

Denny to Wishaw Network Upgrade

Environmental Impact Assessment Report

Volume 3 Appendices

Appendix 6.4 Visual Assessment



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Appendix 6.4

1. Introduction

- 1.1 This appendix should be read in conjunction with Volume 1, Chapter 6 and Appendix 6.1 and is accompanied by the following figures, Volume 2.
- Figure 6.3: New Towers Zone of Theoretical Visibility; and
 - Figure 6.7: Representative Viewpoints and Zone of Theoretical Visibility.
- 1.2 This visual assessment is also accompanied by a package of visualisations from each of the 13 viewpoints at operation (Year 1) and operation (Year 15) (where proposed mitigation planting would be visible), which are presented in Volume 4: Visualisations.
- 1.3 All landscape and visual mitigation measures are embedded and described in Volume 1, Chapter 6 Landscape and Visual, Volume 1 and Volume 2, Figure 6.9.

2. Visual Assessment

- 2.1 This appendix provides a detailed assessment of the likely significance of effects on visual receptors at each of the assessment phases: construction, operation (Year 1) and operation (Year 15). The assessment is set out in the following tables:
- Table 1.2.1 Viewpoint 1: A803 Falkirk Road;
 - Table 1.2.2 Viewpoint 2: Bridge over Forth and Clyde Canal;
 - Table 1.2.3 Viewpoint 3: Falkirk Wheel;
 - Table 1.2.4 Viewpoint 4: Rough Castle Roman Fort;
 - Table 1.2.5 Viewpoint 5: Core Path off Beam Road;
 - Table 1.2.6 Viewpoint 6: Core Path along Arns Road;
 - Table 1.2.7 Viewpoint 7: Cumbernauld House Park;
 - Table 1.2.8 Viewpoint 8: Forest Road;
 - Table 1.2.9 Viewpoint 9: Core Path East of Cumbernauld
 - Table 1.2.10 Viewpoint 10: Palacerigg Golf Course and Country Park;
 - Table 1.2.11 Viewpoint 11: Greengairs;
 - Table 1.2.12 Viewpoint 12: Brackenhurst Road; and
 - Table 1.2.13 Viewpoint 13: Alnwick Crescent, Golfhill, Glenmavis.
- 2.2 Approximate distances are given below from each of the visual receptors to permanent elements of the Project. The approximate distances are given as the receptor to the closest section of the specific part of the Project stated.
- 2.3 It is acknowledged that part of the landscape within the Study Area comprises plantation forestry at different stages of felling. The visual assessment assumes that there would be no change to this management practice.

Construction Timescale Assumptions

- 2.4 The construction programme for the Project including specific timescales is set out within Volume 1, Chapter 4 Project Description. Subject to gaining consent, construction works are expected to commence in January 2027 and be functionally completed by the end of February 2030, representing an overall construction duration of approximately 37 months.

Table 1.2.1 Viewpoint 1: A803 Falkirk Road

Sensitivity of Visual Receptor	Magnitude of Effect	Significance of Effect
Receptor Groups: Residential Road users Approximate distance to the Project: New Build Overhead Line: 212 m Bonnybridge Substation: 214 m Cumbernauld Substation: 8.7 km Value: Low Susceptibility: Medium Views of the surroundings are a contributor to the experience of views contribute to the landscape setting enjoyed by residents	Construction During construction, activities and plant introduced into the view would be visible in the middle ground and distant part of the view. These activities and plant would be associated with the Bonnybridge Substation Extension, the dismantling and removal of the CB Route, undergrounding of part of the AA Route and the New Build Overhead Line. Construction activities involving vehicles and plant would introduce movement into the view but would be perceived within the context of vehicle movement along the A803. This would reduce the degree of contrast introduced by the construction activities. It should be noted that for road users further along the A803 located further east from the viewpoint, there would be more open views towards the construction works around the Bonnybridge Substation site due to less intervening vegetation. This would be for a short section and within the context of close views to existing infrastructure. Lighting for the compounds, assumed to be used in low-light conditions during construction, would introduce new lighting sources. However, these would largely be viewed in conjunction with pockets of lighting associated with nearby residences and farmsteads in the surrounding landscape and traffic along the A803. As a result, the change would be barely perceptible in the view. Overall, the change introduced by the construction activities, including plant operation, would introduce noticeable, additional movement in the middle ground and distant part of the view. The activity would extend across the majority of the view and would contrast some of the more rural aspects of the wider view containing mature vegetation and agricultural land parcels. The existing context of the energy infrastructure and movement of vehicles along the road network would reduce the degree of contrast, and the works would be screened somewhat by intervening mature vegetation, however the works would be in closer proximity and at a larger scale. The duration of change would be short-term.	Moderate adverse (significant)

experiencing this viewpoint.	Magnitude of effect: High	
Visual Sensitivity: Medium Taking into account the value judgements and the susceptibility to change, overall visual sensitivity is considered to be medium.	Operational (Year 1) At operation Year 1, the view would include the upper extents of the Bonnybridge Substation Extension and the New Build Overhead Line towers (WB052-WB059). The introduction of the new towers and associated infrastructure is of a nature similar to the existing transmission infrastructure in the landscape and would be seen in the context of other vertical features also breaking the skyline, including distant wind turbines, communication masts, and wood poles, resulting in a limited contrast, however the scale would appear larger due to closer proximity to the receptor. Whilst there would be the removal of some existing towers in the view and existing mature vegetation would screen the lower extents, the new towers would contrast in scale and height to those in the background of the view. There would also be simplification in parts of the view, for example the central part of the view where two transmission lines would be a single route, albeit this part of the view has existing influence of traffic movement along the A803. The permanent mature vegetation removal immediately west of the existing Bonnybridge Substation would be barely perceptible in the view as the retained intervening mature vegetation would screen views. It should be noted that for road users further along the A803 located further east from the viewpoint, there would be more open views towards the permanent infrastructure around the Bonnybridge Substation site due to less intervening vegetation. This would be for a short section and within the context of close views to existing infrastructure. It is noted that the upper extent of the Falkirk Wheel would remain barely visible towards the southeastern direction despite bringing WB056 closer to the front, providing some distraction to this already barely visible distant feature. Low-level lighting would be required in pockets across the horizontal extent of the view from the receptors associated with the temporary maintenance and security/perimeter lighting for Bonnybridge Substation.	Moderate adverse (significant)

This lighting would be in new locations but would not be dissimilar from the requirements for the existing Bonnybridge Substation and general lighting visible from a distance from the residential edge.

