APPENDIX 4 – ARMADALE GRID CONNECTION: COMPARATIVE APPRAISAL OF ALIGNMENT OPTIONS

Table 1 below summarises environmental constraints for the Baseline Alignment, opportunities and constraints for the variants and an environmental alignment preference.

Table 1: Environmental Constraints

Category	Sub-Topic	Summary of Constraints for Baseline Alternative Alignment	Opportunities and Constraints for Variants	Alignment Preference
Natural Heritage	Designations	The Baseline Alignment crosses approximately 220 m of the Armadale Gorge Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI), which is designated for its scrub and subalpine dry heath habitats that it supports. As such, consideration of the placement of poles would need to be given so as to limit impacts to the designating features of the site. The Baseline Alignment crosses into the Caithness and Sutherland Peatlands Special Area of Conservation (SAC), Special Protection Area (SPA) and Ramsar site, along with the underlying Lochan Buihde Mires SSSI for approximately 500 m. The presence of the OHL within the designated sites may have an effect to bird species associated with the SPA as it provides a linear structure crossing potential flight lines of divers moving between breeding lochans and the coast to the north. As such, there is an associated collision risk to such species. Similarly, the presence of the OHL within the Caithness and Sutherland Peatlands SAC	The alignment variants would offer no advantages or disadvantages with regards to Armadale Gorge SSSI. Alignment Variant 2 would move the OHL outwith the boundary of the Caithness and Sutherland Peatlands SAC, SPA, and Ramsar sites along with the underlying Lochan Buihde Mires SSSI and as such would be preferable to the Baseline Alignment. Alignment Variants 1, 3, 4, 5 or 6 offer no advantages or disadvantages with regards to the Caithness and Sutherland Peatlands SAC, SPA and Ramsar sites and the underlying Lochan Buihde Mires SSSI. No alignment variant would cross AWI. Alignment Variant 2 would pass through a slightly longer section of native woodland listed on the NWSS comapred to the Basleine Alignment, at approximately 0.03 km.	Alignment Variant 2 would be optimal to the comparable section of the Baseline Alignment, as it would bring development outwith designated sites. All other alignment options are considered comparable. Impacts on the Armadale Gorge SSSI are likely to be similar for all alignment options.

Category	Sub-Topic	Summary of Constraints for Baseline Alternative Alignment	Opportunities and Constraints for Variants	Alignment Preference
		may affect the qualifying blanket bog feature of the site along with those of the Lochan Buidhe Mires SSSI. The Baseline Alignment would also cross both the Armadale Burn and the River Strathy with surveys identifying the presence of otters, which are likely to be associated with the Caithness and Sutherland Peatland SAC population. The potential therefore exists to affect the qualifying species of the SAC through construction disturbance and pollution of the watercourses which they are reliant on as a food resource. The Baseline Alignment would not pass through any woodland recorded on the AWI. It would however pass through approximately 0.02 km of an area listed on the NWSS as it cross the Armadale gorge. It would not pass through any NWSS on the banks of the River Strathy.		
	Protected Species	Limited signs of protected species (otters) were identified along the Baseline Alignment on the Armadale Burn and the River Strathy. It is anticipated that both watercourses would support individuals associated with the wider Caithness and Sutherland Peatland SAC. Smaller watercourses, such as the Allt Daili Teine, are unlikely to support foraging and	The alignment variants would offer no advantages or disadvantages with regards to protected species.	The Baseline Alignment is the least preferred option with regards to protected species. This is predominantly because it passes in proximity to woodland edge which is likely to be used as foraging and commuting habitat for bats in the area. Construction of the Baseline

