Eastern Green Link 4:

Scottish Onshore Scheme

Volume 4: Appendices
Appendix 6.2: Landscape Assessment

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1. Introduction

This appendix should be read in conjunction with **Chapter 6: Landscape and Visual Assessment (Volume 2: Main Report)** and **Appendix 6.1 Landscape and Visual Methodology (Volume 5: Appendices)** and is accompanied by the following figures.

- **Figure 6.2 Landscape Designations (Volume 3: Figures)**;
- **Figure 6.3 Landscape Character Types and Seascape Character Types (Volume 3: Figures)**; and
- **Figure 6.5 Zone of Theoretical Visibility (ZTV) and Cumulative Schemes (Volume 3: Figures)**.

All landscape and visual mitigation measures are embedded and described in **Chapter 6: Landscape and Visual Assessment (Volume 2: Main Report)** and illustrated on **Figure 6.6 Outline Landscape Plan (Volume 3: Figures)**.

2. Landscape Assessment

This appendix provides a detailed assessment of the significance of effects on landscape receptors at each of the assessment phases: construction, operation (year 1) and operation (year 15) where relevant. The assessment is set out in the following tables:

- **Table 2-1 Landscape Designations**
- **Table 2-2 LCT 186 - Lowland Hills and Valleys**
- **Table 2-3 LCT 185 - Pronounced Hills and Crags**
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- **Table 2-7 CCT 5 – Developed Inner Firths**

Approximate distances are given below from each of the landscape receptors to relevant parts of the Scottish Onshore Scheme, including the outer extent of the proposed converter station platform and the Red Line Boundary. The approximate distances are given as the closest part of the receptor, to the closest section of the specific part of the Scottish Onshore Scheme stated.

It is acknowledged that part of the landscape within the study area comprises plantation forestry at different stages of felling. The landscape assessment assumes that there would be no change to this management practice.

Table 2-1 Landscape Designations

Landscape Sensitivity	Magnitude of Effect	Significance of Effect
Cullaloe Hills and Coast LLA		
Approximate distance to the Red Line Boundary: 0m Approximate distance to the converter station platform: 5470.18m Value: **High** Susceptibility: **High** The distinctive summits and interlocking hills, defining role parts of the LLA forming a backdrop in views, high scenic qualities and naturalness are attributes which offer limited opportunities to accommodate the Scottish Onshore Scheme. The larger scale of parts of the LLA with rolling farmland, presence of quarrying and of settlement	Construction During construction, there would be direct influence of construction works on the LLA associated with the HVDC cable route and landfall. The HVDC cable route would extend from the northern edge of the LLA to the coastline where works would also be direct at the landfall on the coastline. This would include laydown areas, haul road, access predominantly along existing tracks, construction compounds and temporary drainage ponds. Vegetation removal would be minimal due to trenchless methods to avoid mature vegetation. There would be very small areas of lowland mixed deciduous woodland at risk of felling and minimal hedgerow loss. Due to existing gaps in some hedgerows within the LLA this would be a minimal effect on the characteristic vegetation patterns within the LLA. The activities associated with the HVDC cable route and construction access would not be dissimilar from agricultural works within the rural landscape, which would minimise alteration to the scenic and naturalness of the LLA. The presence of construction compounds would have an alteration on these key characteristics in small parts of the LLA. The compounds are often relatively contained by nearby mature woodland cover or near to the main transport corridors and set within the context of scattered farmsteads and agricultural buildings which lessen their influence and geographical extent of change perceived. The works at the landfall would be contained by the steep coastline and a trenchless method largely removing effects on the coastline landscape. There would be a localised concentration of construction activity associated with the transition joint bay at the landfall construction compound in a very small part of the LLA and adjacent to the A921.	Minor adverse (not significant)

