APPENDIX 1.1 – PERMITTED DEVELOPMENT WORKS APPRAISAL

Figures:

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 Overview

As noted within **Chapter 1: Introduction**, two discrete sections of the Proposed Development would comprise of the installation of underground cable (UGC). These UGC sections are classed as permitted development rights under Class 40 1(a) of The Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development) (Scotland) Order 1992, and therefore fall under SSEN Transmission's permitted development rights as a statutory undertaker. These UGC sections can be seen in **Appendix 1.1 – Figure 1 - Proposed Underground Cable**.

1.1.1 An appraisal of potential impacts associated with these elements are set out within this Appendix, under the following topics:

- Landscape and Visual;
- Ecology;
- Ornithology;
- Geology, Hydrology and Hydrogeology;
- Cultural Heritage; and
- Forestry.

1.1.2 These topics are consistent with those considered within the Environmental Appraisal (EA) for the OHL, and reference is made within this Appendix to relevant chapters and figures of the EA where required.

2. LANDSCAPE AND VISUAL

2.1 Overview

2.1.1 Please refer to **Chapter 4: Landscape and Visual**.

2.1.1 This Appendix reports the findings of the Landscape and Visual Appraisal (LVA) for the UGCs and their construction. The assessment is limited to the assessment of effects during the construction period, since it is anticipated that cable trenches and temporary access tracks would be reinstated upon completion. As the specific location and form of any junction boxes (above or below ground) is not currently known these are not addressed within this appraisal. However, mitigation measures are suggested to limit any potential longer-term effects.

2.2 Landscape Appraisal

2.2.1 This section sets out the landscape effects likely to arise as a result of installation of the UGCs. **Figure 4.2** (of **Chapter 4**) identifies landscape designations and landscape character types (LCTs) in relation to the UGCs. Although seven individual LCTs and one designated area are identified within the overall study area, only two of these have potential to be affected by the UGC works, LCT 288: Upland Farmland and LCT 290: Upland Moorland and Forestry (see **Appendix 4.1** for baseline description and characteristics of these LCTs).

LCT 288: Upland Farmland

2.2.2 LCT 288: Upland Farmland is a somewhat valued landscape which is already affected by OHLs particularly leading in towards Blackhillock substation. The presence of road and rail infrastructure and the influence of wind development within adjacent landscape types further reduce its susceptibility to development of this type. Landscape sensitivity is therefore considered to be **Low-Medium.**

2.2.3 Construction works associated with the UGC would lead to an increase in movement and activity within this LCT. This would largely take place adjacent to Blackhillock substation and be perceived in the context of existing traffic and movement associated with the substation. Magnitude of change would be **Medium** during construction. The construction of the UGC would temporarily form a new focus and distraction within the local area to the west and north-west of Blackhillock substation, slightly increasing the presence of development. Elsewhere it would be experienced in the distance within the context of existing electrical infrastructure. The UGC works are therefore anticipated to have a **Minor** (not significant) effect locally and **Negligible** (not significant) elsewhere within the LCT during construction.

LCT 290: Upland Moorland and Forestry

2.2.4 LCT 290: Upland Moorland and Forestry is a moderately valued landscape with some remote upland characteristics which would be susceptible to some degree of the construction works associated with an UGC. Although the active forestry management within this LCT reduces susceptibility to construction activities, there is some susceptibility to change on the open slopes and in more remote areas. Landscape sensitivity is therefore considered to be **Medium.**

2.2.5 Construction works would lead to activity and movement within a localised part of this LCT. However, these activities would likely be perceived to be somewhat similar to existing forestry operations within the area. Magnitude of change would therefore be **Medium** during construction.

2.2.6 The construction of the UGC would form localised temporary focal features, which may be distracting and may extend the influence of development within the LCT. However, these would be somewhat contained by forestry and would only be visible in a very localised area. A locally **Minor** (not significant) effect is therefore anticipated for the LCT with a **Negligible** (not significant) effect elsewhere during construction.

Landscape Appraisal Summary

2.2.7 The appraisal found that there would be no significant landscape effects as a result of the construction of the UGCs. For LCT 288 and 290, effects would be localised and non-significant, contained by forestry for the western section of UGC and experienced alongside Blackhillock substation and surrounding OHL infrastructure for the eastern section of UGC. Construction effects for these LCTs would represent an intensification of activity and would be **locally Minor** (not significant) effects and **Negligible** (not significant) more broadly across the LCTs.

2.3 Visual Appraisal

2.3.1 This section sets out the visual effects likely to arise as a result of installation of the UGCs. **Figure 4.3** (of **Chapter 4**) identifies landscape receptors in relation to the UGCs. Of the 32 building-based receptors, four outdoor receptors and 20 route receptors, only eight are within 1 km of the UGC and likely to be affected by the UGC installation works as discussed below (see **Appendix 4.2** for baseline description of these receptors). No significant effects were identified for any of these visual receptors.

Likely Minor Effects

2.3.2 Construction works associated with the installation of the UGC would be visible to the east or south across fields, partially screened by trees from B29: Coldhome and B30: Braehead. This would result in a Low magnitude of change from these Low sensitivity receptors. The works would form a temporary distraction in one part of the view seen in the context of Blackhillock substation resulting in a **Minor** (not significant) effect for both receptors.

2.3.3 Construction works associated with the installation of the UGC may be visible in filtered views to the south-east from a short section of R4: B9014 and Minor Road between Keith and Wester Chalder and R7: Heritage Railway (from Dufftown to Keith). Where visible it would be seen in distant fleeting views in the context of Blackhillock substation, affecting a localised part of the routes resulting in a Negligible-Low magnitude of change to the Low-Medium sensitivity routes. This is anticipated to result in a **Negligible** (not significant) overall effect and **locally Minor** (not significant) effect on the routes.

2.3.4 From R19: Minor Road between Braehead and Mains of Auchindachy and R20: Routes within Keith, construction works associated with the installation of the UGC would be visible in fleeting views from the northern part of this R19 and the southern sections of the core paths near Braehead in the context of Blackhillock substation and other OHLs to the south-west. From the southern section of this route, near the Mains of Auchindachy and from northern parts of the core paths within Keith views would be screened by landform, tree groups and buildings. This is anticipated to result in a Negligible (locally Low) magnitude of change and **Negligible** (**locally Minor**) (not significant) effect to these Low sensitivity routes.

Likely Negligible Effects

2.3.5 Construction works associated with the installation of the UGC may be visible glimpsed through trees to the south from R8: Core Path SP01 (Rothes Estate), however they would largely be screened from this Medium sensitivity route. This is anticipated to result in a Negligible (locally Negligible-Low) magnitude change and **Negligible** (locally **Negligible-Minor**) (not significant) effect to the route.

2.3.6 From receptor B28: Mains of Auchindachy and Quarryhead, construction works associated with the installation of the UGC would be largely screened by landform and trees lining properties in all directions, particularly to the north resulting in Negligible magnitude of change and **Negligible** (not significant) effect to this Medium sensitivity receptor.

2.3.1 **Table 1** summarises the assessment of visual effects likely to result from the installation of the UGCs. An 'L' indicates a localised effect.

Table 1: Summary of Visual Assessment for the Construction of UGCs.