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		commuting otters but did offer some limited suitable habitat for water voles but no evidence of their presence was identified during survey work. No signs of water vole, badger, pine marten or wildcat were identified during survey work. It is anticipated that the northern woodland edge of Strathy Forest, which the Baseline Alignment follows, would offer foraging and commuting habitats to bat species if present in the area. It is also likely that pine marten may also use the woodland present and so construction in this location may cause potential disturbance to this species.		Alignment may affect the use of the woodland edge by commuting bats. All six alignment variants are considered comparable to one another in terms of potential impacts on protected species.
	Habitats	Habitats across the Baseline Alignment are a mosaic of upland / peatland habitats typical of the surrounding landscape. These include dry heath, wet heath, acid grassland, scrub, blanket bog and modified bog. Effects to habitats are likely to be localised to pole locations and associated with the infrastructure required to construct the grid connection. Micrositing of pole locations and infrastructure would need to be considered to avoid habitats of greatest sensitivity such as those on deep peat e.g blanket bog, ground water dependent terrestrial ecosystems and	The alignment options at the western end appear to cross a similar mosaic of habitat types. However, Alignment Variant 1 increases the potential length of the OHL passing across wet heath and acid grassland habitats, increasing the overall habitat loss associated with the OHL, while Alignment Variants 2 and 6 would each reduce the potential length of the OHL. At the eastern end, Alignment Variants 3, 4 and 5 would slightly decrease the overall length of the Baseline Alignment which in turn would decrease habitat loss associated with the OHL. However, these aligments are largely within dry	Habitats beneath each alignment option are similar and micrositing of pole locations will be key to reducing overall effects to habitats. Overall, Alignment Variants 2 and 6 are the shorter of the alignments and would therefore cause the least habitat loss. Although the Baseline Alignment is slighter longer than Variants 3, 4 and 5, it crosses less sensitive habitat and is therefore preferable.

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		those associated with the Armadale Gorge SSSI.	modified bog, while the predominat habitat along the Baseline Alignment is wet dwarf shrub heath.	
	Ornithology	Surveys found the majority of flights of target species to be north of the Baseline Alignment with only lapwing having a significant number of flights recorded on the alignment itself, at the western end in proximity to the connection with the Armadale wind farm. Hen harrier were recorded in low numbers flying along the length of the alignment. Breeding bird surveys found species consistent with the habitats and landscape present. Large numbers of meadow pipit and skylark were recorded during surveys across the Baseline Alignment with lower numbers of species associated with the nearby Caithness and Sutherland Peatlands SPA. The alignment of the OHL may cause potential collision risk for foraging species, and similarly a linear barrier to those species commuting from the SPA to coastal areas to the north, particularly within the sections of the OHL which are within the boundary of the SPA. Indeed, a number of lochans that are suitable for breeding divers are present close to the Baseline Alignment (south, within the	Alignment Variant 1 has the potential to increase the length of the overall OHL and therefore the potential collision risk to bird species. Similarly, this will increase potential habitat loss for ground nesting birds in comparison to the Baseline Alignment. Alignment Variant 2 would move the connection northwards, away from the boundary of the SPA and the associated habitats and lochans. Similarly, it may reduce the overall length of the OHL slightly and therefore would be preferable. Although Alignment Variant 6 also has the potential to slightly reduce the overall length of the OHL, it would move the connection closer to the lochans in the south that could be used by nesting birds (such as red-throated diver) in the future. Alignment Variants 3, 4 and 5 would generally offer no advantages or disadvantages with regards to ornithology.	The Baseline Alignment is preferred over Alignment Variant 1 as it has the potential to increase the length of the overall OHL and therefore the potential collision risk to bird species and similarly increased potential for habitat loss for ground nesting birds. Similarly, Alignment Variant 6 could also reduce the overall length of the OHL, although its closer proximity to lochans to the south could offset some of the potential advantages. Alignment Variant 2 would be preferred in comparison to the comparable section of the Baseline Alignment as it moves the OHL outwith the boundary of the SPA and further from the lochans to the south. All other alignment options are considered comparable.

