Eastern Green Link 4:

Scottish Onshore Scheme

Volume 4: Appendices
Appendix 6.3: Visual 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 figure.

- **Figure 6.4 Zone of Theoretical Visibility (ZTV) and Representative Viewpoints (Volume 3: Figures)**; and
- **Figure 6.5 Zone of Theoretical Visibility (ZTV) and Cumulative Schemes (Volume 3: Figures)**.

The visual assessment is also accompanied by a package of visualisations from each of the 14 viewpoints at operation (year 1) and operation (year 15) where appropriate, which are presented in **Volume 4: Visualisations**. It should be noted that the horizontal extent of the proposed underground cable route is shown for all viewpoints, however at operation this is not assessed due to the underground nature of the works. During construction, the descriptive text for each viewpoint describes what would be visible in the view.

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. Visual Assessment

This appendix provides a detailed assessment of the significance of effects on visual 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:

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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 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 visual assessment assumes that there would be no change to this management practice of felling.

Table 2-1 Viewpoint 1: Fife Pilgrim Way and core path network

Sensitivity of Visual Receptor	Magnitude of Effect	Significance of Effect
Receptor Groups: Residential and recreational users Approximate distance to the Red Line Boundary: 899.53m Approximate distance to the converter station platform: 1251.57m Located within LCT 186: Lowland Hills and Valleys Value: **Low** Susceptibility: **Very high** Views of the surroundings are an important contributor to the experience of those recreational receptors experiencing this viewpoint from a long distance recreational route (Fife	Construction During construction, activity and plant introduced into the view associated with the proposed converter station would be directly visible in the middle ground of the view. The lower extents would be screened predominantly by intervening landform in the foreground as the land falls away from the receptor. The views of the upper extents of construction plant would likely be visible in a small part of the horizontal extent of the view and would be in the same part of the view already influenced by vertical elements, including wind turbines, wood pole lines and overhead towers and lines, which lessens the degree of contrast. The scale of the construction works would be minimised in comparison with the existing tower in the foreground of the view. The construction activity associated with the HVAC and HVDC cable routes would be largely screened by intervening landform in the foreground of the view. Where perceptible, visibility would be limited to the very upper extents of construction plant across the majority of the horizontal extent of the view. This would be visible in the context of existing vertical elements which limits the degree of contrast and is likely to be barely perceptible as would be predominantly set against the rising landform in the background of the view. No temporary lighting at the construction phase is likely to be visible at the converter station site or along working areas of the cable corridor due to intervening foreground landform. It should be noted that the majority of views from the Fife Pilgrim Way and core path network in the vicinity have partially filtered views towards the works associated with the Scottish Onshore Scheme due to intervening foreground vegetation along the route. This reduces the amount of time that the change in view would be experienced.	Minor adverse (not significant)

Sensitivity of Visual Receptor	Magnitude of Effect	Significance of Effect
Pilgrim Way) and views contribute to the landscape setting enjoyed by residents. Visual Sensitivity: **High** Taking into account the value judgements and the susceptibility to change, overall visual sensitivity is considered to be **high**.	Overall, whilst the construction works has the potential to be perceptible across the majority of the horizontal extent of the view due to the extent of the HVAC and HVDC cable route within the view, the vast majority of the works would be screened by intervening landform. Any views of the upper extent of construction plant would be set within the existing context of vertical and moving structures and the scale of which reduced by existing features in the view. 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 and 15) No assessment has been undertaken at operation year 1 or year 15 as there would be no views to the operational converter station and the land where the HVAC and HVDC cable corridors would route would be reinstated to former use. Magnitude of effect: **None**	No change (not significant)

Table 2-2 Viewpoint 2: B9097 east of Lochore

Sensitivity of Visual Receptor	Magnitude of Effect	Significance of Effect
Receptor Groups: Road users	Construction During construction, activity and plant introduced into the view associated with the proposed converter station, HVAC and HVDC cable routes would dominate the horizontal extent of the	Moderate adverse (**significant**)

Sensitivity of Visual Receptor	Magnitude of Effect	Significance of Effect
Approximate distance to the Red Line Boundary: 0m Approximate distance to the converter station platform: 398.03m Located within LCT 186: Lowland Hills and Valleys Value: **Low** Susceptibility: **Low** Views from those travelling on roads would not have their attention or interest focused on their surroundings. Visual Sensitivity: **Low**	view. This would include construction compounds in the foreground of the view and construction activity extending into the middle ground. The construction works would displace longer distance views to the west of the receptor to higher ground and would temporarily remove hedgerow in the view which would open up views to the ground plane of the converter station site. The construction works would displace an existing agricultural field enclosure but would be within the context of a road and existing vertical energy infrastructure on the converter station site and in the surrounding landscape which reduces the degree of contrast. This includes existing overhead towers and lines and existing wooden poles. During 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 change would be noticeable in the foreground and middle ground but within the context of background lighting associated with the settlement of Ballingry. It should be noted that the majority of road users along the B9097 would have extremely limited views of the construction works due to mature intervening vegetation along the edge of the road corridor which greatly reduces the amount of time that the change in view would be experienced. Overall, the construction works would be a pronounced change in the composition of the view whilst in the context of some existing electrical infrastructure and a road. 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: **High**	