	Potential Effect During Construction						
	Not Significant				*Significant*		
	Negligible	*Negligible – Minor*	*Minor*	*Minor – Moderate*	*Moderate*	*Moderate – Major*	*Major*
B28: Mains of Auchindachy and Quarryhead	•						
B29: Coldhome			•				
B30: Braehead			•				
R4: B9014 and Minor Road between Keith and Wester Chalder							
R7: Heritage Railway (from Dufftown to Keith)	•		L				
R8: Core Path SP01 (Rothes Estate)	•	L					
R19: Minor Road between Braehead and Mains of Auchindachy	•		L				
R20: Routes within Keith	•		L				

Visual Appraisal Summary

2.3.2 The assessment finds that there would be no significant visual effects as a result of the UGCs. Although construction activities associated with the UGC may be perceptible from short sections of some routes and some building-based receptors, these effects would be limited and for receptors to the east, seen in the context of Blackhillock substation and other electrical infrastructure. Construction activity is likely to appear similar to ongoing activity at the substation.

Mitigation

2.3.1 Following commissioning of the UGC, it is anticipated that all areas disturbed during construction would be reinstated. Reinstatement will form part of the contract obligations for the Principal Contractor and will include the removal of all temporary access tracks and the re-vegetation of disturbed areas to recreate the former habitat as far as possible.

3. ECOLOGY

3.1 Overview

3.1.1 Please refer to **Chapter 5: Ecology**.

3.1.2 Survey areas for each section of the UGC works encompass land within 250 m of the proposed cable routes, referred to as the Rothes Cable Survey Area, where the cable connects into the Rothes III Wind Farm on-site substation location, and the Blackhillock Cable Survey Area, where the cable would connect into the Blackhillock substation. Collectively both areas are referred to as Cable Survey Areas (CSAs).

3.1.3 Surveys within CSAs were undertaken alongside surveys for the main OHL alignment between July and September 2021, following the methodology set out in **Appendix 5.1**.

3.1.4 Habitat surveys were undertaken within accessible areas of the CSAs following the NVC scheme[1] using standard methods[2] and incorporating Phase 1 Habitat Survey Characterisation. Habitats were mapped using the Phase 1 Habitat Classification[3], with habitat boundaries and classification being recorded onto 1:10,000 scale OS maps. Any wetland habitats were evaluated in terms of their potential to be groundwater dependent terrestrial ecosystems (GWDTEs). This was done based on the hydrogeological setting of each habitat community identified, with reference to SEPA guidance[4,5], modified from the UK Technical Advisory Group (UKTAG) list of NVC communities and associated groundwater dependency scores. Non-native and / or invasive terrestrial plants and algae were also recorded.

3.1.5 Protected species surveys were undertaken in accordance with best practice methodologies as described in **Appendix 5.1** and involved searching for signs of species including otter (*Lutra lutra*), pine marten (*Martes martes*), features that could support roosting bats, badger (*Meles meles*), and red squirrel (*Sciurus vulgaris*). Surveys were not specifically undertaken for water vole (*Arvicola amphibius*), beaver (*Castor fiber*) and Scottish wildcat (*Felis silvestris*), but any incidental records or signs of other protected species were recorded in accordance with best practice. Surveys for protected species were carried out within a 100 m survey corridor around the centre line of the proposed UGC route (i.e. 50 m survey corridor from the centreline) and included a further survey corridor of 30 m for bats and red squirrel, 100 m for badger and pine marten, and 200 m for otter, where suitable habitat was present.

3.1.6 The assessment of the significance of predicted impacts on ecological receptors was undertaken in accordance with the current guidance detailed by the CIEEM[6] and followed the methodology set out in **Chapter 5**.

3.2 Baseline Conditions

3.2.1 Three designated sites are located within 5 km of the UGC sections: Gull Nest SSSI, Mill Wood SSSI and Den of Pitlurg SSSI. Each designated site is described in **Table 5.5** of **Chapter 5** and displayed on **Figure 5.1.** There is no hydrological connectivity between the UGC and any of the SSSI sites identified above. Within the Blackhillock CSE an area of woodland listed on the Ancient Woodland Inventory (AWI) is found south-west of the existing Blackhillock substation. This is an area of Long-established woodland of plantation origin (LEPO). No areas of AWI of semi-natural origin are found within the CSAs. Approximately 1.19 ha of felling would be required to accommodate the development corridor for the UGC at the Rothes CSA, and felling out with the development corridor for the UGC would be necessary, totalling 15.24 ha. The management felling area would be replanted as part of the landowner felling license/Forest Plan conditions. No felling is required for installation of the UGC at the Blackhillock CSA.

[1] Rodwell, J.S. (Ed) et al. (1991 – 2000) British Plant Communities (5 Volumes). Cambridge University Press, Cambridge

[2] Rodwell, J.S. (2006) NVC Users' Handbook. ISBN 978 1 86107 574 1.

[3] Joint Nature Conservancy Council (2010) Handbook for Phase 1 Habitat Survey – a technique for environmental audit. JNCC, Peterborough

[4] SEPA (2017) Land Use Planning System Guidance Note 4 – Planning guidance on on-shore windfarm developments

[5] SEPA (2017) Land Use Planning System Guidance Note 31 – Guidance on Assessing the impacts of Development Proposals on Groundwater Abstractions and Groundwater Dependent Terrestrial Ecosystems.

[6] CIEEM (2018, updated September 2019). Guidelines for ecological impact assessment in the United Kingdom. Winchester. Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management

3.2.2 Within the Rothes CSA habitats are limited to coniferous woodland plantation (comprising 98 %) and a small section of wet modified bog at the eastern edge of the plantation woodland. The proposed cable route is located within the section of plantation woodland, no cable works will be undertaken within the area of wet modified bog.

3.2.3 Within the Blackhillock CSA improved grassland, cultivated/disturbed land – arable and semi-improved species poor grassland comprise 69 % of habitats, with the Blackhillock substation, coniferous plantation woodland, felled plantation woodland, scrub and semi-natural mixed woodland comprising the remaining 31 %. The proposed cable route is located within improved grassland fields and arable fields.

3.2.4 No non-native invasive species were identified within the CSAs.

3.2.5 No protected species signs were identified within the CSAs.

3.3 Potential Impacts

3.3.1 The potential effects which may arise from the UGC works relate principally to the construction phase. There are no anticipated effects on ecological receptors from the operational phase.

3.3.2 This assessment has considered the potential effects to protected species from disturbance and displacement. Based on the known environmental sensitivities, there are no anticipated effects on areas of GWDTE habitats, Annex I or other sensitive habitats as a result of the UGC works.

Embedded Mitigation

3.3.3 In the context of this chapter, embedded mitigation includes a range of environmental measures to avoid or reduce potential effects on nature conservation and biodiversity that have been incorporated into the UGC works from design stage through to operation.

Mitigation by Design

3.3.4 The routeing and alignment selection process for the UGC works has taken into consideration the potential for effects on ecological features, and for such effects to be avoided or minimised where possible.

