from Pole 25 onwards would be visible in open grassland in the distance. The proposed development would be visible in the context of an existing lower voltage OHL in the foreground; and larger scale wind turbines in the distance. From this distance the OHL would not dominate the view or alter perceptions of the landscape and visual amenity of the area.</p> <p>The proposed development would be partially visible across the southern outlook. The route would be visible, at a distance of over 1 km, at the southern end from Poles 1 – 8, including the terminus at Pole 1, appearing in an area opened by recently felled forestry. The route would pass through forestry in the OHL corridor from Pole 8 to 24, and would be partially screened, although the felling in the route corridor would be visible along the extent of the route. The proposed development would be less discernible at the eastern end as the route extends into the distance and is screened to a degree by landform below the viewpoint.</p> <p>The majority of the OHL would be backclothed by landform and/or forestry and from this distance the OHL would not dominate the view or alter perceptions of the landscape and visual amenity of the area.</p>	<p>OHL, though larger than the existing in scale and spread.</p> <p>The proposed development would not change any key features or character of the landscape.</p> <p>The OHL route and wood poles would result in visible change to the forestry pattern in an adjacent landscape area, which is a shared characteristic of both the host LCT and the LCT where the viewpoint is located. Although forestry is a noted feature of the LCT at the viewpoint, the forestry in which the Proposed development would be sited is in an intervisible yet adjacent landscape. The route would be well separated from key characteristics at the viewpoint such as the rolling bare upland landforms seen to the northeast, north and west.</p> <p>The proposed development would not change any key features or character of the landscape.</p>