

Chapter 12

Summary

Introduction

12.1 Chapters 6 to 11 of the EIA Report present the findings of the assessment of likely effects of the proposed GGRP on a topic-by-topic basis. The significance of these effects has been assessed using criteria defined in the topic chapters. Where appropriate, or as otherwise defined, the significance of effects has been categorised as **major**, **moderate**, **minor** or **none**. In the context of the Electricity Works (Environmental Impact Assessment) (Scotland) Regulations 2017 as amended ('the EIA Regulations'), **major** or **moderate** effects are considered to be **significant**.

12.2 In accordance with the EIA regulations, Policy Advice Note (PAN) 1/2013 and other relevant EIA guidance, the EIA Report has focused on identifying the likely significant environmental effects of the proposed GGRP, both during construction and operation (including cumulatively with other developments). Modifications to the detailed alignment of the overhead line and ancillary components of the GGRP to avoid and/or minimise environmental effects during the routeing and design process are considered to be mitigation which is 'embedded' in the design. Embedded mitigation also includes adopting good practice and industry standard measures for construction projects of this nature. Further details of the design strategy and the economic, technical and environmental constraints that have informed the design can be found in **Chapter 2: The Routeing and Design Strategy**. The assessments reported in this EIA Report have been undertaken taking account of the embedded mitigation and, where required, the application of committed additional mitigation measures specific to a particular location or issue, to determine the level of significance of the residual effect.

12.3 **Table 12.1** summarises the likely significant effects of the GGRP prior to, and following, the implementation of committed additional mitigation measures. Only effects which are considered to be significant prior to mitigation are presented. All other effects are considered to be not significant prior to mitigation and are therefore not presented. Unless otherwise stated, all effects are assumed to be adverse.

12.4 With the exception of landscape and visual amenity, no significant effects are predicted prior to mitigation during construction or operation for any of the topics assessed (i.e. Hydrology, Geology, Hydrogeology, water resources and peat; Ecology; Ornithology; Cultural Heritage; or Traffic and Transport).

Table 12.1: Summary of Likely Significant Effects Prior to and Following Mitigation

Predicted Effect	Significance of Effect	Additional Mitigation	Significance of Residual Effect
Landscape and Visual Amenity			
Construction			
Upper Nith Valley LLCT	Moderate (adverse) locally, reducing to minor and not significant for the LLCT as a whole	n/a	Moderate (adverse) locally, reducing to minor and not significant for the LLCT as a whole
Viewpoint 1: A76 near Crockroy	Moderate (adverse)	n/a	Moderate (adverse)
Viewpoint 2: Lagrae Road	Moderate (adverse)	n/a	Moderate (adverse)
Viewpoint 3: A76 near Guildhall Bridge	Moderate (adverse)	n/a	Moderate (adverse)
Viewpoint 6: Libry Moor	Moderate (adverse)	n/a	Moderate (adverse)
Viewpoint 7: Southern Upland Way (SUW) near Whing Head	Moderate (adverse)	n/a	Moderate (adverse)
A76	Moderate (adverse) locally, reducing to minor (adverse) and not significant for the route as a whole	n/a	Moderate (adverse) locally, reducing to minor (adverse) and not significant for the route as a whole
U432N (minor road in Euchan Water Valley)	Moderate (adverse)	n/a	Moderate (adverse)
U459N and U460N north of the A76 (minor roads passing towards Lagrae and Kirkland)	Moderate (adverse)	n/a	Moderate (adverse)
Glasgow South Western Line	Moderate (adverse) locally, reducing to minor (adverse) and not significant for the route as a whole	n/a	Moderate (adverse) locally, reducing to minor (adverse) and not significant for the route as a whole
Southern Upland Way	Moderate (adverse) locally, reducing to minor (adverse) and not significant for the route as a whole	n/a	Moderate (adverse) locally, reducing to minor (adverse) and not significant for the route as a whole
Core Path 84 (Kirkconnel to Mynwhirr Hill)	Major (adverse) locally, reducing to minor (adverse) and not significant for the route as a whole	n/a	Moderate (adverse) locally, reducing to minor (adverse) and not significant for the route as a whole
Residential Property Group A: The Knowe (properties 3 and 4 Knowe Cottages)	Moderate (adverse)	n/a	Moderate (adverse)
Residential Property P2: Crockroy Cottage	Moderate (adverse)	n/a	Moderate (adverse)
Residential Property P4: Euchan Filter Station House and cottage	Moderate (adverse)	n/a	Moderate (adverse)
Operational			
Upper Nith Valley LLCT	Moderate (adverse)	n/a	Moderate (adverse)
Incised Tributary Valley LLCT	Moderate (adverse)	n/a	Moderate (adverse)
Viewpoint 1: A76 near Crockroy	Moderate (adverse)	n/a	Moderate (adverse)
Viewpoint 2: Lagrae Road	Moderate (adverse)	n/a	Moderate (adverse)

