

Creag Dhubh to Dalmally 275kV Connection

Environmental Impact Assessment

Volume 4 | Appendix 8.6

Viewpoint Assessment

April 2022



CONTENTS

APPENDIX 8.6 – VIEWPOINT ASSESSMENT 2

Appendix 8.6 – Viewpoint Assessment

- 1.1.1 This Technical Appendix sets out the findings of the detailed viewpoint assessment, carried out as part of the LVIA for the Proposed Development. The findings of the viewpoint assessment are used to inform the overall assessment of effects of the LVIA.
- 1.1.2 The viewpoints were selected to reflect a range of receptor locations at different distances, directions, and elevations from the Proposed Development. The selected viewpoints are intended to represent the experience that receptors would have at recognised vantage points, within landscape character types and landscape designations, settlements, important transportation and recreational routes. The viewpoints have been utilised in the development of the OHL design and in the assessment of landscape and visual effects arising from the Proposed Development.
- 1.1.3 The viewpoints were agreed with Argyll and Bute Council and NatureScot (NS) during a scoping and pre-scoping consultation exercises.
- 1.1.4 An assessment of the potential effects on both landscape character and visual amenity arising from the Proposed Development at each of the agreed viewpoints was undertaken and the findings set out in the tables below. These tables describe:
- the viewpoint number and name;
 - the sensitivity of the landscape character and visual receptors at each viewpoint;
 - the existing view from each location;
 - the cumulative context;
- the predicted operational view of the Proposed Development with other operational and consented developments; and
 - the predicted cumulative view with operational, consented and Proposed Developments.
- 1.1.5 Visualisations for each of the viewpoints are illustrated on **Figures 8.8a to 8.8s (Volume 3b of the EIAR)**. These images have been created in accordance with current NS visualisation standard guidance, and contain details of the location, elevation, bearing and distance of the Proposed Development from the nearest Proposed Development turbine. Some limited enhancement of photography and photomontages was undertaken. Where this was undertaken enhancements were limited to adjustments that would conventionally occur in a darkroom to improve the clarity of an image, not change its essential character.
- 1.1.6 The visualisations reflect the appearance of the Proposed Development at the time of the completion of construction works at the site and include images showing the Proposed Development on its own set within the baseline view at the time of the photography for the LVIA, as well as in the context of existing, consented and other proposed infrastructure development.
- 1.1.7 **Table 8.6.1**, below, summarises the findings of the Viewpoint Assessment, and **Table 8.6.2** contains the detailed assessment of effects on landscape character and visual amenity at viewpoints, including a cumulative assessment.

Table 8.6.1: Viewpoint Assessment					
Viewpoint No.	Viewpoint Name	Residual Effect on Landscape Character at Viewpoint	Residual Cumulative Effect on Landscape Character at Viewpoint	Residual Effect on Visual Receptor at Viewpoint	Residual Cumulative Effect on Visual Receptor at Viewpoint
1	B8074/ A85 Junction	Minor (Not significant)	None	Minor (Not significant)	None
2	A85 at Dalmally Post Office	Minor (Not significant)	Minor (Not significant)	Moderate/Minor (Not significant)	Moderate/Minor (Not significant)
3	Stronmilchan	Moderate (Not significant)	Moderate/Minor (Not significant)	Moderate (Not significant)	Moderate/Minor (Not significant)
4	Kilchurn Castle	None	None	None	None
5	A85 by B8077 junction	Minor (Not significant)	Minor (Not significant)	Moderate/Minor (Not significant)	Moderate/Minor (Not significant)
6	Lochawe Hotel	Moderate/Minor (Not significant)	None	Moderate/Minor (Not significant)	None
7	Monadh Driseig	Moderate (Not significant)	Moderate (Not significant)	Moderate (Not significant)	Moderate (Not significant)
8	A85 layby	Moderate (Not significant)	None	Moderate (Not significant)	None
9	Fraoch Eilan	Moderate (Not significant)	None	Moderate (Not significant)	None
10	A819 layby	Minor	None	Minor	None
11	Duncan ban McIntyre Monument	Moderate (Not significant)	Moderate (Not significant)	Major/Moderate (Significant)	Major/Moderate (Significant)
12	Cruachan path by dam	Minor (Not significant)	Minor (Not significant)	Moderate/Minor (Not significant)	Moderate/Minor (Not significant)
13	Cruachan Visitor Centre	Minor (Not significant)	None	Moderate/Minor (Not significant)	None
14	Ardanaiseig	Moderate (Not significant)	Moderate/Minor (Not significant)	Moderate (Not significant)	Moderate/Minor (Not significant)
15	Taychreggan	Moderate/Minor (Not significant)	Moderate/Minor (Not significant)	Moderate/Minor (Not significant)	Moderate/Minor (Not significant)
16	Fernoch	Moderate (Not significant)	Moderate/Minor (Not significant)	Moderate (Not significant)	Moderate/Minor (Not significant)
17	Neil Munro Monument	Minor (Not significant)	Minor (Not significant)	Moderate/Minor (Not significant)	Moderate/Minor (Not significant)
18	A819	Minor (Not significant)	None	Moderate/Minor (Not significant)	None
19	Cladich steading	Moderate (Not significant)	Minor (Not significant)	Moderate (Not significant)	Minor (Not significant)