Pre-Construction and Construction

3.3.5 This assessment has been carried out on the basis that all works would be carried out in accordance with industry good practice construction measures, guidance and legislation. Furthermore, the Applicant has developed a series of GEMPs and SPPs in agreement with statutory consultees, including SEPA and NatureScot. These can be found in **Appendix 3.1** and **Appendix 3.2.**

3.3.6 The appointed Principal Contractor would be committed to the implementation of a comprehensive and site-specific CEMP. This document would detail how the Principal Contractor would manage the works in accordance with all commitments and mitigation detailed in the EA Report, the Applicant's GEMPs and SPPs, statutory consents and authorisations, and industry good practice and guidance, including pollution prevention guidance. It would also detail measures to manage, control and monitor the potential effects of construction including noise, dust, waste, pollution and personnel / vehicular movements. Best practice pollution control measures, with reference to Guidance for Pollution Prevention (GPPs)[7] and COSHH guidelines[8], would be included in the CEMP. Particular reference would be made to managing handling, storage and use of hazardous chemicals and fuels used during the construction process. A detailed spill response plan would be developed as part of the CEMP and fully-briefed to all site operatives. An Ecological Management Plan (EMP) would also be included as part of the CEMP, which will include relevant information on habitats

[7] Guidance for Pollution Prevention (GPPs). NetRegs. Environmental guidance for your business in Northern Ireland and Scotland https://www.netregs.org.uk/environmental-topics/guidance-for-pollution-prevention-gpp-documents/

[8] Control of Substances Hazardous to Health (COSHH) https://www.hse.gov.uk/coshh/

and protected species local to the UGC works, requirements for pre-construction surveys and toolbox talks (TBTs), reference to relevant SPPs and information on licencing requirements and procedures.

3.3.7 Pre-construction surveys for protected species will be undertaken no more than 6 months in advance to identify any new ecological constraints and to ascertain the activity status of previously identified features within proximity of planned works.

3.3.8 Any micrositing of infrastructure within the defined LoD would be based on a review of existing ecological data and the completion of pre-construction surveys, to take into consideration the potential for direct encroachment onto protected species features. To ensure all reasonable precautions are taken to avoid negative effects on habitats, protected species and aquatic interests, a suitably qualified ECoW would be appointed prior to the commencement of construction to advise the Applicant and the Principal Contractor on all ecological matters. The ECoW would be required to be present onsite as appropriate during the construction phase and would carry out monitoring of works and briefings with regards to any ecological sensitivities to the relevant staff of the Principal Contractor and subcontractors.

3.4 Mitigation

3.4.1 The embedded mitigation within the UGC works includes implementation of the Applicant's GEMPs and SPPs, the development of a site-specific CEMP and the employment of a suitably qualified and experienced ECoW to undertake pre-construction surveys and to provide guidance and monitoring of ecological features throughout the construction phase. No significant effects to ecological receptors have been identified as part of this assessment, as such no additional mitigation further to those already described above are considered required.

3.5 Summary

3.5.1 The UGC works have been designed to avoid areas of sensitive habitats, being located in habitats of Less than Local value. No protected species shelters are present that could be affected by the UGC works. The construction of the UGC works is not considered likely to result in any significant effects on any valued ecological receptors.

3.5.2 Areas of habitat loss would be limited to felling of woodland areas required to facilitate construction access and to create the operational wayleave for the UGC. Temporary disturbance of habitats during the construction phase to install the cable would be minimised by adherence the site-specific CEMP, which would include detailed methods of soil management and reinstatement. An ECoW would be appointed to undertake pre-construction surveys for protected species and non-native invasive species, provide advice throughout construction and monitor compliance with environmental legislation and documentation (including GEMPs, SPPs and the CEMP).

4. ORNITHOLOGY

4.1 Overview

4.1.1 Please refer to **Chapter 6: Ornithology**.

4.1.2 Survey areas for each section of the UGC works encompass land within 250 m of the proposed cable routes, referred to as the Rothes Cable Survey Area, where the cable connects into the Rothes III Wind Farm on-site substation location, and the Blackhillock Cable Survey Area, where the cable would connect into the Blackhillock substation. Collectively both areas are referred to as Cable Survey Areas (CSAs).

4.1.3 Breeding bird , black grouse,capercaillie, and breeding raptor surveys were undertaken within the CSAs and appropriate buffer zones in 2021 as detailed in **Section 6.5** of **Chapter 6**. Timings and weather details for field surveys are included in **Appendix 6.1**.

4.1.4 The assessment of the significance of predicted impacts on ecological receptors was undertaken in accordance with the current guidance detailed by the CIEEM[9] and followed the methodology set out in **Chapter 6**.

4.2 Baseline Conditions

4.2.1 Two sites designated for nature conservation are found within 10 km of the UGC works – Gull Nest SSSI and Tips of Corsemaul and Tom Mor SPA and SSSI. Each designated site is described in **Table 6.5** of **Chapter 6** and displayed on **Figure 6.1**.

4.2.2 No black grouse, capercaillie or breeding raptors were recorded during surveys. Breeding bird surveys identified a territory of crossbill, a Schedule 1 species, within coniferous plantation woodland in the Rothes CSA.

4.2.3 Within the Blackhillock CSA, several territories of species of conservation concern were recorded including:

- Four skylark territories (red listed);
- Three yellowhammer territories (red listed); and
- One willow warbler territory (amber listed).

4.3 Potential Impacts

4.3.1 Based on the known environmental sensitivities, this assessment considers the following potential effects on ornithological receptors:

- damage to bird nests on or in the vicinity of the works;
- disturbance to the nests or young of species listed on Schedule 1 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act in the vicinity of works; and
- the permanent or temporary displacement of birds during construction which may result from noise, lighting or vehicular movements. This effect may include affecting breeding, roosting and foraging behaviour of raptors, waders and wildfowl.

4.3.2 The project construction method indicates that construction procedures would accommodate a number of measures designed to minimise impacts on ornithological receptors, including the development of a Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP) detailing measures to protect species and prevent pollution.

4.3.3 Breeding common gull are a qualifying feature of the Tips of Corsemaul and Tom Mor SPA and SSSI. Given that no gulls were recorded within the CSAs during surveys, potential effects on the SPA/SSSI are likely to be negligible.

[9] CIEEM (2018, updated September 2019). Guidelines for ecological impact assessment in the United Kingdom. Winchester. Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management

4.3.4 Golden plover is not a notified interest of Gull Nest SSSI, but they are recognised as an important bird found breeding within the designation. Given that no golden plover were recorded within the CSAs during surveys, potential effects on Gull Nest SSSI are likely to be negligible.

4.3.5 Crossbill are a Schedule 1 woodland species, an ornithological receptor of National (High) value. One breeding territory was identified during breeding bird surveys within the conifer plantation near the Rothes III Wind Farm on-site substation. Felling and construction activities related to the UGC works have the potential to impact nests of Crossbill, either through accidental destruction or disturbance. Crossbill nest early in the year, hatching chicks in February and March, but have been known to breed year-round when there are good cone crops available[10].

4.3.6 Several territories of breeding Red and Amber listed species were identified within the Blackhillock CSA. Red listed species are ornithological receptors of Local (Low) value. Felling for and construction of the UGC works may result in damage or disturbance to bird nests.

4.3.7 The Applicant has developed Species Protection Plans (SPPs) for breeding birds, as detailed in **Appendix 3.2,** these, together with the mitigation measures set out in Section 4.4 below would avoid any potential significant effects on breeding birds.

4.4 Mitigation

4.4.1 To limit and further minimise potential impacts on ornithological features within the CSAs, best practice mitigation measures as detailed below are proposed.