Proposed landscape mitigation would not be perceptible at Year 1.

Overall, the Project would introduce new energy infrastructure in closer proximity than existing Substation infrastructure and this scale change would occur across the majority of the view. The degree of contrast is reduced given the existing context of energy infrastructure in the view. There would be some simplification of transmission lines in parts of the view however the more rural views across the wider landscape would have increased wirescape. The duration of change would be long-term.

Magnitude of effect: **Medium**

Operational (Year 15)

At Operation Year 15, the views would be similar to those observed at Year 1 of Operation as the main effects relating to the towers would not change. Increased maturity of the proposed mitigation planting would reduce the adverse impacts despite being within a small extent of the view and largely screened by existing mature vegetation. The proposed reinstatement of grassland along A803 would help to reinforce the existing rural landscape character. Furthermore, the establishment of low shrub planting along A803 would help soften views towards the entrance of the access road, creating a more continuous vegetated edge along the A803. The duration of change would remain long-term.

Magnitude of effect: **Medium**

Moderate
adverse
(significant)

Table 1.2.2 Viewpoint 2: Bridge over Forth and Clyde Canal

Sensitivity of Visual Receptor	Magnitude of Effect	Significance of Effect
Receptor Groups: Recreational Residential Approximate distance to the Project: New Build Overhead Line: 450 m Bonnybridge Substation: 1.4 km Cumbernauld Substation: 9.7 km Value: Medium Susceptibility: High Views of the surroundings are an important contributor to the experience of views contribute to the landscape setting enjoyed by recreational and residential receptors	Construction During construction, the upper extent of tall plant introduced to install the towers for the New Build Overhead Line (WB053, WB054) would be visible in the background above the dense line of mature trees. Whilst this would be within a small part of the view, the upper extent of the construction activity would be set against the skyline and in the view down the canal. The activity would be within the background of the view and within the context of existing wind turbines in a similar part of the view with existing movement. The majority of the construction activity would be screened in this part of the view and in the wider view due to intervening mature vegetation. The remainder of the view would remain unchanged and noting that this is limited to a single location on the bridge. Views would be available to construction works associated with the New Build Overhead Line and may be available towards the works associated with the Bonnybridge Substation Extension for a short section however this would be at a distance and within the context of the existing Bonnybridge Substation and movement along the A803. This is also not dissimilar to further west where this occurs for the existing CB Route and AA Route. Lighting associated with construction works, assumed to be used during low-light conditions, would introduce new lighting sources. However, these would be largely screened by the mature vegetation, resulting in a change that would be barely perceptible in the view. Construction works associated with Bonnybridge Substation Extension would be screened entirely by the existing vegetation in the background, resulting no visibility and effects. Overall, the change introduced by the construction activities would be visible in the views along the canal. The construction activity associated with the towers would be seen within the same part of the view as the distant turbines, albeit of a different scale due to proximity in the view. The duration of change would be short-term.	Minor adverse (not significant)

experiencing this
viewpoint.

Magnitude of effect: **Low**

Visual Sensitivity:
High

Taking into account
the value judgements
and the susceptibility
to change, overall
visual sensitivity is
considered to be
high.

Operational (Year 1)

At Operation Year 1, the view would include the towers (WB053 and WB054) along the New Build Overhead Line. The upper extents of the towers would be visible against the skyline and in the focal part of the view along the canal. However, the two towers would be within a small part of the view, the lower extents fully screened by intervening mature vegetation, would be within the context of existing turbines also in the background of the view and other existing vertical infrastructure in the view including lighting columns. The comparison with the mature woodland which dominates the view would also lessen the perception of scale.

Further along the towpath to the west, the permanent vegetation removal associated with the New Build Overhead Line wayleave would result in close proximity views to towers WB-053 and WB-052 and potentially distant views towards the Bonnybridge Substation Extension. This would be for a short section of the route, would be within the context of the existing Bonnybridge Substation and would not be dissimilar to further west where this occurs for the existing CB Route, which would be removed, and AA Route.

Bonnybridge Substation Extension would be screened entirely by the existing vegetation in the background, resulting no visibility and effects.

Overall, the perceived change resulting from the New Build Overhead Line would be a small change in the background of a view dominated by large scale features including mature woodland. There is some existing context for energy and large-scale infrastructure and vertical elements in the view, which lessens the degree of contrast. The duration of change would be long-term.

Magnitude of effect: **Low**

Minor adverse
(not
significant)

Operational (Year 15) The visual effects at Year 15 are assessed as remaining consistent with the Year 1 assessment as no mitigation planting proposed would be visible. Magnitude of effect: Low	Minor adverse (not significant)
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Table 1.2.3 Viewpoint 3: Falkirk Wheel

Sensitivity of Visual Receptor	Magnitude of Effect	Significance of Effect
Receptor Groups: Recreational Approximate distance to the Project: New Build Overhead Line: 409 m Bonnybridge Substation: 1.4 km Cumbernauld Substation: 9.5 km Value: High Susceptibility: High Views of the surroundings are an important contributor to experience of the recreational receptors experiencing this viewpoint albeit focused on the Falkirk Wheel in the foreground.	Construction During construction, the upper extent of tall plant introduced to install the towers for the New Build Overhead Line (WB051, WB052, WB053) would be visible in the background above the dense line of mature trees. This would occur in small sections across the wider view and would be set against the skyline. The vast majority of the construction activity would be screened in this part of the view and in the wider view due to intervening mature vegetation. The works would be within the context of an existing transmission line (AA003) in the same part of the view and also wind turbines in the background of the view. The works would not be in the focal part of the view which is the Falkirk Wheel in the middle ground, however, would introduce uncharacteristic urbanising works and movement in the view and may draw the eye away from the Wheel. It should be noted that elsewhere within the vicinity of the Falkirk Wheel, recreational receptors are likely to have increased screening in the direction of the construction works. Lighting associated with construction works, assumed to be used during low-light conditions, would introduce new lighting sources. However, these would be largely screened by the intervening mature vegetation, resulting in a change that would be barely perceptible in the view. Construction works associated with Bonnybridge Substation Extension would be screened entirely by the existing vegetation in the background, resulting in no visibility and effects. Overall, the change introduced by the construction activities would be an unobtrusive change in the background of the view associated due to the majority of the activity screened by intervening vegetation. with an uncharacteristic addition in the overall composition of the view. The duration of change would be short-term.	Minor adverse (not significant)

Visual Sensitivity: High

Taking into account the value judgements and the susceptibility to change, overall visual sensitivity is considered to be high.