Table 8.6.2: Viewpoint Assessment

Vpt No.	Name	Distance and Direction to the Proposed Development	Landscape Sensitivity at Viewpoint	Sensitivity of Visual Receptors at Viewpoint	Existing View	Predicted View	Magnitude of Impact <i>Magnitude of Cumulative Impact</i>	Residual Effect on Landscape Character at Viewpoint <i>Residual Cumulative Landscape Effect</i>	Residual Effect on Visual Amenity <i>Residual Cumulative Visual Effect</i>
1	B8074/ A85 Junction	south west	High	High – tourists on the A85 Medium – local road users	<p>The view from the B8074/ A85 junction extends south towards the northern slopes of Beinn Bhalgairean. Forestry is present across the slopes, at varying stages of maturity.</p> <p>Roadside planting and scrub woodland contain the view. Some small, glimpsed views of elevated landscape are available to the east, with Meall nan Gabhar forming a prominent landform in the background, viewed through a gap in woodland.</p>	<p>The Proposed Development would be located in the background of the view. Woodland vegetation planted along the A85 roadside, and also along the banks for the River Lochy which passes beneath the road in this location, would fully screen views of the Proposed Development from this location.</p> <p>Even during winter months, when the trees are without leaves, trunks and branches would substantially filter any views of the Proposed Development, and it would not be a discernible feature in the view.</p>	<p>The magnitude of impact would be Negligible.</p> <p><i>Cumulative Magnitude of Impact</i></p> <p>No other development of a similar size and scale would be visible from this viewpoint. The magnitude of cumulative impact would be None.</p>	<p>Minor</p> <p><i>None</i></p>	<p>Minor</p> <p><i>None</i></p>
2	A85 at Dalmally Post Office	south east	Medium	High – tourists on the A85, local residents	<p>The view extends south east from the carpark at the Dalmally medical centre/ Post Office towards the upland northwest facing slopes of Beinn Bhalgairean which forms the background and skyline to the view.</p> <p>The Dalmally Community Centre sits in the middle ground, within an area of disturbed ground which has naturally restored with grass and weed species. Behind the community centre, an area of woodland extends across the central portion of the view. An area of forestry has recently been cleared and has been partially replanted with young mixed woodland species.</p> <p>Forestry occupies a portion of the hillslopes in the background of the view, at varying stages of growth. Some areas have recently been felled, leaving areas of brash which contrast with the mosaic of greens across the wider hillside.</p>	<p>The Proposed Development would pass across the background of the view, largely backclothed by topography. The top of one transmission structure would break the skyline to the south west of the view.</p> <p>The towers would be discernible in the view but, given their backclothed position, would not form prominent or particularly notable features.</p>	<p>The Proposed Development would increase the complexity of vertical structures in the view, seen in combination with the existing Dalmally – Inverarnan transmission line, and street light posts etc. Due to its increased distance from the viewer, the Proposed Development would not appear out of scale or prominent in the view.</p> <p>The magnitude of impact would be Slight.</p> <p><i>Cumulative Magnitude of Impact</i></p> <p>No other consented or Proposed Development is visible from this location. The Proposed Development would be viewed in conjunction with the existing Dalmally – Inverarnan transmission line which would sit in front of the Proposed Development and appears larger and more prominent in the view. The Proposed Development would represent a minor addition to the influence of electricity transmission development on the character of the landscape and on the composition of the view from this location. While the change would be discernible, the baseline</p>	<p>Minor</p> <p><i>Minor</i></p>	<p>Moderate/ Minor</p> <p><i>Moderate/ Minor</i></p>

Table 8.6.2: Viewpoint Assessment

					The Dalmally – Inverarnan transmission line passes through the centre of the view, the large vertical towers forming key features in the view – these are skylined as they pass close to the viewer. A lower voltage transmission line is also present across the centre of the view. Lighting structures at the post office car park and community centre, in combination with the transmission structures form visual clutter in the fore- and middle-ground of the view.		conditions would be largely unaltered. The magnitude of cumulative impact would be Slight .			
3	Stronmilchan		High	High – residents Medium – general road users	<p>The view extends south east across grazed pasture above the northern banks of the River Orchy. It is small-scale landscape, settled in character. Scattered properties are glimpsed behind woodland in the middle ground of the view, while farm access tracks extend from the B9077 across the foreground of the view. Post and wire fences and mature shelter belts are a defining feature in the view. An electricity line passes through the centre of the view.</p> <p>Mature trees align the riverbank, denser on the southern side. Views of the hills to the south/ south east are present in the background of the view. Areas of forestry are present across hill tops and slopes in the background of the view, contributing to a broad mosaic of landcover.</p> <p>Telecommunications infrastructure is located on the skyline to the south, at Bealach nan Carbrach.</p>	<p>The Proposed Development would be located in the background of the view. Only 5 transmission tower tops and conductors would be visible, with tower bases and access tracks screened by intervening topography and woodland/ forestry in the foreground of the view.</p> <p>It would introduce linear infrastructure across the hillside which forms the backdrop in the view, however the OHL would only be viewed intermittently given the screening provided by features in the foreground.</p>	<p>The Proposed Development would be a discernible element in the view, but would not be a prominent feature. The underlying character of the landscape and visual composition of the view would remain broadly consistent with the baseline.</p> <p>The magnitude of impact would be Slight.</p> <p><i>Cumulative Magnitude of Impact</i></p> <p>No other consented or Proposed Developments would be visible from this location. The Proposed Development would be theoretically viewed in successive views with the Stronmilchan - Cruachan transmission line which routes across the southern toe slopes of Na Cruachan. Actual views of this alignment are highly screened by intervening woodland in this location. The magnitude of cumulative impact would be Negligible.</p>	Moderate (not significant)	(not significant)	Moderate (not significant)
								Moderate/ Minor	Moderate/ Minor	