4.4.2 General mitigation measures:

- The Applicant has developed General Environmental Management Plans (GEMPs) and SPPs for construction works that may negatively impact upon breeding birds. The SPPs outline the procedures that must be followed where there is a potential for bird nests to be present. Each SPP outlines the responsibilities of SSEN Transmission and their Contractors, legislative protection for the bird species, best practice measures to follow and an approved methodology for carrying out certain mitigation activities. This suite of SPPs has been approved by NatureScot and would be adopted where relevant to the project. SSEN Transmission's SPPs are set out in **Appendix 3.2.**
- A CEMP would be developed by the successful Contractor detailing measures to manage, control and monitor the potential effects of noise, dust, litter, pollution and personnel / vehicular movements. Best practice pollution control measures, with reference to Guidance for Pollution Prevention (GPPs)[11] and COSHH guidelines[12], would be included in the CEMP. Particular reference would be made to managing handling, storage and use of hazardous chemicals and fuels used during the construction process. A detailed spill response plan would be developed as part of the CEMP and fully-briefed to all site operatives.
- An ECoW would be appointed, specifically to provide monitoring of construction activities relating to the installation of infrastructure. The ECoW would also identify and monitor sensitive receptors immediately prior to, during and immediately after the construction phase. The ECoW would have the authority to 'stop the job / activity' if a breach or potential breach of mitigation or legislation occurs.
- Pre-construction checks should be undertaken by a qualified ecologist / ornithologist to identify, and mitigate for, the presence of protected bird species and nests. Survey areas would be species specific and would include a buffer of 1 km from the RLB to search for breeding raptors, and 500 m for breeding waders and gulls. To avoid accidental destruction of bird nests, all nests within proximity to works would be identified, marked and made known to contractors prior to works commencing

[10] Summers, R. (2018) Foraging patterns of common crossbills (*Loxia curvirostra*) on spruces (*Picea spp.*) in Scotland. *Forestry* 91(4):444-450

[11] Guidance for Pollution Prevention (GPPs). NetRegs. Environmental guidance for your business in Northern Ireland and Scotland https://www.netregs.org.uk/environmental-topics/guidance-for-pollution-prevention-gpp-documents/

[12] Control of Substances Hazardous to Health (COSHH) https://www.hse.gov.uk/coshh/

- Should a nest of any bird species be located during the course of construction activities, works would be stopped within 30 m of the nest and advice sought from a qualified ecologist / ornithologist, and if necessary local NatureScot staff.

4.5 Summary

4.5.1 No significant effects (pre-mitigation) were identified. Nevertheless, good practice management measures have been identified to further avoid and reduce effects. The construction of the UGC is not considered likely to have a significant effect on any ornithological features of significance or conservation importance. Any temporary disturbance to species resulting from the construction phase would be mitigated for by employing best practice methods to minimise potential effects.

5. GEOLOGY, HYDROLOGY AND HYDROGEOLOGY

5.1 Overview

5.1.1 Please refer to **Chapter 7: Soils and Hydrology**.

5.2 Baseline Conditions

5.2.1 The existing soils, geology and hydrology (hydrology and hydrogeology) have been characterised as part of the EA. The Study Area considered in the EA included all elements of the proposed UGC works.

5.2.2 In summary, the EA has confirmed that there is one designated site with the study area: the River Spey Special Area of Conservation (SAC) and Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI). The SAC and SSSI is limited to the River Spey corridor and has been designated for Altantic salmon, freshwater pearl mussel, otter and sea lamprey. No part of the UGC works is located in the SSSI or SAC and thus no direct impact on the SSSI or SAC would occur.

5.2.3 The soils locally comprise peat (in the west) and mineral gleys (in the east). In the west the UGC is an area of commercial forestry which has resulted in the soils being locally drained to improve forest yield. Neither of the areas where UGCs are proposed are underlain by priority peatland.

5.2.4 The UGC is underlain by low grade metamorphic rocks (generally comprising psammites and semipelites). The superficial and solid geology is common regionally. The geology does not from an important groundwater aquifer, which is witnessed by the absence of many groundwater abstractions.

5.2.5 The UGCs are located within the River Spey surface water catchment (specifically the Rothes Burn sub catchment) to the west and the River Isla surface water catchment to the east. The UGCs also drain to the River Spey SAC and SSSI, River Spey Drinking Water Protected Area (DWPA) and River Isla DWPA. No private or licensed water supplies have been recorded within 250 m of the UGCs.

5.2.6 Areas of potential flood risk are typically restricted to watercourse corridors and do not extend far from watercourse channels. SEPA flood maps indicate that the UGC works are not located within an area noted to be at flood risk.

5.3 Application of Best Practice

5.3.1 The Applicant has established best practice construction techniques and procedures that have been agreed with statutory consultees, including SEPA and NatureScot. These are set out within Applicant's General Environmental Management Plans (GEMP) (see **Appendix 3.1**). Elements of the UGCs would be constructed in accordance with these plans.

5.3.2 In addition, the works would also be undertaken in accordance with good practice guidance, including UK and Scottish guidance within the following documents:

- Control of Water Pollution from Construction Sites – Guide to Good Practice, CIRIA 2002;
- Environmental Good Practice on Site C741, CIRIA 2015;
- Engineering in the Water Environment: Good Practice Guide – Sediment Management, SEPA, June 2010; and
- The Water Environment (Controlled Activities) (Scotland) Regulations 2011 (as amended) – A Practical Guide (Version 8.3), SEPA, February 2019.

5.3.3 The Pollution Prevention Guidelines (PPGs) (and replacement Guidance for Pollution Prevention (GPPs)) identified below are the principal guidance documents for preventing water pollution and erosion from construction activities and are

jointly produced by SEPA and the Environment and Heritage Service in Northern Ireland. The guidelines are available via NetReg's website[13] and would also be used and applied during the UGC works:

- GPP01 Understanding your environmental responsibilities – good environmental practices;
- GPP02 Above Ground Oil Storage Tanks;
- PPG03 Use and Design of Oil Separators in Surface Water Drainage Systems;
- GPP05 Works and maintenance in or near water;
- PPG06 Working at Construction and Demolition Sites;
- GPP08 Safe Storage and Disposal of used oils;
- GPP13 Vehicle Washing and Cleansing;
- PPG18 Managing fire water and major spillages;
- GPP21 Pollution Incident Response Planning; and
- GPP22 Dealing with Spills.

5.3.4 The best practice guidance would ensure that the UGCs would not alter surface water flow paths, increase the rate or volume of surface water runoff, or impair water quality. This would also safeguard the River Spey SSSI, SAC and DWPA, and the River Isla DWPA. Notwithstanding this, a monitoring programme is proposed to monitor water quality in principal watercourses that are potentially at risk from the UGC without the adherence of best practice.

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6. CULTURAL HERITAGE

6.1 Overview

6.1.1 Please refer to **Chapter 8: Cultural Heritage**.

6.2 Direct Impacts

6.2.1 Direct (physical) effects on cultural heritage assets are most likely to arise from ground-disturbing activities that occur during UGC construction works, which may damage, and possibly destroy, cultural heritage remains. Direct effects may also occur by above-ground disturbance, for example as a result of vehicle movement over cultural heritage features, or storage of construction materials upon them. Direct effects on cultural heritage assets are normally adverse, permanent, and irreversible.

6.2.2 The UGCs would be installed through open-cut trench techniques between the new cable sealing end structures and the new and existing substations. Where the cables are in open-cut trenches, they have the potential to damage or destroy cultural heritage remains.

6.2.3 Installation of the 132 kV UGCs would have no adverse effect on any recorded cultural heritage assets. No cultural heritage assets are located along the UGCs or within the Limit of Deviation (LoD).

6.2.4 Any ground-breaking activities associated with the UGCs have the potential to disturb or destroy any buried, hitherto unrecorded buried archaeological remains present within affected areas. It has been established that there is a low probability for buried remains to survive within the UGC areas.

6.3 Mitigation

6.3.1 Any requirements for archaeological investigations or watching briefs for the UGCs within previously undisturbed ground would be agreed in pre-construction phase consultations with Aberdeenshire Council Archaeology Service (ACAS), who are the historic environment advisors to Moray Council and an appropriate strategy would be set out in a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI).

