

CONTENTS

16.	SUMMARY OF EFFECTS	16-1
16.1	Introduction	16-1
16.2	Summary of Likely Significant Effects	16-1

16. SUMMARY OF EFFECTS

16.1 Introduction

- 16.1.1 The findings of the environmental impact assessment (EIA) for the Proposed Development are presented within the technical assessments contained within Volume 2 of this EIA Report. The significance of these effects has been assessed using criteria defined in the topic chapters. Unless stated otherwise in the technical assessments, the significance of effects has been categorised as **Major**, **Moderate**, **Minor** or **Negligible**, with effects assessed as being of **Major** or **Moderate** considered to be significant effects in the context of the Town and Country Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) (Scotland) Regulations 2017²⁰⁶ ('the EIA Regulations').
- 16.1.2 Mitigation measures have been identified to prevent, reduce or remedy any potentially significant adverse environmental effects identified where practicable, beyond that already taken into account as normal good practice (i.e. embedded mitigation) (e.g. the Construction Environment Management Plan (CEMP)). Such measures will be implemented during detailed design, construction and/or operation of the Proposed Development. Each technical chapter of this EIA Report details the measures recommended to mitigate any identified significant effect, and a summary of the recommended mitigation measures is provided in **Volume 2, Chapter 17 Schedule of Environmental Mitigation**. Any remaining effects following implementation of available mitigation measures are known as 'residual effects'.
- 16.1.3 The purpose of this chapter is to provide a summary of the predicted likely significant environmental effects identified within **Volume 2**.

16.2 Summary of Likely Significant Effects

- 16.2.1 **Table 16-1** summarises the predicted likely significant effects as a result of the Proposed Development. Note, the table only includes receptors where likely significant effects are predicted pre-additional mitigation, for example, the assessment identified that there would be no likely significant effects to traffic and transport receptors during construction or operation of the Proposed Development, so therefore this technical topic has not been included in the table.

²⁰⁶ Town and Country Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) (Scotland) Regulations 2017. Available at: <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ssi/2017/102/contents/made>.

Table 16-1 Likely Significant Effects

Topic / Receptors	Effect Significance (Pre- Additional Mitigation)	Additional Mitigation	Residual Effects and Significance (Post Mitigation)
Landscape and Visual Impacts			
Construction – Landscape Character			
Local Landscape Character Subtype: Rural	<p>Major to Moderate Adverse (significant) – local scale (considered at a scale of a few hundred metres)</p> <p>Moderate to Minor Adverse (significant to not significant) – at a wider scale, in the order of 2 km</p>	<p>The majority of landscape and visual mitigation has been embedded into the design, as shown on Volume 3, Figure 8.5 Illustrative Landscape Masterplan and described in Volume 2, Chapter 8, Section 8.7. This includes measures to be included in the Construction Environment Management Plan (CEMP) to be produced by the Principal Contractor. The landscape mitigation commitments are set out in Volume 2, Chapter 8, Table 8-8 Landscape Mitigation Measures.</p>	<p>Major to Moderate Adverse (significant) – local scale (considered at a scale of a few hundred metres)</p> <p>Moderate to Minor Adverse (significant to not significant) – at a wider scale, in the order of 2 km.</p>
Construction – Visual Receptors			
Residential receptors: would have views of the construction works, including properties located at Flushing, Bridge of Faichfield, Parkhill, Toddlehills, Mains of Kinmundy, Drums Farm and North Linshart, southern edge of Longside, Auchlea, Mains of Buthlaw, Willowbank, Cadgerhill and Nether Kinmundy.	<p>Major to Moderate Adverse (significant) temporary effect</p>	<p>The majority of landscape and visual mitigation has been embedded into the design, as shown on Volume 3, Figure 8.5 Illustrative Landscape Masterplan and described in Volume 2, Chapter 8, Section 8.7. This includes measures to be included in the Construction Environment Management Plan (CEMP) to be produced by the Principal Contractor. The landscape mitigation commitments are set out in Volume 2, Chapter 8, Table 8-8 Landscape Mitigation Measures.</p>	<p>Major to Moderate Adverse (significant) temporary effect</p>
Recreational and visitor receptors: Users of the Formantine and Buchan Way and Core Path 208.01 at Longside	<p>Formantine and Buchan Way: Moderate Adverse (significant) temporary effect</p> <p>Core Path 208.01: Major Adverse (significant) temporary effect</p>		