Table 8.6.2: Viewpoint Assessment

4	Kilchurn Castle		High	High – visitors to Kilchurn castle	<p>From the footpath adjacent to Kilchurn Castle, the view extends across the northern extent of Loch Awe, towards an area of undulating shoreline topography in the middle ground. Areas of mature woodland are present across the minor hilltops and slopes to the south, with areas of more open, roughly grazed landscape visible to the south west. Forestry plantations occupy the middle horizon to the south west, with some recently felled areas contrasting with mature forestry behind.</p> <p>The A819 routes through the centre of the view but is screened by vegetation and topography. Cars parked at the viewing area are the only indication of this road corridor.</p> <p>Open, upland hills form the background of the view. Areas of forestry are present across the hillside in parts, with others comprising open moorland and upland land cover.</p> <p>The skyline is generally free from development, however telecommunications masts are notable features, breaking the skyline at Bealach nan Carbrach. Additionally, Duncan ban MacIntyre's Monument is visible in the middle distance, adjacent to a further telecommunications mast at Creagan Chaorach.</p>	<p>The Proposed Development would be located behind the landform which forms the middle ground of the view. The OHL would be fully screened in views from this location.</p>	<p>The magnitude of impact would be None.</p> <p><i>Cumulative Magnitude of Impact</i></p> <p>The Proposed Development would not contribute to the influence of electricity transmission infrastructure in this view. Therefore, the magnitude of cumulative impact would be None.</p>	<p>None</p> <p>None</p>	<p>None</p> <p>None</p>
5	A85 by B8077 junction		Medium	<p>High – Tourists on the A85</p> <p>Medium – General road users</p>	<p>The view is from the junction of the B8077 and the A85. It extends across the A85 towards the head of Loch Awe (not visible), with the north facing slopes of Cruach Mhor, Cealach nan Cabrach, Beinn Bheidheach and Bein Bhalgairean forming the backdrop to the view.</p>	<p>The Proposed Development would be located in the background of the view, screened in large by intervening topography. Single towers are visible to the east of the view, however are substantially filtered by vegetation in the foreground. It is considered that they</p>	<p>The Proposed Development would form an imperceptible change in the view from this location. It would be largely screened by topography and vegetation, even during winter months when trees are without leaves.</p> <p>The magnitude of impact would be Negligible.</p>	<p>Minor</p>	<p>Moderate/ Minor</p>

Table 8.6.2: Viewpoint Assessment

					<p>The large massif of Ben Lui forms a landscape feature along the skyline to the east of the view.</p> <p>The middle ground of the view is screened by local topography in the foreground of the view. Scrubby vegetation adjacent to the road corridor further filters and screens more longer distance views in some parts.</p> <p>Glimpsed views of clusters of settlement, such as properties at Stronmilchan, are visible to the east of the view. Road infrastructure such as signs, bollards and boundary fences are also present.</p> <p>It is a transient view, experienced by people moving through the area.</p>	would not form discernible elements in the landscape from this location.	<p><u>Cumulative Magnitude of Impact</u></p> <p>The Proposed Development would be theoretically viewed in successive views with the Stronmilchan - Cruachan transmission line which routes across the toe slopes of Ben Cruachan, behind the viewer.</p> <p>Given the imperceptible change in the view arising from the addition of the Proposed Development, it is considered that the magnitude of cumulative impact would be Negligible.</p>	Minor	Moderate/ Minor
6	Lochawe Hotel		High	<p>High – tourists, hotel residents</p> <p>Also representative of water-based users of Loch Awe.</p>	<p>From the carpark/ outdoor area at the Lochawe Hotel, the view extends across Loch Awe towards its southern shoreline. Topography rises fairly steeply from the shoreline, creating a middle ground which truncates longer distance views in the central part of the view.</p> <p>The middle ground is covered by dense vegetation, a mix of broadleaved woodland and forestry plantation.</p> <p>The background of the view is formed by the north facing hills of Cruach Mhor, Cealach nan Cabrach, Beinn Bheidheach and Beinn Bhalgairean. Areas of forestry are present across these hills, in varying states of maturity.</p> <p>Aside from the lighting infrastructure at the hotel, there are few indications of settlement in the view. Telecommunications structures are visible at Creagan Chaorach and are the only discernible infrastructural elements in this view. However, a</p>	<p>The tops of up to 5 transmission towers would be visible from the Lochawe Hotel carpark/ outdoor area. These structures would be visible behind the topography in the middle distance, and backclothed by the larger hills which form the backdrop to the view.</p> <p>The Proposed Development would introduce linear infrastructure into a view which is currently void of any discernible infrastructural development. However, the structures would be located in the background of the view, and would not form prominent or notable elements in the view from this location. The conductors would also be substantially screened in views by topography.</p> <p><u>Predicted Cumulative View</u></p> <p>Views of transmission towers on the proposed Crag Dhubh to Inveraray 275 kV transmission line are theoretically available from this viewpoint. However, due to the level of woodland and forestry in the intervening landscape, views are anticipated to be limited to the tips of the northern most towers, and are likely to be imperceptible in the view.</p>	<p>The Proposed Development would result in a very limited or imperceptible alteration to the baseline view/ landscape. The change would be barely discernible in views from the Lochawe Hotel carpark.</p> <p>The magnitude of impact would be Negligible.</p> <p><u>Cumulative Magnitude of Impact</u></p> <p>No other consented or proposed electricity transmission development would be discernible from this location. The magnitude of cumulative impact would be None.</p>	<p>Moderate/ Minor</p> <p>None</p>	<p>Moderate/ Minor</p> <p>None</p>