Magnitude of effect: Low

Operational (Year 1)

At Operation Year 1, the view would include the upper extents of the New Build Overhead Line (WB051, WB052 and WB053). Despite being across the extent of the view, the context of the large-scale features within the view, including the mature woodland cover and the concrete pillars supporting the aqueduct, which would appear much taller than the proposed infrastructure due to proximity and dominates the horizontal extent of the view, reduces the perceived scale of the upper extent of the New Build Overhead Line addition in the background of the view. The existing context of the existing transmission (AA003) tower and associated overhead lines running north-south and wind turbines in the background also reduces the degree of contrast. The focal part of the view associated with the Falkirk Wheel and its immediate surroundings would not be affected.

Minor adverse
(not significant)

It should be noted that elsewhere within the vicinity of the Falkirk Wheel, recreational receptors are likely to have increased screening in the direction of the New Build Overhead Line.

Bonnybridge Substation Extension would be screened entirely by the existing vegetation in the background, resulting in no visibility and effects.

Overall, the change resulting from the New Build Overhead Line would be an unobtrusive change in the overall composition of the view due to the large-scale features and existing context of energy and industrial infrastructure. The duration of change would be long-term.

Magnitude of effect: Low

Operational (Year 15)

The visual effects at Year 15 are assessed as remaining consistent with the Year 1 assessment as no mitigation planting proposed would be visible.

Minor adverse
(not significant)

Magnitude of effect: **Low**

Table 1.2.4 Viewpoint 4: Rough Castle Roman Fort

Sensitivity of Visual Receptor	Magnitude of Effect	Significance of Effect
Receptor Groups: Recreational Approximate distance to the Project: New Build Overhead Line: 719 m Bonnybridge Substation: 908 m Cumbernauld Substation: 8.5 km Value: High Susceptibility: High Views of the surroundings are an important contributor to experience of the recreational receptors experiencing this viewpoint.	Construction During construction, activities and plant introduced to remove the towers within the CB Route (CB035), install the towers associated with the New Build Overhead Line (WB051), and works associated with the existing AA Route (towers not visible in the view but overhead lines connecting between AA003 and AA004) running north–south across the entire view would be visible. Temporary access tracks to facilitate construction would also be visible in the view. The vegetation loss associated with the New Build Overhead Line wayleave is not likely to be visible due to intervening mature vegetation. The activities associated with the removal of the CB Route and the installation of the New Build Overhead Line would be visible in the middle ground and in the background, respectively. Temporary access tracks would be visible in the foreground across the entire view to connect with tracks westwards. The undulating landform in the middle ground and the existing trees and shrubs would aid in screening pockets of construction activities associated with the removal and installation works and would break up the continuity of the temporary access tracks, thereby reducing the perceived scale of change. The presence of the existing CB Route and AA Route would also provide context to reduce the perceived contrast. It is noted that, in the indicative programme in Chapter 4, there would be a month of overlap between the removal of the CB Route and the installation of the New Build Overhead Line. That is, for a very short period of time, towers and overhead lines of both the CB and New Build Overhead Lines would be present simultaneously in the view. However, the duration would be short, which reduces the magnitude of change. Lighting associated with construction activities, assumed to be used during low light conditions, would introduce new lighting sources. Those in the foreground would be visible without screening but would be removed in future, resulting in a short duration of impact. Those in the middle ground	Moderate adverse (significant)

Visual Sensitivity: High Taking into account the value judgements and the susceptibility to change, overall visual sensitivity is considered to be high.	and background would be largely screened by the existing vegetation and the undulating topography, reducing the scale of change but would be perceptible in an otherwise relatively dark landscape. Overall, the scale of change introduced by the construction activities and movement would be noticeable across the view, particularly the simultaneous installation of the New Build Overhead Line in combination with the existing CB Route yet to be removed. This would be reduced in part due to intervening undulating landform and existing vegetation. The perceived contrast would also be reduced by the existing context of transmission infrastructure. The duration of change would be short-term. Magnitude of effect: Medium
	Operational (Year 1) At Operation Year 1, the view would include the New Build Overhead Line (WB051), and the existing transmission line (between AA003 and AA004) running north-south. The vegetation loss associated with the New Build Overhead Line wayleave is not likely to be visible due to intervening mature vegetation. Although the upper parts of the new tower would be visible against the skyline, the lower parts of the would be screened by the mature trees fronting the tower in the background, thereby reducing the scale of change. The perceived contrast would be further reduced when viewed in the context of the existing transmission overhead line and the removed CB Route which was comparatively closer to the receptor. The scale of change is also reduced due to the large-scale woodland cover in the view. Overall, whilst the change resulting from the CB Route removal would be beneficial within the view. There would be views of the New Build Overhead Line further from the receptor and there would remain views of the AA Route. Minor adverse (not significant)

The duration of change would be long-term.

Magnitude of effect: **Low**

Operational (Year 15)

The visual effects at Year 15 are assessed as remaining consistent with the Year 1 assessment as no mitigation planting proposed would be visible.

Minor adverse
(not significant)

Magnitude of effect: **Low**

Table 1.2.5 Viewpoint 5: Core Path off Beam Road

Sensitivity of Visual Receptor	Magnitude of Effect	Significance of Effect
Receptor Groups: Recreational Residential Approximate distance to the Project: New Build Overhead Line: 24 m Bonnybridge Substation: 2.4 km Cumbernauld Substation: 6.9 km Value: Low Susceptibility: High Views of the surroundings are an important contributor to the experience of views contribute to the landscape setting enjoyed by recreational and residential receptors	Construction When looking northeast, activities and plant introduced to remove towers along the CB Route (CB032–CB034), install the New Build Overhead Line (WB049–WB050), and underground the AA Route (AA006CSE–AA009CSE) would be visible in the background of the view. Temporary Access Tracks (CB-B06, WB-B21) and Temporary Construction Compounds would also introduce construction activities and plant that would be visible in the background of the view. When looking southeast, activities and plant introduced to remove towers associated with the CB Route (CB031), install the New Build Overhead Line (WB043–WB049), and underground the AA Route (AA006CSE–AA009CSE) would be visible in the foreground and middle ground of the view. Temporary Access Tracks (WB-B19) and Temporary Construction Compounds would also introduce construction activities and plant visible in the background of the view. The construction activities would be an intrusive addition to the view to the southeast due to the scale and proximity of activity in this direction, albeit in a small part of the view and the lower-level works set against vegetation in the middle ground. Elsewhere, including to the northeast of the view, the works would mainly be in the background of the view, the lower extents of activity screened by intervening mature vegetation and in the context of the existing CB Route infrastructure. There would be mature vegetation loss to the southeast of the receptor associated with the New Build Overhead Line wayleave, however this would be in a small part of the view and not uncharacteristic in the view due to other harsh edges associated with forestry plantation. The majority of the open part of the view to the wider landscape and hills would be unaffected and the main effects on the view would be in the context of movement along the road. It should be noted that further along the core path network to the east and west the outward views in the direction of the construction works would be largely screened by intervening vegetation in the foreground.	Moderate adverse (significant)