Sensitivity of Visual Receptor	Magnitude of Effect	Significance of Effect
	Operation (Year 1) At operation year 1, there would be direct views of the proposed converter station which would be a pronounced feature within the middle ground of the view. The proposed converter station would permanently displace longer distance views of rising landform to the west of the receptor however the scale of the converter station would be lessened in part due to the context of this landform in filtered views and parts would be set against this rising landform rather than the skyline. The proposed converter station would largely displace views of the Westfield Substation and would result in energy infrastructure being closer and more direct in views from this receptor. Parts of the hedgerows temporarily removed during construction would be reinstated which would lessen the degree of change. There would be the permanent removal of parts of hedgerows within the agricultural land in the middle ground however this is not uncharacteristic of the surrounding landscape or breaks in vegetation visible from this receptor. The 132kV line would be undergrounded which would lessen the wirescape in the foreground and middle ground of the view. At operation, there would be security lighting at the converter station which would be directional and operated by motion sensor. Any very short-term change would introduce a change in the middle ground but would be in the context of existing lighting on the edge of the settlement in the background of the view. The proposed landscape planting associated with the proposed converter station would not be perceptible at operation year 1 as it would be limited to whips. It should be noted that the majority of road users along the B9097 would have extremely limited views of the operational infrastructure due to mature intervening vegetation along the edge of the	Moderate adverse (**significant**)

Sensitivity of Visual Receptor	Magnitude of Effect	Significance of Effect
	road corridor which greatly reduces the amount of time that the change in view would be experienced. Overall, the scale of the proposed converter station, with parts set against the skyline and permanently displacing some longer distance views to rising landform, would result in a pronounced feature in the middle ground of the view. This is set within the context of existing energy infrastructure and the benefits of undergrounding the 132kV line. Magnitude of effect: **High**	
	Operation (Year 15) At operation year 15, the new planting associated with the converter station would have established. The upper extents of the proposed converter station would continue to be visible and would remain a noticeable feature in the middle ground of the view. The proposed planting would contribute to the integration of the new infrastructure in the view and the layered vegetation network of the surrounding landscape. Magnitude of effect: **Medium**	Minor adverse (not significant)

Table 2-3 Viewpoint 3: Core path network east of Lochore

Sensitivity of Visual Receptor	Magnitude of Effect	Significance of Effect
Receptor Groups: Residential and recreational Approximate distance to the Red Line Boundary: 364.11m Approximate distance to the converter station platform: 876.03m Located within LCT 186: Lowland Hills and Valleys Value**: Low** Susceptibility: **High** Views of the surroundings are an important contributor to the experience of those recreational receptors experiencing this viewpoint and views contribute to the landscape setting enjoyed by residents.	Construction During construction, activity and plant introduced into the view associated with the proposed converter station would be directly visible in the middle ground of the view. The construction works would displace agricultural fields which would be partially screened in the northern part of the fields by intervening mature trees resulting in the tall construction plant only being visible. Views would be directly visible in the southern part which would also include construction compounds. The construction works would appear as an extension to the existing part of the view with energy infrastructure present, including Westfield Substation, Westfield Energy Recovery Facility, overhead towers and lines and wind turbines in the background of the view, which lessens the degree of change due to movement and vertical features in the view. Construction activity associated with the HVAC and HVDC cable routes would be visible within a large proportion of the horizontal extent of the view. This would include the field enclosure within the foreground and would extend across the agricultural fields in the middle ground. This would extend construction activity across a larger horizontal extent of the view, however, would not be dissimilar to existing agricultural practices across this landscape and would be within the context of other vertical features including overhead lines and towers, wood pole lines, and turbine blades, which reduces the degree of contrast. During 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 change would be a temporary change in this view but noting the existing industrial nature. Overall, the construction activity associated with the proposed converter station and the HVDC and HVAC cable routes would be visible across a large portion of the open part of the view,	Moderate adverse (significant)

Sensitivity of Visual Receptor	Magnitude of Effect	Significance of Effect
Visual Sensitivity: **Medium** Taking into account the value judgements and the susceptibility to change, overall visual sensitivity is considered to be **medium**.	particularly in the more exposed southern part of the converter station site. The majority of the horizontal extent of the view affected would comprise works associated with the HVDC and HVAC cable routes that are similar to existing agricultural activity. The works associated with the proposed converter station would be partially positioned behind intervening mature vegetation and in the context of existing vertical and moving features in the view but would remain noticeable. 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**	
	Operation (Year 1) At operation year 1, there would be direct views of the proposed converter station in the southern part of the converter station site and the northern part would be partially screened by intervening mature vegetation. The upper extents would break the skyline and screen part of the longer distance views, however, the perceived scale would be lessened due to the existing 132kV towers and mature vegetation in close proximity and rising landform to the south. The visible elements of the proposed converter station would be confined to a small part of the overall horizontal extent of the view and would be in the context of existing energy infrastructure and detracting features, including overhead towers and lines, wood pole lines, Westfield Substation, Westfield Energy Recovery Facility and wind turbines. At operation, there would be security lighting at the converter station which would be directional and operated by motion sensor. Any very short-term change would be in the context of existing energy infrastructure, including Westfield Substation, in a similar part of the view, which would reduce the change experienced. Overall, the scale and nature of the converter station within a more open part of the background view, already influenced by existing industrial built form, would result in a perceptible but	Minor adverse (not significant)

Sensitivity of Visual Receptor	Magnitude of Effect	Significance of Effect
	relatively unobtrusive change to the composition of the view. The duration of change would be long-term. Magnitude of effect: **Low**	
	<u>Operation (Year 15)</u> At operation year 15, the new planting associated with the converter station would have established. This would contribute to the integration of the new infrastructure in the views of the converter station, particularly within the more open southern part of the converter station site. The planting would also contribute further to the existing wooded nature of the local landscape and layered vegetation network. The upper extents of the converter station would remain visible above the mitigation planting, however would be within the context of similar infrastructure in the view which lessens the degree of change. Magnitude of effect: **Negligible**	Minor adverse (not significant)