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		SPA), and the presence of the OHL may increase collision risk.		
	Hydrology Hydrogeology and Geology	The Baseline Alignment is located within the surface water catchment of the Allt Beg and Armadale Burn to the west and the River Strathy to the east. The Baseline Alignment would cross several watercourses including the Armadale Burn and the River Strathy. Flood extents associated with the Armadale Burn and River Strathy are generally confined to watercourse channels. The Baseline Alignment is underlain by igneous and metamorphic bedrock (Kirtomy Gneisses, Strathy Complex and Scottish Highland Ordovician Minor Intrusion Suite). The bedrock beneath the alignment is underlain by superficial deposits of peat to the centre and hummocky glacial deposits to the east. The western extent is shown to be absent of any superficial deposits, whilst alluvium and glaciofluvial deposits are shown near the banks of the River Strathy. Approximately 3.6 km of the Baseline Alignment is located within Class 1 or Class 2 priority peatland.	Alignment Variants 1 to 6 lie in the same surface water catchments as the Baseline Alignment. They also overly the same geology. Alignment Variant 1 is broadly similar to the Baseline Alignment. Within 50 m of the alignment peat depths of between 0 and 5.7 m were recorded with the deepest area of peat noted within the centre of the Alignment Variant 1. Alignment Variant 2 avoids the Caithness and Sutherland Peatlands SAC, SPA, Ramsar and the Lochan Buidhe Mires SSSI, east of the Armadale Burn, and slightly shallower peat depths were recorded (up to 4 m). The majority of Alignment Variants 3, 4 and 5 are located within Class 1 and Class 2 priority peatland, as is the Baseline Alignment in the east. These variants would avoid a crossing of a tributuary of the River Strathy, however, slightly deeper peat depths were recorded within 50 m of these variants compared to the Baseline Alignment in this area (up to 2.3 m, 1.8 m, 2.2 m respectively compared to up to 1.7 m). Alignment Variant 6 would avoid an area of deep peat recorded within the Baseline Alignment and	The alignment and variations options are broadly similar. Alignment Variant 2 is considered preferrable over the comparable section of the Baseline Alignment, as this allows the designated peatlands to the south to be avoided. Alignment Variant 6 is also considered preferrable over the comparable section of the Baseline Alignment and Alignment Variant 1 as shallower depths of peat are recorded. Therefore, with regard to hydrology, hydrogeology and geology (including peat), Alignment Variants 2 and 6 would be slightly optimal to the Baseline Alignment. Alignment Variants 3, 4 and 5 would avoid a crossing over a tributary of the River Strathy, however slightly deeper peat depths are recorded. There is no preference regarding

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		Phase I peat probing has been undertaken for the length of the alignment. Within 50 m of the Baseline Alignment peat depths of between 0 and 5.7 m were recorded with approximately 65% of probes recording a peat depth of <0.5 m. The deepest areas of peat (greater than 3 m) are noted within discrete areas within the western extent of the alignment. Subject to best practice construction and mitigation it is likely that impacts on soils, peat, geology, and the water environment can be mitigated. Phase II peat probing would be required and micrositing should be used to further refine the Baseline Alignment and the location of poles and access tracks to areas of shallowest peat. A peat management plan, peat landslide hazard risk assessment and peat depth probing will be required as part of any further assessment. Crossings of the Armadale Burn and the River Strathy will also need to give due regard to flood risk (during construction and operation phases).	Alignment Variant 1 in this area. Within 50 of Alignment Variant 6 peat depths of up to 3 m were recorded.	these alignment variants over the Baseline Alignment.
Cultural Heritage	Designations	The Baseline Alignment passes approximately 175 m to the south-west of the Armadale Burn Broch scheduled monument. As it approaches from the west a long	Alignment Variant 1 passes approximately 200 m to the south-west of the Armadale Burn Broch scheduled monument and approaches across open ground from the north west. Its potential for	All alignment options are considered comparable in terms of potential impacts on Armadale Burn Broch.

Category	Sub-Topic	Summary of Constraints for Baseline Alternative Alignment	Opportunities and Constraints for Variants	Alignment Preference
		section of the OHL would be visible but set against a background of low hills. The vista to the west has not been identified as significant to the monument and this alignment option does not intervene in intervisibility between the monument and contemporary settlement, other than with regard to one hut circle located on the east side of the Armadale Burn. Overall, the visual impact on the monument and its setting, given its proximity, would be moderate. There would be a small degree of visibility of the eastern section of the Baseline Alignment from Listed Buildings at Strathy including: Strathy Former Free Church of Scotland (LB 7143); Strathy Free Church (LB 7144); Manse (LB 7145) and School (LB 7146) but set against a background of mature forestry and not breaking the skyline. The Listed Buildings themselves, church, school and manse, are not in effect highly sensitive to visual impacts.	visual impact and alteration to the setting of the monument would be almost identical to the Baseline Alignment. Although this is the closest alignment option to the scheduled monument overall, the visual impact on the monument and its setting, given its proximity, would be moderate. Alignment variant 6, crossing open ground slightly further from the broch than the Baseline Alignment or Alignment Variant 1 but passing the broch at the same distance as the Baseline Alignment, would have an almost identical potential for visual impact and alteration to the setting of the monument as the Baseline Alignment. Alignment Variant 2, rising from the gorge to cross open high ground, would occupy only a narrow arc of visibility from the scheduled monument, in a direction which is not considered to be a significant vista. Its visual impact on the setting of the monument would be minor. Alignment Variants 3, 4 and 5 would have an increased visual impact on the Listed Buildings at Strathy, being on higher ground and with a greater potential to break the horizon.	The Baseline Alignment is considered slightly optimal in terms of visual impact on cultural heritage designations in the Strathy area.
	Cultural Heritage Assets	The Baseline Alignment passes over or adjacent to three recorded hut circles and a kerbed cairn. Even if these features are	Alignment Variant 2 has the potential for direct impacts on one hut circle, Allt Ruadh, NC 8010 6245, CANMORE ID 6915, prominently placed	Alignment Variant 2 is considered optimal as it would potentially cause the least direct damage and

