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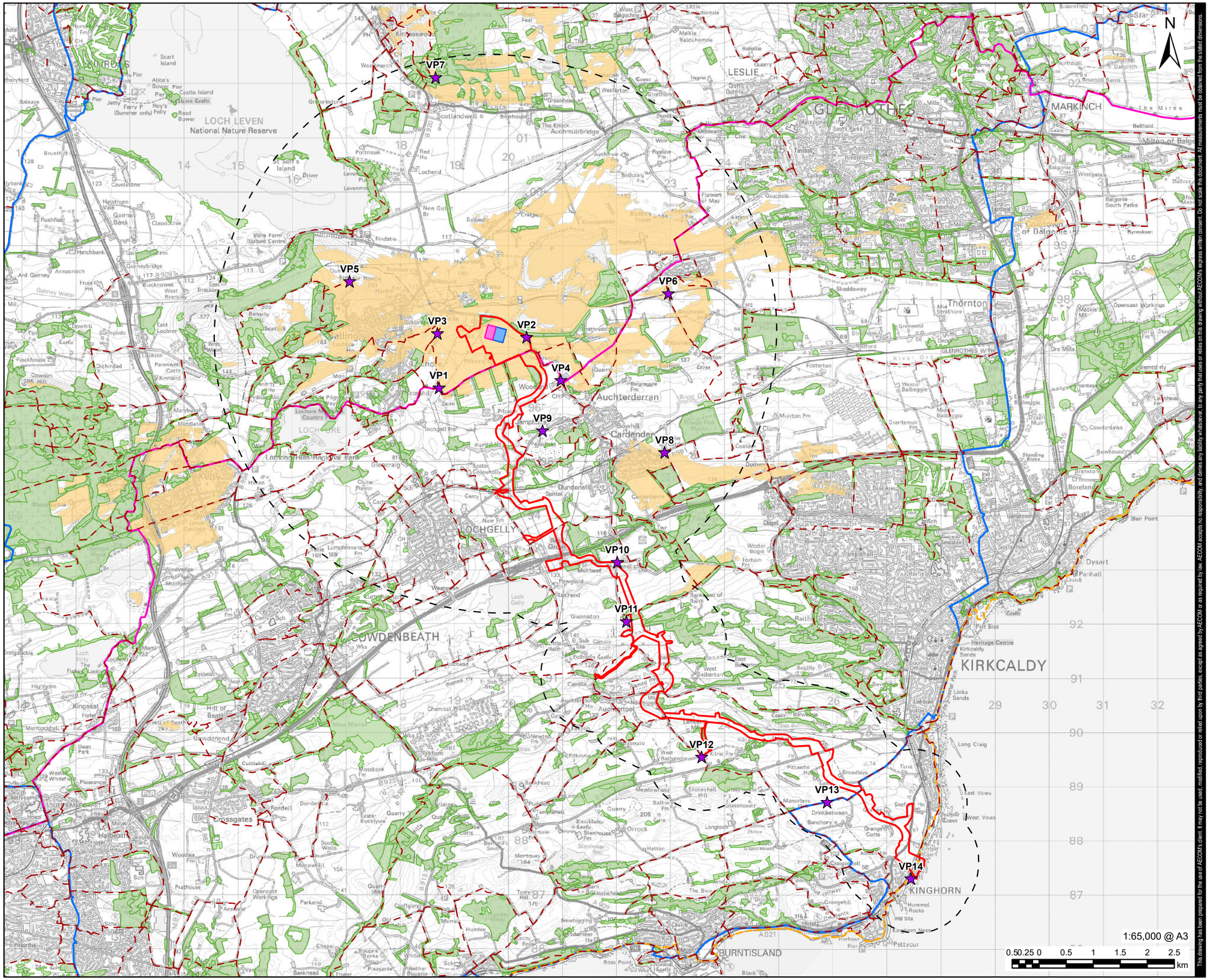

AECOM

PROJECT

Eastern Green Link 4

CLIENT

SP Energy Networks

CONSULTANT

AECOM Limited
One Trinity Gardens
Newcastle
NE1 2HF
www.aecom.com

LEGEND

- Planning Application Boundary
- Study Area
- Converter Station Platform - Zone 1 (28.5m Height)
- Converter Station Platform - Zone 2 (18m Height)
- Viewpoint Location
- Core Path
- Fife Coastal Path
- Fife Pilgrim Way
- National Cycle Network
- National Forest Inventory - Woodland -10m Height
- Zone of Theoretical Visibility