Table 8.6.2: Viewpoint Assessment

					more developed and settled view is experienced to the rear of the viewer.					
7	Monadh Driseig (hill top)		High	High	<p>From the summit of Monadh Driseig, the view extends across Loch Awe and the Strath of Orchy towards the north facing moorland slopes of Cruach Mhor, Bealach nan Cabrach, and Beinn Bhalgairean.</p> <p>It is an open and panoramic view of a varied landscape. To the north east, the Strath of Orchy is highlighted by the patchwork of improved pasture along the flood plain, intersected by bands of riparian and shelterbelt woodland. As the landscape rises out of the strath, and from the eastern shore of Loch Awe, landcover is a mixture of open moorland ground cover and large patches of forestry. Broadleaved woodland aligns the shore of the loch, and extends to the lower forestry edges.</p> <p>Forestry tracks form notable features across the hillsides. Scattered settlement is visible on the lower elevations, associated largely with the A819 which passes along the eastern shore of the loch.</p> <p>In the background of the view, the Cowal Ranges rise to form the skyline. Loch Fyne is visible in the distance. Moorland lochans are also present across areas of moorland in the middle distance.</p>	<p>The Proposed Development would be wholly visible from this elevated location. It would extend across the moorland hills which lie above Loch Awe.</p> <p>The Proposed Development would form a new, linear feature which would stretch across a high proportion of the view in this direction. It would sit low in the view and would not be skylined. Given the distance from the development and the expansive nature of the view, the Proposed Development would form a minor element in the view which would relate to the scale of the landscape within which it sits. It would be associated with areas of forestry and existing access tracks.</p> <p>The Proposed Development would be a discernible but not notable or prominent element in the view.</p> <p><u>Predicted Cumulative View</u></p> <p>The Proposed Development would be viewed in the context of the existing Stronmilchan - Cruachan transmission line as it routes along the northern edge of the Strath of Orchy, up to 3 towers of the Stronmilchan - Dalmally transmission line as it routes along the western shore of Loch Awe, and the Taynuilt - Inveraray transmission line in the far distance, as it crosses Loch Awe to the north of Portsochachan. Proposed Development at Creag Dhubh substation, and the proposed 257 kV Creag Dhubh to Inveraray transmission line would also be partially visible in the distance although intervening woodland and forestry as well as local undulations in topography</p>	<p>The Proposed Development would extend across a large proportion of the view. However, it would form a small element amongst an expansive and panoramic elevated view. The change arising from the Proposed Development would be discernible however the underlying landscape character and view composition would be broadly consistent with the baseline. The magnitude of impact would be Slight.</p> <p><u>Cumulative Magnitude of Impact</u></p> <p>The Proposed Development would extend the influence of large-scale electricity transmission infrastructure across an area of landscape which is currently void of transmission lines or vertical linear infrastructure. It would visually link Proposed Development at Creag Dhubh substation with the Dalmally - Inverarnan transmission line at Dalmally. It is considered that the Proposed Development would represent a clearly discernible increase in the influence of electricity transmission infrastructure on the character of the landscape and the composition of the views from this elevated viewpoint but would be seen distantly, would be backclothed and would represent a localised change within an otherwise unaltered context. The magnitude of cumulative impact would be Slight</p>	Moderate	Moderate (Not significant))	Moderate (Not significant))

Table 8.6.2: Viewpoint Assessment

						<p>kV transmission line is theoretically visible from this location. However, it is likely that only the very top of the northern most towers would be theoretically visible. Given the level of woodland and forestry cover in the intervening landscape, and the increased distance between the viewer and the proposed cumulative OHL, it is considered unlikely that this cumulative development would be perceptible from this viewpoint location. No other electricity transmission infrastructure is discernible in the view.</p>			
9	Fraoch Eilan		High	Medium	<p>The view from the island is largely contained to the north east and south west by trees and scrub vegetation along the shoreline. Breaks in tree coverage allow longer distance views to the south east across Loch Awe towards the upland landscapes which form the background to the view.</p> <p>The southern edge of Loch Awe rises gently from the shoreline, to form low summits with craggy tops and rocky outcrops. Areas of broadleaved woodland are present across the lower hills.</p> <p>In the background of the view the topography rises to form the elevated upland landscapes. Large areas of forestry occupy the hillsides and extend across the skyline in</p>	<p>The Proposed Development would extend across the full view from Fraoch Eilan. Local topography in the middle ground would screen 1 tower fully, and the lower extent of 4 towers in the centre of the view.</p> <p>The Proposed Development would introduce a new feature into a landscape which currently is void of large-scale vertical infrastructure. The combination of conductors and towers would form a notable linear element in the view. The towers would be noticeably larger than the existing distribution line that passes through the view, however, would not be out of scale with the landscape.</p> <p>The Proposed Development would not be skylined, and at a distance of 2 km</p>	<p>The Proposed Development would represent a minor addition to the influence of electricity transmission development on the character of the landscape and the composition of views. The change would be discernible, but the original baseline conditions would be largely unaltered. The magnitude of impact would be Slight.</p>	Moderate	Moderate/ Minor