Landscape Sensitivity	Magnitude of Effect	Significance of Effect
areas with existing built form lessen the susceptibility. <u>Landscape Sensitivity</u>: **<u>High</u>** Taking into account value judgements and susceptibility to change, overall sensitivity of the landscape character is considered to be **high**.	In terms of indirect changes, a very small part of the northern edge of the LLA has theoretical visibility with the proposed converter station. The construction works is likely to be perceptible within a larger area on the northern edge of the LLA due to taller plant and a larger construction area, however this would be limited due to intervening vegetation and landform. There would also be indirect change on the northern edge of the LLA associated with the HVDC cable which extends to the north and the cable laying barge at sea adjacent to the LLA. Due to the limited geographic areas indirectly affected, partly within an area of woodland, existing energy infrastructure in close proximity to the proposed converter station and similarities of activities to the landscape and seascape baseline, the perceived influence on scenic outward views from the LLA would give rise to a very slight alteration to this key characteristic. At construction, there would be temporary lighting perceptible where required at working areas along the cable corridor. The temporary lighting would be low level and directional to minimise disturbance. This is not considered to affect the key characteristic associated with the views across the surrounding landscape as this would be less perceptible during low light levels and the change would be in the context of the existing road network and settlement in the surrounding landscape. Overall, there would be a direct effect on the LLA associated with the construction of the HVDC cables and landfall. The construction works would have highly localised effects on the scenic and naturalness qualities of the LLA, however the activities would not be dissimilar to existing land uses. The majority of the key physical characteristics that contribute to the distinctiveness and functions of the LLA, including the varied landform and coastal hills and braes, would not be affected. The indirect effects would affect very small parts of the LLA and would have a very slight alteration to views. The duration of change would be short-term associated with the HVDC cable and landfall. Magnitude of effect: **Low**	

Landscape Sensitivity	Magnitude of Effect	Significance of Effect
	Operation (Year 1 and Year 15) No assessment has been undertaken at operation year 1 or year 15 as there would be a very limited perception of the operational converter station and the land where the HVDC cable corridor would route would be reinstated to former use. Magnitude of effect: **None**	No change (not significant)
Loch Ore and Benarty LLA		
Approximate distance to the Red Line Boundary: 947.69m Approximate distance to the converter station platform: 1149.31m Value: **High** Susceptibility: **Very high** The smaller scale, enclosed landscape within the LLA, the lack of similar development, the complex topography and landmark features of Benarty Hill and Loch Ore are attributes which offer limited	Construction During construction, there would be no direct influence on the LLA therefore changes are limited to indirect effects on the perceptual qualities of the LLA. This would be associated with the proposed construction compound and HVDC and HVAC cable route. The geographical extent of the change would be perceived across the northern part of the LLA associated with the elevated areas including Harran Hill, Kildownies Hill, Navitie Hill and parts of Benarty Hill, however partially screened by the landform of Navitie Hill. The geographical area which would experience changes would be lessened also by the existing vegetation cover in this part of the LLA. The perceived change would affect the extensive views from elevated footpaths within the LLA which are across the wider lowland landscape. The construction activity associated with the proposed converter station would introduce change in a small part of such views and would be within the context of existing energy infrastructure in close proximity and movement along the B9097 which lessens change. The construction activity associated within the HVDC and HVAC cable corridors would be more perceptible within the views however would not differ considerably from existing agricultural activity within the lowland landscape.	Minor adverse (not significant)

Landscape Sensitivity	Magnitude of Effect	Significance of Effect
opportunities to accommodate the Scottish Onshore Scheme. Landscape Sensitivity: **Very high** Taking into account value judgements and susceptibility to change, overall sensitivity of the landscape character is considered to be **very high**.	At construction, there would be temporary lighting perceptible associated with the converter station site and where required at working areas along the cable corridor. The temporary lighting would be low level and directional to minimise disturbance. This is not considered to affect the key characteristic associated with the views across the surrounding landscape as this would be less perceptible during low light levels and the change would be in the context of the existing road network and settlement in the surrounding landscape. Overall, the indirect effects would result in a very slight alteration to one of the key characteristics of the LLA from the elevated areas where outward views are possible. The construction activity would not affect the physical characteristics of the LLA, which are integral to the character of the relationship between Loch Ore and Benarty Hill, or the elements of the LLA which form an important backdrop to the wider landscape. The duration of change would be medium-term associated with the converter station and short-term associated with the HVDC and HVAC cable routes. Magnitude of effect: **Very low**	
	Operation (Year 1) At operation year 1, effects would be limited to indirect effects on the perceptual qualities of the LLA associated with the proposed converter station. Based on ZTV coverage associated with the proposed converter station, the indirect influence on the setting of the LCT would be confined to the elevated areas in the northern part of the LLA which would be restricted further by vegetation cover. The operational proposed converter station would be perceptible within the extensive views of the surrounding lowland landscape. This change would be limited due to the context of existing energy development in close proximity, including the Westfield Biomass Plant and Westfield Substation, and as the proposed converter station would be within a limited part of the extensive views.	Minor adverse (not significant)