NOTES

Zone of Theoretical Visibility (ZTV) has been generated using OS Terrain 5 digital terrain model (DTM) which does not take into account the screening effects of vegetation, buildings or other structures.
Woodland from National Forest Inventory has been incorporated into the DTM with an assumed height of 10m.
ZTV is based on a series of points at 10m apart within the Converter Station Platform at 18m/28.5m with an observer height of 1.8m.
All heights mentioned above are above ground level (AGL) unless otherwise specified.

ISSUE PURPOSE

EIA REPORT

PROJECT NUMBER

60707131

FIGURE TITLE

Zone of Theoretical Visibility (ZTV) and Representative Viewpoints

FIGURE NUMBER

Figure 6.4

Revision: 1 Drawn: LC Checked: MLS Approved: VD Date: 2025-10-20

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Westfield BESS

Former Fife Power Station BESS

Kirklands Farm Battery Energy Storage System (BESS)

Westfield Substation Extension

Solar Farm and Battery Storage Development at Land at Strathruddie, Kinglassie, Fife

Muirhead Cardenden Overhead Power Line

Glenniston BESS

Glennistion 2 BESS

Glenniston Battery Storage Facility

Data centre complex of data halls, cooling plant, electricity substations, emergency plant, gatehouse, access roads, parking, fencing, pond and associated landscaping and infrastructure

Balbie Energy Crop & Landfill Restoration Project

N

1:65,000 @ A3

0.5 0.25 0 0.5 1 1.5 2 2.5 km

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LEGEND

- Planning Application Boundary
- Study Area
- Converter Station Platform - Zone 1 (28.5m Height)
- Converter Station Platform - Zone 2 (18m Height)
- National Forest Inventory - Woodland -10m Height
- Zone of Theoretical Visibility

Cumulative Developments

- Application (Approved)
- Application (Pending)
- Pre-application (Consultation)
- Pre-application (Scoping)
- Pre-application (Screening – considered non-EIA)
- Pre-application (Screening)

NOTES

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Zone of Theoretical Visibility (ZTV) has been generated using OS Terrain 5 digital terrain model (DTM) which does not take into account the screening effects of vegetation, buildings or other structures.
Woodland from National Forest Inventory has been incorporated into the DTM with an assumed height of 10m.
ZTV is based on a series of points at 10m apart within the Converter Station Platform at 18m/28.5m with an observer height of 1.8m.
All heights mentioned above are above ground level (AGL) unless otherwise specified.

ISSUE PURPOSE

EIA REPORT

PROJECT NUMBER

60707131

FIGURE TITLE

Zone of Theoretical Visibility (ZTV) and Cumulative Schemes

FIGURE NUMBER

Figure 6.5

ISO A1 594mm x 841mm

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Project Management Initials: Designer: VINCENT WONG Checked:CHARLOTTE WILLIAMS Approved: /

AECOM

PROJECT

Eastern Green Link 4

CLIENT

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LEGEND

- RED LINE BOUNDARY
- EXISTING HEDGEROW WITH TREES TO BE REINSTATED AND ENHANCED
- PROPOSED OR STRENGTHENED HEDGEROW WITH TREES (INCLUDE 1M WIDE STRIP OF UNMANAGED GRASSLAND ON THE FIELD SIDE)
- PROPOSED OR STRENGTHENED HEDGEROW (INCLUDE 1M WIDE STRIP OF UNMANAGED GRASSLAND ON THE FIELD SIDE)
- EXISTING VEGETATION TO BE RETAINED
- EXISTING WOODLAND TO BE ENHANCED
- PROPOSED WOODLAND
- PROPOSED CONVERTER STATION PERIMETER STRIP GRASSLAND MIX
- PROPOSED WET GRASSLAND SEED MIX
- PROPOSED SHRUB PLANTING MIX
- PROPOSED SPECIES DIVERSE MEADOW
- PROPOSED SWALE WITH WET GRASSLAND SEED MIX
- CABLE ROUTE AND UNDERGROUNDED 132KV LINE
- REINSTATED LAND
- INDICATIVE PROPOSED BUND
- INDICATIVE PROPOSED ATTENUATION BASIN