experiencing this viewpoint. Visual Sensitivity: Medium Taking into account the value judgements and the susceptibility to change, overall visual sensitivity is considered to be medium.	It is noted that there would be a month of overlap in the removal of the CB Route and the installation of the New Build Overhead Line as provided in Chapter 4: Project Description, Volume 1. While construction activities and the associated infrastructure for both CB and New Build Overhead Lines would present simultaneously to increase the scale of change, the duration would be short to reduce the overall magnitude of change. Lighting for the construction compounds and associated with construction activities, assumed to be used during low-light conditions, would introduce new lighting sources. Those in the foreground to the southeast would be visible without screening but would be temporary in nature, resulting in a short duration of impact. Those in the middle ground and background would be largely screened by the existing vegetation and the undulating topography as well as within the context of other light sources in the background of the view such as settlement, reducing the change. Construction works associated with Bonnybridge Substation Extension when looking northeast would be screened entirely by the existing vegetation in the middle ground, resulting in no visibility and effects. Overall, whilst the scale of change in a small part of the view would be apparent, this is in the context of the movement of vehicles along the road network and the remainder of the open view to the northeast would remain largely unaffected. The works would be noticeable but within the context of existing features in the view including forestry operations and harsh edges of plantation and vertical features in the view such as wind turbines, wood pole lines and existing transmission lines. The duration of change would be short-term. Magnitude of effect: Medium Operational (Year 1) When looking northeast at Operation Year 1, the view would include the New Build Overhead Line (WB049–WB050) in the background and looking southeast the view would include the New Build Moderate adverse (significant)
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Overhead Line (WB043–WB049) in the foreground and middle ground of the view. This would include new tower WB043 which would be immediately adjacent to the road where the viewpoint is located, with no intervening vegetation. The permanent vegetation removal would remain visible to the southeast of the view and not dissimilar from wider vegetation patterns associated with plantations. Whilst the towers would be visible against the skyline and taller than the existing transmission network, there would remain to be vertical features in the view providing context, including wind turbines and wood pole lines. The remainder of the view across the wider landscape and to the hills beyond to the northeast would remain unaffected.

There would potentially be effects associated with bird diverters present on the section of overhead line between towers WB030-WB037 which would have reflective properties at low light and would have localised effect on the nighttime landscape, albeit within the context of the existing light sources in proximity to the receptor.

It should be noted that further along the core path network to the east and west the outward views in the direction of the Project would be largely screened by intervening vegetation in the foreground.

The Bonnybridge Substation Extension when looking northeast would remain screened entirely by the existing vegetation in the middle ground, resulting in no visibility and effects.

Overall, whilst the scale of change in a small part of the view would be apparent, this is in the context of the movement of vehicles along the road network and the remainder of the open view to the northeast would remain largely unaffected. The works would be noticeable but within the context of existing features in the view including vertical features in the view such as wind turbines, wood pole lines and existing transmission lines. The duration of change would be long-term.

Magnitude of effect: **Medium**

Operational (Year 15)

The visual effects at Year 15 are assessed as remaining consistent with the Year 1 assessment as no mitigation planting proposed would be visible.

Moderate adverse
(significant)

Magnitude of effect: **Medium**

Table 1.2.6 Viewpoint 6: Core Path along Arns Road

Sensitivity of Visual Receptor	Magnitude of Effect	Significance of Effect
Receptor Groups: Recreational Residential Road users Approximate distance to the Project: New Build Overhead Line: 511 m Bonnybridge Substation: 5.9 km Cumbernauld Substation: 3.8 km Value: Low Susceptibility: High Views of the surroundings are an important contributor to the experience of views contribute to the landscape setting enjoyed by recreational and	Construction Construction works would be associated with the removal of the CB Route (CB015–CB017) and New Build Overhead Line (WB031–WB033) in the background of the view. Construction activities and plant would be introduced into the background and would follow along the existing CB Route southwest into the open agricultural fields across the majority of the view. The lower extents of which would be partially set against the woodland plantation and partially screened by intervening vegetation in the foreground, however taller parts would break the skyline. Movement associated with construction activities would be introduced but would be perceived within the context of agricultural activities and movement of vehicles along the road network along Arns Road, and forestry operations in the wider landscape which would reduce the degree of contrast. Lighting for the compounds, assumed to be used in low-light conditions during construction, would introduce new temporary lighting sources. It is noted that, in the indicative programme in Chapter 4: Project Description, Volume 1, there would be a month of overlap between the removal of the CB Route and the installation of the New Build Overhead Line. That is, for a very short period of time, both the CB and New Build Overhead Lines would be present simultaneously in the view. However, the duration would be short, which would reduce the magnitude of change. Overall, the change is considered to be unobtrusive in the composition of the view as despite being across the entirety of the view, the construction works would typically be in small sections which are largely set against a backdrop of landform or vegetation. The works would also be	Minor adverse (not significant)

residential receptors experiencing this viewpoint.	partially screened by intervening foreground vegetation and visible in the context of movement elsewhere in the view, including forestry activity and movement of vehicles along the road network. The duration of change would be short-term.	
Visual Sensitivity: Medium	Magnitude of effect: Low	
Taking into account the value judgements and the susceptibility to change, overall visual sensitivity is considered to be medium.	Operational (Year 1) At Operation Year 1, the view would include the New Build Overhead Line (WB031-WB033) located immediately in front of the line of mature vegetation retained in the background running across the north-east to south-west direction. The permanent vegetation removal would remain to be barely perceptible. Whilst the existing CB Route would no longer be visible as a comparator, the context for towers breaking the skyline in the same part of the view is noted despite the taller height. Tower WB031 would be visible as a new feature in the direction of the wider hills and would break the skyline. Alike the other towers in the view, this would be partially screened by foreground vegetation but would be a change in part of the view. This remains to be part of a view in which the composition is largely dominated by the harsh lines of forestry plantation on the horizon and within the context of movement of vehicles along the road network and existing transmission lines, which reduces the effect. There is also an existing overhead line visible in this part of the view on the lower extents of the wider hills which lessens the degree of contrast, albeit at a different scale. There would potentially be effects associated with bird diverters present on the section of overhead line between towers WB030-WB037 which would have reflective properties at low light and would have localised effect on the nighttime landscape, albeit within the context of the existing light sources in proximity to the receptor. Overall, the New Build Overhead Line towers would largely reflect that of the former CB Route with the addition of a tower in the direction of the background hills. The influence of this would be	Minor adverse (not significant)

reduced given the existing context in the view. The degree of contrast is considered to be reduced due to the CB Route context whereas the scale would be increased in the background of a large-scale view with detracting features. The duration of change would be long-term.