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		avoided there is a high potential for sub-surface associated features to be disturbed or damaged. Particularly vulnerable to direct impacts is the single hut circle at Allt Ruadh, NC 8010 6245, CANMORE ID 6915, prominently placed on a level promontory between the Allt Ruadh stream and the Armadale Burn. If all assets were to avoid direct impacts, the setting of all would still be adversely impacted, particularly the intervisibility between these and other contemporary monuments in the landscape. The Baseline Alignment has a moderate potential for direct impact on one hut circle, Allt Ruadh,NC 8042 6244 and a kerbed cairn, Allt Ruadh, NC 8041 6246.	on a level promontory between the stream and the river. The surrounding ground is presumed to have been cultivated. Alignment Variant 2 would avoid any potential impact on one hut circle, Allt Ruadh,NC 8042 6244 and a kerbed cairn, Allt Ruadh, NC 8041 6246 compared to the Baseline Alignment. Alignment variant 6 would have the same impacts as the Baseline Alignment. To the east, Alignment Variants 3, 4 and 5 would be as per the Baseline Alignment.	alteration to settings of non-designated assets. All other alignment options are considered comparable.
People	Proximity to Dwellings	Armadale Farm and Armadale House are located approximately 550 m and 800 m respectively, to the north of the Baseline Alignment at the closest point. These properties are located on either side of the A836. As this is likely to be used as a construction route, measures to minimise disturbance are likely required. Views of the alignment would be partially screened by the woodland plantation as the OHL exits the wind farm substation to the south, however	Alignment Variant 1 would exit Armadale wind farm on-site substation to the north, therefore being located closer to Armadale House, Armadale Farm and the southern extent of the settlement of Armadale compared to the Baseline Alignment. As this alignment variant navigates around the woodland plantation to the north, it removes the opportunity for views to be screened, as would be the case for the Baseline Alignment.	Alignment Variant 1 and Alignment Variant 3 are considered least optimal as they are positioned closer to settlement comapred to other alignment options. All other alignment options are considered comparable.

Category	Sub-Topic	Summary of Constraints for Baseline Alternative Alignment	Opportunities and Constraints for Variants	Alignment Preference
		effects on amenity may still be experienced during construction. The settlement of Armadale is approximately 700 m to the north of the western extent of the Baseline Alignment at its closest point. Properties within this settlement are located alongside the public road leading to the coast. The amenity of properties within the southern part of this settlement may be compromised, although at the scale of development being considered, it is not anticipated to be a significant. The settlement of Strathy is approximately 700 m to the north of the eastern extent of the Baseline Alignment at its closest point. It's anticipated that construction traffic would utilise the by-pass track constructed for Strathy North wind farm and reducing disruption to residents. The amenity of properties within the southern part of this settlement may still be compromised during construction, although at the scale of development being considered, it is not anticipated to be a significant.	Alignment Variant 3 would be located in slightly closer proximity to the settlement of Strathy at 600 m at its closest point, however, impacts on amenity are anticipated to be comparable to the Baseline Alignment. All other alignment options are comparable to the Baseline Alignment.	
Landscape and Visual	Designations	The Baseline Alignment would not pass through any designated or protected landscapes. Farr Bay, Strathy and Portskerra Special Landscape Area (SLA) is located 1.2	Alignment Variant 1 would be located in closer proximity to the SLA compared to the Baseline Alignment at 880 m at its closest point.	Constraints considered to be broadly equivalent for all options.