PROJECT MANAGEMENT INITIALS

VW	CW	
DESIGNER	CHECKED	APPROVED

ISSUE/REVISION

VW	15-08-25	DRAFT ISSUE
I/R	DATE	DESCRIPTION

PROJECT NUMBER

60707131

FIGURE TITLE

OUTLINE LANDSCAPE PLAN

FIGURE NUMBER

60707131-ACM-LA-1001

6.6 Embedded Mitigation

Design Mitigation

Embedded mitigation measures
Embedded mitigation measures, which have been incorporated within the design of the Scottish Onshore Scheme, or which are standard practice measures that have been committed to, are summarised in **Chapter 2: Project Description (Volume 2: Main Report)**. Mitigation of views of the permanent infrastructure has been a key part of the design development process as well as consideration of local landscape character context.

Landscape and visual considerations have been important in informing the converter and landfall site selection process and in identifying potential cable route corridor options, and will continue to inform the form, location and routeing of the various elements throughout the design process.

All mitigation planting measures for the landscape and visual impact assessment are embedded and contained in **Figure 6.6 Outline Landscape Plan**. These measures have been developed collaboratively with other specialists including ecology and heritage, and provide a cohesive mitigation design response. The proposed planting will respond positively to the key characteristics of the relevant LLAs and LCTs.

The below description of the embedded mitigation measures refers to various landscape bunds. It should be noted that, as referred to in the Limitations and Assumptions section of this chapter, as this is an outline planning application and the design is not finalised at this stage, the cut and fill balance is not known. Therefore, the assessment has been undertaken on a worst-case basis in which the bunding is not present but the landscape planting proposed on these areas will be.

The key aspects of the outline landscape plan are described as follows:

- Protect existing vegetation where possible, including tree and scrub planting along the B9097, woodland on the eastern and western boundaries and existing hedgerows within the proposed converter station site;
- Replace habitat lost as a result of the proposed converter station construction and enhance overall habitat quality through the creation of native woodland, hedgerow, wet grassland, scrub planting, and species-rich meadow where appropriate, supporting the delivery of Biodiversity Net Gain;
- Enhance and extend the existing landscape framework through native woodland planting along the eastern boundary, strengthening structural vegetation and providing visual screening of the proposed converter station;
- Introduce native hedgerow and tree planting along the proposed converter station site boundary and strengthen existing vegetation along the B9097 by infilling gaps with additional native hedgerow and tree planting. All proposed hedgerows incorporate a 1m unmanaged grassland strip on the field side to support invertebrate habitat and enhance structural diversity;
- An integrated sustainable drainage strategy is proposed, comprising attenuation basins and swales, both seeded with a wetland grass mix appropriate for intermittent water

retention. This approach provides effective surface water management while enhancing habitat diversity and supporting ecological resilience. Swales are aligned with the proposed converter station site's low-lying contours, contributing further to water attenuation, ecological value and landscape integration;