Magnitude of effect: **Low**

Operational (Year 15)

The visual effects at Year 15 are assessed as remaining consistent with the Year 1 assessment as no mitigation planting proposed would be visible.

Minor adverse
 (not significant)

Magnitude of effect: **Low**

Table 1.2.7 Viewpoint 7: Cumbernauld House Park

Sensitivity of Visual Receptor	Magnitude of Effect	Significance of Effect
Receptor Groups: Recreational Residential Approximate distance to the Project: New Build Overhead Line: 1.3 km Bonnybridge Substation: 8.4 km Cumbernauld Substation: 1.1 km Value: Medium Susceptibility: High Views of the surroundings are an important contributor to the experience of views contribute to the landscape setting enjoyed by recreational and residential receptors	Construction During construction, the upper extent of tall plant associated with the removal of the CB Route (including only the part visible in the view: CB004) and the New Build Overhead Line (including only the parts that are visible in the view: WB021 and WB022) would be visible in the background of the view. The remainder of the works, including those associated with Cumbernauld Substation Extension would be screened by mature intervening vegetation and the line of residential buildings in the background. The works associated with the removal of the CB and the New Build Overhead Line would not be within the focal direction to the north, would be in a small part of the view, would be within the context of the existing CB Route in the background and would be less noticeable to the receptor as views are focused within the immediate landscape enclosed by mature vegetation on the edge of the park. Lighting associated with construction works would not be perceptible due to intervening mature vegetation. It is noted that, in the indicative programme in Chapter 4: Project Description, Volume 1, there would be a month of overlap between the removal of the CB Route and the installation of the New Build Overhead Line. That is, for a very short period of time, both the CB and New Build Overhead Lines would be present simultaneously in the view. However, the lower parts of both routes would be heavily screened by vegetation in the background. Also, the duration would be short, which would reduce the magnitude of change. It should also be noted that for other residential receptors in the northeastern part of the Cumbernauld, the upper extent of tall plant associated with the CB Route removal and New Build Overhead Line is likely to be visible in part of long-distance views on the skyline. This would vary dependent on the angle of view and degree of screening features such as existing built form within the urban environment but would typically be within small parts of views. Whilst	Negligible adverse (not significant)

experiencing this viewpoint.

Visual Sensitivity: High

Taking into account the value judgements and the susceptibility to change, overall visual sensitivity is considered to be high.

theoretical visibility exists across areas of higher ground within the wider Cumbernauld townscape, the visibility to the Project is largely restricted by intervening built form and mature vegetation. Any resulting views towards the Project would be heavily filtered or intermittent, representing an anticipated likely non-significant adverse visual effect.

Overall, visibility of the change introduced by the construction activities would be limited to a small part of the southeastern part of the view and would be largely screened by the background vegetation. The views are not within the focal parts of the landscape and would therefore be an unobtrusive change in the background of the view. The duration of change would be short-term.

Magnitude of effect: **Very Low**

Operational (Year 1)

At Operation Year 1, the view would include the New Build Overhead Line (WB021 and WB022) in the background. This would be at a taller height than the removed CB Route however at this distance and within the context of the views not being in the focal direction of views from the park or within the immediate enclosure of the park, it is not considered that this would be perceptible.

It should also be noted that for other residential receptors in the northeastern part of the Cumbernauld, the upper extent New Build Overhead Line towers are likely to be visible in part of long-distance views on the skyline. This would vary dependent on the angle of view and degree of screening features such as existing built form within the urban environment but would typically be within small parts of views.

The Cumbernauld Substation Extension would be screened completely by mature intervening vegetation and the line of residential buildings in the background.

Overall, the scale of change introduced by the Project would be largely screened by background vegetation and would represent a barely perceptible change in the composition of the view. The duration of change would be long-term.

Negligible adverse
(not significant)

Magnitude of effect: **Very Low**

Operational (Year 15)

The visual effects at Year 15 are assessed as remaining consistent with the Year 1 assessment as no mitigation planting proposed would be visible.

Negligible adverse
(not significant)

Magnitude of effect: **Very Low**

Table 1.2.8 Viewpoint 8: Forest Road

Sensitivity of Visual Receptor	Magnitude of Effect	Significance of Effect
Receptor Groups: Recreational Road users Approximate distance to the Project: New Build Overhead Line: 85 m Bonnybridge Substation: 9 km Cumbernauld Substation: 7 m Value: Very Low	Construction During construction, activities and plant movements associated with Cumbernauld Substation Extension works would be directly visible in the foreground and middle ground. This would involve the demolition of part of the existing Cumbernauld Substation, substantial earthworks and vegetation removal. The removal of foreground vegetation associated with the Cumbernauld Substation Extension, to facilitate access to the construction area and compounds, would open up views beyond and increase the scale of perceptible change. While surrounding mature vegetation would be retained, the introduction of construction plant and activities would be considerably larger in scale when compared with the existing metal fencing and Substation infrastructure. The extent of vegetation removal and the presence of construction plant and equipment would introduce a pronounced change within the foreground and the middle ground. Nonetheless, when viewed in the context of existing plant and equipment, the perceived contrast would be reduced.	Minor adverse (not significant)
Susceptibility: Medium Views of the surroundings are a contributor to the experience of views of recreational receptors and road users experiencing this viewpoint, albeit	Lighting for the construction compounds, assumed to be used during low-light conditions, would be perceptible; however, this would be experienced in the context of the operational lighting associated with the existing Cumbernauld Substation. Activities associated with the dismantling of the CB Route and the construction of the New Build Overhead Line in the background would be completely screened by the construction works associated with the Cumbernauld Substation Extension in the foreground and middle ground. Overall, the construction activities would be a pronounced change to the composition of the view in the foreground and middle ground. Despite the existing context of the Cumbernauld Substation and alteration to landform and vegetation patterns, the new activity and plant would	