Predicted Effect	Significance of Effect	Additional Mitigation	Significance of Residual Effect
Viewpoint 3: A76 near Guildhall Bridge	Moderate (adverse)	n/a	Moderate (adverse)
Viewpoint 6: Libry Moor	Moderate (adverse)	n/a	Moderate (adverse)
Viewpoint 7: Southern Upland Way (SUW) near Whing Head	Moderate (adverse)	n/a	Moderate (adverse)
A76	Moderate (adverse) locally, reducing to minor (adverse) and not significant for the route as a whole	n/a	Moderate (adverse) locally, reducing to minor (adverse) and not significant for the route as a whole
U432N (minor road in Euchan Water Valley)	Major (adverse) locally, reducing to minor (adverse) and not significant for the route as a whole	n/a	Major (adverse) locally, reducing to minor (adverse) and not significant for the route as a whole
U459N and U460N north of the A76 (minor roads passing towards Lagrae and Kirkland)	Major (adverse) locally, reducing to moderate (adverse) and not significant for the route as a whole	n/a	Major (adverse) locally, reducing to minor (adverse) and not significant for the route as a whole
Southern Upland Way	Moderate (adverse) locally, reducing to minor (adverse) and not significant for the route as a whole	n/a	Moderate (adverse) locally, reducing to minor (adverse) and not significant for the route as a whole
Core Path 84 (Kirkconnel to Mynwhirr Hill)	Major (adverse) locally, reducing to minor (adverse) and not significant for the route as a whole	n/a	Major (adverse) locally, reducing to minor (adverse) and not significant for the route as a whole
Core Path 88 (Kirkconnel to Black Law via Fingland & Kirkland)	Moderate (adverse) locally, reducing to minor (adverse) and not significant for the route as a whole	n/a	Moderate (adverse) locally, reducing to minor (adverse) and not significant for the route as a whole
Residential Property Group A: The Knowe (properties 3 and 4 Knowe Cottages)	Moderate (adverse)	n/a	Moderate (adverse)
Residential Property P2: Crockroy Cottage	Moderate (adverse)	n/a	Moderate (adverse)
Residential Property P4: Euchan Filter Station House and cottage	Moderate (adverse)	n/a	Moderate (adverse)

Summary and Conclusion

12.5 The EIA for the proposed GGRP has been carried out in accordance with regulatory requirements and guidance on good practice. The findings of the surveys and the consultation have informed the design process. As a result, design changes have been introduced to avoid and/or minimise effects on the environment and SPEN has sought to meet the requirements of Section 38 and Schedule 9 of the Electricity Act 1989 which impose the following statutory duty on SPEN in formulating proposals for the installation of overhead transmission lines:

“(a) have regard to the desirability of preserving natural beauty, of conserving flora, fauna and geological or physiographical features of special interest and of protecting sites, buildings and objects of architectural, historic or archaeological interest; and (b) do what [it] reasonably can to mitigate any effect which the proposals would have on the natural beauty of the countryside or on any such flora, fauna, features, sites, buildings or objects.”