6.3.2 Formal arrangements would be put in place for any unforeseen archaeological discoveries made by the Contractor to be reported to a retained professional archaeological organisation. These arrangements would require any unexpected discoveries to be assessed by a retained, professional archaeological advisor and dealt with appropriately, and would make clear the legal responsibilities placed upon those who make unexpected discoveries of archaeological significance. These arrangements would be included in the CEMP for the construction project and would be explained in toolbox talks presented by the retained archaeological organisation.

7. FORESTRY

7.1 Overview

7.1.1 Please refer to **Chapter 9: Forestry.** Please also see **Appendix 1.1 – Figure 2 – UGC Forest Felling Design.**

7.1.2 This section identifies and assesses the likely potential forestry effects resulting from the UGC during construction and operational periods. The likely effects on forestry have been appraised based upon the results of desk study and field reports to inform the forestry baseline.

7.1.3 The forestry effects as a result of the UGC sections of the Proposed Development are concentrated at the western end of the connection only, where felling would be required within Rothes Estates Forest, where there is primarily productive conifer forests. The UGC section to the east, on final approach to Blackhillock substation would have no forestry effects.

7.1.4 The forestry study area comprises a maximum 30 m wide corridor associated with the proposed UGCs within the forested area near Rothes III Wind Farm on-site substation located at OS grid reference 322434,847882. This is the only forestry study area associated with the UGC.

7.1.5 This assessment is accompanied by **Appendix 1.1 – Figure 2 – UGC Forest Felling Design.** .

7.2 Methodology

7.2.1 Woodland assessment through desk study specifically included:

- Scottish Forestry Map Viewer[14], Scottish Forestry is the Scottish Government agency responsible for forestry policy, support and regulation, the map viewer enables view of what forest management plans or felling approvals are in place or have now expired.

- The Land Information Search (LIS)[15] is a map based tool that allows search for data such as Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) and Native Woodland that may fall within the area of interest.

7.2.2 Additional desk study information was provided in the form of the Rothes Estates shapefiles, as an extract of the Forest Plan. Site walkover information and photographic records were provided separately.

7.3 Baseline

7.3.1 The UGC within the forestry study area lies within a privately owned, mainly productive conifer forest. Rothes Estate Forest has a forest plan covering 2,883.90 ha and has undergone significant restructuring through felling and replanting to date. The woodland is primarily productive mixed conifer with Sitka spruce being the main component species.

7.3.2 The compartment affected by the UGC is mature, comprised of Sitka Spruce, of between 36 and 38 years old. The compartment is not uniform, with some clearly checked areas.

7.4 Potential Effects

Construction Phase

7.4.1 To enable construction to take place there would be a requirement to remove trees where present within the operational corridor for the UGC.

[14] Scottish Forestry (2022). *Scottish Forestry Map Viewer*. Online source available at: https://scottishforestry.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=0d6125cfe892439ab0e5d0b74d9acc18, [accessed 03/01/2023]

[15] Scottish Government (2014). *Land Information Search*. Online source available at: https://map.environment.gov.scot/LIS_Agri/Agri.html , [accessed at 05/01/2023]

7.4.2 The proposed felling would total an area of 1.19 ha. This would be treated as permanent woodland loss. The timber felling operations would be anticipated to release approximately 300 Tonnes of material.

7.4.3 To avoid any wind throw as a result of cutting into windfirm edges a further management felling out with the operational corridor for the UGC would be necessary, totalling 15.24 ha. The management felling area would be replanted as part of the landowner felling license/Forest Plan conditions.

7.4.4 The tree removal operation would be mindful of the SEPA guidance "Use of Trees Cleared to Facilitate Development on Afforested Land"[16].

Operational Phase

7.4.5 During the operational phase there would be no further tree felling operations other than to maintain an open operational corridor.

7.5 Mitigation

7.5.1 Where any felling is required for the installation of the UGC, compensatory planting is proposed to mitigate for the loss of woodland areas. Tree species planted would be a mix of native broadleaved and conifer species, to enhance the composition of woodland around the UGC.

7.5.2 Compensatory planting would take up to five years to establish, however once it does, no significant long-term residual effects are predicted. This area was also planned for restructuring as part of the Rothes III Wind Farm development, and hence the effects are negligible.

7.6 Residual Effects

7.6.1 With satisfactory compensatory planting being established there would be no significant long-term effects in terms of permanent woodland loss anticipated.

7.7 Conclusion

7.7.1 To enable the construction and operation of the UGC, it is necessary to fell 1.19 ha of conifer planation around the areas of Rothes III Wind Farm on-site substation and the CSE structure approximately 450 m to the southeast of it. A further 15.24 ha of felling would be required to see the operational corridor to a wind firm edge. The UGC section to the east, on final approach to Blackhillock substation would have no forestry effects.

7.7.2 This felled area would be considered to be permanent woodland loss. However, there is a commitment to plant and maintain an area matching the woodland loss with compensatory planting therefore, when established, there is no net loss in woodland cover.

[16] SEPA(2014). *Use of Trees Cleared to Facilitate Development on Afforested Land*. Online source available at: https://www.sepa.org.uk/media/143799/use_of_trees_cleared_to_facilitate_development_on_afforested_land_sepa_snh_fcs_guidance-_april_2014.pdf#:~:text=1.1%20This%20is%20joint%20guidance%20from%20the%20Scottish,guidance%20as%20revised%20and%20this%20note%20itself%20withdrawn., [accessed 13/01/2023]

8. SCHEDULE OF MITIGATION

8.1 Schedule of Mitigation

8.1.1 **Table 8-1** provides a summary of those mitigation measures identified throughout this Appendix related to the UGC elements of the Proposed Grid Connection to minimise or offset the potential effects on the receiving environment. Mitigation measures specific to the OHL elements are outlined within **Chapter 10** of the EA Report, where relevant.

Table 8-1: Schedule of Mitigation Measures

Topic	Issue	Mitigation Reference	Mitigation / Monitoring Measure	Responsibility
General	Working Hours	G1	Construction activities would in general be undertaken during daytime periods only. This would involve work between approximately 07:00 to 19:00 in the summer and 07:30 to 17:00 (or as daylight allows) in the winter, seven days a week. Any variation in these working hours would be agreed in advance with Moray Council.	Contractor
	Environmental Management	G2	The development and implementation of a site-specific Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP). This document will detail how the Principal Contractor would manage the site in accordance with all commitments and mitigation detailed in the EA Report, statutory consents and authorisations, industry best practise and guidance. The CEMP will also reference General Environmental Management Plans (GEMPs) and Species Protection Plans (SPPs), which have been developed by SSEN Transmission and are included in **Appendix 3.1** and **Appendix 3.2** of this EA Report. The implementation of the CEMP will be managed on site by a suitably qualified and experienced Environmental Clerk of Works (ECoW), with support from other environmental professionals as required.	Contractor / SSEN Transmission
	Traffic Management	G3	The development and implementation of a site-specific Construction Traffic Management Plan (CTMP). To address potential impacts from construction traffic and describe all mitigation and signage measures that are proposed on public road accesses, a CTMP will be prepared pre-construction in consultation with Moray Council and Transport Scotland. The CTMP implemented for the works would be reviewed throughout the project and updated as necessary.	Contractor
		G4	Construction access would utilise existing forestry or estate tracks where possible.	Contractor
		G5	Access along or crossing Core Paths, or any recreational routes, would be managed via an Outdoor Access Plan which would form part of the CTMP.	Contractor
Landscape and Visual	Mitigation of Adverse Landscape and Visual Effects	LV1	General best practice measures during construction, and a high standard of reinstatement as will be set out in the CEMP will assist in minimising the degree of landscape and visual effects.	Contractor / SSEN Transmission
	Site Reinstatement	LV2	it will be important to reinstate any UGC works areas in accordance with best practice. For operational purposes, the UGCs may require jointing positions at regular intervals along the cable alignment, comprising groups of four sub-surface	Contractor / SSEN Transmission