noting the urbanised context.	alter the composition of the view due to extensive earthworks and vegetation clearance. The duration of change would be short-term.	
Visual Sensitivity: Low Taking into account the value judgements and the susceptibility to change, overall visual sensitivity is considered to be low.	Magnitude of effect: High	
	Operational (Year 1) At Year 1, the view would include the permanent infrastructure associated with the Cumbernauld Substation Extension, the cut-slopes, and the areas of permanently removed vegetation. The extended hardstanding leading to the Substation would be perceptible in the foreground and vegetation clearance for the new access would open up views towards the permanent built form. The new infrastructure would be visible in the foreground and middle ground, positioned centrally and extending towards the southwestern end of the view, obstructing any views beyond towards the background. Part of the new Substation infrastructure would be situated behind the existing infrastructure, reducing the perceived degree of contrast. The removal of vegetation in the middle- and background to the southwestern and northeastern ends of the Substation Extension enables both the new and existing infrastructure to be seen directly against the skyline, increasing the perceived contrast. The cut-slopes created to accommodate the new infrastructure would further increase this contrast. However, when viewed in the context of the existing Substation, the perceived contrast would be reduced. Existing mature vegetation would continue to surround the site which would provide continued containment. Proposed lighting for temporary maintenance and security/perimeter lighting would be short-term and would be directional downward-facing and shielded to minimise upward spill and horizontal glare to reduce effects. This would be within the context of operational lighting requirements for the existing Substation, thereby reducing the perceived contrast.	Minor adverse (not significant)

Proposed landscape mitigation planting would be barely perceptible in year 1 of operation. Deer fencing would be erected around the planting areas; however, this would not be dissimilar to fencing already present within the perimeter of the existing Substation and is therefore not considered to have an adverse effect on visual amenity.

The New Build Overhead Line towers and associated infrastructure in the background would be screened entirely by the Cumbernauld Substation Extension infrastructure in the foreground and middle ground.

Overall, the Project would be pronounced change in the foreground and middle ground of the view. Despite the existing context of the Cumbernauld Substation in the view, the new permanent infrastructure and scale of earthworks and vegetation clearance would be larger. The infrastructure would continue to be contained within mature vegetation cover. The duration of change would be long-term.

Magnitude of effect: **High**

Operational (Year 15)

At Year 15, the proposed landscape planting for the Cumbernauld Substation Extension would have matured and would help to soften views of the infrastructure, noting that this is not shown on the visualisation within Volume 2, Visualisations as the detailed model information for the works was not available to show this accurately. Proposed woodland planting and hedgerows would partially screen both the new and existing Substation infrastructure. Perimeter grassland would provide a buffer between the Forest Road edge and the planted areas. Woodland and shrub planting toward the north-eastern and south-eastern parts of the site would assist in integrating the development with surrounding woodland in the wider landscape, thereby softening views towards the Substation as a whole. Seeding along the cut slopes in the background would be established, further softening the harsh, geometric edges of the cut slopes.

Minor adverse
(not significant)

The visual effects at Year 15 for the New Build Overhead Line are assessed as remaining consistent with the Year 1 assessment, as no mitigation planting is proposed in association with the New Build Overhead Line.

Magnitude of effect: **Medium**

Table 1.2.9 Viewpoint 9: Core Path East of Cumbernauld

Sensitivity of Visual Receptor	Magnitude of Effect	Significance of Effect
Receptor Groups: Recreational Approximate distance to the Project: New Build Overhead Line: 128 m Bonnybridge Substation: 8.9 km Cumbernauld Substation: 200 m Value: Low Susceptibility: High Views of the surroundings are an important contributor to the experience of views contribute to the landscape setting enjoyed by recreational receptors experiencing this viewpoint. Visual Sensitivity: Medium	Construction During construction, activities and plant movements associated with the removal of the CB Route (CB002), the installation of the New Build Overhead Line (WB021A, WB021B), the introduction of temporary access tracks, and the Cumbernauld Substation Extension would be introduced to the view in the foreground and middle ground. The construction activities would be highly visible at the centre in the foreground and middle ground for works associated with the removal of the CB Route. However, for other construction activities, visibility would be limited to the upper extents due to topographical drop towards Cumbernauld Substation. Low-rise buildings and distant hills in the background would provide some backclothing to the construction activities at the centre of the view within the gap between vegetation. Moving to the northeast and southwest away from the gap, these activities would be largely screened by the long, structurally loose wild grasses and scrub in the middle ground. Both features would reduce the scale of change. The existing context of the dominant tower in the central part of the view would also reduce the degree of contrast. Lighting used in low-light conditions during construction would introduce new lighting sources that would be largely viewed in the context of lights from low-rise buildings in the background, thereby reducing the perceived contrast. The perception of such lighting would also be limited in part due to the intervening landform and vegetation. It is noted that, in the indicative programme in Chapter 4: Project Description, Volume 1, there would be a month of overlap between the removal of the CB Route and the installation of the New Build Overhead Line. That is, for a very short period of time, both the CB and New Build Overhead Lines would be present simultaneously in the view. Therefore, the duration would be short, which would reduce the magnitude of change.	Minor adverse (not significant)

Taking into account the value judgements and the susceptibility to change, overall visual sensitivity is considered to be medium.

Overall, whilst the construction activities would be mainly visible in the middle ground of the view, the majority of the activity would largely be screened by intervening vegetation. The removal of the CB Route would be more noticeable in the central part of the view due to the existing wayleave however the scale of change and degree of contrast would be reduced due to the context of the existing towers, views to the urban edge of Cumbernauld and most activity backclothed. The duration of change would be short-term.

Magnitude of effect: **Low**

Operational (Year 1)

At Operation Year 1, the view would include the upper extent of the new New Build Overhead Line (WB021B) along the northwest-southeast axis and the majority would be screened by mature, intervening vegetation. The permanent wayleave vegetation removal would not be visible.

Minor beneficial
(not significant)

Views of the Cumbernauld Substation Extension would not be visible due to intervening landform and vegetation within the foreground and middle ground.

The removal of CB Route tower CB002 would enable distant views through the gap between vegetation in the middle ground to the distant hills, which would be a positive change.

Overall, whilst the upper extent of the New Build Overhead Line would be visible against the skyline in the northwestern part of the view, the infrastructure would be largely screened by existing vegetation in the middle ground, reducing the scale of change. The Cumbernauld Substation Extension would be entirely screened by the existing vegetation and landform. The removal of the CB Route in the middle of the view, which would result in a positive change. The duration of change would be long-term.