Table 2-4 Viewpoint 4: Northern edge of Auchterderran

Sensitivity of Visual Receptor	Magnitude of Effect	Significance of Effect
Receptor Groups: Residential, recreational and road users	<u>Construction</u> During construction, the taller plant associated with the proposed converter station would be partially visible in the background of the view on the skyline. The lower extents would be screened by intervening landform and vegetation along field boundaries. The construction plant would be located in a small part of the overall horizontal extent of the view and in the same part of the view with existing influence from the upper extents of the Westfield Biomass Plant. The	Minor adverse (not significant)

Sensitivity of Visual Receptor	Magnitude of Effect	Significance of Effect
Approximate distance to the Red Line Boundary: 261.78m Approximate distance to the converter station platform: 1278.82m Located within LCT 186: Lowland Hills and Valleys Value: **Low** Susceptibility: **Very high** Views of the surroundings are an important contributor to the experience of those recreational receptors experiencing this viewpoint from a long distance recreational route (Fife Pilgrim Way) and views contribute to the landscape setting enjoyed by residents. Visual Sensitivity: **High** Taking into account the value judgements and the	construction plant would not obstruct any longer distance views of the surrounding landscape in the long-distance due to the nature of the topography. The construction plant and activity associated with the HVDC cable route would be directly visible within the large-scale field enclosure to the north-west of the receptor. This would extend construction activity across a larger horizontal extent of the view however would not be dissimilar to existing agricultural practices across this landscape and would be within the context of movement in the view, including vehicles along the unnamed road and wind turbine blades, and other vertical features including the overhead lines and towers and plantation vegetation which reduces the degree of contrast. During construction, there would be temporary lighting where required at working areas along the cable corridor. The temporary lighting would be low level and directional to minimise disturbance. This change would be in the context of existing lighting on the edge of the settlement and along the road network which would reduce the change experienced. It should be noted that further north along the unnamed road and core path (route P452/03) views in the direction of the Scottish Onshore Scheme are largely screened by intervening mature vegetation in the foreground. Overall, the construction activity would be visible in a large proportion of the open part of the view due to foreground features, such as residential properties and mature vegetation, which curtail views. This emphasises the scale of change however the majority of the horizontal extent of the view affected would comprise works associated with the HVDC cable route which would be present for a temporary and short period of time. The works associated with the proposed converter station would be predominantly screened by intervening landform and vegetation, would be in the same part of the view as existing vertical elements associated with the Westfield Biomass Station and in a small part of the horizontal extent of the view. The duration of change	

Sensitivity of Visual Receptor	Magnitude of Effect	Significance of Effect
susceptibility to change, overall visual sensitivity is considered to be **high**.	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, there would be no change in the view as no operational infrastructure would be visible. Magnitude of effect: **None**	No change (not significant)
	<u>Operation (Year 15)</u> At operation year 15, a small part of the new planting associated with the proposed converter station would be visible in a small part of the horizontal extent of the view. This would be limited to the upper extents due to intervening landform and vegetation in the foreground. The new planting would partially obstruct views to rising land in the distance but this would be barely perceptible due to distance and the planting would contribute to the layered vegetation network within the view. Magnitude of effect: **Negligible**	Negligible adverse (not significant)

Table 2-5 Viewpoint 5: Northern edge of Dunmore Fort

Sensitivity of Visual Receptor	Magnitude of Effect	Significance of Effect
Receptor Groups: Recreational Approximate distance to the Red Line Boundary: 2170.44m Approximate distance to the converter station platform: 2683.69m Located within LCT 182: Upland Hills Value: **Medium** Susceptibility: **Very high** Views of the surroundings are an important contributor to the experience of those recreational receptors experiencing this viewpoint from the elevated position.	Construction During construction, activity and plant introduced into the view associated with the proposed converter station would be partially visible in the middle ground of the view within the lowland landscape. The works in the northern part of the converter station site would be screened by landform in the foreground associated with Navitie Hill. There would be largely direct views to works in the southern part, including a construction compound, with some intervening vegetation also in the foreground and middle ground screening views to the lower extents of construction plant. The construction activity would be within the context of existing built form in the lowland, including settlement and overhead towers, which lessens the degree of contrast. The construction activity would not obstruct any longer distance views of the surrounding landscape due to the nature of the topography and any construction activity would be set against the landform. The construction activity associated with the HVDC and HVAC cables route would be visible in small parts of the horizontal extent of the view to the south-east of the receptor. This would be restricted in part due to intervening mature vegetation and the landform of Hare Law. There would be some more direct views in a small horizontal extent of the view in the vicinity of the proposed converter station site through the more open agricultural fields and some very distant views beyond Hare Law. There would be limited vegetation removal as trenchless methods would avoid the mature vegetation. The nature of this activity would not be dissimilar to existing agricultural practices across this landscape and would be seen in the context of other built form including settlement, large agricultural sheds, wind turbines and overhead towers and lines in the middle ground and background, which reduces the degree of visual contrast. During 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 change would be in the context	Moderate adverse (**significant**)