			chambers, which would be protected by stock proof fence, or above ground junction boxes where a high or medium risk of flooding in underground chambers is possible. In order to minimise the potential landscape and visual effects of junction boxes and underground jointing bays, the following mitigation measures would be adopted where possible: • Colouring of junction boxes would be carefully considered. A dark brown colour is recommended for boxes within a moorland or forest backdrop when seen from the road or paths; • Soil and turves would be carefully replaced around chamber covers or junction boxes and surface areas of concrete would be avoided as far as possible, to reduce the visual footprint of these areas; and • Consideration would be given to the detailing around each group of junction boxes to reduce their visual prominence. This may include strategic landform and placement of turves or boulders as appropriate to disguise where possible, the foot of boxes or platform areas for underground chamber covers.	
	Removal of Vegetation	LV3	Construction of the UGC will involve tree felling. Felling of trees near receptor locations will be minimised as far as practicable.	Contractor
Ecology	Pre-Construction and Construction	E1	All works will be carried out in accordance with industry good practice construction measures, guidance and legislation as well as the use of GEMPs and SPPs (see Appendix 3.1 and Appendix 3.2), developed in agreement with statutory consultees.	Contractor/ECoW
		E2	Pre-construction surveys for protected species will be undertaken no more than 6 months in advance to identify any new ecological constraints and to ascertain the activity status of previously identified features within proximity of planned works.	Contractor
	Environmental Clerk of Works	E3	A suitably qualified ECoW will be appointed prior to the commencement of construction to advise on all ecological matters. The ECoW will be required to be present onsite as appropriate during the construction phase and will carry out monitoring of works and briefings with regards to any ecological sensitivities to the relevant staff of the Principal Contractor and subcontractors.	Contractor/ECoW

		E4	A site based ECoW will be appointed to oversee environmental management during the construction of the Proposed Development and implement commitments made in site specific CEMP, as well as relevant GEMPs and SPPs (see Appendix 3.1 and Appendix 3.2) Toolbox Talks (TBTs) will be provided by the ECoW to site personnel on relevant site sensitivities, legislation and guidance associated with the sensitivity and good practice guidance. TBTs will also cover appropriate information with reference to any mitigation measures in place for protected species or habitats. The ECoW will have the authority to 'stop the job / activity' if a breach or potential breach of mitigation or legislation occurs.	Contractor/ECoW
Ornithology	Protected Species Birds	O1	Pre-construction checks should be undertaken by a qualified ecologist/ornithologist to identify, and mitigate for, the presence of protected bird species and nests as well as for breeding birds. Survey areas will be species specific and will include a buffer of 1km from the RLB to search for breeding raptors, and 500 m for breeding waders and gulls. To avoid accidental destruction of bird nests, all nests within proximity to works will be identified, marked and made known to contractors prior to works commencing.	SSEN Transmission / ECoW
		O2	Should a nest of any bird species be located during the course of construction activities, works will be stopped within 30 m of the nest and advice sought from a qualified ecologist / ornithologist, and if necessary local Nature Scot staff.	Contractor/ECoW
		O3	Best practise measures outlined in the project specific GEMP and SPP's must be followed.	Contractor/ECoW/SSEN Transmission
		O4	Construction works would take place over a period of approximately 22 months and therefore it is not possible for all works to be undertaken out with the breeding bird season (late March to end of July inclusive). To avoid delays to construction, it is advised that the access track upgrade works which fall within the disturbance zone for the nest is undertaken out with the breeding season.	Contractor
Geology, Water and Soils	Good Practice Guidance	GWS1	The UGC will be constructed in accordance with relevant technical guidance and established best practice construction techniques and procedures agreed with statutory consultees, including SEPA and NatureScot, as set out within SSEN Transmission's GEMPs (see **Appendix 3.1** of the EA Report).	Contractor
	Soils and Hydrology	GWS2	The CEMP will outline measures to ensure that the works minimise the risk to soils, peat, geology, groundwater, surface water and licensed water uses. It will include a project specific drainage plan and materials (soils and peat) management plan. The	Contractor

			drainage plan would detail the passive measures that would be deployed to treat both the quality and quantity of water shed from the works area in accordance with Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS) techniques. The materials management plan will show how soils and peat arisings will be safeguarded, managed and used in restoration on site.	
	Surface Water and Ground Water Quality	GWS3	The CEMP, developed prior to commencement of any construction work, will outline measures to ensure that the works minimise the risk to both groundwater and surface water. The following will be included within the CEMP: • During construction there would be heavy plant and machinery required and as a result it is appropriate to adopt best working practices and measures to protect the water environment, including those set out in Pollution Prevention Guidance (GPP01); • In accordance with GPP02 any above ground on-site fuel and chemical storage would be bunded; • Emergency spill response kits would be maintained during the construction works (GPP21); • A vehicle management system would be put in place wherever possible to reduce the potential conflicts between vehicles and thereby reduce the risk of collision (GPP21); • Suitable access routes would be chosen which minimise the potential requirement for either new temporary access tracks or for tracking across open land which could contribute to the generation of suspended solids; • A speed limit would be used to reduce the likelihood and significance of any collisions; • Plant nappies would be places under stationary vehicles which could potentially leak fuel / oils; • Any temporary construction / storage compounds required would be located remote from any sensitive surface water receptors and will be constructed to manage surface water runoff in accordance with best practice; • Any water contaminated with silt or chemicals would not be discharged directly or indirectly to a watercourse without prior treatment; • Water for temporary site welfare facilities would either be brought to site or a local surface water or groundwater abstraction would be identified. Any water	Contractor

			abstraction would be made in accordance with the General Binding Rule or an authorisation would be obtained from SEPA in accordance with the Controlled Activity Regulations (CAR); and Foul water would either be collected in a tank and collected for offsite disposal at an appropriately licensed facility or discharge will be to a septic tank or soakaway in accordance with the CAR.	
	Surface Water and Ground Water Quality Construction Phase Impacts	GWS4	In general, proposed construction site access would be taken via the existing public road network and would make use of existing forest and estate tracks as far as practicable. For temporary watercourse crossings less than 2m wide, CAR General Binding Rules will be adhered to. Bog mats, or similar, would be positioned across the watercourse to enable access, where necessary, side rails will be installed with silt mitigation at either end and across if required to ensure that silt impacts from vehicles crossing are controlled at all times. Crossings will be cleaned at the end of the day if required. All proposed crossing locations and methodologies would be reviewed and approved by the ECoW, prior to any works being undertaken.	Contractor/ECoW
	Peat	GWS5	A limit of deviation (LoD) is proposed so that at the time of construction works can be micro-sited to avoid deep peat. Further site investigation would be undertaken as part of the detailed site design and additional peat depth data collected and used to update the peat depth plan, peat management proposals and ensure works are not undertaken in areas of potential high peat slide hazard risk. This would be secured pre-commencement planning condition and form part of the site-specific CEMP.	Contractor
		GWS6	Earthworks would be localised and minimised as far as practicable, and the following best practise measures will be detailed in the site CEMP in order to safeguard peat: • Peat excavation to form access tracks would be minimised, utilising existing roads where appropriate, low loading bearing access vehicles would be used, and where required temporary portable tracking would be deployed, to safeguard peat below the access routes; • Works would be undertaken in accordance with SSEN Transmission's GEMPs which will ensure peat stripping, excavation and storage is kept to an absolute minimum; and Any temporary peat storage will be located so that peat slide risk is not increased and safeguards will be deployed in accordance with SSEN Transmission's GEMP, for example, to ensure existing hydrological conditions are maintained and drying of the peat does not occur.	SSEN Transmission/Contractor