Landscape Sensitivity	Magnitude of Effect	Significance of Effect
	At operation, there would be permanent security lighting at the proposed converter station which would be directional and motion sensored. This is not considered to affect the key characteristic associated with the views across the surrounding landscape as this would be less perceptible during low light levels and any very short-term change would be in the context of the existing road network and settlement in the surrounding landscape. Overall, there would be a localised indirect effect of the LLA associated with the operational converter station. The vast majority of key characteristics of the LLA including those integral to the character of the relationship between Benarty Hill and Loch Ore would not be affected as change would be limited to indirect effects on the setting of the LLA. The extensive views would be affected. However, the nature of such views would remain similar due to existing industrial development existing in the view and very limited change to the extensive nature of such views which is key to this characteristic. The duration of change would be long-term. Magnitude of effect: **Very low**	
	<u>Operation (Year 15)</u> At operation year 15, the new planting associated with the proposed converter station would have established. This would contribute to the perceived integration of the new infrastructure. Whilst there would remain a localised indirect effect on one of the key characteristics of the LLA, the change to this characteristic would be limited and the vast majority of the key characteristics of the LLA would remain unaffected. Magnitude of effect: **Very low**	Minor adverse (not significant)

Table 2-2 LCT 186 - Lowland Hills and Valleys

Landscape Sensitivity	Magnitude of Effect	Significance of Effect
Approximate distance to the Red Line Boundary: 0m Approximate distance to the converter station platform: 0m Value: **Medium** Susceptibility: **Medium** The variety of the landform resulting in the potential for cut and fill, longer distance views across the low hills and the rural backdrop created are attributes of this LCT which offer limited opportunities to accommodate the Scottish Onshore Scheme. The medium-scale open landscape which have the potential for development	Construction During construction, there would be direct influence of construction works on the LCT associated with the proposed converter station and HVAC and HVDC cable routes. This would include construction compounds, laydown areas, haul road and temporary drainage ponds. The geographical extent of the change would be perceived across the LCT but would be relatively contained due to the variable landform, existing built form and vegetation cover. The construction activity associated with the proposed converter station would result in minor earthworks across a small geographical area which would alter the existing relatively level field. A key characteristic of this LCT is the variable landform therefore this change at a localised level would not appear wholly uncharacteristic albeit engineered. The construction activity would introduce urbanising features such as construction plant and activity and would be a feature within the views across the low hills; however, this would be within the context of existing industrialised areas and movement along the adjacent road network and other movement in the LCT including wind turbines. The construction activity would temporarily displace agricultural land and field boundary hedgerow vegetation, which is characteristic but typical within the LCT. The construction activity associated with the HVAC and HVDC cable routes would directly introduce movement and machinery into the LCT. This would be similar to typical agricultural activity within the LCT, which reduces the perception of change on any of the key characteristics. The temporary removal of hedgerow vegetation would temporarily affect the layered vegetation cover and regular farmland patterns within the LCT however the areas of cable routeing using trenchless methods would avoid the more mature vegetation along the route. The temporary compounds would be set within the context of scattered farmsteads but would appear more	Minor adverse (not significant)

Landscape Sensitivity	Magnitude of Effect	Significance of Effect
without the removal of the dominant vegetation cover, the context of some industrialised areas and forestry cover are attributes which lessen the susceptibility. <u>Landscape Sensitivity:</u> **<u>Medium</u>** Taking into account value judgements and susceptibility to change, overall sensitivity of the landscape character is considered to be **medium**.	urbanising in the rural context. Due to the extent of vegetation cover the perceived change would be contained geographically across the LCT. At construction, there would be temporary lighting perceptible associated with the construction of the proposed converter station and where required at working areas along the cable corridor. The temporary lighting would be low level and directional to minimise disturbance. This is not considered to affect the key characteristic associated with the views across the surrounding landscape as this would be less perceptible during low light levels and the change would be in the context of the existing road network and settlement in the surrounding landscape. Overall, there would be a localised direct effect on the LCT associated with the construction of the proposed converter station and HVAC and HVDC cables. The construction works would have highly localised effects on the physical key characteristics of the LCT, such as the landform and vegetation cover, however due to the existing variety this would lessen the perception of change. The construction activity would also affect perceptual characteristics, including views across the lowland and scenic quality, however the change lessened due to existing industrial built form and energy development in the landscape and landform reducing the geographical extent of change to the immediate landscape around the converter station. The duration of change would be medium-term associated with the converter station and short-term associated with the HVDC and HVAC cable routes. Magnitude of effect: **Medium**	
	<u>Operation (Year 1)</u> At operation year 1, there would continue to be direct influence of the proposed converter station within a small part of the LCT. The landform of the converter station site would have permanent alteration due to small-scale earthworks, however the existing variety of the landform in the LCT would lessen this change. The vegetation pattern of hedgerow field boundaries on the converter	Minor adverse (not significant)