Topic / Receptors	Effect Significance (Pre- Additional Mitigation)	Additional Mitigation	Residual Effects and Significance (Post Mitigation)
Transport receptors: Users of the A950 and minor roads	A950: Major Adverse (significant) temporary effect Minor roads: Major Adverse (significant) to Negligible (not significant) temporary effect		A950: Major Adverse (significant) temporary effect Minor roads: Major Adverse (significant) to Negligible (not significant) temporary effect
Operation – Landscape Character			
Local Landscape Character Subtype: Rural	Major to Moderate Adverse (significant) – very local scale (up to 1 km) permanent effect Moderate Adverse (significant) – at a local scale (in the order of 2 km) permanent effect	The majority of landscape and visual mitigation has been embedded into the design, as shown on Volume 3, Figure 8.5 Illustrative Landscape Masterplan and described in Volume 2, Chapter 8, Section 8.7 . Landscape mitigation commitments are set out in Volume 2, Chapter 8, Table 8-8 Landscape Mitigation Measures .	Major to Moderate Adverse (significant) – very local scale (considered at a scale of up to 1 km) permanent effect Moderate Adverse (significant) – at a local scale (in the order of 2 km) permanent effect
Operation – Visual Receptors			
Residential receptors: 22 properties within 1 km of the Proposed Development have significant effects	Permanent Major Adverse (significant) effect to one property at Year 15. Permanent Moderate Adverse (significant) effect to 21 residential receptors at Year 15.	The majority of landscape and visual mitigation has been embedded into the design, as shown on Volume 3, Figure 8.5 Illustrative Landscape Masterplan and described in Volume 2, Chapter 8, Section 8.7	Permanent Major Adverse (significant) effect to one property at Year 15. Permanent Moderate Adverse (significant) effect to 21 residential receptors at Year 15.
Recreational and visitor receptors: Users of the Formantine and Buchan Way Core Path 208.01 at Longside	Formantine and Buchan Way: Year 1: Moderate Adverse (significant) , Year 15: Negligible Adverse (not significant) permanent effect Core Path 208.01 at Longside: Year 1: Major Adverse (significant) , Year 15: Moderate Adverse (significant) permanent effect	The landscape mitigation commitments are set out in Volume 2, Chapter 8, Table 8-8 Landscape Mitigation Measures	Formantine and Buchan Way: Year 1: Moderate Adverse (significant) , Year 15: Negligible Adverse (not significant) permanent effect Core Path 208.01 at Longside: Year 1: Major Adverse (significant) , Year 15: Moderate Adverse (significant) permanent effect

Topic / Receptors	Effect Significance (Pre- Additional Mitigation)	Additional Mitigation	Residual Effects and Significance (Post Mitigation)
<p>Transport receptors: Users of the A950 and minor roads</p>	<p>A950: Year 1: Major Adverse (significant), Year 15: Minor to Moderate Adverse (not significant to significant) permanent effect Minor roads: Year 1: Moderate Adverse (significant) to Minor Adverse (not significant) Year 15: by year 15 the majority of effects would reduce to not significant as planting establishes. However, some significant effects would remain permanently</p>		<p>A950: Year 1: Major Adverse (significant), Year 15: Minor to Moderate Adverse (not significant to significant) permanent effect Minor roads: Year 1: Moderate Adverse (significant) to Minor Adverse (not significant) Year 15: by year 15 the majority of effects would reduce to not significant as planting establishes. However, some significant effects would remain permanently</p>
Cumulative – Landscape Character			
<p>Coastal Agricultural Plain – Aberdeenshire (LCT 17)</p>	<p>Netherton/Peterhead 400 kV OHL Diversion and Repurposing and Beauly to Blackhillock to New Deer to Peterhead 400 kV OHL: Moderate to Minor Adverse (significant), during construction and operation</p>	<p>No additional mitigation is proposed.</p>	<p>Netherton/Peterhead 400 kV OHL Diversion and Repurposing and Beauly to Blackhillock to New Deer to Peterhead 400 kV OHL: Moderate to Minor Adverse (significant), during construction and operation</p>
<p>Local Landscape Character Subtype: Rural</p>	<p>Netherton/Peterhead 400 kV OHL Diversion and Repurposing and Beauly to Blackhillock to New Deer to Peterhead 400 kV OHL: Moderate to Minor Adverse (significant), during construction and operation</p>	<p>No additional mitigation is proposed.</p>	<p>Netherton/Peterhead 400 kV OHL Diversion and Repurposing and Beauly to Blackhillock to New Deer to Peterhead 400 kV OHL: Moderate to Minor Adverse (significant), during construction and operation</p>