- Landscape bunds are proposed around the converter station in defined locations, planted with a mix of woodland and scrub species. The scrub planting is designed to connect with existing hedgerows, reinforcing the proposed converter station site's landscape structure and providing visual screening of the proposed converter station. Habitat types are strategically arranged to enhance ecological connectivity and support species movement across the site. Whilst the bunds have been included as embedded mitigation, the final height of the bunds will be confirmed at detailed design stage once cut and fill balances are understood;
- The setting of the proposed northern, eastern, southern and western landscape bunds has been informed to help reduce the anticipated magnitude and extent of visual change for surrounding receptors;
- The highest-priority mitigation measures are the eastern and western bunds. The eastern bund would contribute to lessening effects on receptors to the east of the proposed converter station and would also reduce visibility for receptors to the south-east and north-east. The western bund would mitigate effects for receptors to the west and would also benefit receptors to the north-west and south-west;
- The southern bund is of secondary priority, providing additional screening for receptors to the south, where visibility is already limited to the upper elements of the proposed converter station above intervening landform and vegetation. The northern bund is of lower priority, providing localised screening for receptors to the north, where visibility is confined to seasonal and filtered views along the core path towards the proposed converter station site at a far distance;
- Extensive species-rich meadow planting is proposed across the northern and eastern parts of the proposed converter station site. This approach supports habitat creation for pollinators and invertebrates, enhances ecological connectivity across the proposed converter station site, and contributes to long-term landscape resilience. It also plays a key role in delivering Biodiversity Net Gain, in line with national policy and best practice;
- The western and southern extents of the proposed converter station site, identified for reinstatement, are proposed to be seeded with a wetland grass mix to promote ecological restoration and ensure integration with the surrounding landscape character;
- The cable route and undergrounded 132kV line will be reinstated with either species-rich meadow or wet grassland mix, as appropriate, to maintain both visual cohesion and ecological continuity across the proposed converter station site;
- A 5-metre-wide strip of converter station perimeter grassland mix is proposed within the security and maintenance zone surrounding the fenced converter station platform. This treatment provides a low-maintenance and resilient surface that facilitates access for inspection and maintenance, while preserving a clear zone for security monitoring;

- To consider opportunities for advanced planting to provide early establishment of woodland planting; and
- Monitoring and maintenance of new planting and seeding to ensure successful establishment.

Planting strategy

Planting proposals will prioritise native species of local provenance, avoiding non-native and invasive, in line with Forestry Commission Scotland guidance (2006). The following species are indicative of those to be included across the proposed habitat types (further detail is provided in **Chapter 7: Ecology and Nature Conservation (Volume 2: Main Report)**):

- *Proposed or Strengthened Hedgerow with Trees*: Prunus spinosa, Sambucus nigra, Corylus avellana, Crataegus monogyna, Rosa caesia, Rosa mollis, Rosa canina, Ilex aquifolium, Ulmus glabra, Quercus robur, Betula pendula, Sorbus aucuparia.
- *Proposed Species Diverse Meadow*: Scotia Seeds MG5 mix.
- *Proposed Converter Station Perimeter Strip Grassland Mix*: Scotia Seeds MG5 mix.
- *Proposed Shrub Planting Mix*: Prunus spinosa, Sambucus nigra, Corylus avellana, Crataegus monogyna, Rosa caesia, Rosa mollis, Ilex aquifolium, Ulmus glabra.
- *Proposed Wet Grassland Seed Mix:* Scotia Seeds Wet Meadow mix.
- *Proposed Woodland*: Quercus robur, Betula pendula, Sorbus aucuparia, Prunus avium, Populus tremula, Ulmus glabra, Corylus avellana.

6.7 Assessments of Effects

A detailed assessment of landscape and visual effects is provided in **Appendix 6.2 Landscape Assessment (Volume 4: Appendices)** and **Appendix 6.3 Visual Assessment (Volume 4: Appendices)**. The following section provides a summary of the likely significant effects during the construction and operation (at year 1 and year 15) phases on the landscape and visual resource.

Summary of Construction Effects

Effects on Landscape Designations and Landscape Receptors during construction

There are no anticipated significant adverse effects on landscape designations or landscape receptors at the construction phase. Full details of the landscape assessment are contained within **Appendix 6.2 Landscape Assessment (Volume 4: Appendices)**.

Effects on Visual Receptors during construction

It is anticipated that three of the 14 viewpoints (**Viewpoints 2, 3 and 5**) will experience significant adverse effects during construction. Full details of the visual assessment are contained within **Appendix 6.3 Visual Assessment (Volume 4: Appendices)**. A summary of the visual effects based on receptor groups is provided below.

Road users on B9097: There will be significantly affected receptors for a short section of the B9097 during construction as it passes immediately past the construction works associated with the proposed converter station site. Construction activity will extend from the foreground into the middle ground of the view. The construction works will displace longer

distance views to the west of the receptor to higher ground and will temporarily remove hedgerow in the view which will open up views to the ground plane of the converter station site. The construction works will be a pronounced change in the composition of the view whilst in the context of some existing urbanising features within the view including traffic along the road.