Landscape Sensitivity	Magnitude of Effect	Significance of Effect
	station site would be predominantly reinstated with small sections permanently lost, resulting in a very localised change to the landscape pattern. An area of agricultural land would be permanently displaced to facilitate the proposed converter station, which is a key characteristic of the landscape but typical. Based on the ZTV coverage associated with the proposed converter station, the indirect influence on the LCT would be within the more open and elevated areas of the LCT but across a limited geographical extent of influence. This influence is predominantly in the local landscape surrounding the proposed converter station and within two smaller areas to the south of Auchterderran on higher ground. The landform at Hare Law largely restricts the perception of change further to the south due to a lack of intervisibility. The presence of the proposed converter station and the inclusion within views across the lowland landscape would be within the context of the Westfield Biomass Plant and Westfield Substation in very close proximity, which provides context within this part of the LCT with existing industrial influence. At operation, there would be permanent security lighting at the converter station which would be directional and motion sensored. This is not considered to affect the key characteristic associated with the views across the surrounding landscape as this would be less perceptible during low light levels and any very short-term change would be in the context of the existing road network and settlement in the surrounding landscape. Overall, there would be a localised direct effect on the LCT associated with the proposed operational converter station. The proposed converter station would be set within a well vegetated and relatively contained part of the LCT which would lessen the geographical extent of change. The context of existing energy development and the highly localised effects on the already variable topography and landscape pattern would lessen the change on the effected key characteristics of the LCT. The duration of change would be long-term.	

Landscape Sensitivity	Magnitude of Effect	Significance of Effect
	Magnitude of effect: **Low**	
	Operation (Year 15) At operation year 15, the new planting, including on sections of earthworks, associated with the proposed converter station would have established. This would contribute to the perceived integration of the new infrastructure. Whilst there would remain a localised effect on several of the key characteristics of the LCT, the changes would be limited due to the existing varied nature of the LCT and context of existing energy development. Magnitude of effect: **Very low**	Negligible adverse (not significant)

Table 2-3 LCT 185 - Pronounced Hills and Crags

Landscape Sensitivity	Magnitude of Effect	Significance of Effect
Approximate distance to the Red Line Boundary: 0m Approximate distance to the converter station platform: 1303.79m Value: **High** Susceptibility: **High**	Construction During construction, there would be direct influence of construction works on the LCT associated with the HVDC cable route and landfall. The HVDC cable route would extend from the northern edge of the southern part of the LCT in the study area to the coastline where works would also be direct at the landfall on the coastline. This would include laydown areas, haul road, access predominantly along existing tracks, construction compounds and temporary drainage ponds. Vegetation removal would be minimal due to trenchless methods to avoid mature vegetation. There would be very small areas of lowland mixed deciduous woodland at risk of felling and minimal hedgerow loss. Due to existing gaps in some hedgerows within the LCT this would be a minimal effect on the vegetation patterns within the LCT.	Minor adverse (not significant)

Landscape Sensitivity	Magnitude of Effect	Significance of Effect
The steep and rugged landform, the parts of the LCT which are smaller scale with more vegetation cover, visually prominent skylines, and the defining role of the LCT in forming the backdrop to adjacent landscape character types are attributes which offer limited opportunities to accommodate the Scottish Onshore Scheme. The limited presence of built development and extensive views across the wider landscape also increase the susceptibility. The parts of the landscape which are large-scale and open in nature and the influence of historic and active quarrying activity are attributes which lessen the susceptibility. Landscape Sensitivity: **High** Taking into account value judgements and	The activities associated with the HVDC cable route and construction access would not be dissimilar from agricultural works within the rural landscape, which would minimise alteration to the agricultural land uses within the LCT. The presence of construction compounds would have an alteration on these key characteristics in small parts of the LCT given the existing lack of built form. The compounds are often relatively contained by nearby mature woodland cover or near to the main transport corridors and set within the context of scattered farmsteads and agricultural buildings which lessen their influence and geographical extent of change perceived. The works at the landfall would be contained by the steep coastline and a trenchless method utilised removing effects on the coastline landscape. There would be a localised concentration of construction activity associated with the transition joint bay at the landfall construction compound in a very small part of the LCT and adjacent to the A921. There would also be indirect change associated with the proposed converter station and HVAC cables in the northern part of the LCT within the study area. There would also be indirect change from a very small part the southern part of the LCT within the study area along the northern edge however due to vegetation cover this would barely be perceptible. The geographical extent of change across the northern part of the LCT would be extensive across the topographically higher areas. The indirect change would be limited to effects on the extensive views across other LCTs, which the construction works associated with the proposed converter station would be in a limited part of and perceptible in the context of existing energy infrastructure. The indirect change arising from the HVAC cable would not be dissimilar to existing agricultural works within the lowland agricultural landscape. There would also be indirect change on the LCT associated with the HVDC cable outwith the LCT and the cable laying barge at sea adjacent to the LCT. Due to the similarities of activities to the landscape and seascape baseline, the perceived influence on extensive outward views from the LCT would give rise to a very slight alteration to this key characteristic.	

