Scottish & Southern Electricity Networks

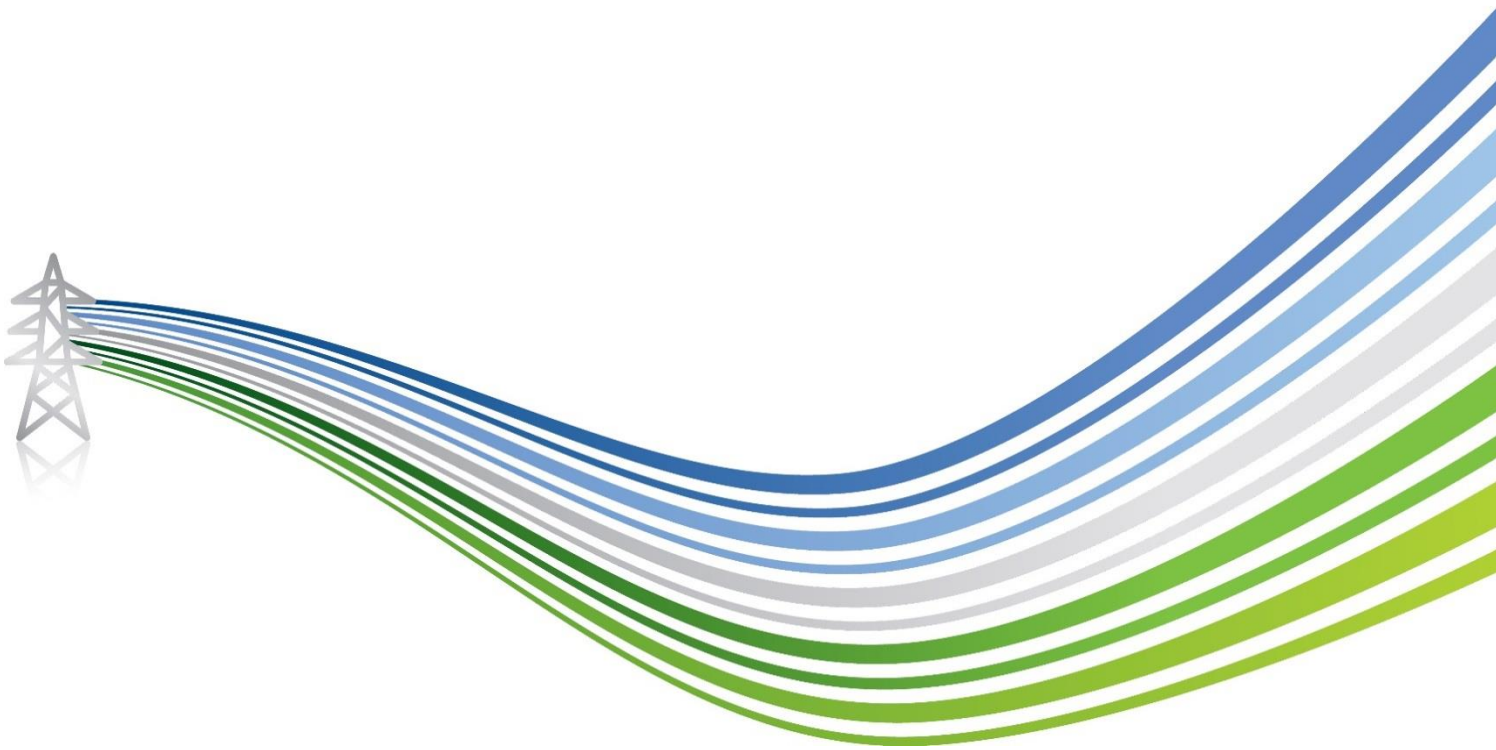
TRANSMISSION

Dunoon to Loch Long 132 kV OHL Rebuild

Environmental Impact Assessment

Volume 4 | Technical Appendix

Appendix 6.3 – Assessment of Landscape Character Types that make up each Landscape Unit



APPENDIX 6.3: ASSESSMENT OF THE LANDSCAPE CHARACTER TYPES THAT MAKE UP EACH LANDSCAPE UNIT

1.1 Creachan Mòr Landscape Unit

Photograph 1: The Forested Glen Sides and Hills of Creachan Mòr, contrasting with the Open Glen Hills

1.1.1 Creachan Mòr Landscape Unit (LU) comprises the open high ground and forested flanks between Glen Finart to the south and Loch Goil to the north and along the western edge of Loch Long. Creachan Mòr LU forms part of the Steep Ridges and Hills National Landscape Character Type (LCT), characterised by steep-sided hills comprising craggy upper slopes with pronounced summits, which are frequently broken by rocky outcrops and knolls. The hills rise dramatically from narrow sea lochs and deep glens and coniferous forest predominantly covers the lower slopes of the Cowal hills and extends high up into the narrow glens and rocky gullies. The LU falls entirely within the National Park and some of the woodland and forested areas are recognised as Ancient Woodland as shown on the Ancient Woodland Inventory (AWI), defined as *"land that is currently wooded and has been continually wooded, at least since 1750"*. The quality is variable, influenced by commercial forestry activity and clearance of diseased larch, as described **in Chapter 12: Forestry**. The open hills generally have a remote and wild character, although this is reduced where the existing Overhead Line (OHL) runs along the hill tops, introducing manmade infrastructure.

Forested Hills LCT

1.1.2 The Forested Hills LCT within the Creachan Mòr LU lie between the Open Hills on the higher ground and the Forested Glen Sides below.

1.1.3 The Forested Hills within Creachan Mòr are generally characteristic of the Forested Hills LCT and all of the LCT lies within the National Park. Overall, the value of the Forested Hills LCT within Creachan Mòr LU is considered to be Medium as it can create abrupt edges and is influenced by the existing OHL which runs

adjacent to the elevated boundary. The susceptibility of the Forested Hills to the type of development proposed is considered to be High due to the wayleaves associated with OHLs that results in the removal of woodland within an artificial corridor, this can create visible corridors, and the opportunities for backclothing large scale infrastructure is reduced at higher elevations although there is greater capacity for forestry to absorb OHLs than more open and remote landscapes due to the enclosing forest margins. Therefore, the sensitivity is considered to be High-Medium.

1.1.4 The Proposed Development will reroute the section of existing OHL that runs within the Open Hills LCT, along the upper edge of the Forested Hills LCT, down to a lower position where it runs above an existing forestry access track. The rerouted OHL will run along the lower edge of the Forested Hills, dropping into the adjacent Forested Glen Sides to the north and south of the Creachan Mòr LU. This will introduce a greater length of OHL into the LCT, along with the associated wayleave corridor that will remove trees within an 81 m wide corridor, although this is likely to extend down to the access track where there would be small remnants of forestry between the wayleave and the existing road. Therefore, at Year 1 of Operation this would result in a Medium magnitude of effect (change) on the LCT itself, with the change extending along approximately 2.4 km. Whilst the LCT generally has High-Medium sensitivity, the lower edge of the LCT transitions into the Forested Glen Sides LCT, which has Medium sensitivity. The assessment recognising that the LCT boundary between the Forested Hills and Forested Glen Sides is not an abrupt edge, but a transition, this applies to the transition between an LCT of High-Medium sensitivity and Medium sensitivity. Therefore, a **Moderate adverse** significance of effect would occur at Year 1, which is **significant**.