Recreational users along the local core path network: There will be significantly affected receptors for short sections of the local core path network on elevated land near to Dunmore Fort and east of Lochore. The construction activity associated with the proposed converter station, HVDC and HVAC cable routes will be visible in a small proportion of the open part of the elevated views from near to Dunmore Fort and the works will be noticeable in the view albeit noting the existing vertical elements which reduces the degree of contrast. From a similar topography to the proposed converter station site to the east of Lochore, the construction activity associated with the proposed converter station and the HVDC and HVAC cable routes will be visible across a large portion of the open part of the view. The works associated with the proposed converter station will be partially positioned behind intervening mature vegetation and in the context of existing vertical and moving features in the view but will remain noticeable.

Residential receptors on the edge of Lochore and Ballingry: The construction activity associated with the proposed converter station and the HVDC and HVAC cable routes will be visible across a large portion of open part of views where available noting vegetation cover to the east of the settlement edges. The works associated with the proposed converter station will be partially positioned behind intervening mature vegetation and in the context of existing vertical and moving features in the view but will remain noticeable.

Summary of Effects at Operation Year 1

Effects on Landscape Designations and Landscape Receptors during operation year 1
There are no anticipated significant adverse effects on landscape designations or landscape receptors at operation year 1. Full details of the landscape assessment are contained within **Appendix 6.2 Landscape Assessment (Volume 4: Appendices)**.

Effects on Visual Receptors during operation year 1

Road users on B9097: There will be significantly affected receptors for a short section of the B9097 at operation year 1 as it passes immediately past the proposed converter station site. The proposed converter station will be a pronounced feature within the middle ground of the view and permanently displace longer distance views of rising landform to the west of the receptor. This is set within the context of existing energy infrastructure and the benefits of undergrounding the 132kV line.

There are no other anticipated significant adverse effects on visual receptors at operation year 1. Full details of the visual assessment are contained within **Appendix 6.3 Visual Assessment (Volume 4: Appendices)**.

Summary of Effects at Operation Year 15

Effects on Landscape Designations and Landscape Receptors during operation year 15
There are no anticipated significant adverse effects on landscape designations or landscape receptors at operation year 15. Full details of the landscape assessment are contained within **Appendix 6.2 Landscape Assessment (Volume 4: Appendices)**.

Effects on Visual Receptors during operation year 15

There are no anticipated significant adverse effects on visual receptors at operation year 15. Full details of the visual assessment are contained within **Appendix 6.3 Visual Assessment (Volume 4: Appendices)**.

6.8 Additional Mitigation

As set out above, all mitigation is embedded, and no additional mitigation is available that would be effective in further reducing effects.

6.9 Residual Effects

As all mitigation is embedded in the Scottish Onshore Scheme and there is no additional mitigation, all effects described in the section above are residual. The following tables therefore present a summary of the landscape and visual impact assessment.

The following tables demonstrate that there are no expected residual significant effects at operation on local landscape designations as noted in Policy 4 of NPF4.

Table 6-8 Summary of Effects: Construction

Receptor	Description of Effects	Effects	Additional Mitigation	Residual Effects	Significant
Cullaloe Hills and Coast LLA	Effect on landscape character	Minor adverse	N/A (All mitigation embedded)	Minor adverse	Not significant
Loch Ore and Benarty LLA	Effect on landscape character	Minor adverse	N/A (All mitigation embedded)	Minor adverse	Not significant
LCT 186 - Lowland Hills and Valleys	Effect on landscape character	Minor adverse	N/A (All mitigation embedded)	Minor adverse	Not significant
LCT 185 - Pronounced Hills and Crags	Effect on landscape character	Minor adverse	N/A (All mitigation embedded)	Minor adverse	Not significant
LCT 192 - Coastal Hills - Fife	Effect on landscape character	Negligible adverse	N/A (All mitigation embedded)	Negligible adverse	Not significant
LCT 182 - Upland Hills, LCT 183 - Hill	Effect on landscape character	Minor adverse	N/A (All mitigation embedded)	Minor adverse	Not significant