Landscape Sensitivity	Magnitude of Effect	Significance of Effect
susceptibility to change, overall sensitivity of the landscape character is considered to be **high**.	At construction, there would be temporary lighting perceptible associated with the converter station site and where required at working areas along the cable corridor. The temporary lighting would be low level and directional to minimise disturbance. This is not considered to affect the key characteristic associated with the views across the surrounding landscape as this would be less perceptible during low light levels and the change would be in the context of the existing road network and settlement in the surrounding landscape. Overall, there would be a localised direct effect of the LCT associated with the construction of the landfall and HVDC cable and indirect effects associated with the proposed converter station and HVAC cables. The direct changes would not be dissimilar to existing agricultural works, with some urbanising effects in the more open southern section of the LCT associated with the temporary compounds. The extensive, panoramic and elevated views would be affected; however, the nature of such views would remain similar due to existing movement and industrial development existing in the view and very limited change to the extensive nature of such views which is key to this characteristic. The duration of change would be medium-term associated with the converter station and short-term associated with the HVDC cable route. Magnitude of effect: **Low**	
	<u>Operation (Year 1)</u> At operation year 1, effects would be limited to indirect effects on the perceptual qualities of the LCT associated with the proposed converter station. Based on ZTV coverage associated with the proposed converter station, the indirect influence on the setting of the LCT would be confined to the more open and elevated areas of the LCT in the northern part of the study area, including Craigend Hill, Broom Hill, Redwells Hill and White Hill. The landform of Tollie Hill to the west, along with Haughbrae Wood and Knockbathy Wood to the south, reduces the geographical extent of influence of change across the LCT as intervisibility is limited.	Negligible adverse (not significant)

Landscape Sensitivity	Magnitude of Effect	Significance of Effect
	The operational proposed converter station would be perceptible within the extensive, elevated views of the surrounding lowland landscape. This change would be limited due to the context of existing energy development in close proximity, including the Westfield Biomass Plant and Westfield Substation, and as the proposed converter station would be within a limited part of the extensive views. At operation, there would be permanent security lighting at the proposed converter station which would be directional and motion sensored. This is not considered to affect the key characteristic associated with the views across the surrounding landscape as this would be less perceptible during low light levels and any very short-term change would be in the context of the existing road network and settlement in the surrounding landscape. Overall, there would be a localised indirect effect of the LCT associated with the operational converter station. The vast majority of key characteristics of the LCT, including the open rural landform, scenic qualities associated with the extensive views available from elevated locations and towards the coast, recognisable hill ranges rise above the surrounding lowland landscape and its silhouettes that define the edge of other LCTs, would not be affected as change would be limited to indirect effects on the setting of the LCT. The extensive, panoramic and elevated views would be affected. However, the nature of such views would remain similar due to existing industrial development existing in the view and very limited change to the extensive nature of such views which is key to this characteristic. The duration of change would be long-term. Magnitude of effect: **Very low**	
	<u>Operation (Year 15)</u> At operation year 15, the new planting associated with the proposed converter station would have established. This would contribute to the perceived integration of the new infrastructure. Whilst	Negligible adverse (not significant)

Landscape Sensitivity	Magnitude of Effect	Significance of Effect
	there would remain a localised indirect effect on one of the key characteristics of the LCT, the change to this characteristic would be limited and the vast majority of the key characteristics of the LCT would remain unaffected. Magnitude of effect: **Very low**	

Table 2-4 LCT 192 - Coastal Hills - Fife

Landscape Sensitivity	Magnitude of Effect	Significance of Effect
Approximate distance to the Red Line Boundary: 0m Approximate distance to the converter station platform: 8818.73m Value: **Medium** Susceptibility: **Medium** The extensive seaward views, recognisable skyline and the relationship with the adjacent coastal landscape	Construction During construction, there would be no direct influence on the LCT therefore changes are limited to indirect effects on the perceptual qualities of the LCT. This would be limited to the landfall and HVDC cable route. The geographical extent of the change would be perceived across a highly limited part of the LCT due to the coverage of settlement within the LCT resulting in limited intervisibility. Any perceived change is likely to be from the edge of the LCT associated with the HVDC cable route, which would be a very small area with existing influence from A-roads. Any perception of the construction associated with the HVDC cable would be similar to existing agricultural works and there would be limited vegetation removal due to trenchless methods in sections of mature vegetation cover. A cable laying barge would be perceptible at sea however would be within the context of existing vessels at sea as well as the edge of the settlement of Kinghorn, therefore any change would be reduced. The perceptual qualities of coastal exposure and rural openness within the wider LCT would remain largely unaffected.	Negligible adverse (not significant)