Table 8.6.2: Viewpoint Assessment

					<p>parts of the view. Areas of felled forestry contribute to a mosaic of colour across the background of the view.</p> <p>There is evidence of settlement, with scattered properties, shoreline development (i.e. piers). An electricity distribution line is visible midway up the hill in the background of the view. No infrastructure is present on the skyline.</p>	<p>southeast, would be recessive elements in the view.</p> <p><u>Predicted Cumulative View</u></p> <p>The cumulative ZTV indicates that the proposed Creag Dhubh to Inveraray 275 kV transmission line would be visible in views from this location. However, due to the level of woodland in the intervening landscape, including across the island, actual views of this OHL are unlikely to be perceptible.</p>	<p><u>Cumulative Magnitude of Impact</u></p> <p>No other cumulative developments would be discernible from this viewpoint. The magnitude of cumulative impact would be None.</p>	None	None
10	A819 layby		Medium	Medium	<p>The view to the east/ south east is contained by topography in the foreground. Post and wire fencing aligns the roadside, and gently sloping topography used for grazing rises to form a near horizon in the view.</p> <p>Woodland is present across the skyline, with forestry plantation visible behind.</p> <p>The summits of Ben Lui and Beinn a' Chleibh form notable landmark hills in the distance to the east.</p>	<p>The Proposed Development would be located behind the topography in the foreground, and therefore would be largely screened in the view from this location. The top of two towers would be glimpsed above the woodland which forms the current skyline, however given the distance from the viewer, the recessive nature of transmission structures and the varied profile of the skyline, it is considered unlikely that these would be notable features.</p> <p>Views from this layby are largely directed to the west, across Loch Awe and away from the Proposed Development.</p>	<p>There would be an imperceptible alteration to the key characteristics of the baseline view and landscape. The proposed change would be barely discernible.</p> <p>The magnitude of impact would be Negligible.</p> <p><u>Cumulative Magnitude of Impact</u></p> <p>No other cumulative developments would be visible from this viewpoint. The magnitude of cumulative impact would be None.</p>	Minor	Minor
11	Duncan ban McIntyre Monument		Medium	High – visitors to the monument	<p>The view from Duncan Ban McIntyre Monument is expansive and provides panoramic views across the Strath of Orchy to Ben Cruachan, Beinn Eunaich and Na Cruachan in the north, down Loch Awe to the west/ south west, and extends</p>	<p>The Proposed Development would be visible across the full east/ south east facing view from Duncan ban McIntyre Monument.</p> <p>In long distance views to the south east, the Proposed Development would be viewed as it exits the substation and</p>	<p>The Proposed Development would form a prominent, localised change in the view from the Duncan Ban McIntyre Monument. The broader context of the panoramic view would remain unaltered.</p> <p>The magnitude of impact would be Medium.</p>	Moderate	Major/ (Significant) Moderate

Table 8.6.2: Viewpoint Assessment

				<p>across more gentle moorland hills to the east and south east.</p> <p>In the direction of the Proposed Development the easterly view extends across extensive areas of forestry at varying stages of maturity, with some recently felled areas visible in the background of the view, and some recently replanted areas in the foreground. Open areas of moorland lie between forestry plantations. Forestry access tracks are characteristic in the view. It is an actively managed landscape which is continually changing as the forestry plantations rotate.</p> <p>To the south east, the view extends along Loch Awe. This is a smaller scale landscape with areas of broadleaved woodland along the loch shores, more actively managed field networks visible between the woodland. The loch forms a large and dominant feature in the view. Dispersed settlement is visible on both shorelines, and the A819 is intermittently visible to the south of the loch. Wind turbines at Beinn Ghlas Wind Farm are visible across the skyline in the long distance view.</p>	<p>crosses the A819, and then routes across the craggy upland landscape to the north. In this part of the view, transmission towers would appear clustered together.</p> <p>As the towers route closer to the viewer, the change in perspective stretches the OHL across the view and the gaps between towers becomes more perceptible. Towers would be screened in part by local topography and forestry and would be fully backclothed by topography.</p> <p>Where the OHL is in closest proximity to the monument, the transmission towers would form prominent elements in the landscape, at a distance of 500 m. The OHL would introduce large scale linear infrastructure into the landscape and into the view. This would form a new and uncharacteristic feature in views to the east, however there are a number of high voltage transmission lines, and other linear infrastructure such as the A85 and the west Highland Railway Line visible from the monument in views to the north and west.</p> <p><u>Predicted Cumulative View</u></p> <p>Successive views of the existing Dalmally - Inverarnan and Stronmilchan - Cruachan transmission lines, located to the north and north east, in combination with the Proposed Development to the east would be available from the viewpoint. The Proposed Development would extend the presence of high voltage electricity infrastructure across a large part of the view. Transmission lines would be visible in most directions, at varying distances.</p> <p>The cumulative ZTV indicates that the proposed Creag Dhubh to Inveraray 275 kV transmission line would be visible from this location. However, it is likely that only the very top of the northern most towers would be theoretically visible. Given the level of woodland and forestry cover in</p>	<p><u>Cumulative Magnitude of Impact</u></p> <p>The Proposed Development would represent a notable increase in the influence of electricity transmission infrastructure on the character of the landscape and on the composition of views. The change in the view would be localised within an otherwise unaltered context. The magnitude of impact would be Medium.</p>	<p>Moderate</p>	<p>Major/Moderate(Significant)</p>
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Table 8.6.2: Viewpoint Assessment