Receptor	Description of Effects	Effects	Additional Mitigation	Residual Effects	Significant
Slopes and LCT 383 - Rugged Lowland Hills					
LCT 191 - Lowland Loch Basins – Fife and LCT 390 - Lowland Basin	Effect on landscape character	Minor adverse	N/A (All mitigation embedded)	Minor adverse	Not significant
CCT 5 – Developed Inner Firths	Effect on landscape character	Negligible adverse	N/A (All mitigation embedded)	Negligible adverse	Not significant
Viewpoint 1 - Fife Pilgrim Way and core path network	Effect on visual amenity	Minor adverse	N/A (All mitigation embedded)	Minor adverse	Not significant
Viewpoint 2 - B9097 east of Lochore	Effect on visual amenity	Moderate adverse	N/A (All mitigation embedded)	Moderate adverse	**Significant**
Viewpoint 3 - Core path network east of Lochore	Effect on visual amenity	Moderate adverse	N/A (All mitigation embedded)	Moderate adverse	**Significant**
Viewpoint 4 - Northern edge of Auchterderran	Effect on visual amenity	Minor adverse	N/A (All mitigation embedded)	Minor adverse	Not significant
Viewpoint 5 - Northern edge of Dunmore Fort	Effect on visual amenity	Moderate adverse	N/A (All mitigation embedded)	Moderate adverse	**Significant**
Viewpoint 6 - Southern edge of Kinglassie	Effect on visual amenity	Minor adverse	N/A (All mitigation embedded)	Minor adverse	Not significant
Viewpoint 7 - Local core path network north of Scotlandwell	Effect on visual amenity	Minor adverse	N/A (All mitigation embedded)	Minor adverse	Not significant
Viewpoint 8 - B981 east of Cardenden	Effect on visual amenity	Negligible adverse	N/A (All mitigation embedded)	Negligible adverse	Not significant

Receptor	Description of Effects	Effects	Additional Mitigation	Residual Effects	Significant
Viewpoint 9 - B981 west of Auchterderran	Effect on visual amenity	Minor adverse	N/A (All mitigation embedded)	Minor adverse	Not significant
Viewpoint 10 - Unnamed road south of A92 near Cardenden	Effect on visual amenity	Minor adverse	N/A (All mitigation embedded)	Minor adverse	Not significant
Viewpoint 11 - Core path network to north of Auchtertool	Effect on visual amenity	Minor adverse	N/A (All mitigation embedded)	Minor adverse	Not significant
Viewpoint 12 - Core path network to southeast of Auchtertool	Effect on visual amenity	Minor adverse	N/A (All mitigation embedded)	Minor adverse	Not significant
Viewpoint 13 - Core path network to the north of Kinghorn	Effect on visual amenity	Minor adverse	N/A (All mitigation embedded)	Minor adverse	Not significant
Viewpoint 14 - Fife Coastal Path, Kinghorn	Effect on visual amenity	Minor adverse	N/A (All mitigation embedded)	Minor adverse	Not significant

Table 6-9 Summary of Effects: Operation Year 1

Receptor	Description of Effects	Effects	Additional Mitigation	Residual Effects	Significant
Cullaloe Hills and Coast LLA	Effect on landscape character	No change	N/A (All mitigation embedded)	No change	Not significant
Loch Ore and Benarty LLA	Effect on landscape character	Minor adverse	N/A (All mitigation embedded)	Minor adverse	Not significant

Receptor	Description of Effects	Effects	Additional Mitigation	Residual Effects	Significant
LCT 186 - Lowland Hills and Valleys	Effect on landscape character	Minor adverse	N/A (All mitigation embedded)	Minor adverse	Not significant
LCT 185 - Pronounced Hills and Crags	Effect on landscape character	Negligible adverse	N/A (All mitigation embedded)	Negligible adverse	Not significant
LCT 192 - Coastal Hills - Fife	Effect on landscape character	No change	N/A (All mitigation embedded)	No change	Not significant
LCT 182 - Upland Hills, LCT 183 - Hill Slopes and LCT 383 - Rugged Lowland Hills	Effect on landscape character	Negligible adverse	N/A (All mitigation embedded)	Negligible adverse	Not significant
LCT 191 - Lowland Loch Basins – Fife and LCT 390 - Lowland Basin	Effect on landscape character	Negligible adverse	N/A (All mitigation embedded)	Negligible adverse	Not significant
CCT 5 – Developed Inner Firths	Effect on landscape character	No change	N/A (All mitigation embedded)	No change	Not significant
Viewpoint 1 - Fife Pilgrim Way and core path network	Effect on visual amenity	No change	N/A (All mitigation embedded)	No change	Not significant
Viewpoint 2 - B9097 east of Lochore	Effect on visual amenity	Moderate adverse	N/A (All mitigation embedded)	Moderate adverse	**Significant**
Viewpoint 3 - Core path network east of Lochore	Effect on visual amenity	Minor adverse	N/A (All mitigation embedded)	Minor adverse	Not significant
Viewpoint 4 - Northern edge of Auchterderran	Effect on visual amenity	No change	N/A (All mitigation embedded)	No change	Not significant
Viewpoint 5 - Northern edge	Effect on visual amenity	Minor adverse	N/A (All mitigation embedded)	Minor adverse	Not significant

