16. SCHEDULE OF ENVIRONMENTAL MITIGATION

16.1 Introduction

The purpose of this Chapter is to provide a summary of the additional mitigation measures proposed throughout this EIA Report, to minimise or offset the potential effects of the Proposed Development on the receiving environment. Embedded mitigation such the implementation of SSEN Transmission SPPs and GEMPs are assumed to be part of the Proposed Development and as such are not detailed within this Chapter.

During the construction and operational phases of the Proposed Development, relevant mitigation measures will be detailed within and implemented through **Volume 4 Appendix 2.2** Construction Environmental Management Plan.

16.2 Summary of Measures

Table 16.1 provides a summary of those mitigation measures identified throughout the EIA Report. The following mitigation codes are used in this section:

- LV – Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment
- CC – Climate Change and Carbon Balance
- E – Ecology and Nature Conservation
- O - Ornithology
- F – Forestry
- GP - Geology and Peat
- HG – Hydrology and Hydrogeology
- TT - Traffic and Transport
- CH - Cultural Heritage
- NV - Noise and Vibration
- S – Socioeconomic

Table 16.1 Schedule of Environmental Mitigation

Ref.	Mitigation	Timing
LV1	Existing trees and woodland to be retained will be protected and brought into positive management to promote screening of the Proposed Development.	Construction
LV2	New cut and fill slopes will be rounded off both top and bottom and generally shaped to create a naturalistic landform as far as possible, whilst minimising the loss of good quality trees.	Construction
LV3	Should circumstances arise during the construction works that require amendment to the platform level, any design development will consider the relationship between landform height, viewpoints at receptors, and site platform level, so that the screening effect described in the **Volume 2 Chapter 5** Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment and provided on the application drawings is not reduced.	Pre-commencement and construction
LV4	All native species planting will be carried out using plant material of local provenance (the closest provenance that is available in commercial quantities) to ensure maximum benefit for local biodiversity.	Construction
LV5	Areas of new woodland consisting primarily of birch and pine will be planted in accordance with the Landscape and Ecological Mitigation Plan (**Volume 3a Figure 5.4**) to enhance screening and offset the loss of woodland trees.	Construction and operation
LV6	A Tree Protection Plan will be implemented prior to the commencement of construction to protect existing trees to be retained.	Pre-commencement and construction
LV7	Lighting of compounds and construction areas will be restricted to the minimum necessary for safe working and site security.	Construction
LV8	Materials and machinery will be stored tidily during the works. Tall machinery including cranes will not be left in place for longer than required for construction purposes, to minimise its impact in views.	Construction and operation
LV9	On completion of construction, all remaining construction materials will be removed from the site.	Operation
E1	Within the peatland restoration area best practice measures shall be maintained until a sustainable layer of vegetation has developed over the peat to prevent erosion. This shall be monitored through routine inspection to ensure pollution prevention measures are still functional and planting / seeding of the restoration areas is maturing.	Construction and operation
E2	It is proposed that losses of forestry to the Proposed Development will be subject to compensatory planting both as part of the designed landscape, replanting by the landowner and off-site compensatory planting.	Construction and operation
E3	Preconstruction surveys shall be undertaken (for all protected species) by a suitably qualified and experienced ecologist in order to update the baseline, inform appropriate mitigation measures and allow for protected species licencing to be sought, as appropriate.	Construction and operation