						the intervening landscape, and the increased distance between the viewer and the proposed cumulative OHL, it is considered unlikely that this cumulative development would be perceptible from this viewpoint location.			
12	Cruachan path by dam		Medium	High – walkers visiting the dam Low – workers at the dam	<p>The elevated view extends along the Cruachan dam valley towards Loch Awe which is located in the middle distance. Gentle upland hills rise from the far shore of Loch Awe, while the large mountain ranges to the south form the skyline to the view.</p> <p>Transmission infrastructure is highly characteristic of the view from this location. Transmission towers are located in the foreground, with ground based cable infrastructure also a notable element. The access track to the dam forms a prominent element in the view, and built infrastructure associated with the dam is also present, creating a modified landscape.</p> <p>Woodland vegetation aligns Loch Awe on both shorelines. To the south, the landform rises gently from the water, leading to broad rounded hills. Forestry plantations are a notable landscape feature in the background of the view. Some scattered settlement is also evident.</p>	<p>The Proposed Development would be located in the background of the view. It would form a minor new infrastructural element which would extend across the landscape.</p> <p>The Proposed Development would relate to existing infrastructure in the view, but would be seen at a greater distance. It would not be skylined, instead wholly backclothed by topography and partially screened by a combination of topography and forestry/ woodland.</p> <p>The OHL would not be out of scale with the landscape in the view.</p> <p><u>Predicted Cumulative View</u></p> <p>The Proposed Development would be viewed in conjunction with the Stronmilchan - Cruachan existing transmission line, which is located in the foreground of the view. It would be viewed behind this existing infrastructure in the background of the view. The proposed Creag Dhubh substation would also be visible in the view, and in combination with the Proposed Development would increase the level of transmission infrastructure in distance views. They would form minor elements.</p>	<p>The Proposed Development would result in a limited alteration to the characteristics of the baseline view. The change resulting from the construction and operation of the OHL would be barely discernible in this long-distance view.</p> <p>The magnitude of impact would be Negligible.</p> <p><u>Cumulative Magnitude of Impact</u></p> <p>The Proposed Development would represent a minor addition to the influence of electricity transmission development on the character of the landscape and/or the composition of views when considered in conjunction with other existing, consented and Proposed Developments. The change would be discernible, but the original baseline conditions would be largely unaltered. The magnitude of cumulative impact would be Slight.</p>	Minor Minor	Moderate/ Minor Moderate/ Minor

Table 8.6.2: Viewpoint Assessment

13	Cruachan Visitor Centre		Medium	High – Visitors to the centre	<p>Direct views from the visitor centre extend south west to the southern bank of the river, and the north eastern slopes of Creag Thulach. Oblique views to the south east extend across the mouth of the River Awe, as it outfalls into Loch Awe.</p> <p>The foreground of the view is active. Infrastructure associated with the dam and fish farming are evident, with pedestrian barriers and seating along the waters edge. The small settlement of Tervine is visible on the far side of the river.</p> <p>The Ardanaiseig House GDL is visible in the middle distance, occupying the southern coastline at the mouth of the river. Mature broadleaved woodland is present across the landscape in the middle and foreground of the view.</p> <p>To the south east, large areas of forestry stretch across the craggy upland hills that form the backdrop to the view. At higher elevations, open moorland forms a gently undulating skyline.</p>	<p>The Proposed Development would be visible in the background of the view, obliquely viewed across the upland moorland which forms the backdrop in views from the visitor centre.</p> <p>The OHL would be located below a large area of forestry, backclothed fully by topography. It would form a minor feature in the view and, while introducing a new linear element into the landscape – would not form a notable feature. It would relate to the size and scale of the landform and would not catch the eye.</p> <p><u>Predicted Cumulative View</u></p> <p>No other electricity transmission infrastructure is visible from this location (existing, consented or proposed).</p>	<p>The Proposed Development would result in a limited alteration to the baseline view. It is likely that the change would be barely discernible in views from the visitor centre.</p> <p>The magnitude of impact would be Negligible.</p> <p><u>Cumulative Magnitude of Impact</u></p> <p>No other cumulative development would be apparent. The magnitude of cumulative impact would be None.</p>	Minor	Moderate/ Minor
14	Ardanaiseig House Garden and Designed Landscape		High	High – Visitors to the GDL	<p>The view from Ardanaiseig House GDL extends across the wooded edge Loch Awe to the south east. Glimpses of the loch are available in the middle ground of the view, viewed between areas of woodland and loch islands.</p> <p>The south eastern shore of the loch is occupied by dense woodland. As elevation rises away from the water, landcover turns into large swathes of</p>	<p>The Proposed Development would be located across the background of the view, extending across the low moorland hills associated with large areas of forestry.</p> <p>The Proposed Development would for a new linear feature across part of the landscape which is largely void of large scale infrastructure. It would be notable along the low hills, partially screened by local topography and forestry in places.</p>	<p>There would be a discernible change to the baseline view as a result of the construction and operation of the Proposed Development. The Proposed Development would form a notable new element in the view from Ardanaiseig House GDL however it would not be prominent in the view. The underlying landscape character and view composition would be broadly consistent with the baseline.</p> <p>The magnitude of impact would be Slight.</p>	Moderate	Moderate