Category	Sub-Topic	Summary of Constraints for Baseline Alternative Alignment	Opportunities and Constraints for Variants	Alignment Preference
		km to the north of this alignment option at its closest point. It is not considered likely that there would be an impact on this regional designation.	No alignment variant offers a particular advantage over the Baseline Alignment in terms of minimising effects on designated and protected landscapes.	
	Landscape Character	When leaving Armadale wind farm on-site substation, the Baseline Alignment would pass through LCT 136: Rocky Hills and Moorland for approximately 2.0 km. The Baseline Alignment would pass to the rear of an area of forest plantation at Armadale substation, which would reduce its prominence from the coast and utilises a low point which creates a more natural crossing of the Armadale gorge. The topography provides opportunity for it to be tucked behind some small knolls to the east of the gorge, and would follow the northern edge of Strathy Forest, which is an existing linear feature in the landscape, and an OHL would be seen against the backdrop of this forestry, when passing through LCT 134: Sweeping Moorland and Flows.The main sensitivity of this LCT is its sense of openness and exposure. When arriving at the point where the OHL would terminate, it takes a low route along the strath floor, which would reduce its prominence in views from coastal areas.	Alignment Variant 1 would pass to the front of the small forest plantation at Armadale substation, making it potentially more prominent within the coastal context. When terminating, Alignment Variant 4 would be located on lower ground (as would the Baseline Alignment) compared to Alignment Variants 3 and 5, which would be positioned on higher ground, with a greater potential to impact on the sense of openness and exposure, by introducing vertical structures within the landscape. However, they would be experienced in the context of wind turbines and other electrical infrastructure.	The Baseline Alignment would be the optimal option in terms of impacts on landscape character, as it would be less prominent particularly from coastal areas..

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	Visual	The Baseline Alignment would pass 0.5 km to the south of the A836, which forms part of the North Coast 500, at its closest point. There are some building-based receptors along this route, with the closest settlements being Armadale and Strathy. There is some potential for screening by forestry and landform from the A836 and building-based receptors at Armadale, reducing the potential for visual effects at the western end of the alignment where it leaves the substation. The Baseline Alignment would be located on low ground and close to the edge of forestry where it turns south to join the Strathy North to Connagill 132 kV Optimal Alignment, reducing visibility from receptors at Strathy. It would follow Scottish Hill Track 344 – Strath Halladale (Trantlebeg) to Strathy for just over a kilometre along this section, before crossing it further south.	Alignment Variant 1 would pass in front of a small forest plantation adjacent to the substation, making it more prominent in views from Armadale and the A836. Alignment Variant 6 would pull the alignment further from the coast at the western end, although it would be located on slightly more elevated ground,potentially increasing its prominence slightly. On approach to the conenction point at the Strathy North to Connagill 132 kV Optimal Alignment, Alignment Variants 3 and 5 would be located on more elevated ground and likely to appear more visible from Strathy, while Alignment Variant 4 (and the Baseline Alignment) are tucked in lower and closer to the forestry, and likely to be less prominent in views, although would be closer to Scottish Hill Track 344.	The Baseline Alignment would be the optimal option in terms of visual impacts, being set further back from the A836 and coastal settlements, and following the forestry edge.
Land Use	Agriculture	The Baseline Alignment crosses agricultural land classed as follows: Class 6.3 (Land capable of use as rough grazing), Class 5.3 (Land capable of use as improved grassland) and Class 4.2 (Land primarily suited to grassland with some potential for other crops). As these are not particularly sensitive	No alignment variant offers a particular advantage in terms of minimising effects on agriculture. Alignment Variants 3 and 4 would pass through a fenced area of cultivated ground.	All alignment options are considered to be broadly comparable

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		or fertile categories, any impacts on agriculture as a result of the Baseline Alignment would be considered to be low. The Baseline Alignment would pass through a fenced area of cultivated land after crossing the River Strathy, as it runs adjacent to the existing track.		
	Forestry	The Baseline Alignment would not be located within any commercial forestry plantation. However subject to the placement of poles, a wayleave along the northern edge of Strathy Forest may require clearance. The Baseline Alignment would cross approximately 20 m of native woodland when crossing the Armadale Gorge, that would require clearance. Subject to careful positioning of poles there may be a possibility to limit the removal of vegetation / forest for the construction of structures, although removal may still be required to accommodate wayleaves for conductors. Where woodland is cleared and maintained as an open corridor, compensation by new woodland creation at least matching the area will be essential, as described in the Scottish	None of the alignment variants would cross commercial forstry plantation. Alignment Variant 2 crosses an additional area of native woodland (approximately 28 m), as it crosses the Allt Ruadh.	All alignment options are considered to be broadly comparable.