		GWS7	Soils and turves would be handled sensitively to avoid cross contamination between distinct horizons and to ensure re-use potential is maximised. Any excess peat from excavation works, that cannot be used in reinstatement, would be used locally for peat habitat enhancement and restoration under the direction of the site ECoW.	Contractor / ECoW
		GWS8	The peat slide risk assessment would be revised prior to construction and incorporate the results of additional site investigation. The risk assessment would also consider the proposed access routes and track design. Micro-siting would be used to locate the proposed infrastructure in area sof least peat slide risk and mitigation measures to prevent peat slide would be identified if required. The updated peat slide risk assessment would form part of the CEMP that would be prepared by the Principal Contractor and be agreed with SEPA and MC prior to construction commencing.	Contractor
	Soils and Geology	GWS9	The following best practice measures would be detailed in the site CEMP in order to safeguard soils: • any soils temporary stockpiled would be managed in accordance with best practice so that their value is not degraded; • works would be scheduled to avoid, when possible, periods of heavy rain and vehicular movement shall be planned to avoid saturated ground conditions; • soils would be protected from temporary heavy vehicular movement through placement of ground protection mats or above ground tracks (underlain by a geotextile); • stationary plant left for long periods would be parked on formal track / compounds so as to avoid potential of soil compaction; • all temporary tracks would be removed upon completion of works; and localised measures including silt fencing would be used to manage runoff shed from areas where soils are disrupted so as not to locally impair water resources and protect sensitive receptors.	SSEN Transmission / Contractor
	Surface Water and Groundwater Quality	GWS10	Works would be undertaken in accordance with the GEMPs and relevant technical guidance, PPG / GPPs and other codes of best practise, to limit the potential for contamination of both ground and surface waters. In addition, a site-specific CEMP would be prepared by the Principal Contractor and include a surface and groundwater quality management plan. These measures should significantly reduce	Contractor

			the likelihood of pollutants, including suspended solids, being discharged to nearby watercourses or groundwater.	
	Flood Risk	GWS11	During construction the efficacy of existing track side drains would be subject to routine inspection and as required blockages that might impede water flow, and increase flood risk, would be removed.	Contractor
		GWS13	A project specific construction method statement will be developed which will identify works which will occur in the published floodplain. The method statement will specify that no stockpiling of materials will occur in these extents and will provide a procedure for checking SEPAs flood warning system so that all works can cease and contractors and their equipment removed from the floodplain before a flood event occurs.	Contractor
	Private Water Supplies, Licenced Abstractions and DWPA	GWS14	Site specific measures will be adopted to ensure that the quality and quantity of water to the water supplies is not impaired, including measures such as the use of existing tracks and temporary tracks upstream of the PWS and licensed abstractions would be kept to a minimum and no fuel storage or welfare facilities would be located upstream of the abstraction. A detailed description of the safeguards would be given in the site CEMP which would be prepared by the Principle Contractor and agreed with SEPA and Moray Council prior to construction commencing.	Contractor
Cultural Heritage	Unforeseen Archaeological Discoveries during construction works	CH1	Monitoring of groundworks would also be carried out at appropriate points along the alignment where there is greater potential for buried remains to survive. Any requirements for archaeological investigations or watching briefs within previously undisturbed ground along the UGC alignment would be agreed in pre-construction phase consultations with The Highland Council and an appropriate strategy set out in a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) as appropriate.	Contractor / Archaeologist
Forestry	Good Practice Measures	F1	Good practice measures have been incorporated into the environmental management controls, including: • Adherence to Forestry Commission (Scottish Forestry) Guidelines e.g., to ensure protection and enhancement of the water environment; and • Implementation of tree harvesting and extraction methods to ensure minimisation of soil disturbance and compaction.	Contractor
		F2	All woodland removal operations contracted by the Applicant would adhere to the UKFS.	Contractor

		F3	The Applicant is committed to meeting the Scottish Government's Control of Woodland Removal Policy (CoWRP) objective of no net loss of woodland for the Proposed Development. On this basis the Applicant would replant the area quantity (hectares) of woodland removed, which is a total of 54.67 ha for the Proposed Development. This would be achieved in the term of Compensatory Planting Scheme agreements with landowners within the regional land boundary of the Local Authority, where the Proposed Development is geographically located. The **Appendix 9.2** Compensatory Planting Management Strategy provides further details to this mitigation method.	SSEN Transmission / Contractor
	Construction Phase	F4	Compensatory planting (CP) is proposed to mitigate the impact of cumulative loss of woodland area in line with Scotland's Control of Woodland Removal policy, which requires all areas of woodland lost to development to be offset with CP. The **Appendix 9.2** Compensatory Planting Management Strategy provides further details to this mitigation method.	Contractor / SSEN Transmission
		F5	SSEN Transmission has committed to the development of woodland reports for each forest ownership (see **Appendix 9.1**). These aim to reduce the risk of future wind throw by identifying felling to stable forest edges (outside of the operational corridor). The woodland reports would also include, but are not limited to seeking to agree a forest landscape design following good practice as defined by Forestry Commission Guidance (2014)[17] .	Contractor / SSEN Transmission

[17] Forestry Commission, Practice guide, Design techniques for forest management planning https://forestry.gov.scot/publications/106-design-techniques-for-forest-management-planning/viewdocument/106 Visited 19/08/2022