Topic / Receptors	Effect Significance (Pre- Additional Mitigation)	Additional Mitigation	Residual Effects and Significance (Post Mitigation)
Cumulative – Visual Amenity			
Visual Amenity Receptors	Spittal to Peterhead HVDC UGC and Eastern Green Link 3 (EGL3) HVDC UGC: Major Adverse (significant) during construction	No additional mitigation is proposed.	Spittal to Peterhead HVDC UGC and Eastern Green Link 3 (EGL3) HVDC UGC: Major Adverse (significant) during construction Negligible (not significant) during operation
	Netherton/Peterhead 400 kV OHL Diversion and Repurposing, and Beauly to Blackhillock to New Deer to Peterhead 400 kV OHL: Major to Moderate to Minor Adverse (significant to not significant) during construction and operation	No additional mitigation is proposed.	Netherton/Peterhead 400 kV OHL Diversion and Repurposing and Beauly to Blackhillock to New Deer to Peterhead 400 kV OHL: Major to Moderate to Minor Adverse (significant to not significant) during construction and operation
Ecology, Nature Conservation and Ornithology			
Construction			
Bats	Works affecting roosts/ roosting bats within the Site – Major Adverse (significant) . Overall, the combined effects on bats using the Site and surrounding area would be significant at a Local scale.	See Volume 2, Chapter 9, paragraph 9.5.31 for full details on additional mitigation measure, these include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • additional baseline surveys; • avoidance – potential to retain buildings, trees, scrub, and hedgerows would be retained as far as reasonably possible; • sensitive timings of works; • sensitive lighting; and • re- and during works surveys. 	There would be a Moderate Adverse (significant) effect in a worst-case scenario where bat roosting locations are lost during construction. Therefore, compensation for this potential significant residual effect has been identified in Volume 2, Chapter 9, paragraph 9.5.32 . With the identified compensation measures, there would be no significant effects to bat populations at a Local scale.

Topic / Receptors	Effect Significance (Pre- Additional Mitigation)	Additional Mitigation	Residual Effects and Significance (Post Mitigation)
Badger	Please refer to Volume 5, Technical Appendix 9.5: Confidential Badger Impact Assessment for full details of the assessment to badgers, and the proposed mitigation.		Overall, the assessment has concluded that there would be no significant residual effects to badgers.
Fish	Effects from outfall construction – Moderate Adverse (significant) .	See Volume 2, Chapter 9, paragraph 9.5.51 for full details on additional mitigation measures, these include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • additional baseline surveys; • avoidance – the final location of the outfalls would seek to avoid suitable salmonid spawning habitat and removal of bankside vegetation for the construction of outfalls would be minimised as far as reasonably possible; priority would be given to avoid tree felling; • sensitive timings of works; • sensitive lighting; and • mitigation measures pre- and during construction work as set out in the above chapter. 	Negligible (not significant) .
Barn owl	Loss of nesting/ roost sites – Moderate Adverse (significant) . Disturbance – Moderate Adverse (significant) . Killing, injury of barn owl – Major Adverse (significant) .	See Volume 2, Chapter 9, paragraph 9.5.65 for full details on additional mitigation measures, an overview is provided below: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • pre- and during works: in the event of barn owls being confirmed as breeding within buildings ear marked for demolition a Barn Owl Protection Plan (BOPP) will be produced by the Principal Contractor and agreed in advance with Aberdeenshire Council, in consultation with NatureScot. 	With additional mitigation measures in place, the magnitude of impacts to barn owl would be reduced in terms of disturbance and potential harm. However, there would be a Moderate Adverse (significant) residual effect in a worst-case scenario if a barn owl nest site is lost during construction. Therefore, compensation for this potential significant residual effect has been identified in Volume 2, Chapter 9 (paragraph 9.5.66) . With the identified

