

Aberdeen Western Peripheral Route

Environmental Statement Appendices 2007

Part B: Northern Leg

Appendix A11.1 – Landscape Sensitivity, Impact Magnitude and Significance

Landscape Appendix

1.1 Introduction

- 1.1.1 This Appendix sets out the baseline landscape character using Local Landscape Character Areas (LLCA) to describe the Northern Leg Study Area. For each LLCA the description includes location, topography, drainage, landuse, settlement, views, key characteristics, positive and negative attributes, designations, condition and scenic quality. Where an LLCA will be directly affected by the Northern Leg proposals there is a statement of the landscape and visual aims with regard to mitigating the proposals.
- 1.1.2 The location of the Local Landscape Character Areas and landscape designations are shown on Figures 11.2a to 11.2d.
- 1.1.3 Photographs illustrating the characteristics of each Local Landscape Character Area are shown on Figures 11.4a to 11.4k.
- 1.1.4 In Table 25 the main elements of each LLCA, both directly and indirectly affected, are described and a judgement made of the value and susceptibility. The sensitivity of each element is then evaluated.
- 1.1.5 Both Landscape sensitivity and the magnitude of change are combined in Table 26. Impact significance was determined, taking into account mitigation proposals, for winter year of opening and in the summer after fifteen years.

1.2 Baseline Conditions

- 1.2.1 The LLCAs within the Northern Leg Study Area are listed and described below in order of character type.

Hill Landscape Character Type

Brimmond Hill (Indirectly Affected)

- 1.2.2 Brimmond Hill is 1km north west of the settlement of Kingswells and is a popular public viewpoint.
- 1.2.3 The hill is irregular and smooth in form, steepest on the north, east and west slopes, gentler to south and south east, and reaches a height of 266m AOD.
- 1.2.4 The area is known as Brimmond Hill and has car parking facilities and a path network which is part of the Four Hills Walk. The hill features areas of open moorland, gorse, several transmitter masts and a war memorial. The north and west slopes are divided into medium to large sized, irregularly patterned fields of rough grazing. The gentle south slope has been divided into small and medium sized rectilinear fields of improved grassland and the majority of fields are bounded by drystone walls and post and wire fencing. Lines of mature broadleaved woodland and mixed tree belts separate the more intensely farmed areas from the moorland.
- 1.2.5 Settlement in the area is limited to isolated farms on the lower south slopes. There is a small network of access tracks and paths within the character area. An overhead transmission line passes through the south west of the area and there is a woodpole line on the lower slopes. Minor roads border the southwest and northwest of the area.
- 1.2.6 The hill is high in relation to the surrounding landscape and is therefore very exposed. There are long-range views in all directions.

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Table 1: Landscape Character Summary for Brimmond Hill

Landscape Attributes	Description
Key Characteristics	Prominent summit with several transmitter masts; Exposed open moorland with scrub vegetation and gorse; Part of Four Hills footpath network.
Positive Character Attributes	Good public access; Long views in all directions.
Negative Character Attributes	Gorse overtaking naturally regenerating heather; Transmitter masts dominate views to and from hill.
Landscape Designations	'Green Belt' (Finalised Aberdeen City Local Plan, 2004); 'Green Space Network' (Finalised Aberdeen City Local Plan, 2004).
Landscape Condition	Seen at close quarters, the landscape of Brimmond Hill is in a reasonable condition. Large areas of gorse introduce an untidy character. The presence of transmitters, fencing and a concrete path network introduce an urban character not in keeping with the rural situation and this degrades the landscape condition.
Scenic Quality	Good scenic quality. Panoramic, long-range views possible in all directions. Brimmond Hill is a very prominent feature in most views from within and around Aberdeen but transmitter masts detract from the views to and from the hill.

Elrick Hill (Indirectly Affected)

- 1.2.7 This LLCA is situated west of the City of Aberdeen conurbation, approximately 3km south west of Aberdeen airport.
- 1.2.8 Elrick Hill is an irregular, steep-sided hill with a summit of 202m AOD. There are three large ponds in the north-west of the area, within the former Tyrebagger Quarry. Green Burn runs through the south of the area.
- 1.2.9 The area is known as Elrick Hill and features picnic areas, car parking, a path network which is part of the Four Hills Walk, open moorland, an historic enclosure and areas of mixed woodland. The vegetation cover is heathers, pines and native scrub with a high amount of natural regeneration. The hill has a natural, soft appearance probably due to the lack of grazing. The west of the area is fenced off from the publicly accessible areas and the disused quarry which lies in the north of the area is now used as a training facility for heavy plant machinery.
- 1.2.10 Clinterty House and Clinterty Home Farm are located in the west of the LLCA and are enclosed by woodland. There are a number of footpaths which cross the hill and the area is bound by a B road to the north and a minor road to the south.
- 1.2.11 Brimmond Hill to the south and the heavily wooded Tyrebagger Hill to the north both restrict views from Elrick Hill but there are broad panoramic views possible to the east and west. Views to the east are impacted on by Aberdeen outskirts and the industrial development around Dyce. Short-range views to the south look at the Craibstone Golf Course which borders the south side of Elrick Hill. The lack of traffic or settlement creates a very secluded feel in this character area.