E4	Permanent woodland lost to the Proposed Development will be subject to compensatory planting as close to the area of loss as possible. Where possible compensatory planting will be situated in areas where there is connectivity to existing woodland. Temporary woodland loss will either be subject to replanting by the landowner in line with the existing forestry plan or by the Applicant in the form of mitigation planting.	Construction and operation.
E5	An Ecological Clerk of Works (ECoW) shall be in attendance for any tree felling or delimbing and will supervise soft felling as required. This shall extend to all protected species (and their place of shelter) at risk of disturbance / destruction or direct mortality, including but not limited to bats.	Pre-commencement and construction
E6	Timing works to avoid vegetation clearance and soil stripping during the period when reptiles may be hibernating (October – March inclusive) will minimise direct mortality. Where avoidance is not possible, mitigation measures will be deployed such as fencing to prevent reptiles (and amphibians) from moving into areas where they could be killed or injured. Staged strimming of areas earmarked for development / disturbance can minimise risks to reptiles (and amphibians) by making existing habitat less favourable.	Pre-commencement, construction and operation.
E7	Monitoring and maintenance of the habitats planted / reinstated will be necessary so they meet their target condition and will be undertaken in line with the Habitat Management Plan (**Volume 4 Appendix 5.2** Outline Landscape and Ecological Management Plan).	Operation.
E8	During operation and maintenance of the proposed substation, substation building(s) may become occupied by roosting bats, the presence of bat roosts within substation buildings may constrain some routine maintenance works which may need to be undertaken under licence. Inspections of substation building(s) should be undertaken in advance of any maintenance works which may lead to the disturbance or damage of a bat roost or the killing of bats. Works should adhere to the bat SPP and be undertaken in line with Bat Conservation Trust (BCT) guidance.	Operation.
O1	Within the multi-disciplinary mitigation of peatland restoration (i.e., conversion of 142 Ha of former forestry area to wet peatland), creation of approximately two thirds (94 Ha) of the new habitat to a combination of dry heath, wet heath and blanket bog as functional hen harrier habitat.	Pre-commencement, Construction, Commissioning, Operations
O2	Management of the hen harrier habitat to retain it as a functionally operative area for foraging and potentially breeding. This management will comprise some / all of; tree seedling removal, grazing stock management (fencing), and hydrological management (ditch blocking / creation), and monitoring of species occupancy.	Construction, Operations
F1	Land use change from low yield class commercial conifer plantation to peatland restoration.	Construction, Operations
F2	Felling of a broader area of woodland surrounding the proposed substation will be replanted in line with **Volume 3a Figure 5.4** (Landscape Ecological Mitigation Plan).	Construction, Operations
F3	Woodland loss for the permanent substation and associated infrastructure will be mitigated by the provision of 23.52 ha offsite compensatory planting.	Construction, Operations

GP1	Primary Mitigation: Construction on steep slopes that have deep peat deposits will be avoided. Avoid the loading of deep peat deposits. Infrastructure and tracks in areas of deep peat will be microsited. All works to be undertaken in compliance with the peat management plan.	Pre-commencement, Construction
GP2	Secondary Mitigation: Visual inspections to be completed where points of moderate risk have been recorded during construction during and for a period after and during heavy rainfall events to ensure slope stability. The use of floating tracks where track construction in areas of peat deeper than 1 m cannot be avoided.	Pre-commencement, Construction
GP3	Tertiary Mitigation: Micrositing infrastructure and tracks in areas of deep peat. The use of floating tracks where track construction in areas of peat deeper than 1 m cannot be avoided. The reuse of peat and topsoil that is removed during the construction process in other areas of the development.	Pre-commencement, Construction
TT1	Development and implementation of a Construction Traffic Management Plan (CTMP) which would be agreed in consultation with Transport Scotland and the Highland Council and include but not be limited to; • As far as reasonably possible, deliveries should be scheduled outside of school opening and closing times. Drivers of all delivery vehicles to be made aware during induction of the presence of the school and other amenities within the village; • Drivers to be reminded of the presence of 20 mph temporary speed restrictions on the main road outside of the school and that a strict adherence to these speed limits is expected; • Delivery times will be scheduled to ensure that deliveries do not arrive in a convoy; • Timing of the deliveries will be outlined within the CTMP to ensure construction vehicles avoid potentially congested networks at peak hours; • Where it is reasonably practicable, HGV deliveries to the Proposed Development will be suspended during local community events where increased traffic or parking requirements may be reasonably anticipated; • Temporary construction phase signage would be erected on the approved route to Site to warn people of construction activities and associated construction vehicles. Road user safety (including non-motorised users) will be enhanced via the installation of signage and the maintenance of sight lines; and • Appropriate parking facilities will be provided for construction workers. Under no circumstances will HGVs be allowed to lay-up in surrounding roads.	Pre-commencement, Construction
CH1	Monitoring of vehicle movements prior to established traversal corridors, to prevent disturbance / destruction of known and unknown archaeological remains.	Pre-commencement, Construction
CH2	Avoidance, demarcation and barricading of known features in close proximity to Proposed Development.	Pre-commencement, Construction
CH3	All ground disturbance work to be monitored by archaeological watching brief. To be undertaken by suitably qualified archaeologist to identify, record and excavate, in whole or in part, features exposed by construction works and associated mitigation activities.	Pre-commencement, Construction

N1	Implementation of a Construction Noise Management Plan (CNMP) by the Principal Contractor for best practice to control construction noise.	Pre-commencement, Construction
N2	Engineering Detailed Design and Procurement options to reduce operational noise impacts include: • Specification of low noise units for the synchronous condensers and transformers; • Use of an active fan system with variable speed drive • Use of liquid to liquid cooling; • Housing the equipment indoors; • A system with a larger number of fans operating at lower duty; and / or • Noise barriers to target propagation from specific noise sources.	Pre-commencement