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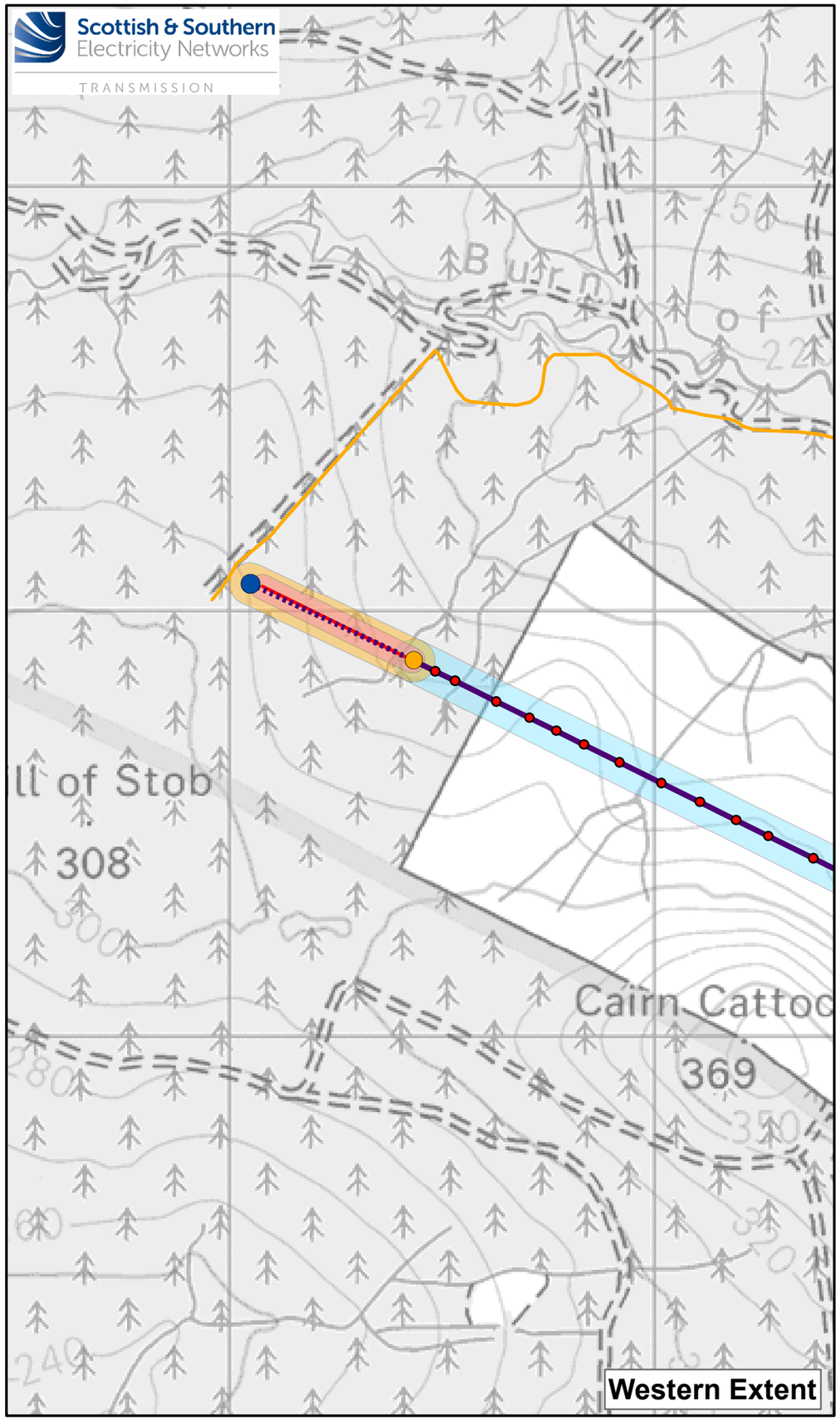
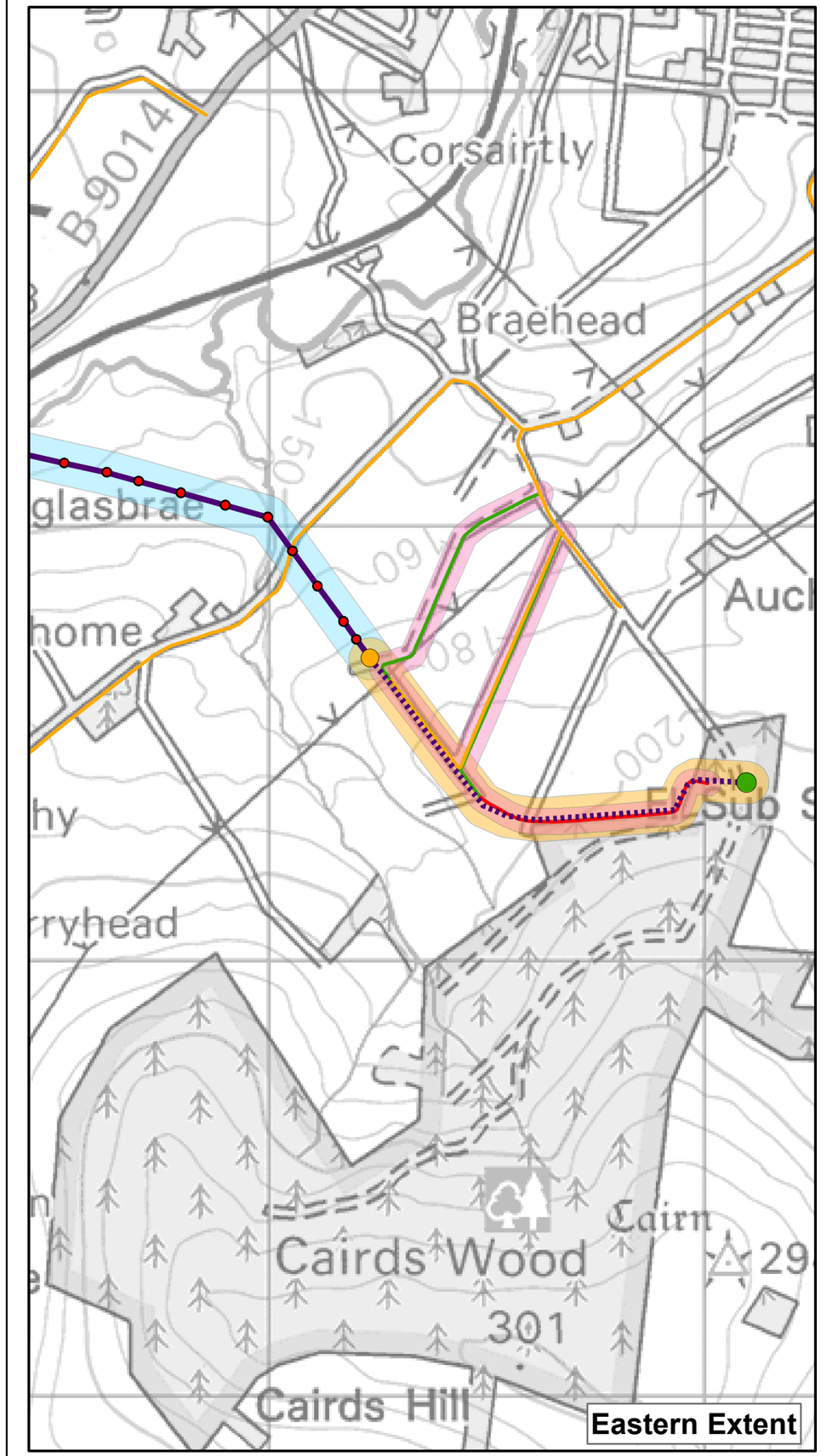
TRANSMISSION





Legend

- Consented Rothes III Wind Farm On-Site Substation
- Blackhillock Substation
- Bellmouth Junction

Underground Cable Works (Permitted Development)

- Proposed Underground Cable
- 100m Limit of Deviation (LOD) for Proposed Underground Cable (50m either side of UGC alignment)

Overhead Line Works (Section 37 Electricity Act 1989)

- Proposed Pole Location
- Proposed Overhead Line
- 100m Limit of Deviation (LOD) for Proposed Overhead Line (50 m either side of OHL alignment)
- Existing Access
- New Access
- Proposed Cable Sealing End (CSE)

N

0 0.25 0.5 km

Scale - 1:12,000 @ A3

Project No:	LT122
Project:	Elchies (Rothes III) Wind Farm Grid Connection
Title:	Appendix 1.1 - Figure 1 - Proposed Underground Cable
Drawn by:	KM
Date:	28/02/2023
Drawing:	119012-D-A1.1 - 1.0.0

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Track
Track
Track
Stripe of Bawdandrew
Meikle Bawd
307m
Hill of Stob

Proposed Cable Route
New Access
Management felling
Conifer - Operational Corridor

N
0 0.1 0.2 km
Scale - 1:4,500 @ A3

Project No: LT000121/122

Project: Elchies (Rothes III) Wind Farm
Grid Connection

Title: Appendix 1.2 -
Figure 2 – UGC Forest Felling Design

Drawn by: IF Date: 24/02/2023

Drawing: LT000121_WAY_008