Magnitude of effect: **Low**

Operational (Year 15)

The visual effects at Year 15 are assessed as remaining consistent with the Year 1 assessment as no mitigation planting proposed would be visible.

Minor beneficial
(not significant)

Magnitude of effect: **Low**

Table 1.2.10 Viewpoint 10: Palacerigg Golf Course and Country Park

Sensitivity of Visual Receptor	Magnitude of Effect	Significance of Effect
Receptor Groups: Recreational Approximate distance to the Project: New Build Overhead Line: 460 m Bonnybridge Substation: 8.9 km Cumbernauld Substation: 1.2 km Value: Medium Susceptibility: High Views of the surroundings are an important contributor to the experience of views contribute to the landscape setting enjoyed by recreational receptors experiencing this viewpoint. Visual Sensitivity: High	Construction During construction, the upper extent of tall plant associated with the installation of the New Build Overhead Line (WB022 and WB023) would be introduced into background of the view. There is the possibility that the very upper extents of tall plant associated with the dismantling and removal of the CB Route (CB004) may also be visible in the same part of the view. The works would be in a small part of the view against the skyline but would largely be screened by mature intervening vegetation. The tall, dense line of conifers in the background and the deciduous and evergreen trees of varied colours, textures and heights in the middle ground would obstruct distant views, where focal points within the area would instead be directed to the grassland and the immediate surroundings in the foreground, resulting in changes in the background less noticeable. This is increased by the lack of views to the wider landscape beyond such vegetation. Lighting associated with construction works would not be perceptible due to intervening mature vegetation. All construction activities associated with the Cumbernauld Substation Extension would also be completely intervened by existing vegetation in the middle ground and would therefore not be visible. Overall, the construction works would introduce additional movement in the view but would be located in the background and largely screened by mature vegetation on the edge of the immediate landscape. The lack of existing views beyond such vegetation would reduce the perception of change. The duration of change would be short-term. Magnitude of effect: Low	Minor adverse (not significant)

Taking into account the value judgements and the susceptibility to change, overall visual sensitivity is considered to be high.	Operational (Year 1) At Operation Year 1, the view would include the New Build Overhead Line (WB022 and WB023). These towers would be located in the background of the view and would be largely screened by mature intervening vegetation, particularly WB022. The introduction of WB023 would be an unobtrusive change to the visual receptor due to the small part of the view altered and only available for a short part of the route through the Park due to intervening mature vegetation cover. There would be no visibility to Cumbernauld Substation Extension due to intervening mature vegetation in the middle ground. Overall, the scale of change resulting from the New Build Overhead Line would be an unobtrusive change in the background of the view. The absence of long-distance views, where the focal points are primarily in the foreground and middle ground, would further reduce the perceived contrast. The duration of change would be long-term. Magnitude of effect: Low	Minor adverse (not significant)
	Operational (Year 15) The visual effects at Year 15 are assessed as remaining consistent with the Year 1 assessment as no mitigation planting proposed would be visible. Magnitude of effect: Low	Minor adverse (not significant)

Table 1.2.11 Viewpoint 11: Greengairs

Sensitivity of Visual Receptor	Magnitude of Effect	Significance of Effect
Receptor Groups: Recreational Residential Road users Approximate distance to the Project: New Build Overhead Line: 1.1 km Bonnybridge Substation: 1.1 km Cumbernauld Substation: 3.6 km Value: Low Susceptibility: High Views of the surroundings are an important contributor to the experience of views contribute to the landscape setting enjoyed by recreational receptors, residential receptors and	Construction During construction, activities and plant introduced to install the New Build Overhead Line (approximately WB012–WB022), the removal of the CB Route (CB003–CB004) and the establishment of temporary construction compounds and temporary access tracks (WB-B06, WB-B07) Whilst the construction works would span the entirety of the view, the visibility of these activities would be localised in pockets within the areas of dense, mature vegetation. Views are likely to be limited to the upper extent of tall plant other than for tower WB015 which has less intervening screening. The scale of change would be further reduced through backclothing by distant hills across the entire view in the background. Despite being closer to the Project, residents located further north would be positioned on lower ground, where visibility would be further obstructed by vegetation in the foreground and middle ground. This would also reduce the scale of change. Lighting associated with construction works, assumed to be used during low-light conditions, would introduce new lighting sources. However, these would be largely screened by existing vegetation in the middle ground and background, resulting in a change that would be barely perceptible in the view. Lighting from existing streetlighting in the foreground and properties within the wider view would reduce the perceived contrast, thereby reducing the overall magnitude of change. Construction activities and plant movements associated with the Cumbernauld Substation Extension would be fully screened by middle-ground landform and vegetation, with no visibility or effects.	Minor adverse (not significant)

road users experiencing
this viewpoint.

Visual Sensitivity:
Medium

Taking into account the
value judgements and the
susceptibility to change,
overall visual sensitivity is
considered to be
medium.

Overall, the change introduced by the construction activities would be localised in the background of the view set within the expanse of vegetation, including large-scale plantation forestry. The scale of change would be reduced through back-clothing by distant hills in the background. The perceived contrast would be reduced when viewed in the broader context provided by wind turbines, forestry operations and traffic along Greengairs Road. The duration of change would be short-term.

Magnitude of effect: **Low**

Operational (Year 1)

At Operation Year 1, the view would include the New Build Overhead Line (WB012–WB022) in the background. There would be permanent vegetation removal associated with the wayleave however due to the mature vegetation within the view, this would only be visible in a small part of the view and would barely be perceptible as a change to the existing pattern.

The New Build Overhead Line would span the entirety of the view but the scale of change would be limited due to backclothing of wider hills across the majority of the route and numerous features and extensive vegetation including forestry plantation cover between the receptor and the route which also partially screens the lower extents of most of the towers which reduces the scale of change. The view also contains existing vertical elements, including wood pole line, lighting columns and distant wind turbines, as well as urbanising built form such as within Cumbernauld, which reduces the degree of contrast.

Several of the more distant towers in the direction of the Ochil Hills would break the distant skyline. The majority of the lower extents of such towers would be screening by intervening plantation forestry which would reduce the scale of change. The towers would also be within the context of turbines set against landform in a similar part of the view, which reduces the degree of contrast. It should be noted that this is based on the maximum height, whereas the

Minor adverse
(not significant)

visualisation (Volume 4) illustrates the heights stated in the stacking table (Appendix 4.1) in which the towers would not break the skyline.

Residents located further north would be closer to the Project, but views towards it would be largely obstructed by vegetation in the foreground and middle ground, as they are located on the lower side of the topography.