Landscape Sensitivity	Magnitude of Effect	Significance of Effect
are attributes of this LCT which offer limited opportunities to accommodate the Scottish Onshore Scheme. The regular pattern of fields, limited vegetation cover, and influence of nearby settlement edges and infrastructure are attributes which lessen the susceptibility. <u>Landscape Sensitivity:</u> **<u>Medium</u>** Taking into account value judgements and susceptibility to change, overall sensitivity of the landscape character is considered to be **medium**.	At construction, there would be temporary lighting perceptible where required at working areas along the cable corridor. The temporary lighting would be low level and directional to minimise disturbance. This is not considered to affect the key characteristic associated with the views across the surrounding landscape as this would be less perceptible during low light levels and the change would be in the context of the existing road network and settlement in the surrounding landscape. Overall, there would be a localised indirect effect on the LCT associated with construction activity of the HVDC cable and landfall. The vast majority of key characteristics of the LCT, including its sloping landform, coastal exposure, and perceptual qualities of openness and rural character, would not be affected by the Scottish Onshore Scheme as change would be limited to indirect effects on the setting of the LCT. The change would also be experienced in a highly localised part of the LCT with existing influence from built form and movement along A-roads. The duration of change would be short-term associated with the HVDC and HVAC cable routes. Magnitude of effect: **Very low**	
	<u>Operation (Year 1 and 15)</u> There are not expected to be perceptible changes on the LCT at operation as the works associated with the landfall and HVDC cable would be reinstated. Magnitude of effect: **None**	No change (not significant)

Table 2-5 LCT 182 - Upland Hills, LCT 183 - Hill Slopes and LCT 383 - Rugged Lowland Hills

Landscape Sensitivity	Magnitude of Effect	Significance of Effect
Approximate distance to the Red Line Boundary: LCT 182: 1455.37m, LCT 183: 1278.67m and LCT 383: 1779.60m Approximate distance to the converter station platform: LCT 182: 1956.81m, LCT 183: 1794.18m and LCT 383: 2256.98m Value: **High** Susceptibility: **High** The sloping nature of the landform which would require considerable earthworks, vegetation cover, the nature of the LCTs typically forming a defining edge and skyline to other LCTs including the relationship with Benarty Hill	Construction During construction, there would be no direct influence of the Scottish Onshore Scheme on the LCTs therefore changes are limited to indirect effects on the perceptual qualities of the LCTs. Based on ZTV coverage associated with the proposed converter station, the indirect influence on the setting of the LCT would cover largely the elevated parts of the LCTs. For LCTs 182 and 183, this includes some open parts of the LCT with outward views and other parts with existing vegetation cover, including Benarty Wood, which would lessen the geographical area over which the change would be experienced. For LCT 383, this would be confined to small areas including associated with Vane Hill and the rising land to the north of Scotlandwell including around Greenhead Hill. In other areas of the LCT, topographic variation, including associated with Vane Hill, and vegetative screening would limit visibility, thereby limiting the geographical area over which the change would be experienced. The construction activity associated with the proposed converter station would be perceptible within the panoramic, elevated views across the surrounding lowland landscape from within the LCTs. The construction activity would be within a small part of such views, would not obstruct the open views and the perception of change would be limited within the context of existing energy related development in the vicinity including the Westfield substation, adjacent to the proposed Converter Station site, overhead towers and line and Westfield Biomass Plant, and movement along the adjacent B9097. Any perceptible change from construction works associated with the HVDC and HVAC cable route across the wider landscape would not be dissimilar to existing agricultural works. At construction, there would be temporary lighting perceptible associated with the converter station site and where required at working areas along the cable corridor. The temporary lighting	Minor adverse (not significant)