1.1.5 Over time, the forestry within the redundant wayleave of the existing OHL will be replanted where it passes through areas of woodland and forestry, slightly reducing the effect of infrastructure and wayleaves on the LCT. Additional mitigation measures include ensuring that road upgrades and junctions do not have an adverse effect on the rural character of the landscape. The Proposed Development is located away from Core Paths and recreational routes and would be contained by forestry, with very localised effects on the LCT perceptible across a very limited part of the LCT. Therefore, a Medium-Low magnitude of effect (change) is anticipated at Year 20, resulting in a **Moderate-Minor adverse** residual effect, which is **not significant**.

Forested Glen Sides LCT

1.1.6 The Forested Glen Sides LCT within the Creachan Mòr LU covers the footslopes of Creachan Mòr, extending below the open and forested hill tops down to the shores at the mouth of Loch Goil, along Loch Long, and into Glen Finart.

1.1.7 The areas of forestry within Creachan Mòr are generally characteristic of the Forested Glen Sides LCT and some of the woodland has been identified as Ancient Woodland as shown on AWI and all of the LCT lies within the National Park. The quality is variable, as there are areas of larch being felled due to disease and felling associated with the commercial forestry activity, however the Forested Glen Sides contribute to the scenic quality of the glen as a whole. Overall, the value of the Forested Glen Sides LCT within Creachan Mòr LU is considered to be Medium. The susceptibility of the Forested Glen Sides to the type of development proposed is considered to be High-Medium due to the wayleaves associated with OHLs that results in the removal of woodland within an artificial corridor, albeit within the context of commercial forestry that typically has a felling regime. The enclosed nature of the forestry also has greater capacity to absorb OHLs than more open and remote landscapes. Therefore, the sensitivity is considered to be Medium.

1.1.8 The Proposed Development will slightly reroute the section of existing OHL within the LCT that runs from the Loch Long crossing to the north-east, following a more irregular route across the landscape within the Forested Glen Sides LCT and running along the boundary between the Forested Hills and Forested Glen Sides, above an existing forestry track. along the edge of the Forested Hills LCT. The rerouted OHL follows a different line but retains a similar length of OHL within the LCT and will have a wider associated wayleave corridor that will remove trees within an 81m wide Operational Corridor. To the south of the Creachan Mòr, the Proposed Development will replace the existing OHL further west as it descends onto Glen Finart, positioning the proposed OHL alignment further away from an existing watercourse and the associated broadleaf woodland.

1.1.9 At Year 1 of Operation, this would result in a Low magnitude of effect (change) on the LCT itself, with the slightly more linear route of the existing OHL replaced by a more meandering alignment which would be a better landscape fit, although the beneficial effects would be offset by the impact of a wider associated wayleave corridor. The changes are localised and affect small parts of the LCT. Taking into account the Medium sensitivity of the LCT, a **Minor neutral** significance of effect would occur at Year 1, which is **not significant**.

1.1.10 Over time, vegetation within the existing OHL wayleave will be reinstated as forestry and broadleaf woodland. This would result in a Low-Negligible magnitude of effect (change) on the LCT; however a **Minor neutral** significance of residual effect on this LCT within the Creachan Mòr LU, which is **not significant**, is likely to persist.

Open Hills LCT

1.1.11 The Open Hills LCT within the Creachan Mòr LU cover the open hill tops, above the line of forestry, from between 200 and 350 m AOD rising up to summits of 657 m AOD at Creachan Mòr.

1.1.12 The Open Hills within Creachan Mòr are generally characteristic of the Open Hills LCT, and all of the LCT falls within the National Park, although the existing high voltage OHLs introduce large scale infrastructure into areas that are typically more remote and wild in character. There are no recognised summits or Core Paths, which adds to the sense of wildness but reduces the recreational value of the Open Hills. The sense of remoteness and tranquillity is varied, with views out ranging from views of the large facility at Coulport to views of the Area of Panoramic Quality along Loch Long. Overall, the LCT is considered to be of High-Medium value. The Open Hills are considered to be of High susceptibility to the type of development proposed due to the open and remote and wild nature of the LCT, although there is an existing OHL that predominantly runs along the edge of the LCT adjacent to the Forested Glen Sides LCT, which introduces some manmade influences into the LCT affecting its unspoilt and scenic qualities. Therefore, the Open Hills are considered to have High-Medium sensitivity to the type of development proposed.

1.1.13 The Proposed Development will relocate the existing OHL onto the lower, forested slopes of Creachan Mòr, away from the Open Hills LCT. At Year 1 of Operation, this would result in a Low magnitude of effect (change) on the LCT itself, with the change being localised and affecting a small part of the LCT. Taking into account the High-Medium sensitivity of the LCT, a **Moderate-Minor beneficial** significance of effect would occur at Year 1, which is **not significant**.

1.1.14 Over time, low-level vegetation will become re-established where towers and access tracks have been removed, but the residual effects would be largely unchanged from the Operation phase and therefore a **Moderate-Minor beneficial** residual effect is likely to persist, which is **not significant**.

Wooded Glen Sides LCT

1.1.15 The Wooded Glen Sides occur predominantly along water courses and on the lower slopes where the Wooded Glen Sides meet the Glen Floor which fall within the Glen Finart LU. A very small section of Wooded Glen Sides LCT extends into the Creachan Mòr LU along the Clunie Burn.

1.1.16 The Wooded Glen Sides within Creachan Mòr is generally characteristic of the Wooded Glen Sides LCT, and has been identified as Ancient Woodland as shown on AWI and lies within the National Park. The Wooded Glen Sides LCT is immediately adjacent to the existing OHL which cuts a wayleave between the Woodland and Forested Glen Sides, forming an abrupt edge. Overall, the value of the Wooded Glen Sides LCT within Creachan Mòr LU is considered to be High-Medium. The susceptibility of the Wooded Glen Sides LCT to the type of development proposed is considered to be High. This considers the removal of woodland necessary to accommodate wayleaves associated with OHL as well as the enclosed nature of the forestry that has greater capacity to absorb OHLs than more open and remote landscapes. Therefore, the sensitivity is considered to be High-Medium.

1.1.17 The Proposed Development would reinstate the OHL further west, away from the Wooded Glen Sides LCT and Clunie Burn, however where the proposed OHL alignment passes over the water course, a 60 m wayleave corridor will be created, with the associated loss of woodland. At Year 1 of Operation, this would result in a Low effect (change) on the LCT itself, which has a High-Medium sensitivity, and therefore a **Minor adverse** significance of effect would occur at Year 1, which is **not significant**.