Sensitivity of Visual Receptor	Magnitude of Effect	Significance of Effect
Visual Sensitivity: **High** Taking into account the value judgements and the susceptibility to change, overall visual sensitivity is considered to be **high**.	of existing lighting on the edge of the settlement and along the road network which would reduce the change experienced. It should be noted that from other parts of the route to Dunmore Hill Fort along the core path network to the west and south, views are largely screened towards the Scottish Onshore Scheme. Large parts of the routes run through mature plantation forestry which restricts views. Any views further south within Benarty Wood are likely to be in the context of further energy infrastructure, including Westfield Substation and wind turbines, which are screened in part by Navitie Hill from the viewpoint location. Overall, the construction activity associated with the proposed converter station, HVDC and HVAC cable routes would be visible in a small proportion of the view due to foreground and middle ground features such as mature vegetation, varied landform, and farmsteads, which curtail views. The works would be noticeable in the view albeit noting the existing vertical elements which reduces the degree of contrast. 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**	
	Operation (Year 1) At operation year 1, there would be views of the majority of the southern part of the proposed converter station in the middle ground. This would be partly screened by intervening mature vegetation in the foreground and middle ground of the view. This would displace existing agricultural fields and would introduce a larger structure into the view in comparison to predominantly residential properties within this part of the view. However, the proposed converter station would be set within the context of this existing built form and other energy infrastructure including wind turbines and overhead towers and lines, which lessens the degree	Minor adverse (not significant)

Sensitivity of Visual Receptor	Magnitude of Effect	Significance of Effect
	of contrast. The introduction would not displace longer distance views as it would be set against landform extending into the background of the view. At operation, there would be security lighting at the converter station which would be directional and operated by motion sensor. Any very short-term change would be in the context of existing lighting on the edge of the settlement and along the road network which would reduce the change experienced. It should be noted that from other parts of the route to Dunmore Hill Fort along the core path network to the west and south, views are largely screened towards the Scottish Onshore Scheme. Large parts of the routes run through mature plantation forestry which restricts views. Any views further south within Benarty Wood are likely to be in the context of further energy infrastructure, including Westfield Substation and wind turbines, which are screened in part by Navitie Hill from the viewpoint location. Overall, the scale and nature of the converter station within a small part of the middle ground views with existing influence from built form would be an unobtrusive change in the composition of the view. The duration of change would be long-term. Magnitude of effect: **Low**	
	<u>Operation (Year 15)</u> At operation year 15, the new planting associated with the converter station would have established. This would contribute to the integration of the new infrastructure in the views in the middle ground of the view. Magnitude of effect: **Low**	Minor adverse (not significant)

Table 2-6 Viewpoint 6: Southern edge of Kinglassie

Sensitivity of Visual Receptor	Magnitude of Effect	Significance of Effect
Receptor Groups: Residential and recreational Approximate distance to the Red Line Boundary: 2658.67m Approximate distance to the converter station platform: 3068.60m Located within LCT 186: Lowland Hills and Valleys Value: **Low** Susceptibility: **High** Views of the surroundings are an important contributor to the experience of those recreational receptors experiencing this viewpoint	Construction During construction, activity and plant introduced into the background of the view associated with the proposed converter station would be in a small part of the horizontal extent. The majority of the works would be screened by intervening mature vegetation cover in the middle ground therefore only the upper extent of construction plant would be visible. This would be in the context of existing vertical features in the view including overhead towers, wood pole line and moving turbine blades, which would lessen the degree of change. Construction activity associated with the HVDC cable route would be visible across the more open agricultural fields to the southwest of the receptor in the middle ground. There would be limited vegetation removal as trenchless methods would avoid the mature vegetation. The nature of this activity would not be dissimilar to existing agricultural practices across this landscape and would be seen in the context of movement and other vertical features in the view, including turbine blades and overhead towers and lines in the middle ground, which reduces the degree of visual contrast. During 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 change would be in the context of existing lighting on the edge of the settlement and along the road network which would reduce the change experienced. Overall, the majority of the construction activity would be largely screened due to the layered vegetation network within the view. The part that would be visible, associated with the HVDC cable, would have an unobtrusive change in the composition of the view. The duration of change	Minor adverse (not significant)

Sensitivity of Visual Receptor	Magnitude of Effect	Significance of Effect
and views contribute to the landscape setting enjoyed by residents. Visual Sensitivity: **Medium**	would be medium-term associated with the converter station and short-term associated with the HVDC cable routes. Magnitude of effect: **Low**	
	Operation (Year 1) At operation year 1, there would be a barely perceptible change as a very small part of the proposed converter station would be visible in the background. This would be predominantly screened and filtered by intervening mature vegetation. It would not break the skyline as it would be set against rising landform in the distance and would be set within the context of existing built form within the view, including turbines, overhead towers and lines, railway line and wood pole lines as well as vehicle movement along the B921. The security lighting at the converter station is not likely to be perceptible. Overall, the introduction of the proposed converter station would be barely perceptible in the composition of the view. Magnitude of effect: **Very low**	Negligible adverse (not significant)
	Operation (Year 15) The magnitude of effect at operation year 15 would remain comparable to operation year 1. The proposed planting associated with the proposed converter station would not be visible due to intervening mature vegetation which screens the majority of the proposed converter station. Magnitude of effect: **Very low**	Negligible adverse (not significant)