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		Government's Policy on Control of Woodland Removal and the implementation guidance.		
	Recreation	The Baseline Alignment would pass at its closest point, approximately 665 m to the south of the A836, which forms part of the North Coast 500 (NC500) route and National Cycle Route 1 (NCR1). However, it would not interrupt views towards the coast, which are likely the key vistas for tourists. The River Strathy is popular with anglers as it is a spate Salmon River. The Baseline Alignment would cross the river once and would be approximately 110 m from the river in the eastern extent on the approach to the connection point on the Strathy North to Connagill 132 kV OHL Optimal Alignment. Therefore there is potential for construction impacts (i.e. pollution) and disturbance experienced by anglers. The Baseline Alignment would cross Scottish Hill Track 344 – Strath Halladale (Trantlebeg) to Strathy at two separate points, and would run adjacent (on its western side) for a distance of 1.3 km. Measures would need to be put in place to ensure this path is not blocked or its users impeded during construction.	Alignment Variant 1 would pass in closer proximity to the A836 (and North Coast 500 and National Cycle Route 1) compared to the Baseline Alignment, at approximately 360 m at its closest point. However, as for the Baseline Alignment, it would not interrupt views towards the coast, which are likely the key vistas for tourists, but may be more noticeable in inland views. Alignment Variant 6 would be comparable to the Baseline Alignment. Alignment Variants 3, 4 and 5 would cross Scottish Hill Track 344 only once, and the crossing point would be further north for Alignment Variants 3 and 5. These alignment variants would also be positioned further from the hill track on approach to the connection point compared to Alignment Variant 4, which would run adjacent (on the eastern side) of the recreational route. However, Alignment Variants 3 and 5 would be positioned on more elevated ground and would therefore appear more noticeable in views from recreational routes to the north along the A836. Alignment Variants 3 and 5 would also be positioned further form the River Strathy for a	In the western extent, the Baseline Alignment or Alignment Variant 6 are considered preferable compared to Alignment Variant 1, as they are set further from the recreational routes to the north. In the eastern extent, Alignment Variant 4 would be marginally preferred as it would be located slightly further from the River Strathy and Scottish Hill Track compared to the Baseline Alignment and would be set at a lower elevation compared to Alignment Variants 3 and 5 that may appear more noticeable from recreational routes to the north.

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			greater stretch compared to Alignment Variant 4 (or the Baseline Alignment) with reduced potential for impacts during construction. However, Alignment Variant 5 is located in closer proximity to the Allt an Reidhe Ruaidh; a tributary that feeds into the River Strathy.	
Planning	Policy	Compatibility to National, Regional and Local planning policy will in large depend on avoiding or minimising potential constraints, particularly in relation to potential impacts on the natural environment. The Baseline Alignment is located directly within natural heritage designated sites including the Caithness and Sutherland Peatlands SAC, SPA and Ramsar, the Lochan Buihde Mires SSSI and the Armadale Gorge SSSI. There is potential for direct and indirect impact on the qualifying features and species of these designated sites. Mitigation measures would be required, along with sensitive placement of poles, to reduce potential effects on the designated sites, to allow adherence with planning policy. However, it should be acknowledged that this development would be recognised in NPF4 as a National development under ND3 'Strategic Renewable Electricity Generation and Transmission infrastructure'. It therefore	Alignment Variant 2 would move the OHL outwith the boundary of the Caithness and Sutherland Peatlands SAC, SPA, and Ramsar sites along with the underlying Lochan Buihde Mires SSSI, however, would continue to cross the Armadale Gorge SSSI. The potential effects on qualifying features and species of nearby natural designated sites are likely to be of a similar magnitude as the Baseline Alignment, with similar mitigation to avoid and reduce potential impacts required.	Alignment Variant 2 is considered optimal to the Baseline Alignment. All other options are considered comparable.

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		forms a vital element to deliver network and grid infrastructure required to deliver the Government's legally binding targets for net zero emissions and renewable energy electricity generation objectives.		
	Proposals	In terms of proximity to proposals, the Baseline Alignment would traverse to the east of the proposed Armadale wind farm, being approximately 650 m to the nearest wind turbine. The Baseline Alignment would keep outwith the required separation buffers from the proposed turbines. No other notable proposals within the planning system have been identified within the vicinity of this alignment option.	As per the Baseline Alignment.	All alignment options are considered to be broadly comparable.