1.1.18 Over time, the wayleave associated with the existing OHL would become revegetated, which is likely to include native woodland species along the watercourse. This would result in a Low-Negligible magnitude of effect (change) on the LCT. Taking into account the High-Medium sensitivity, the significance of residual effect on this LCT within the Creachan Mòr LU is considered to be **Minor beneficial**, which is **not significant**.

1.2 Glen Finart Landscape Unit

Photograph 2: The Farmed Glen Floor of Glen Finart LU, enclosed by Wooded and Forested Glen Sides above which lie the Open Hills of Creachan Mòr

1.1.19 Glen Finart LU comprises the farmed glen floor and the enclosing forested and wooded glen sides. Glen Finart LU forms part of the Straths and Glens National LCT, which is characterised by broad u-shaped glens many of which have forested glen sides, with scattered trees and remnants of native woodland along the edges of burns. The glen floors are farmed with improved pastures and settlements and farms are located on lower side slopes where they are raised above the floodplain. Road corridors follow the edges of the glen floors and towers, and low voltage power lines are described as being highly visible features across open glen floors. The LU falls entirely within the National Park and the majority of the woodland has been identified as Ancient Woodland as shown on AWI. A scheduled monument and listed buildings add to the cultural heritage of the glen, although it is also influenced by tourism infrastructure and the existing OHLs.

Forested Glen Sides

1.1.20 The Forested Glen Sides LCT within the Glen Finart LU extends along the footslopes of Creachan Mòr down to the open floor of Glen Finart. The Forested Glen Sides LCT is broken up with a section of Wooded Glen Sides that extends up Clunie Burn, where the existing OHL and associated wayleave corridor accentuates the transition between forest and woodland.

1.1.21 The LCT within Glen Finart is generally characteristic of the Forested Glen Sides LCT. The majority of the woodland has been identified as Ancient Woodland as shown on AWI and all of the LCT lies within the National Park. The quality is variable, as there are areas of infected larch, including areas that have been cleared. However, the Forested Glen Sides contribute to the scenic quality of the glen as a whole, contrasting with the more open and flatter glen floor. Overall, the value of the Forested Glen Sides LCT within Glen Finart LU is considered to be Medium. The susceptibility of the Forested Glen Sides to the type of development proposed is considered to be High-Medium due to the wayleaves associated with OHLs that results in the removal of woodland within an artificial corridor, this can create visible corridors, albeit within the context of commercial forestry that typically has a felling regime. The enclosed nature of the forestry also has greater capacity to absorb OHLs than more open and remote landscapes. Therefore, the sensitivity is considered to be Medium.

1.1.22 The Proposed Development will relocate the section of existing OHL that runs along the edge of the Forested and Wooded Glen Sides LCT into the Forested Glen Sides LCT. This will introduce new infrastructure and the associated 81 m wide wayleave further into the LCT, albeit along a slightly less straight alignment. The effect on the LCT will be perceived over a localised area, along a corridor of approximately 500 m. Therefore, at Year 1 of Operation this would result in a Medium-Low magnitude of effect (change) on the LCT itself, which is of Medium sensitivity. Therefore, a **Moderate-Minor adverse** significance of effect would occur at Year 1 of Operation, which is **not significant**.

1.1.23 Over time, the forestry within the redundant wayleave of the existing OHL will be replanted allowing for a less abrupt transition between Forested Glen Sides and the Wooded Glen Sides along the water course. The Proposed Development would be contained by the LCT. Therefore, a Low-Negligible magnitude of effect (change) is anticipated in the long term, resulting in a **Minor adverse** residual effect, which is **not significant**.

Wooded Glen Sides LCT

1.1.24 The Wooded Glen Sides occur predominantly along water courses, including the Clunie Burn, and on the lower slopes where the Wooded Glen Sides meet the Glen Floor within the Glen Finart LU.

1.1.25 The Wooded Glen Sides within Glen Finart is generally characteristic of the Wooded Glen Sides LCT, and has been identified as Ancient Woodland as shown on AWI and lies within the National Park. The Wooded Glen Sides LCT is immediately adjacent to the existing OHL which cuts a wayleave between the Woodland and Forested Glen Sides, forming an abrupt edge that extends down to the glen floor. Overall, the value of the Wooded Glen Sides LCT within Creachan Mòr LU is considered to be High-Medium. The susceptibility of the Wooded Glen Sides LCT to the type of development proposed is considered to be High. This considers the removal of woodland necessary to accommodate wayleaves associated with OHL as well as the enclosed nature of the forestry that has greater capacity to absorb OHLs than more open and remote landscapes. Therefore, the sensitivity is considered to be High-Medium.

1.1.26 The Proposed Development would reinstate the OHL further west, away from the Wooded Glen Sides LCT and Clunie Burn, and following a less abrupt alignment straight up the glen sides. At Year 1 of Operation, this would result in a Low-Negligible effect (change) on the LCT itself, which has a High-Medium sensitivity, and therefore a **Negligible** significance of effect would occur at Year 1, which is **not significant**.

1.1.27 Over time, the wayleave associated with the existing OHL would become revegetated, which is likely to include native woodland species along the watercourse. This would result in a Low magnitude of effect (change) on the LCT. Taking into account the High-Medium sensitivity, the significance of residual effect on this LCT within the Glen Finart LU is considered to be **Minor beneficial**, which is **not significant**.

Farmed Strath and Glen Floors

1.1.28 The Farmed Glen Floor of Glen Finart LU is generally characteristic of the Farmed Strath and Glen Floor LCT, although tourism uses are more prevalent at the mouth of the glen. The glen is in good condition, with well-maintained hedgerows along the access road. The forest and woodland enclosing the glen and within the walled garden is predominantly Ancient Woodland as shown on AWI and all of the LCT lies within the National Park. Scheduled Monument Dun Daraich Fort is located on a rocky, woody outcrop on the glen floor. On the edge of Finart Bay, Glenfinart House Walled Garden including well and ancillary buildings are Grade B Listed Buildings and good examples of an early 19th century walled garden. Recreational access is good, with a network of core paths and routes, open spaces, and recreation facilities. Overall, Glen Finart is considered to have High landscape value.

1.1.29 With respect to the susceptibility of the Farmed Glen Floors LCT within the Glen Finart LU, the glen is influenced by an existing OHL crossing the seaward end of the glen floor, but otherwise the landscape character of the LCT is relatively intact. Therefore, the LCT is considered to have Medium susceptibility to the type of development proposed. Overall, the LCT is considered to have High-Medium sensitivity to the type of development proposed.

1.1.30 The Proposed Development will replace the existing OHL as it crosses the glen floor, rising up the glen sides on slightly altered alignments (within approximately 150 m of the existing OHL). The Proposed Development will result in the slight repositioning of the existing towers and an increase in height and bulk of the towers. Overall, at Year 1 of Operation this would result in a Low adverse magnitude of effect (change) on the LCT itself, which is of High-Medium sensitivity. Therefore, a **Minor adverse** significance of effect would occur at Year 1 of Operation, which is **not significant**.