Table 2-7 Viewpoint 7: Local core path network north of Scotlandwell

Sensitivity of Visual Receptor	Magnitude of Effect	Significance of Effect
Receptor Groups: Recreational Approximate distance to the Red Line Boundary: 4483.22m Approximate distance to the converter station platform: 4672.83m Located within LCT 52: Lowland Basins Value: **Medium** Susceptibility: **High** Views of the surroundings are an important contributor to the experience of those recreational receptors experiencing this viewpoint.	Construction During construction, activity and plant associated with the proposed converter station would be partially visible in a small part of the horizontal extent of the panoramic view. This would be partly screened by the layered vegetation network in close proximity to the converter station site, Westfield Biomass Plant and Westfield Energy Recovery Facility in the middle ground of the view. All activity would be set against the landform beyond, including the elevated Hare Law, which lessens the prominence. The construction works would be within the context of existing vertical features in the view, including overhead towers, Westfield Biomass Plant and Westfield Energy Recovery Facility and moving features, including vehicles using the local road network and wind turbine blades, which lessens the degree of contrast. The construction activity associated with the HVAC and HVDC cable route would be intermittently visible through breaks in vegetation to the south of the receptor, extending across small portions of the panoramic view. The activity would extend into the background of the view within agricultural field enclosures. The nature of this activity would not be dissimilar to existing agricultural practices across this landscape and would be within the context of existing vertical features in the view. During 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 change would be in the context of existing lighting on the edge of the settlement and along the road network which would reduce the change experienced.	Minor adverse (not significant)

Sensitivity of Visual Receptor	Magnitude of Effect	Significance of Effect
Visual Sensitivity: **High** Taking into account the value judgements and the susceptibility to change, overall visual sensitivity is considered to be **high**.	It should be noted that views from the core path network are only available from short sections where breaks in vegetation allows filtered outward views to the south and with limited clear views. Overall, the construction activity would be visible in small parts of the panoramic view due to intervening built form, landform and vegetation. This results in a limited scale of change and the majority of the horizontal extent of the view affected would comprise temporary works of a short duration associated with the HVAC and HVDC cable route . The works associated with the proposed converter station would be partially screened by intervening energy infrastructure and vegetation and would be in the same part of the view as existing vertical elements which reduces the degree of contrast. 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 be partial views of the proposed converter station in the middle ground. Part of the lower extents would be screened by the Westfield Biomass Plant and intervening vegetation in close proximity to the proposed converter station as it would be set within a well vegetated part of the landscape. The proposed converter station would permanently displace agricultural land. However, this visibility would be limited to a small part of the overall horizontal extent of the view and would occur within the same part of the view already influenced by energy infrastructure, which reduces the degree of contrast. The perceived scale of change would also be reduced due to the presence of the Hare Law landform just beyond with large-scale geometric patterns of plantation forestry. The proposals would not obstruct longer distance views of the surrounding landscape as they would be set against the rising landform.	Minor adverse (not significant)

Sensitivity of Visual Receptor	Magnitude of Effect	Significance of Effect
	At operation, there would be security lighting at the converter station which would be directional and operated by motion sensor. Any very short-term change would be in the context of existing lighting on the edge of the settlement and along the road network which would reduce the change experienced. It should be noted that views from the core path network are only available from short sections where breaks in vegetation allows filtered outward views to the south and with limited clear views. Overall, the scale and nature of the converter station within a small part of the middle ground views with existing influence from energy infrastructure would be an unobtrusive change in the composition of the view. The duration of change would be long-term. Magnitude of effect: **Low**	
	<u>Operation (Year 15)</u> At operation year 15, the new planting associated with the converter station would have established. This would contribute to the integration of the new infrastructure in the views however due to distance and as the majority of the proposed planting is focused on the southern and eastern edges of the proposed converter station, the effects are likely to be similar to that at operation year 1. Magnitude of effect: **Low**	Minor adverse (not significant)

Table 2-8 Viewpoint 8: B981 east of Cardenden

Sensitivity of Visual Receptor	Magnitude of Effect	Significance of Effect
Receptor Groups: Residential, recreational and road users Approximate distance to the Red Line Boundary: 2195.55m Approximate distance to the converter station platform: 3614.97m Located within LCT 61: Lowland Hills and Valleys Value: **Medium** Susceptibility: **High** Views of the surroundings are an important contributor to the experience of those recreational receptors experiencing this viewpoint and views contribute to the landscape setting enjoyed by	Construction During construction, activity and plant introduced into the view associated with the proposed converter station would be limited to a very small part of the horizontal extent of the view in the middle ground. This would largely be screened by intervening landform, built form and mature vegetation, resulting in only the very upper extents of construction plant potentially visible. This would be within the same part of the view as existing built form within the settlement of Auchterderran. The activity would also be within the context of movement along the road corridor in the foreground and turbine blades in the background of the view, which lessens the degree of contrast. The construction works associated with the HVAC and HVDC cable routes is likely to be entirely screened by intervening landform, built form and mature vegetation cover within the view. Any glimpsed views in very small parts of the horizontal extent of the view would not be dissimilar to existing agricultural practices across this landscape. During 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 change would be in the context of existing lighting on the edge of the settlement and along the road network which would reduce the change experienced. Overall, any glimpsed views of construction works would be barely noticeable in the middle ground of the view due to intervening landform, built form and mature vegetation cover. The duration of change would be medium-term associated with the converter station and short-term associated with the HVDC and HVAC cable routes.	Negligible adverse (not significant)

Sensitivity of Visual Receptor	Magnitude of Effect	Significance of Effect
residents in adjacent residential properties. Visual Sensitivity: **High**	Magnitude of effect: **Very low**	
	Operation (Year 1) At operation year 1, the proposed converter station would not be visible. The proposed landscape planting associated with the proposed converter station would not be perceptible at operation year 1 as it would be limited to whips. Magnitude of effect: **None**	No change (not significant)
	Operation (Year 15) At operation year 15, the new planting associated with the converter station would have established. The proposed planting would contribute to the layered native planting within the middle ground of the view. Magnitude of effect: **Very low**	Negligible beneficial (not significant)