Receptor	Description of Effects	Effects	Additional Mitigation	Residual Effects	Significant
of Dunmore Fort					
Viewpoint 6 - Southern edge of Kinglassie	Effect on visual amenity	Negligible adverse	N/A (All mitigation embedded)	Negligible adverse	Not significant
Viewpoint 7 - Local core path network north of Scotlandwell	Effect on visual amenity	Minor adverse	N/A (All mitigation embedded)	Minor adverse	Not significant
Viewpoint 8 - B981 east of Cardenden	Effect on visual amenity	No change	N/A (All mitigation embedded)	No change	Not significant
Viewpoint 9 - B981 west of Auchterderran	Effect on visual amenity	No change	N/A (All mitigation embedded)	No change	Not significant
Viewpoint 10 - Unnamed road south of A92 near Cardenden	Effect on visual amenity	No change	N/A (All mitigation embedded)	No change	Not significant
Viewpoint 11 - Core path network to north of Auchtertool	Effect on visual amenity	No change	N/A (All mitigation embedded)	No change	Not significant
Viewpoint 12 - Core path network to southeast of Auchtertool	Effect on visual amenity	No change	N/A (All mitigation embedded)	No change	Not significant
Viewpoint 13 - Core path network to the north of Kinghorn	Effect on visual amenity	No change	N/A (All mitigation embedded)	No change	Not significant
Viewpoint 14 - Fife Coastal Path, Kinghorn	Effect on visual amenity	No change	N/A (All mitigation embedded)	No change	Not significant

Table 6-10 Summary of Effects: Operation Year 15

Receptor	Description of Effects	Effects	Additional Mitigation	Residual Effects	Significant
Cullaloe Hills and Coast LLA	Effect on landscape character	No change	N/A (All mitigation embedded)	No change	Not significant
Loch Ore and Benarty LLA	Effect on landscape character	Minor adverse	N/A (All mitigation embedded)	Minor adverse	Not significant
LCT 186 - Lowland Hills and Valleys	Effect on landscape character	Negligible adverse	N/A (All mitigation embedded)	Negligible adverse	Not significant
LCT 185 - Pronounced Hills and Crags	Effect on landscape character	Negligible adverse	N/A (All mitigation embedded)	Negligible adverse	Not significant
LCT 192 - Coastal Hills - Fife	Effect on landscape character	No change	N/A (All mitigation embedded)	No change	Not significant
LCT 182 - Upland Hills, LCT 183 - Hill Slopes and LCT 383 - Rugged Lowland Hills	Effect on landscape character	Negligible adverse	N/A (All mitigation embedded)	Negligible adverse	Not significant
LCT 191 - Lowland Loch Basins – Fife and LCT 390 - Lowland Basin	Effect on landscape character	Negligible adverse	N/A (All mitigation embedded)	Negligible adverse	Not significant
CCT 5 – Developed Inner Firths	Effect on landscape character	No change	N/A (All mitigation embedded)	No change	Not significant
Viewpoint 1 - Fife Pilgrim Way and core path network	Effect on visual amenity	No change	N/A (All mitigation embedded)	No change	Not significant
Viewpoint 2 - B9097 east of Lochore	Effect on visual amenity	Minor adverse	N/A (All mitigation embedded)	Minor adverse	Not significant