1.1.31 Over time, the change from the existing OHL to the proposed OHL alignment will become assimilated into the landscape and the towers will become weathered and more recessive[1], and therefore a Low-Negligible magnitude of effect (change) and a **Negligible** residual effect is anticipated, which is **not significant**.

[1] Recessive colours are colours that fade into the background.

1.3 Stronchullin Landscape Unit

Photograph 3: The Open Hills of Stronchullin LU as seen from Beinn Ruadh

1.1.32 Stronchullin LU comprises the open high ground and forested flanks between Glen Finart to the north and Strath Eachaig to the south, and the forested upper valley of the Stronchullin Burn. Stronchullin LU forms part of the Steep Ridges and Hills National Landscape Character Type (LCT), characterised by steep-sided hills comprising craggy upper slopes with pronounced summits, which are frequently broken by rocky outcrops and knolls. The hills rise dramatically from narrow sea lochs and deep glens and coniferous forest predominantly covers the lower slopes of the Cowal hills and extends high up into the narrow glens and rocky gullies. The LU falls entirely within the National Park and some of the woodland has been identified as Ancient Woodland as shown on AWI. The quality is variable, with the forested glen sides influenced by commercial forestry activity. The open hills generally have a remote and wild character, although this is reduced where the existing OHL runs along the hill tops, introducing manmade infrastructure between Stronchullin Hill and Beinn Ruadh.

Forested Glen Sides

1.1.33 The Forested Glen Sides LCTs within the Stronchullin LU extend along the footslopes of Beinn Ruadh, Stronchullin Hill and Blairmore Hill down to the open floor of Glen Finart to the north, Loch Long to the east and Strath Eachaig to the south-west.

1.1.34 The LCT is generally characteristic of the Forested Glen Sides LCT. Scattered pockets are Identified as Ancient Woodland as shown on AWI and all of the LCT lies within the National Park. The quality is variable, as there are areas of infected larch which are being removed. However, the Forested Glen Sides contribute to the scenic quality of the glen, strath, and loch, contrasting with the more open and flatter character of the glens, straths, and loch. Overall, the value of the Forested Glen Sides LCT within Stronchullin LU is considered to be Medium. The enclosed nature of the forestry also has greater capacity to absorb OHLs than more open and remote landscapes. The susceptibility of the Forested Glen Sides to the type of development proposed is considered to be High-Medium due to the wayleaves associated with OHLs that results in the removal of woodland within an artificial corridor, this can create visible corridors, albeit within the context of commercial forestry that typically has a felling regime and against the backdrop of the rising hills. Therefore, the sensitivity is considered to be Medium.

1.1.35 The Proposed Development will replace the existing OHL along a slightly different alignment, through short sections of the LCT above Glen Finart and Strath Eachaig. This will introduce a new wayleave into the LCT, although most of the LCT falls outside the Stronchullin LU. The effect on the LCT would be perceived over a localised area, along a corridor of approximately 300 m within the Stronchullin LU and continuing on into the Glen Finart LU. Therefore, at Year 1 of Operation this would result in a Low-Negligible magnitude of effect (change) on the LCT within Stronchullin LU, which is of Medium sensitivity. Therefore, a **Minor-Negligible adverse** significance of effect would occur at Year 1 of Operation, which is **not significant**.

1.1.36 Over time, the forestry within the redundant wayleave of the existing OHL will be replanted, reducing the extent of wayleaves cutting through the LCT. Therefore, a Low-Negligible to Negligible magnitude of effect (change) is anticipated in the long term, resulting in a **Negligible adverse** residual effect, which is **not significant**.

Forested Hills

1.1.37 The Forested Hills LCT within the Stronchullin LU lie between the Open Hills on the higher ground and the Forested Glen Sides below. The Forested Hills within Stronchullin are generally characteristic of the Forested Hills LCT and all of the LCT lies within the National Park. Overall, the value of the Forested Hills LCT within Stronchullin LU is considered to be Medium as it can create abrupt edges. The susceptibility of the Forested Hills to the type of development proposed is considered to be High due to the wayleaves associated with OHLs that results in the removal of woodland within an artificial corridor, this can create visible corridors, and the opportunities for backclothing large scale infrastructure is reduced at higher elevations although there is greater capacity for forestry to absorb OHLs than more open and remote landscapes. Therefore, the sensitivity is considered to be High-Medium.

1.1.38 The Proposed Development will relocate the existing OHL slightly offset from the existing route through the LCT to the north above Glen Finart and south-west above Puck's Glen. At Year 1 of Operation, this would result in a Low magnitude of effect (change) on the LCT itself, with the existing OHL creating a new wayleave through the existing forestry in close proximity to the existing wayleave along a short section. Taking into account the High-Medium sensitivity of the LCT, a **Moderate-Minor adverse** significance of effect would occur at Year 1, which is **not significant**.

1.1.39 Over time, vegetation within the existing OHL wayleave will be reinstated as forestry. This would result in a **Low-Negligible** magnitude of effect (change) on the LCT. Therefore, the significance of residual effect on this LCT within the Creachan Mòr LU is considered to be **Minor-Negligible adverse**, which is **not significant**.

Open Hills

1.1.40 The Open Hills LCT within the Stronchullin LU cover the open hill tops, above the line of forestry, from between an average of 300 m AOD rising up to summits of 664 m AOD at Creachan Mòr, 548 m AOD at Stronchullin Hill and 426 m AOD at Blairmore Hill.

1.1.41 The Open Hills within Stronchullin are generally characteristic of the Open Hills LCT, and all of the LCT falls within the National Park, although the existing high voltage overhead powerlines introduce large scale infrastructure into areas that are typically more remote and wild in character. There are a number of routes up to the summit of Bienn Ruadh, from Glen Finart and Puck's Glen. The sense of remoteness and tranquillity is varied, with views within the National Park and out beyond the National Park to the developed areas of Glasgow and Argyll and Bute. Overall, the LCT is considered to be of High-Medium value. The Open Hills are considered to be of High susceptibility to the type of development proposed due to the open and wild characteristics of the LCT, although there is an existing OHL that predominantly runs across the LCT between Stronchullin Hill and Beinn Ruadh, which introduces some manmade influences into the LCT. Overall, the Open Hills are considered to have High sensitivity to the type of development proposed.

1.1.42 The Proposed Development will replace the existing OHL on a similar alignment across the Open Hills LCT. At Year 1 of Operation, this would result in a Medium-Low magnitude of effect (change) on the LCT itself, due to the larger scale, height and bulk of the replacement OHL and towers and their shinier finish when newly completed, over a length of approximately 3.5 km, although this is partially offset by a slightly better alignment in relation to Stronchullin Hill. Taking into account the High sensitivity of the LCT, a **Moderate adverse** significance of effect would occur at Year 1, which is **significant**.