Table 2-9 Viewpoint 9: B981 west of Auchterderran

Sensitivity of Visual Receptor	Magnitude of Effect	Significance of Effect
Receptor Groups: Residential and road users	Construction During construction, any views of tall construction plant on the converter station site would be barely perceptible due to intervening landform.	Minor adverse (not significant)

Sensitivity of Visual Receptor	Magnitude of Effect	Significance of Effect
Approximate distance to the Red Line Boundary: 475.82m Approximate distance to the converter station platform: 1785.69m Located within LCT 186: Lowland Hills and Valleys Value: **Low** Susceptibility: **High** Views of the surroundings contribute to the landscape setting enjoyed by residents. Visual Sensitivity: **Medium** Taking into account the value judgements and the susceptibility to change, overall visual sensitivity is considered to be medium.	The construction activity associated with the HVDC cable route would be directly visible through the large-scale field enclosure to the north of the receptor and also partially visible through intervening layered mature vegetation in the middle ground between the receptor and the forestry plantation on the rising landform. This would extend activity across a broader horizontal extent of the view. The nature of this activity would not be dissimilar to existing agricultural practices across this landscape and would be within the context of movement in the view, including vehicles along the B981 Jamphlars Road, and other vertical features including the wood poles lines which reduces the degree of contrast. During 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 change would be in the context of existing lighting on the edge of the settlement and along the road network which would reduce the change experienced. It should be noted that views from some sections west along Jamphlars Road towards the Scottish Onshore Scheme are largely screened by intervening mature vegetation in the foreground, while views to the east are partially screened by existing settlement. Overall, the construction activity would be visible in a large proportion of the open part of the view due to foreground features, such as residential properties and mature vegetation, which curtail views. This emphasises the scale of change, however, the majority of the horizontal extent of the view affected would comprise works associated with the HVDC cable route that are similar to existing agricultural activity. The duration of change would be short-term, associated with temporary construction activity along the HVDC and HVAC cable routes. Magnitude of effect: **Low**	

Sensitivity of Visual Receptor	Magnitude of Effect	Significance of Effect
	Operation (Year 1 and 15) No assessment has been undertaken at operation year 1 or year 15 as there would be no views to 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)

Table 2-10 Viewpoint 10: Unnamed road south of A92 near Cardenden

Sensitivity of Visual Receptor	Magnitude of Effect	Significance of Effect
Receptor Groups: Residential, recreational, and road users Approximate distance to the Red Line Boundary: 0m Approximate distance to the converter station platform: 4577.96m	Construction During construction, the construction activity associated with the proposed converter station and HVAC cable route would not be visible from this location due to screening from intervening landform. The construction activity associated with the HVDC cable route would be directly visible across the open agricultural fields in the foreground. The cable route further north beyond the A92 or south beyond the rising land where representative viewpoint 11 is situated would be curtailed by intervening landform. The construction activity would extend across the majority of the horizontal extent of the view however the nature of this activity would not be dissimilar to existing agricultural practices across this landscape. The activity would be within the context of movement in the view, including vehicles along the unnamed road in the foreground, and other vertical features including overhead lines, towers and wind turbine blades in the middle ground, as well as the Mossmorran Natural Gas Liquids Plant visible in the background, which reduces	Minor adverse (not significant)

Sensitivity of Visual Receptor	Magnitude of Effect	Significance of Effect
Located within LCT 186: Lowland Hills and Valleys Value: **Low** Susceptibility: **High** Views of the surroundings are an important contributor to the experience of those recreational receptors experiencing this viewpoint and views contribute to the landscape setting enjoyed by residents. Visual Sensitivity: **Medium** Taking into account the value judgements and the susceptibility to change, overall visual sensitivity is considered to be **medium**.	the degree of contrast. The construction activity would not obstruct any longer distance views of the surrounding landscape in the long-distance due to the nature of the topography. During 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 would representant a temporary change in this rural landscape. Overall, the construction activity would be visible in a large proportion of the view in this valley landscape. This emphasises the scale of change however this would comprise temporary works of a short duration. Magnitude of effect: **Low**	
	Operation (Year 1 and 15) No assessment has been undertaken at operation year 1 or year 15 as there would be no views to 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)

Table 2-11 Viewpoint 11: Core path network to north of Auchtertool

Sensitivity of Visual Receptor	Magnitude of Effect	Significance of Effect
Receptor Groups: Recreational Approximate distance to the Red Line Boundary: 91.51m Approximate distance to the converter station platform: 5639.11m Located within LCT 185: Pronounced Hills and Crags Value: **Low** Susceptibility: **High** Views of the surroundings are an important contributor to the experience of those recreational receptors experiencing this viewpoint.	Construction During construction, the construction activity associated with the proposed converter station and HVAC cable route would not be visible from this location due to screening from intervening landform. The construction activity associated with the HVDC cable route would be intermittently visible to the east of the receptor through a break in the foreground and middle ground vegetation. This would pass through the agricultural fields in the foreground and middle ground. Parts of this section of the HVDC cable route would include trenchless methods to avoid mature vegetation cover. Due to the curtailed longer distance views arising from intervening landform and proximity, the works would be apparent in the open part of the view however would not be dissimilar to existing agricultural practices within this landscape. The works would also be within the context of wind turbine blades and wood pole line, which reduces the degree of visual contrast. During 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 would representant a temporary change in this rural landscape. Overall, whilst the construction activity would be apparent in the view due to the proximity of the works to the receptor and the nature of the view with curtailed longer distance views the plant and activity would be present temporarily and for a short term duration. Magnitude of effect: **Low**	Minor adverse (not significant)