Topic / Receptors	Effect Significance (Pre- Additional Mitigation)	Additional Mitigation	Residual Effects and Significance (Post Mitigation)
			compensation measures, there would be no significant effects to the barn owl population.
Cultural Heritage			
Construction			
Non-designated heritage assets within the Site: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tiffery Farmstead (HA20); • Netherton Farmstead (HA22); • Hydraulic ram (HA34); • Two structures (HA35); and • Redlums Cottage (HA36) 	Moderate Adverse (significant).	See Volume 2, Chapter 10, Table 10-7 Recommended Mitigation Measures for full details: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Preservation by Record through Historic Building Recording (CH01). 	Slight Adverse (not significant).
Hydrology, Hydrogeology, Geology and Soils			
Construction			
Pollution Incidents – Private Water Supplies (PWS)	Moderate Adverse (significant).	A Private Water Supply Management Plan (PWSMP) – will detail all relevant mitigation, pre-construction measures, management measures, monitoring requirements and contingency plans relevant to PWS.	Minor Adverse (not significant).
Three PWS in proximity to the Proposed Development	Very High Risk to High Risk	Mitigation required would be to provide suitable permanent alternative supply i.e. Scottish Water mains supply, prior to construction. If the PWS owner cannot use a Scottish Water mains supply, the alternative could be a bowser, however this is not a favourable approach.	No Change

Topic / Receptors	Effect Significance (Pre- Additional Mitigation)	Additional Mitigation	Residual Effects and Significance (Post Mitigation)
Noise and Vibration			
Construction			
Construction noise	Major Adverse (significant).	The implementation of a robust construction noise management plan, prioritising particularly noisy work (such as platform works) during daytime defined hours with a higher 65 dB limit, and careful consideration of the location of crushing activities will ensure the construction noise of the Proposed Development meet the noise limits.	Minor (not significant).
Operation			
Night-time operational noise (external BS4142)	Moderate Adverse (significant).	Noise excess is limited to the operation of external cooling equipment. It has been identified that this issue will be limited to where the Proposed Development is operating at higher loadings and requirements for the cooling system are close to its maximum level. Low-noise cooling fans are also recommended for any external HVAC units. With appropriate engineering design or mitigation, it is expected that the noise impacts would be reduced to an extent where low impact is predicted.	Minor Adverse (not significant).
Land Use and Agriculture			
Construction			
Agricultural Land Quality – Class 3.1 and 3.2	Major Adverse (significant) permanent effect.	There are no mitigation measures available.	Major Adverse (significant) permanent effect.

Topic / Receptors	Effect Significance (Pre- Additional Mitigation)	Additional Mitigation	Residual Effects and Significance (Post Mitigation)
Two farm holdings	Moderate Adverse (significant) permanent effect.	Mitigation of the effects on farm holdings are largely outside the scope of this assessment and relate to private negotiations between the parties. SSEN Transmission General Environmental Management Plans (GEMPs) will be in effect and can be used as a measure to safeguard the soils that will need to be disturbed and moved. Other good practice measures will be put in place to mitigate adverse effects on landowners and farmers during construction are detailed in Volume 2, Chapter 14, paragraph 14.5.23 and 14.5.24.	Moderate Adverse (significant) permanent effect.
One farm holding	Major Adverse (significant) permanent effect.		Major Adverse (significant) permanent effect.
Four private residential properties (two currently disused) with the Site Boundary	Major Adverse (significant) permanent effect.	Mitigation of the effects on private residential properties are largely outside the scope of this assessment and relate to private negotiations between the parties.	Major Adverse (significant) permanent effect.
Four private residential properties outwith the Site Boundary	Moderate Adverse (significant) permanent effect.		Moderate Adverse (significant) permanent effect