Table 8.6.2: Viewpoint Assessment

					<p>forestry (including recently felled forestry) then open moorland across a high portion of the summits. Larger mountain ranges are visible across the skyline and Ben Lui forms a notable landmark in views to the east.</p> <p>Communications infrastructure is visible on the skyline at Bealach na Cabreach and a telecommunications mast is located in the view adjacent to the Duncan Ban MacIntyre Monument. While the landscape appears sparsely settled in the view, active forestry management ensures that views from this locations are changeable. Houses and roads are largely screened by intervening woodland.</p> <p>It should be noted that this is a worst-case representative view. The majority of views from within the GDL are heavily screened by mature estate woodlands.</p>	<p>The transmission towers would sit low in the view, and would not be skylined. They would relate well to the open and expansive character of the landscape and would not impact upon the prominence or perceived scale of landmark features in the view, such as the Ben Lui massif.</p> <p><u>Predicted Cumulative View</u></p> <p>The ZTV indicates that the Proposed Development would be visible in combination with views of towers on the proposed Creag Dhubh to Inveraray 275 kV transmission line. However actual views of this alignment would be screened by woodland associated with the estate, and forestry in the intervening landscape. Glimpsed views of the a small number of towers on the existing Taynuilt - Inveraray transmission line are available to the north west, which would be viewed in succession with the Proposed Development, in opposite directions.</p>	<p><u>Cumulative Magnitude of Impact</u></p> <p>The Proposed Development would represent a barely discernible addition to influence of electricity transmission development on the character of the landscape and on the composition of views when considered in combination iwth other existing, consented and proposed electricity transmission developments. The baseline condition of the landscape or view would, for all intents and purposes, be unaffected. The magnitude of cumulative impact would be Negligible.</p>	Moderate/ Minor	Moderate/ Minor
15	Taychreggan		High	High – views from Loch Awe, settlement	<p>The view from the western loch shore extends across the open water of Loch Awe towards the eastern shore and hills beyond. Ben Lui forms a prominent landmark along the skyline in the background of the view, with the mountain ranges of Beinn an Oir extending to the west.</p> <p>The western shores of the loch are heavily wooded, interspersed with open areas of moorland and pasture, with plots of forestry along the skyline in the middle ground, and across open upland in the distance. Scattered settlement is visible amongst areas of woodland and along the loch shore.</p> <p>The two tall water crossing towers on the Taynuilt - Inveraray transmission line are notable features in the middle distance, on either side of the</p>	<p>The Proposed Development would be located in the background of the view. It would form a small element across the low hills which are present in the foreground of Ben Lui. It would be backclothed by landform and in a number of areas would be screened by woodland and areas of forestry.</p> <p><u>Predicted Cumulative View</u></p> <p>The Proposed Development would appear notable smaller than the two water crossing towers of the Taynuilt - Inveraray transmission line, partially due to their smaller size and also due to their increased distance from the viewer. While the Proposed Development would introduce further linear infrastructure into the view, it is considered that this change would be almost imperceptible. No other existing, consented or Proposed</p>	<p>The Proposed Development would result in a limited alteration to one or more key elements/characteristics of the baseline view. The change would be barely discernible due to the distance from the development. The magnitude of impact would be Negligible.</p> <p><u>Cumulative Magnitude of Impact</u></p> <p>The Proposed Development would represent a barely discernible addition to influence of electricity transmission development on the character of the landscape and on the composition of views when considered in combination with other existing, consented and proposed electricity transmission developments. The baseline condition of the landscape or view would, for all intents and purposes, be unaffected. The cumulative magnitude of impact would be Negligible.</p>	Moderate/ Minor	Moderate/ Minor