Sensitivity of Visual Receptor	Magnitude of Effect	Significance of Effect
Visual Sensitivity: **Medium** Taking into account the value judgements and the susceptibility to change, overall visual sensitivity is considered to be **medium**.	Operation (Year 1 and 15) No assessment has been undertaken at operation year 1 or year 15 as there would be no views to 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)*

Table 2-12 Viewpoint 12: Core path network to southeast of Auchtertool

Sensitivity of Visual Receptor	Magnitude of Effect	Significance of Effect
Receptor Groups: Residential, recreational and road users Approximate distance to the Red Line Boundary: 13.12m Approximate distance to the converter station platform: 8495.84m Located within LCT 185: Pronounced Hills and Crags	Construction During construction, the construction activity associated with the proposed converter station and HVAC cable route would not be visible from this location due to screening from intervening landform. The construction activity associated with the HVDC cable route would largely be screened by the layered vegetation network and landform in the view. There would be glimpses in small parts of the view of construction activity in the foreground and middle ground. The nature of this activity would not be dissimilar to existing agricultural practices across this landscape and would be within the context of moving features within the view including wind turbine blades and vehicles moving along the road in the foreground. The construction works would also involve use of the existing farm track in the foreground of the view for mobilisation however this would not be dissimilar to existing usage.	Minor adverse (not significant)

Sensitivity of Visual Receptor	Magnitude of Effect	Significance of Effect
Value: **High** Susceptibility: **High** Views of the surroundings are an important contributor to the experience of those recreational receptors experiencing this viewpoint and views contribute to the landscape setting enjoyed by residents. Visual Sensitivity: **High** Taking into account the value judgements and the susceptibility to change, overall visual sensitivity is considered to be **high**.	During 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 would representant a temporary change in this rural landscape. Overall, the construction activity would be visible in small proportions of the view due to the layered vegetation network and rolling landform. This results in a limited scale of change and the works would largely be similar in character to existing agricultural activity. The duration of change would be short-term, associated with temporary construction activity along the HVDC cable route. Magnitude of effect: **Low**	
	Operation (Year 1 and 15) No assessment has been undertaken at operation year 1 or year 15 as there would be no views to 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)

Table 2-13 Viewpoint 13: Core path network to the north of Kinghorn

Sensitivity of Visual Receptor	Magnitude of Effect	Significance of Effect
Receptor Groups:	Construction	Minor adverse (not significant)

Sensitivity of Visual Receptor	Magnitude of Effect	Significance of Effect
Residential, recreational and road users Approximate distance to the Red Line Boundary: 344.73m Approximate distance to the converter station platform: 10399.30m Located within LCT 185: Pronounced Hills and Crags Value: **High** Susceptibility: **High** Views of the surroundings are an important contributor to the experience of those recreational receptors experiencing this viewpoint from the National Cycle Network and views contribute to the landscape setting enjoyed by residents.	During construction, the construction activity associated with the proposed converter station and HVAC cable route would not be visible from this location due to screening from intervening landform. The construction activity associated with the HVDC cable route would be visible within the agricultural fields extending from the foreground due to the relatively open views across the wider landscape. Construction plant and activity in longer distance parts of the view would be screened by intervening landform and vegetation cover, including the construction compound to the south of the B9157 to the north of the receptor. The construction activity would extend across the majority of the horizontal extent of the view, including across the focal part of the view towards the coastline. The activity would not be dissimilar to existing agricultural practices across this landscape and would not obstruct views of the coastline due to the rolling nature of the landform. Any vegetation removal would be minimal due to trenchless methods across mature woodland and any hedgerow removal would be minor and in the context of existing gaps in hedgerow cover within the view. Any views towards the works at the landfall and the cable laying barge are likely to be screened by intervening settlement along the coastline. If any works are visible, it would be in a very small part of the view and would be in the context of existing built form and vessels at sea. During 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 change would be in the context of existing lighting on the edge of the settlement and along the road network which would reduce the change experienced. Overall, whilst the construction activity would be viewed across the majority of the horizontal extent of the view, the degree and scale of change is limited due to the nature of the works in the agricultural landscape. Longer distance views are screened by intervening landform and	

Sensitivity of Visual Receptor	Magnitude of Effect	Significance of Effect
Visual Sensitivity: **High** Taking into account the value judgements and the susceptibility to change, overall visual sensitivity is considered to be **high**.	vegetation in the view. The duration of change would be short-term, associated with temporary construction activity along the HVDC cable route. Magnitude of effect: **Low**	
	Operation (Year 1 and 15) No assessment has been undertaken at operation year 1 or year 15 as there would be no views to 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)

Table 2-14 Viewpoint 14: Fife Coastal Path, Kinghorn

Sensitivity of Visual Receptor	Magnitude of Effect	Significance of Effect
Receptor Groups: Recreational and residential users Approximate distance to the Red Line Boundary: 82.27m	Construction During construction, the construction activity associated with the proposed converter station and HVAC and HVDC cable route would not be visible from this location due to screening from intervening landform. The construction activity associated with the landfall compound and Transition Joint Pit would be largely screened by intervening landform and vegetation in the foreground of the view and as the works would comprise a trenchless method. Any views of constructionworks would be a very	Minor adverse (not significant)