1.1.43 Over time, the weathering of the towers will reduce their prominence as the towers become slightly darker and less shiny. Areas disturbed by the construction of temporary compounds and access tracks would be revegetated and restored. Therefore, a **Minor adverse** residual effect is anticipated, which is **not significant**.

Wooded Hills

1.1.44 The Wooded Hills occur infrequently, and the pocket of Wooded Hills within Stronchullin LU is associated with woodland along Puck's Glen and extends down into the adjacent Strath Eachaig LU.

1.1.45 The Wooded Hills LCT within Stronchullin LU is generally characteristic of the Wooded Hills LCT, associated with plantation forest and the watercourses of Puck's Glen and Inverchapel Burn. The Wooded Hills LCT at Puck's Glen is relatively accessible due to forestry paths than connect with popular walking routes within Puck's Glen. The LCT falls entirely within the National Park. Overall, the value of the Wooded Hills LCT within Stronchullin LU is considered to be High-Medium. The susceptibility of the Wooded Hills LCT to the type of development proposed is considered to be Medium, as an existing OHL cuts through the LCT, with the associated man-made infrastructure and wayleave. Although the woodland is susceptible to the removal of vegetation associated with infrastructure wayleaves, it also has capacity to absorb infrastructure due to its scale and enclosed character. Therefore, the sensitivity is considered to be High-Medium.

1.1.46 The Proposed Development will replace the OHL along a similar but slightly offset alignment, through the LCT. However, a section of temporary OHL will increase the extent of woodland removal required during construction. Therefore, at Year 1 of Operation, this would result in a Medium effect (change) on the LCT itself, which has a High-Medium sensitivity, predominantly due to the additional tree removal to accommodate the temporary and permanent wayleaves, and therefore a **Moderate-Minor adverse** significance of effect would occur at Year 1, which is **not significant**.

1.1.47 Over time, the wayleave associated with the existing OHL would become revegetated, which would include native woodland species in keeping with the surrounding woodland. This would result in a **Minor adverse** residual effect on the Wooded Hills LCT in the long term (**not significant**).

Wooded Upland Glen

1.1.48 The Wooded Upland Glens occur infrequently, and the pocket of Wooded Upland Glen within Stronchullin LU is associated with the woodland along the Puck's Glen gorge and extends down into the adjacent Strath Eachaig LU.

1.1.49 The Wooded Upland Glen LCT within Stronchullin LU is generally characteristic of the Wooded Upland Glen LCT, which are considered to be important sequentially and as buffers to the wild land areas of open hills. Semi-natural woodland follows the incised gorge of Puck's Glen and the LCT incorporates popular walking routes along with seating and interpretation. The LCT falls entirely within the National Park and is predominantly identified as Ancient Woodland as shown on AWI. Overall, the value of the Wooded Upland Glen LCT within Stronchullin LU is considered to be High. The susceptibility of the Wooded Upland Glen LCT to the type of development proposed is considered to be High-Medium, as the woodland is vulnerable to the wayleaves associated with OHL, although it is already partially affected by an existing OHL wayleave, creating an abrupt boundary to the wooded area. Although the woodland is susceptible to the removal of vegetation associated with infrastructure wayleaves, it also has capacity to absorb infrastructure due to its scale and enclosed character. Overall, given the importance of Puck's Glen as a landscape resource, the sensitivity of the Wooded Upland Glen LCT within Stronchullin LU is considered to be High.

1.1.50 The Proposed Development will replace the existing OHL along a similar but slightly offset alignment, adjacent to the LCT. To the north-east, the Proposed Development alignment will be closer to the LCT than the existing OHL and is likely to result in the removal of a small area of woodland. At Year 1 of Operation, this would result in a Low-Negligible effect (change) on the LCT itself, which has a High sensitivity, predominantly due to the additional tree removal to accommodate a small portion of the wayleave, and therefore a **Minor adverse** significance of effect would occur at Year 1, which is **not significant**, and this would persist as a residual effect.

1.4 Strath Eachaig Landscape Unit

Photograph 4: View of Cairnbaan and Orchard Park on the Farmed Strath Floor of Strath Eachaig, framed by the Forested and Wooded Glen Sides and Hills and the Open Hills of Stronchullin LU above, including the summit of Beinn Ruadh

1.1.51 Strath Eachaig LU comprises the farmed strath floor and enclosing forested hillsides to the north-west of Holy Loch. The Strath Eachaig LU forms part of the Straths and Glens National LCT, which is characterised by straths with wide flat floodplains many of which have forested glen sides, with scattered trees and remnants of native woodland along the edges of burns. The glen floors are farmed with improved pastures and settlements and farms are located on lower side slopes where they are raised above the floodplain. Road corridors follow the edges of the glen floors and towers, and low voltage power lines are described as being highly visible features across open glen floors. The majority of the LU falls within the National Park and includes Pucks Glen and Benmore Botanic Gardens, promoted walking routes and areas of Ancient Woodland as shown on AWI. The Strath is also influenced by the busy A-road linking the ferry terminals at Dunoon to the Highlands, its proximity to Sandbank which extends into the LU at Sandhaven, and other tourism infrastructure.

Wooded Hills

1.1.52 The Wooded Hills occur infrequently, and the pocket of Wooded Hills within Strath Eachaig LU is associated with woodland at Puck's Glen and extends up into the adjacent Stronchullin LU.

1.1.53 The Wooded Hills LCT within Strath Eachaig LU is generally characteristic of the Wooded Hills LCT, associated with plantation forest and the watercourse of Puck's Glen, although it is relatively accessible due to forestry paths that connect with popular walking routes within Puck's Glen. The LCT falls entirely within the National Park. Overall, the value of the Wooded Hills LCT within Strath Eachaig LU is considered to be High-Medium. The susceptibility of the Wooded Hills LCT to the type of development proposed is considered to be High-Medium, as an existing OHL cuts through the LCT, with the associated man-made infrastructure and wayleave. Although the woodland is susceptible to the removal of vegetation associated with infrastructure wayleaves, it also has capacity to absorb infrastructure due to its scale and enclosed character. Therefore, the sensitivity is considered to be High-Medium.

1.1.54 The Proposed Development will replace the OHL along a similar but slightly offset alignment, through the LCT. At Year 1 of Operation, this would result in a Low-Negligible effect (change) on the LCT itself, which has a High-Medium sensitivity, predominantly due to the additional tree removal to accommodate the wayleave, and therefore a **Minor-Negligible adverse** significance of effect would occur at Year 1, which is **not significant**.

1.1.55 Over time, the redundant portions of wayleave associated with the existing OHL would become revegetated, which would include native woodland species in keeping with the surrounding woodland. This would result in a **Negligible adverse** residual effect on the Wooded Hills LCT in the long term (**not significant**).

Wooded Upland Glen

1.1.56 The Wooded Upland Glens occur infrequently, and the pocket of Wooded Upland Glen within Strath Eachaig LU is associated with the woodland along the Puck's Glen gorge and extends up into the adjacent Stronchullin LU.