Landscape Sensitivity	Magnitude of Effect	Significance of Effect
to the north, lack of built development and man-made features and the outward extensive views across the wider landscape are attributes of these LCTs which offer limited opportunities to accommodate the Scottish Onshore Scheme. The large scale and simple landscapes and some plantation forestry cover are attributes which lessen the susceptibility. Landscape Sensitivity: **High** Taking into account value judgements and susceptibility to change, overall sensitivity of the landscape character is considered to be **high**.	would be low level and directional to minimise disturbance. This is not considered to affect the key characteristic associated with the views across the surrounding landscape as this would be less perceptible during low light levels and the change would be in the context of the existing road network and settlement in the surrounding landscape. Overall, there would be a localised indirect effect on the LCTs associated with the construction of the converter station and HVAC and HVDC cables. The vast majority of key characteristics of the LCTs, including the distinctive landform as a defining edge to other LCTs, would not be affected by the Scottish Onshore Scheme as change would be limited to indirect effects on the setting of the LCT. The panoramic, elevated views would be affected; however, the nature of such views would remain similar due to existing movement and industrial development existing in the view and very limited change to the extensive nature of such views which is key to this characteristic. The duration of change would be medium-term associated with the converter station and short-term associated with the HVDC and HVAC cable routes. Magnitude of effect: **Low**	
	Operation (Year 1) At operation year 1, there would continue to be no direct influence of the Scottish Onshore Scheme on the LCTs, so changes would be limited to indirect effects on the perceptual qualities of the LCTs. This would remain to be perceptible from the elevated areas of the LCTs, which is limited in part by intervening landform and vegetation cover. The operational converter station would be perceptible within the panoramic, elevated views across the surrounding lowland landscape from within the LCTs. However, the nature of such views would be subject to a very slight alteration due to the context of existing energy developments in proximity to the proposed converter station, and the limited effect on the panoramic and distant experience of the views.	Negligible adverse (not significant)

Landscape Sensitivity	Magnitude of Effect	Significance of Effect
	At operation, there would be permanent security lighting at the converter station which would be directional and motion sensored. This is not considered to affect the key characteristic associated with the views across the surrounding landscape as this would be less perceptible during low light levels and any very short-term change would be in the context of the existing road network and settlement in the surrounding landscape. Overall, there would be a localised indirect effect on the LCTs associated with the operational converter station. The vast majority of key characteristics of the LCTs, including the distinctive landform as a defining edge to other LCTs, would not be affected by the Scottish Onshore Scheme as change would be limited to indirect effects on the setting of the LCTs. The panoramic, elevated views would be affected; however, the nature of such views would remain similar due to existing industrial development existing in the view and very limited change to the extensive nature of such views which is key to this characteristic. The duration of change would be long-term. Magnitude of effect: **Very low**	
	<u>Operation (Year 15)</u> At operation year 15, the new planting associated with the proposed converter station would have established. This would contribute to the perceived integration of the new infrastructure. Whilst there would remain a localised indirect effect on one of the key characteristics of the LCTs, the change to this characteristic would be limited and the vast majority of the key characteristics of the LCTs would remain unaffected by the Scottish Onshore Scheme. Magnitude of effect: **Very low**	Negligible adverse (not significant)

Table 2-6 LCT 191 - Lowland Loch Basins – Fife and LCT 390 - Lowland Basin

Landscape Sensitivity	Magnitude of Effect	Significance of Effect
Approximate distance to the Red Line Boundary: LCT 191: 106.46m and LCT 390: 756.0m Approximate distance to the converter station platform: LCT 191: 754.97m and LCT 390: 979.98m Value: **High** Susceptibility: **High** The flat and low-lying landform, open water bodies, as well as the relationship with enclosing upland slopes are attributes of this LCT which offer limited opportunities to accommodate the Scottish Onshore Scheme. The regular field pattern, presence of existing settlement edges and	Construction During construction, there would be no direct influence of the Scottish Onshore Scheme on the LCTs therefore changes are limited to indirect effects on the perceptual qualities of the LCTs. Based on ZTV coverage associated with the proposed converter station, the indirect influence on the setting of the LCTs would be confined to small, elevated geographic areas on the edges of the LCTs. This would comprise the rising landform to the north of Scotlandwell, northeast of Ballingry and at Harran Hill to the west of Lochore. The construction activity associated with the proposed converter station would be perceptible within the panoramic views across the surrounding lowland landscape from within the LCTs. The construction activity would be within a small part of such views, would not obstruct the open views and the perception of change would be limited within the context of existing energy related development in the vicinity and movement along the adjacent B9097. Any perceptible change from construction works associated with the HVDC and HVAC cable route across the wider landscape would not be dissimilar to existing agricultural works. At construction, there would be temporary lighting perceptible associated with the converter station site and where required at working areas along the cable corridor. The temporary lighting would be low level and directional to minimise disturbance. This is not considered to affect the key characteristic associated with the views across the surrounding landscape as this would be less perceptible during low light levels and the change would be in the context of the existing road network and settlement in the surrounding landscape. Overall, there would be a localised indirect effect on the LCTs associated with the construction of the converter station and HVAC and HVDC cables. The vast majority of key characteristics	Minor adverse (not significant)