Table 8.6.2: Viewpoint Assessment

					loch. No other vertical infrastructure is notably prominent.	Development is discernible from this viewpoint.			
16	Feroch		Medium	Medium – general road users	<p>The view from the road at Feroch extends north east across Loch Awe towards the Ben Cruachan, Ben Lui and Grampian mountain ranges which form the background and varied skyline to the view.</p> <p>More gentle upland moorland hills contain the view to the east and west, comprising areas of woodland and forestry interspersed with areas of open moorland landscape.</p> <p>Dispersed settlement is glimpsed within areas of woodland in the middle distance and along the shoreline. Electricity distribution lines are present across the hillsides on both sides of the loch.</p> <p>Tall transmission towers on the Taynuit - Inveraray OHL are visible on the edge of Loch Awe in the middle distance, as the transmission line crosses the loch.</p>	<p>The Proposed Development would be located in the background of the view, routing across the forested moorland landscape to the east of the view. Topography would screen towers as they route from the Creag Dhubh (proposed) substation and cross the A819. Visibility would commence as the alignment descends the hill and passes through of adjacent to areas of commercial forestry at a distance of approximately 4.5 km.</p> <p>Due to the angle of the view, the transmission line would create an area of visual complexity within a small portion of the view. However at this distance, the Proposed Development would not be a notable feature in the landscape. As it would be full backclothed, it would recede into the landscape and would not be prominent.</p> <p><u>Predicted Cumulative View</u></p> <p>The existing Taynuit - Inveraray transmission line crosses Loch Awe in the middle distance. Due to its height, the water crossing tower on the eastern shore is a notable feature in the distant view. However, it is not a landmark feature as it is backclothed, and as such recedes in the view. The Proposed Development would be located along the hillside, behind this transmission line. While the Proposed Development would contribute to an increase in linear development within the view, it would be seen at distance sitting low in the landscape. No other cumulative development would be discernible in the view.</p>	<p>The Proposed Development would result in a discernible change to the baseline view, mainly through the visual complexity created by the layering of towers experienced in the angle of view.</p> <p>However, due to the increased distance from the Proposed Development, and the transmission towers forming minor features in the landscape, the overall composition of the existing view would remain broadly consistent.</p> <p>The magnitude of impact would be Slight.</p>	Moderate/ Minor	Moderate/ Minor
							<p><u>Cumulative Magnitude of Impact</u></p> <p>The Proposed Development would represent a minor addition to the influence of electricity transmission development on the character of the landscape and on the composition of views when viewed in conjunction with other existing, consented and Proposed Development. The change would be discernible, but the original baseline conditions would be largely unaltered. The magnitude of impact would be Slight.</p>	Moderate/ Minor	Moderate/ Minor
17	Neil Munro Monument		Medium	High – visitors to the monument	The view from the Neil Munro monument is varied. From the picnic table and interpretation panel, views are largely contained by local topography.	The Proposed Development would be largely screened by topography in views from the Neil Munro Monument. A single tower would be theoretically visible as it connected in to the (proposed) Creag	The Proposed Development would form an almost imperceptible alteration to key elements and characteristics of the baseline view and landscape. The change would be barely discernible.	Minor	Moderate/ Minor

Table 8.6.2: Viewpoint Assessment

					From the base of the monument, located at an elevated position above the public area, more expansive views along Glen Aray are available. In the direction of the site, the view is contained by a large area of forestry. Semi mature trees are present in the foreground, with more mature plantations forming the background of the view.	Dhubh substation, however the forestry present in the foreground would screen a high degree of views of this tower. <u>Predicted Cumulative View</u> The key change in the view from this location would be as a result of the proposed Creag Dhubh substation and the proposed Creag Dhubh to Inveraray 275 kV transmission line. The Proposed Development would form a minor feature in the view, and would likely be filtered by the substation in the foreground.	The magnitude of impact would be Negligible . <u>Cumulative Magnitude of Impact</u> The Proposed Development would represent a barely discernible alteration to the influence of electricity transmission development on the character of the landscape and on the composition of the view when viewed in combination with other existing, consented and proposed electricity transmission development. The magnitude of impact would be Negligible .	Minor	Moderate/ Minor
18	A819		Medium	High – Tourists Medium – General road users	The view extends north along the A819. Dense roadside vegetation contains the view. Small areas of more open hills are present in the background of the view, and the western slopes of Beinn a' Bhuiridh glimpsed behind tree cover. It is a small-scale view, directed along the road corridor with little connection to the wider landscape context.	The Proposed Development would be largely screened by topography and roadside vegetation in this location. The top of a single structure would be visible to the east of the road however it is considered likely that roadside vegetation would assist with integrating this structure within the overall view, and it would form an almost imperceptible element in the view. <u>Predicted Cumulative View</u> No other electricity transmission infrastructure is visible from this location (existing, consented or proposed).	The Proposed Development would result in no appreciable change to the landscape resource or view. The magnitude of impact would be Negligible . <u>Cumulative Magnitude of Impact</u> No other cumulative development would be apparent. The magnitude of impact would be None .	Minor None	Moderate/ Minor None
19	Cladich steading		Medium	High - Settlement	The view from the small settlement at Cladich extends across a minor road to an area of roughly grazed agricultural land. Small marshy fields are defined by mature shelterbelts which contain the view. Individual trees are located within the fields, further containing longer distance views. Where views beyond shelter belts are available, these are glimpses only. Small areas of improved pasture are visible between trees. Forestry plantations define the distance skyline.	The Proposed Development would be largely screened by mature shelterbelt vegetation and topography. The tops of two towers would be visible in the background of the view, extending above the trees in the middle ground, as the OHL extends across the agricultural fields in the distant view. In this part of the view, conductors and towers would be a discernible element, however as they are viewed at a distance and in the background of the view would not appear out of scale with existing elements. <u>Predicted Cumulative View</u>	The Proposed Development would result in a discernible alteration to the background of the view. The underlying landscape character and view composition would be broadly consistent with the current baseline. The magnitude of impact would be Slight .	Moderate	Moderate
							<u>Cumulative Magnitude of Impact</u> The Proposed Development would represent a barely discernible alteration to the influence of electricity transmission development on the character of the landscape and on the composition of the view when viewed in combination with other existing, consented and proposed electricity	Minor	Minor

Table 8.6.2: Viewpoint Assessment

					<p>It is a small scale view, rural in character. Elements are human scale, such as the fencing visible in the foreground of the view. A wood pole electricity transmission structure is visible upon the hummock in the centre of the view and forms the only notable infrastructural feature in this view.</p>	<p>No other large scale electricity transmission infrastructure is visible from this location (existing, consented or proposed). The Proposed Development would be viewed in combination with an existing wood pole line which is present in the middle ground of the view, however as this existing line is not a key element in the current view, the Proposed Development would not notably contribute to an increase in wirescape or dominance of electricity infrastructure in the view.</p>	<p>transmission development. The magnitude of impact would be Negligible.</p>		
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