1.1.57 The Wooded Upland Glen LCT within Strath Eachaig LU is generally characteristic of the Wooded Upland Glen LCT, which are considered to be important sequentially and as buffers to the wild land areas of open hills. Semi-natural woodland follows the incised gorge of Puck's Glen and the LCT incorporates popular walking routes along with seating and interpretation. The LCT falls entirely within the National Park and much of the woodland is recognised as Ancient Woodland as shown on AWI. Overall, the value of the Wooded Upland Glen LCT within Strath Eachaig LU is considered to be High. The susceptibility of the Wooded Upland Glen LCT to the type of development proposed is considered to be High-Medium, as the woodland is vulnerable to the wayleaves associated with OHL, although it is already partially affected by an existing OHL wayleave, creating an abrupt boundary to the wooded area. Although the woodland is susceptible to the removal of vegetation associated with infrastructure wayleaves, it also has capacity to absorb infrastructure due to its scale and enclosed character. Overall, given the importance of Puck's Glen as a landscape resource, the sensitivity of the Wooded Upland Glen LCT within Stronchullin LU is considered to be High.

1.1.58 The Proposed Development will replace the existing OHL along a similar but slightly offset alignment, adjacent to the LCT. To the south, the Proposed Development alignment is further away from the LCT than the existing OHL, which runs along the boundary of the LCT, and the associated wayleave would move further south away from the LCT. At Year 1 of Operation, this would result in a Low-Negligible effect (change) on the LCT itself, which has a High sensitivity, predominantly due to the greater distance between the LCT and the Proposed Development, albeit the Proposed Development would be of a greater height with bulkier and shinier towers. Therefore, a **Minor adverse** significance of effect would occur at Year 1, which is **not significant**.

1.1.59 Over time, the small section of wayleave associated with the existing OHL that becomes redundant would become revegetated, which would include native woodland species in keeping with the surrounding woodland, and the towers would weather to be more recessive. This would result in a **Minor-Negligible beneficial** residual effect on the Wooded Hills LCT in the long term (**not significant**).

Forested Glen Sides

1.1.60 The Forested Glen Sides are described as important elements of visual diversity, forming large-scale forested glen landscapes. The Forested Glen Sides of Strath Eachaig provide a contrast with the open farmed strath floors and accentuate the change in landform. The areas of forestry within Strath Eachaig are generally characteristic of the Forested Glen Sides LCT, with vegetation along Puck's Glen identified as Ancient Woodland as shown on AWI. The Forested Glen Sides of Strath Eachaig lie within the National Park to the north and north-east and are outside the National Park to the south-west. The quality is variable, as there are areas of larch being felled due to disease and felling associated with the commercial forestry activity, however the Forested Glen Sides contribute to the scenic quality of the strath as a whole. Overall, the value of the Forested Glen Sides LCT within Strath Eachaig LU is considered to be Medium.

1.1.61 The susceptibility of the Forested Glen Sides to the type of development proposed is considered to be High-Medium due to the wayleaves associated with OHLs that results in the removal of woodland within an artificial corridor, this can create visible corridors, albeit within the context of commercial forestry that typically has a felling regime. The enclosed nature of the forestry also has greater capacity to absorb OHLs than more open and remote landscapes. Overall, the sensitivity of the LCT is considered to be Medium.

1.1.62 The Proposed Development will replace the existing OHL within the National Park along a similar alignment. To the south-west, outside the National Park boundary, the Proposed Development relocates the OHL from the Farmed Strath Floor LCT into the Forested Glen Sides LCT. This will result in an increased effect on the LCT, including woodland removal associated with a 81m wide Operational Corridor. However, the proposed OHL alignment, when considered as replacing the existing OHL alignment, will benefit from the greater screening and enclosure associated with the LCT. Therefore, at Year 1 of Operation this would result in a Medium magnitude of effect (change) on the LCT itself. Taking into account the Medium sensitivity of the LCT, a **Moderate adverse** significance of effect would occur at Year 1, which is **significant**.

1.1.63 Over time, the current operational corridor associated with the existing OHL alignment will be replanted (likely at the next tree rotation) slightly reducing the effect of infrastructure and wayleaves on the LCT. The Proposed Development is located away from Core Paths and recreational routes and would be contained by forestry, with very localised effects on the LCT perceptible across a very limited part of the LCT. Therefore, a Medium-Low magnitude of effect (change) is anticipated at Year 20, resulting in a **Moderate-Minor adverse** residual effect, which is **not significant**.

Farmed Strath and Glen Floors

1.1.64 The Farmed Strath Floor of Strath Eachaig LU is generally characteristic of the Farmed Strath and Glen Floor LCT, which are described as a defining quality of the highlands, contrasting with wilder surroundings as humanised and managed landscapes. This includes towers and overhead power lines as visible features across open glen floors. The majority of Strath Eachaig falls within the National Park, which includes the Garden and Designed Landscape of Benmore Botanic Garden, Listed Buildings and Victorian walkways and core paths within Puck's Glen and pockets of Ancient Woodland as shown on AWI. Overall, Strath Eachaig is considered to have High landscape value.

1.1.65 With respect to the susceptibility of the Farmed Strath and Glen Floors LCT within the Strath Eachaig LU, the strath is influenced by the existing OHL crossing the seaward end of the strath floor, near Holy Loch, and the busy A-road that provides access into the highlands from Dunoon and the ferry, but otherwise the landscape character of the LCT is relatively intact. Therefore, the LCT is considered to have Medium susceptibility to the type of development proposed. Overall, the LCT is considered to have High-Medium sensitivity to the type of development proposed.

1.1.66 The Proposed Development will replace the existing OHL along a similar alignment as it drops down into the Strath along Puck's Glen and crosses the floor within the National Park boundary. Where the OHL continues to the south-west of the National Park, the Proposed Development follows an amended alignment, off the Open Strath Floor and into the Forested Glen Sides where it benefits from greater screening and enclosure. Within the National Park, the Proposed Development will build the proposed OHL on an alignment similar to the existing OHL alignment which it replaces, but with towers which are higher and bulkier than the existing OHL, with the amended alignment to the south-west located outside the Farmed Strath Floor LCT. At Year 1 of Operation this would result in a Low magnitude of effect (change) on the more sensitive part of the LCT, which would be adverse, and a Medium-Low magnitude of effect (change) on the slightly less sensitive part of the LCT, which would be beneficial. On balance, a Low-Negligible magnitude of effect is likely to occur, resulting in a **Minor adverse** significance of effect at Year 1 of Operation, which is **not significant**.

1.1.67 Over time, the slight change from the existing OHL to the Proposed Development will become assimilated into the landscape, and the landscape character of the Farmed Strath Floor will be enhanced by the realignment of the existing OHL. Therefore, a **Minor-Negligible beneficial** residual effect is anticipated, which is **not significant**.