Landscape Sensitivity	Magnitude of Effect	Significance of Effect
infrastructure and localised influence of past mining activity are attributes which lessen the susceptibility. Landscape Sensitivity: **High** Taking into account value judgements and susceptibility to change, overall sensitivity of the landscape character is considered to be **high**.	associated with the LCTs, including the flat and low-lying landform, open panoramic views across waterbodies and the rural character away from major infrastructure, would not be affected by the Scottish Onshore Scheme as change would be limited to indirect effects on their setting. The panoramic views would be affected; however, the nature of such views would remain similar due to existing movement and industrial development existing in the view and very limited change to the extensive nature of such views which is key to this characteristic. The duration of change would be medium-term associated with the converter station and short-term associated with the HVDC and HVAC cable routes. Magnitude of effect: **Low**	
	Operation (Year 1) At operation year 1, there would continue to be no direct influences of the Scottish Onshore Scheme on the LCTs. As such, changes would be limited to indirect effects on their perceptual qualities. This would remain to be perceptible from limited elevated areas on the edge of the LCTs. The operational converter station would be perceptible within the panoramic views across the surrounding lowland landscape from within the LCTs. The nature of such views would be subject to a very slight alteration due to the context of existing energy developments in proximity to the proposed converter station, due to the elevated views the operational built form would be set against the landform rather than the skyline and the limited effect on the panoramic and distant experience of the views. At operation, there would be permanent security lighting at the converter station which would be directional and motion sensored. This is not considered to affect the key characteristic associated with the views across the surrounding landscape as this would be less perceptible during low light levels and any very short-term change would be in the context of the existing road network and settlement in the surrounding landscape.	Negligible adverse (not significant)

Landscape Sensitivity	Magnitude of Effect	Significance of Effect
	Overall, there would be a localised indirect effect on the LCTs associated with the operational converter station. The vast majority of key characteristics of both LCTs, including the flat and low-lying landform, open panoramic views across waterbodies and the rural character away from major infrastructure, would not be affected by the Scottish Onshore Scheme as change would be limited to indirect effects on the setting of the LCTs. The panoramic views would be affected; however, the nature of such views would remain similar due to existing industrial development existing in the view and very limited change to the extensive nature of such views which is key to this characteristic. The duration of change would be long-term. Magnitude of effect: **Very low**	
	<u>Operation (Year 15)</u> At operation year 15, the new planting associated with the proposed converter station would have established. This would contribute to the perceived integration of the new infrastructure. Whilst there would remain a localised indirect effect on one of the key characteristics of the LCTs, the change to this characteristic would be limited and the vast majority of the key characteristics of the LCTs would remain unaffected by the Scottish Onshore Scheme. Magnitude of effect: **Very low**	Negligible adverse (not significant)

Table 2-7 CCT 5 – Developed Inner Firths

Landscape Sensitivity	Magnitude of Effect	Significance of Effect
Approximate distance to the Red Line Boundary: 0m	<u>Construction</u> During construction, there would be direct effects on the CCT associated with the landfall works. A cable laying barge would be present at sea however would be within the context of existing vessels	Negligible adverse (not significant)

Landscape Sensitivity	Magnitude of Effect	Significance of Effect
Approximate distance to the converter station platform: 10006.91m Value: **Medium** Susceptibility: **High** The small rocky headlands and intricate landscape pattern of the coastline, presence of coastal braes and views across the water are attributes of this LCT which offer limited opportunities to accommodate the Scottish Onshore Scheme. The presence of built form including settlement reduces the susceptibility in part. Landscape Sensitivity: **High** Taking into account value judgements and susceptibility to change, overall sensitivity of the	at sea as well as the edge of the settlement of Kinghorn, therefore the effects on views focused toward the sea would have a slight alteration only. The CCT would experience indirect effects on the setting associated with the landfall works on the coastline. The construction works associated with the landfall would be constructed using a trenchless method therefore there would be no perceptible change. There may be some influence on the tranquillity of a localised area of the CCT due to a concentration of construction works further inland at the landfall construction works however intervisibility is unlikely due to the topography of the coastline. Overall, there would be highly localised influence on the CCT arising from the Scottish Onshore Scheme due to the trenchless methods used associated with the landfall works. Any perceived construction activity would be within the context of settlement on the coastline and existing vessels in the sea. The duration of change would be short-term associated with the landfall works. Magnitude of effect: **Very low**	
	Operation (Year 1 and 15) There are not expected to be perceptible changes on the CCT at operation as the works associated with the landfall and HVDC cable would be reinstated. Magnitude of effect: **None**	No change (not significant)

Landscape Sensitivity	Magnitude of Effect	Significance of Effect
landscape character is considered to be **high**.		