Sensitivity of Visual Receptor	Magnitude of Effect	Significance of Effect
Approximate distance to the converter station platform: 12455.92m Located within LCT 192: Coastal Hills - Fife Value: **High** Susceptibility: **Very high** Views of the surroundings are an important contributor to the experience of those recreational receptors experiencing this viewpoint from a recreational route (Fife Coastal Path) and views contribute to the landscape setting enjoyed by residents. Visual Sensitivity: **Very high** Taking into account the value judgements and the susceptibility to change, overall visual sensitivity is considered to be **very high**.	small part of the horizontal extent of the view. The cable laying barge would be visible within the Forth but this would not be dissimilar to existing vessels which are present. From residential properties on the edge of Kinghorn, there would be temporary views of a construction compound off the A921 associated with the landfall. This would temporarily displace agricultural land but would not interrupt any longer distance views as they are screened at present due to the landform. The compound would also be seen in the context of existing movement along the A921 and B923 which reduces the degree of contrast. During 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 would representant a temporary change in this rural landscape. It should be noted that any works of the works associated with the landfall would be limited to a short section of the coastal path due to screening landform which greatly reduces the amount of time that the change in view would be experienced. Overall, the views of construction activity associated with the landfall would be limited due to intervening landform and vegetation and as the majority of works would be underground. The views of the cable laying barge would not be dissimilar to the existing views. The duration of change would be short-term, associated with temporary construction activity along the HVDC cable route and landfall. Magnitude of effect: **Very low**	
	Operation (Year 1 and 15)	No change (not significant)

Sensitivity of Visual Receptor	Magnitude of Effect	Significance of Effect
	No assessment has been undertaken at operation year 1 or year 15 as there would be no views to the operational converter station and the land where the HVDC cable corridor would route would be reinstated to former use. Magnitude of effect: **None**	

3. Sequential Visual Effects

Whilst the viewpoint assessment above is representative of visual receptor groups within the study area, it is also important to consider the experience of visual receptors sequentially moving through the landscape along key recreational routes and transport corridors (refer to **Figure 6.4 Zone of Theoretical Visibility (ZTV) and Representative Viewpoints (Volume 3: Figures)**). The following section provides commentary on the likely effects arising from the operational infrastructure of the Scottish Onshore Scheme for visual receptors along key routes.

Fife Pilgrim Way

There is theoretical visibility of operational infrastructure for approximately half of the route within the study area. This includes a nearly continuous section of theoretical visibility in close proximity to the proposed converter station which extends from the western edge of Hare Law to the northern edge of Auchterderran. The theoretical visibility is then intermittent due to screening from the layered vegetation network in the landscape, built form within Kinglassie and landform. Where there are views available to the proposed converter station, this would typically be in a small part of a wider panoramic view and would largely be within the context of existing energy infrastructure, some of which is of a similar scale, in this part of the landscape including the Westfield Substation, Westfield Energy Recovery Facility, Westfield Biomass Plant, wind turbines and overhead towers and lines. Views are limited along part of the Fife Pilgrim Way in close proximity to proposed converter station due to the angle of the view and vegetation on the intervening landform results in no views of operational infrastructure, as demonstrated by Viewpoints 1 and 4, and also due to vegetation along parts of the Fife Pilgrim Way.

Viewpoints 1 and 4 are located along the Fife Pilgrim Way within the study area. For Viewpoints 1 and 4, there would be no views of the operational infrastructure therefore an assessment has not been undertaken. For Viewpoint 4, the proposed landscape planting around the proposed converter station would be visible which would contribute to the layered vegetation network within the view resulting in a non-significant effect at operation year 15. Overall, it is considered that there would be short sections of the Fife Pilgrim Way with views of the proposed converter station however due to the context of such views the users of the route are unlikely to experience significant adverse residual visual effects.

B9097

There is theoretical visibility of operational infrastructure along approximately half of the route within the study area. This includes a continuous section of theoretical visibility to the north of Ballingry to where the route meets the B921 to the north of Auchterderran. The theoretical visibility along this part of the B9907 is generally more contained and within the context of Westfield Substation, Westfield Biomass Plant and overhead towers and lines.

Viewpoint 2 is located along the B9097 within the study area and reports a non-significant effect at operation. Overall, it is considered that only short sections of the B9097 would experience views of the operational infrastructure due to screening along the roadside and

where visible it would be in the context of existing energy infrastructure in close proximity, therefore the users of the route are unlikely to experience significant adverse residual visual effects.

B921

There is intermittent theoretical visibility of operational infrastructure along the route within the study area. The route largely follows the eastern part of the Fife Pilgrim Way through the study area. As described above, where there are views available to the proposed converter station, this would typically be in a small part of a wider panoramic view and would largely be within the context of existing energy infrastructure.

Viewpoint 4 is located along the B921 within the study area and there would be no views of the operational infrastructure therefore an assessment has not been undertaken. For Viewpoint 4, the proposed landscape planting around the proposed converter station would be visible which would contribute to the layered vegetation network within the view resulting in a negligible beneficial effect at operation year 15. Overall, it is considered that there would be short sections of the B921 with views of the proposed converter station however due to the context of such views the users of the route are unlikely to experience significant adverse residual visual effects.

B981

There is very limited theoretical visibility of operational infrastructure along the route within the study area. The small section of theoretical visibility lies within the eastern edge of Cardenden and intervening landform, built form and vegetation would likely fully screen views of the proposed converter station, as demonstrated by Viewpoint 8.

Viewpoints 8 and 9 are located along the B981 within the study area and there would be no views of the operational infrastructure therefore an assessment has not been undertaken. For Viewpoint 8, the proposed landscape planting around the proposed converter station would be visible which would contribute to the layered vegetation network within the view resulting in a negligible beneficial effect at operation year 15.