1.5 Eachaig Finbracken Landscape Unit

Photograph 5: The incised glen and Forested Upland Glens of Eachaig Finbracken LU

1.1.68 The Eachaig Finbracken LU comprises the incised, forested glens of the water courses of Little Eachaig River, Glenkin Burn, Birchen Burn and Allt na Criche and forested hills. The LU incorporates Ballochyle Hill (382 m AOD) and the forested sides of Clachaig Hill (521 m AOD) to the north, and Meall Buidhe (292 m AOD) to the south-west, and Dalinlogart Hill (196 m AOD) and Finbracken Hill (198 m AOD) to the south-east. Whilst some of the hill tops are open, the majority of the LU is covered in large scale forestry which accentuates the sense of enclosure of the incised glens.

1.1.69 The majority of the LU is considered to be representative of the Forested Upland Glens and Forested Upland Glen LCTs. There is a narrow section of Wooded Upland Glen LCT adjacent to the Sandbank LU west of the A885, however the Proposed Development is located well away from this LCT and therefore no landscape effects are likely to occur.

Forested Upland Glens LCT

1.1.70 The Forested Upland Glens LCT within the Eachaig Finbracken LU comprise the incised valleys within an area of rolling forested hills. The Forested Upland Glens within Eachaig Finbracken is sparsely settled but more developed than is typically characteristic of the National Park LCT due to its proximity to A and B roads and settlements. The LCT lies outwith the National Park. On balance, the landscape value of the LCT is considered to be Low.

1.1.71 The susceptibility of the Forested Upland Glens LCT to the type of development proposed is considered to be Medium. The forestry obscures the landform with a simple composition and landcover. Mixed woodland, recognised as Ancient Woodland as shown on AWI, predominantly follows the watercourses along the incised glens. The LCT has some sensitivity to the type of development proposed due to the wayleaves associated with OHLs that results in the removal of woodland within an artificial corridor, albeit this is predominantly experienced in the context of commercial forestry that typically has a felling regime. The enclosed and simple nature of the forestry also has greater capacity to absorb OHLs than more open and remote landscapes. Overall, the sensitivity of the LCT is considered to be Medium-Low.

1.1.72 The Proposed Development will relocate a section of the existing OHL that runs within the Farmed Strath and Glen Floor LCT of Strath Eachaig LU into the Forested Upland Glens LCT of Eachaig Finbracken LU. This will introduce OHL infrastructure into the LCT, along with the associated wayleave corridor that will remove trees within a predominantly 81 m wide corridor. Part of the realigned route will pass through the more open land around the Dalinlongart Waste Disposal Site on the eastern edge of the LCT, where the Proposed Development follows the existing OHL alignment.

1.1.73 Overall, at Year 1 of Operation this would result in a Low magnitude of effect (change) on the LCT itself. Taking into account the Medium-Low sensitivity of the LCT, a **Minor-Negligible adverse** significance of effect would occur at Year 1 of Operation, which is **not significant**, and would persist as a residual effect.

Forested Hills LCT

1.1.74 The Forested Hills LCT within the Eachaig Finbracken LU comprise a large area of rolling forested hills, incised by forested upland glens, with a less immediate relationship to the open hills. The Forested Hills within Eachaig Finbracken are outwith the National Park and have a more developed character due to its proximity to A and B roads and settlements. Overall, the landscape value of the LCT is considered to be Low.

1.1.75 The susceptibility of the Forested Hills LCT to the type of development proposed is considered to be Medium. The forestry obscures the landform with a simple composition and landcover. The LCT has some sensitivity to the type of development proposed due to the wayleaves associated with OHLs that results in the removal of woodland within an artificial corridor, albeit this is predominantly experienced in the context of commercial forestry that typically has a felling regime. The enclosed and simple nature of the forestry also has greater capacity to absorb OHLs than more open and remote landscapes. Overall, the sensitivity of the LCT is considered to be Medium-Low.

1.1.76 To the north-west, the Proposed Development follows the existing OHL alignment, and to the south-east the OHL is realigned to run behind Finbracken Hill instead of over the crest of the hill as per the existing OHL alignment. The realigned section will result in a better fit of the OHL infrastructure, however the Proposed Development requires a wider wayleave which will require greater removal of forest and woodland. Overall, at Year 1 of Operation this would result in a Medium adverse magnitude of effect (change) on the LCT itself. Taking into account the Medium-Low sensitivity of the LCT, a **Minor adverse** significance of effect would occur at Year 1 of Operation, which is **not significant**.

1.1.77 Over time, the forestry within the redundant wayleave of the existing OHL over Finbracken Hill will be replanted and reintegrated into the surrounding forestry. The Proposed Development is located away from Core Paths and recreational routes and would be contained by forestry, with very localised effects on the LCT perceptible across a very limited part of the LCT, particularly given the better 'landscape fit' around Finbracken Hill. Therefore, a **Negligible adverse** residual effect is anticipated, which is **not significant**.

Photograph 6: Elevated view across Sandbank LU with Forested and Wooded Glen Sides above the Settled Sea Loch Shore Fringes

1.6 Sandbank Landscape Unit

1.1.78 The Sandbank LU comprises the settled Sea Loch Shore Fringes of Sandbank on the southern edge of Holy Loch. The landform rises up to the west of the A885, where the Glen Sides are a mix of open, farmed landcover and pockets of woodland and forest. To the west, the land rises up to Forested Hills on the footslopes of Leacann nan Gall (568 m AOD), Black Craig (522 m AOD) and Bishop's Seat (504 m AOD). An area of Wooded Glen Sides extends along Dunloskin Wood between the Sea Loch Shore Fringes and Forested Glen Sides. The LU falls outside the National Park, and the National Park LCTs have been extended south at a similar level of detail.

1.1.79 The Proposed Development passes through the Forested Glen Sides LCT within the Sandbank LU, and therefore no landscape effects are likely to occur on the Wooded Glen Sides or Sea Loch Shore Fringes LCTs within the LU.

Forested Hills

1.1.80 The Forested Hills LCT within the Sandbank LU comprise a large area of dark coniferous forested hills that contrast with the open hills above and the varied glen sides and settled sea loch shore fringe. The LCT is generally not subject to any landscape designations and is managed as commercial forestry. The landscape value of the LCT is considered to be Low.

1.1.81 The susceptibility of the Forested Hills LCT within the Sandbank LU is considered to be Medium. The forestry obscures the landform with a simple composition and landcover. Mixed woodland, recognised as Ancient Woodland as shown on AWI, predominantly follows the watercourses along the incised glens. The LCT has some sensitivity to the type of development proposed due to the wayleaves associated with OHLs that results in the removal of woodland within an artificial corridor, albeit this is predominantly experienced in the context of commercial forestry that typically has a felling regime. The enclosed and simple nature of the forestry also has greater capacity to absorb OHLs than more open and remote landscapes. Overall, the sensitivity of the LCT is considered to be Medium-Low.