Receptor	Description of Effects	Effects	Additional Mitigation	Residual Effects	Significant
Viewpoint 3 - Core path network east of Lochore	Effect on visual amenity	Minor adverse	N/A (All mitigation embedded)	Minor adverse	Not significant
Viewpoint 4 - Northern edge of Auchterderran	Effect on visual amenity	Negligible adverse	N/A (All mitigation embedded)	Negligible adverse	Not significant
Viewpoint 5 - Northern edge of Dunmore Fort	Effect on visual amenity	Minor adverse	N/A (All mitigation embedded)	Minor adverse	Not significant
Viewpoint 6 - Southern edge of Kinglassie	Effect on visual amenity	Negligible adverse	N/A (All mitigation embedded)	Negligible adverse	Not significant
Viewpoint 7 - Local core path network north of Scotlandwell	Effect on visual amenity	Minor adverse	N/A (All mitigation embedded)	Minor adverse	Not significant
Viewpoint 8 - B981 east of Cardenden	Effect on visual amenity	Negligible beneficial	N/A (All mitigation embedded)	Negligible beneficial	Not significant
Viewpoint 9 - B981 west of Auchterderran	Effect on visual amenity	No change	N/A (All mitigation embedded)	No change	Not significant
Viewpoint 10 - Unnamed road south of A92 near Cardenden	Effect on visual amenity	No change	N/A (All mitigation embedded)	No change	Not significant
Viewpoint 11 - Core path network to north of Auchtertool	Effect on visual amenity	No change	N/A (All mitigation embedded)	No change	Not significant
Viewpoint 12 - Core path network to southeast of Auchtertool	Effect on visual amenity	No change	N/A (All mitigation embedded)	No change	Not significant

Receptor	Description of Effects	Effects	Additional Mitigation	Residual Effects	Significant
Viewpoint 13 - Core path network to the north of Kinghorn	Effect on visual amenity	No change	N/A (All mitigation embedded)	No change	Not significant
Viewpoint 14 - Fife Coastal Path, Kinghorn	Effect on visual amenity	No change	N/A (All mitigation embedded)	No change	Not significant

6.10 Summary

This chapter provides an assessment of the effects on landscape character and visual amenity that are likely to arise from the construction and operational phases of the Scottish Onshore Scheme. The assessment of existing baseline conditions identified two local landscape designations, nine published landscape and coastal character types and 14 representative viewpoints relevant to the assessment of effects.

The Scottish Onshore Scheme has been assessed during the construction phase considering all of its key components. The operational phase assessment includes consideration of the proposed converter station only due to the underground and largely temporary nature of the works associated with the HVDC and HVAC cable routes and temporary nature of the works at the landfall.

Mitigation of views of the permanent infrastructure has been a key part of the design development process as well as consideration of local landscape character context. Embedded landscape mitigation measures include to protect existing and reinstatement of vegetation where possible, native woodland planting in close proximity to the converter station site, native hedgerow and tree planting along the proposed converter station site boundary and strengthen existing vegetation along the B9097 by infilling gaps, an integrated sustainable drainage strategy and extensive species-rich meadow planting.

There are no anticipated significant effects on landscape designations or landscape receptors at the construction phase. It is anticipated that three of the 14 viewpoints will experience significant adverse effects during construction. This will include:

- Road receptors for a short section of the B9097 as it passes immediately past the construction works associated with the proposed converter station site. The works will displace longer distance views and will temporarily remove hedgerow which will open up views to the ground plane of the converter station site. The works will also be within the context of some existing urbanising features within the view.
- Recreational receptors for short sections of the local core path network on elevated land near to Dunmore Fort and east of Lochore. The construction works will encompass

differing proportions of the views dependent on the topography but will remain noticeable.

- Residential receptors on the edge of Lochore and Ballingry. The construction works will be visible across a large portion of open part of views where available. The vegetation cover to the east of the settlement edges and existing urbanising features in the view are noted but the works will remain noticeable.

There will be significantly affected receptors for a short section of the B9097 at operation year 1 as it passes immediately past the proposed converter station site. The proposed converter station will be a pronounced feature within the middle ground of the view and permanently displace longer distance views of rising landform to the west of the receptor. This is set within the context of existing energy infrastructure and the benefits of undergrounding the 132kV line.

There are no other anticipated significant adverse effects on landscape designations, landscape receptors or visual receptors at operation year 1 or year 15.

6.11 References

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