Cumbernauld Substation and the Extension works would be screened by middle-ground landform and vegetation, resulting in no visibility or effects.

Overall, the change to the composition of the view would be an unobtrusive change due to existing features and the large-scale nature of the view which reduce the perception of scale and degree of contrast from the addition of the New Build Overhead Line. This would include the backclothing of distant hills for the majority of the route and the extensive vegetation cover across the view, including forestry plantation, which would break up views of the towers. The duration of change would be long-term.

Magnitude of effect: **Low**

Operational (Year 15)

The visual effects at Year 15 are assessed as remaining consistent with the Year 1 assessment as no mitigation planting proposed would be visible.

Minor adverse
(not significant)

Magnitude of effect: **Low**

Table 1.2.12 Viewpoint 12: Brackenhirst Road

Sensitivity of Visual Receptor	Magnitude of Effect	Significance of Effect
Receptor Groups: Residential Road users Approximate distance to the Project: New Build Overhead Line: 126 m Bonnybridge Substation: 13.7 km Cumbernauld Substation: 4.8 km Value: Low	Construction During construction, activities and plant introduced to install the New Build Overhead Line (WB004–WB008), the establishment of temporary construction compounds and temporary access tracks (WB-B02, WB-B03) would be introduced in the foreground, middle ground and background. The lower extents of the construction activities would be largely screened in the middle ground due to intervening vegetation. This screening would be less effective for some residential properties where there would be less intervening vegetation in places. The upper extents would be visible across the more open part of the view and would be set against the skyline in part. Movement associated with plant and construction activities would be perceived in the broader context of the turbine operating in the background to the northwest, forestry operations and traffic along Brackenhirst Road which would reduce the perceived contrast.	Moderate adverse (significant)
Susceptibility: Medium Views of the surroundings are a contributor to the experience of views of residential receptors and road users experiencing this viewpoint, albeit noting the context of the road and surrounding forestry cover.	Lighting associated with construction works, assumed to be used during low-light conditions, would introduce new lighting sources where visible through and between vegetation within the view. The effects of lighting would be greater for residential receptors due to the lack of screening vegetation. Construction works associated with the Bonnybridge Substation Extension and the Cumbernauld Substation Extension would be completely screened by the existing topography in the middle ground, resulting in no visibility and effects. Overall, the change introduced by the construction would be pronounced change in the composition of the view due to limited vegetation screening and the scale of activity. The	

Visual Sensitivity: Medium	relatively simple view would have increased movement and construction related plant which would provide a great degree of contrast. The duration of change would be short-term.	
Taking into account the value judgements and the susceptibility to change, overall visual sensitivity is considered to be medium.	Magnitude of effect: High	
	Operational (Year 1) At Operation Year 1, the view would include the New Build Overhead Line (WB004–WB008) in the foreground and middle ground. This would occupy a proportion of the view but would be in close proximity for a range of receptors in the locality, including along the road and from residential properties. The scale of the new towers would differ to the existing wood pole line and the forestry plantation and their elevated height to the viewpoint location would increase the perceived contrast. Bonnybridge and Cumbernauld Substation Extension works would remain completely screened by the existing topography in the middle ground, resulting in no visibility and effects. Overall, the perceived change resulting from the New Build Overhead Line would be a pronounced change in the simple composition of the existing view. Despite having features such as forestry and wind turbines within the view, the scale of change and proximity to the receptors would heavily contrast the existing views. The duration of change would be long-term. Magnitude of effect: High	Moderate adverse (significant)
	Operational (Year 15) The visual effects at Year 15 are assessed as remaining consistent with the Year 1 assessment as no mitigation planting proposed would be visible. Magnitude of effect: High	Moderate adverse (significant)

Table 1.2.13 Viewpoint 13: Alnwick Crescent, Golfhill, Glenmavis

Sensitivity of Visual Receptor	Magnitude of Effect	Significance of Effect
Receptor Groups: Residential Approximate distance to the Project: New Build Overhead Line: 182 m Bonnybridge Substation: 15 km Cumbernauld Substation: 6.2 km Value: Low Susceptibility: Medium Views of the surroundings are a contributor to the experience of views of residential receptors experiencing this viewpoint. Visual Sensitivity: Medium Taking into account the value judgements and the	Construction During construction, activities and plant associated with partial dismantling and removal of two towers along the existing XX Route and the installation of four new XX Route towers would be visible from the northern edge of the residential estate and through a gap in built form along Alnwick Crescent. Construction works associated with the New Build Overhead Line would also be visible in the background of the view which would be further from the receptor and in the context of wider forestry activity in the landscape. It should be noted that within the residential estate, views of the works would largely be screened by intervening built form, other than the upper extents of tall plant. The works would be within the context of the existing XX Route, including movement of vehicles along the road network, which reduces the scale and degree of contrast in views. Any lighting associated with the construction works would largely be screened by existing residential properties and would be in the context of lighting associated with the residential development. Construction works associated with the Bonnybridge and Cumbernauld Substation Extension would be completely screened by the existing residential developments in the foreground, resulting in no visibility and effects. Overall, the change introduced would be noticeable in close proximity to the residential receptors and would result in increased movement and works. This would be set within the context of the existing XX Route in close proximity. The duration of change would be short-term. Magnitude of effect: Medium	Moderate adverse (significant)

susceptibility to change, overall visual sensitivity is considered to be medium.

Operational (Year 1)

At Operation Year 1, tower XX020 along the XX Route would have been removed that was previously visible from within the residential estate and from the viewpoint location, which would be beneficial in views. Whilst not visible from this viewpoint, the existing XX Route would be moved further northwards away from the residential properties, representing a beneficial change in views from the northern edge of the residential estate and views along Alnwick Crescent. The towers would be taller but would continue to break the skyline and the perceived scale would be lessened due to the increased distance from receptors.

The Bonnybridge and Cumbernauld Substation Extension works would remain completely screened by the existing residential developments in the foreground, resulting in no visibility and effects.

Overall, the removal of existing XX Route towers in close proximity to the northern edge of the residential development would have a beneficial effect on residential dwellers. The New Build Overhead Line would remain within the view and the XX Route context would remain to the north. The duration of change would be long-term.

Magnitude of effect: **Low**

Negligible beneficial
(not significant)

Operational (Year 15)

The visual effects at Year 15 are assessed as remaining consistent with the Year 1 assessment as no mitigation planting proposed would be visible.

Magnitude of effect: **Low**

Negligible beneficial
(not significant)