1.1.82 The Proposed Development will relocate a short section of the existing OHL that runs directly over Finbracken Hill into the Forested Hills LCT within the Sandbank LU. This will introduce a new wayleave into the LCT, with the associated removal of vegetation. Therefore, a Low magnitude of effect (change) is likely to occur at Year 1 of Operation on the LCT and given the Medium-Low sensitivity of the LCT, this would result in a **Minor adverse** significance of effect on the LCT itself, which is **not significant**.

1.1.83 Over time, the Proposed Development will become better assimilated into the landscape as the towers weather and become slightly less recessive. However, a **Minor-Negligible adverse** residual effect is likely to persist (**not significant**).

Farmed Glen Sides

1.1.84 The Farmed Glen Sides LCT within the Sandbank LU comprises a small pocket of open land used for grazing and horse-paddocks on the edge of Sandbank. The open farmland contrasts with the forested and wooded glen sides and forested hills. The LCT is broadly characteristic of Farmed Glen Sides, and is influenced by existing pylons and Dunoon substation. The LCT is not subject to any landscape designations but has some value as a cultural landscape. Overall, the landscape value of the LCT is considered to be Low.

1.1.85 The susceptibility of the Farmed Glen Sides LCT within the Sandbank LU is considered to be Low due to the existing influence of infrastructure and development on the periphery of Sandbank. The open nature of the LCT further reduces the susceptibility of the LCT to the type of development proposed. Overall, the sensitivity of the LCT is considered to be Low.

1.1.86 The Proposed Development will replace the existing OHL along a slightly different alignment through the LCT, where it converges on the Dunoon substation to the south-east. The amended alignment has a better landscape 'fit', but results in very little change on the LCT itself. Therefore, the Proposed Development would result in a Negligible magnitude of effect (change) at Year 1 of Operation and given the Low sensitivity of the LCT, a **Negligible adverse** significance of effect is likely to occur, which is **not significant.**

1.1.87 Over time, the Proposed Development will become better assimilated into the landscape as the towers weather and become slightly less recessive. However, a **Negligible neutral** residual effect is likely to persist (**not significant**).

1.7 Loch Long

1.1.88 Loch Long is described as a sea loch that extends northwards from the Head of the Firth of Clyde from Strone Point on the western shore and Barons Point on the eastern shore of the loch. The loch is nearly 24km long and becomes increasingly enclosed and steep sided as it extends towards Arrochar.

1.1.89 On-shore development is irregularly distributed, with long sections of steep sided coast difficult to access. Massive structures are associated with MOD infrastructure at Coulport and the oil terminal at Finnart, contrasting with narrow, often linear settlements at Cover, Ardentinny, Blairmore and at the head of the loch at Arrochar. There is a considerable amount of forestry on the glen sides.

1.1.90 There are a number of moorings and temporary anchorages within the loch but being a Dockyard Port much of the loch is subject to restrictions. Oil tankers and MOD vessels as well as recreation craft frequent the water.

1.1.91 The loch forms a marine 'gateway' to the National Park and part of the western shore of Loch Long has been designated an Area of Panoramic Quality by Argyll and Bute Council.

1.1.92 For the purposes of this assessment the seascape of Loch Long has been grouped into the following two distinct SCT which have their own sense of place and incorporate the relevant coastal character areas identified in the Seascape / Landscape Assessment:

- Long Long Mouth; and
- Loch Long.

Photograph 8: Elevated view across Loch Long Mouth SU towards the Clyde, including Coulport to the east (left of the view)

Loch Long Mouth

1.1.93 Loch Long Mouth SCT is generally characteristic of the Loch Long SU, although it is influenced by its proximity to the Clyde Firth and has a transitional relationship becoming wider and more open to the south, and a transition point for marine users. Maritime development and activity is varied, with recreational, MOD and oil tanker activity taking place. The SCT is more contained to the west due to the more regular and steeper forested slopes. Both coastlines are influenced by linear settlement, road access and associated development and there is a limited sense of isolated coast. Views from the sea are directed along the length of the loch, and the sea is widely overlooked by houses and roads.

1.1.94 The western coastline and hinterland of the SCT is a designated National Park and the eastern coastline is undesignated. Loch Long Mouth is influenced by its relationship to the Firth of Clyde and the MOD. Overall, the value of the SCT is considered to be Medium. The susceptibility of the SCT to the type of development proposed is considered to be Low given it is for the replacement of an existing OHL. Therefore, the sensitivity of the SCT is Medium-Low.

1.1.95 The Proposed Development will replace an existing OHL broadly along a very similar alignment. There is limited intervisibility between the SCT and the Proposed Development, with views predominantly concentrated at the mouth of Glen Finart which is opposite the large MOD complex. Although the Proposed Development will be higher and the proposed towers will be taller and bulkier than the existing OHL, a Negligible magnitude of effect (change) on the SCT itself is likely to occur at Year 1 of Operations, which would result in a **Negligible adverse** significance which is **not significant**.

1.1.96 Over time, the Proposed Development would become assimilated into the landscape, and a **Negligible** residual effect on the Loch Long Mouth SCT is anticipated (**not significant**).

Photograph 9: Elevated view across Loch Long SU, with long distance views of Portincaple and the Loch Long Area of Panoramic Quality

Loch Long

1.1.97 Loch Long SCT is generally characteristic of the Loch Long SU, although it is narrower and more enclosed. Although the SCT is influenced by the Finnart Oil Terminal and settlement at Protincaple, the SCT has a greater sense of isolation than the Loch Long Mouth SCT. Views from the coast are influenced by the felling and restocking of woodland, particularly along the west coast. On the east coast, views are restricted in association with the Oil Terminal. The views from the water and from the peninsulas at the mouth of Loch Goil are highlighted as the most significance because of the importance of the junction of the two lochs.

1.1.98 The western coastline and hinterland of the SCT is a designated National Park and the eastern coastline is designated as an Area of Panoramic Quality. Loch Long is influenced by the Finnart Oil Terminal to the north, however, the value of the SCT is considered to be High. The susceptibility of the SCT to the type of development proposed is considered to be Medium given it is for the replacement of an existing OHL. Therefore, the sensitivity of the SCT is High-Medium.

1.1.99 The Proposed Development will replace an existing OHL although it will be relocated off the open hills and onto the forested glen sides. This locates the OHL closer to the SCT, but results in a better landscape 'fit' with the Proposed Development benefitting from the screening of forestry and the backcloth of hills and forests. The Proposed Development would reduce the potential for views of infrastructure on the skyline from the SCT. The Proposed Development would not change the existing OHL where it crosses the SCT. Therefore, the Proposed Development would have a Low-Negligible magnitude of effect on the SCT itself, resulting in a **Minor-Negligible beneficial** significance of effect at Year 1 of Operation which is **not significant**.

1.1.100 Over time, as the replanting within the existing wayleaves becomes established and the Proposed Development becomes assimilated into the landscape, a **Minor beneficial** residual effect is likely to occur which is **not significant**.