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Table 2: Landscape Character Summary for Elrick Hill

Landscape Attributes	Description
Key Characteristics	Mix of open moorland, woodland enclosure and regenerating native vegetation; Part of Four Hills footpath network; Vantage point for views in all directions.
Positive Character Attributes	Good public access; Long views possible to east and west; Mixture of enclosure and open ground create a varied walking experience and a secluded atmosphere.
Negative Character Attributes	Views of industrial developments to north and east; Aural disturbance from airport.
Landscape Designations	'Green Belt' (Finalised Aberdeen City Local Plan, 2004); 'Green Space Network' (Finalised Aberdeen City Local Plan, 2004).
Landscape Condition	The landscape of Elrick Hill is in good condition with healthy regeneration of mixed species and mixed age vegetation, and a well maintained informal path network.
Scenic Quality	Good scenic quality. Views from Elrick Hill to the north and south are restricted by the landform of Tyrebagger and Brimmond Hills. Attractive, panoramic views are possible to the east towards Aberdeen and to the west across open farmland. Elrick Hill is not a prominent feature in views from outwith the area as it is seen as part of the neighbouring higher ground of Brimmond Hill and Tyrebagger Hill.

Tyrebagger Hill / Kirkhill (Directly Affected)

- 1.2.12 Tyrebagger Hill/Kirkhill is located immediately south of the River Don, approximately 2km west of Aberdeen Airport.
- 1.2.13 This area features several hills with Tyrebagger Hill itself located in the south of the area, with a summit height of 250m AOD, and four smaller high points ranging from 168m AOD to 240m AOD. There are significant concentrations of drainage channels and waterways in the south of the LLCA which drain east towards the River Don. The north of the LLCA comprises several smaller, irregular hills including Hill of Marcus (237m AOD), Blue Hill (184m AOD), Harvey's Cairn (156m AOD) and further unnamed summits. Drainage channels converge to form the deep valley of the Bogenjoss Burn which joins the River Don near Pitmedden House and the slopes drop to a height of 50m AOD, adjacent to the Upper Don Valley LLCA.
- 1.2.14 The dominant land use for the area is commercial coniferous plantation which covers Hill of Marcus, Tyrebagger Hill, Harvey's Cairn and a significant area of Blue Hill. This plantation is wholly coniferous with varied age blocks and the younger trees typically located on the plantation fringe. Elsewhere, there is policy woodland associated with Pitmedden House and lines of deciduous mature trees in the west of the area. Agriculture occurs on the north- and west-facing slopes and on the lower east-facing slopes. In the west and east this is a mixture of arable and pasture while the north is typically pasture of varying quality. Field boundaries are drystone walls which are generally well ordered and rectilinear in the west and less so in the east.
- 1.2.15 Settlement tends to be traditional farms and dwellings on the hill fringes. There are two local routes in the area and a network of farm and forestry access tracks. Those access tracks within the commercial plantations at Tyrebagger Hill are open to the public as walkways, cycleways and bridleways. The eastern side of Tyrebagger Hill is the location of a Stone Circle which is a Scheduled Ancient Monument. The elevated location provides an open view across farmland and industrial estates towards Aberdeen. Two overhead transmission lines cross the north-west of the area. There is a car scrapyard, a long term car park for the airport and a transmitter mast

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on the lower eastern side of Tyrebagger Hill which has extended the industrial nature of Dyce onto the hill. The A96 passes through the south of the area between the plantations of Tyrebagger and Clinterty Woods.

1.2.16

The mixed woodlands at Tyrebagger Hill are enclosed and tranquil but the dominant areas of monoculture plantation are dark and hostile. Outwith the woodlands, the elevation of the area allows for very long-range views to the west, north and east. On the east of Tyrebagger Hill, the proximity of Aberdeen Airport, the adjacent industrial estate and further development within the Don valley significantly detract from the visual quality and atmosphere of the area. On the lower, northern slopes of Tyrebagger Hill, Pitmedden House estate is an attractive designed landscape with areas of semi-natural broadleaved woodland creating an enclosed, secluded atmosphere.

Table 3: Landscape Character Summary for Tyrebagger Hill / Kirkhill

Landscape Attributes	Description
Key Characteristics	Skyline feature of steep slopes at edge of character area; Undulating high ground with a number of hill summits within the area; Deep valley of Bogenjoss Burn; Dense coniferous plantation on higher ground; Enclosed and tranquil in the mixed woodlands but the coniferous woodland lack interest and are dark and hostile; Lower ground used for agriculture; Isolated settlements; Good public access to forestry areas for walking; Pitmedden House estate and attractive wooded landscape.
Positive Character Attributes	Drystone walls; Long views across the Don Valley and beyond; Rural character and pattern of well maintained fields; Avenues of trees and mature woodland; Deep valley of Bogenjoss Burn; Public access; Enclosed and tranquil within policy woodlands.
Negative Character Attributes	Monoculture coniferous plantation lacks interest and is dark and hostile; Visual and aural disruption from Aberdeen Airport, industrial development and A96.
Landscape Designations	'Green Belt' (Finalised Aberdeen City Local Plan, 2004); 'Green Space Network' (Finalised Aberdeen City Local Plan, 2004).
Landscape Condition	The landscape of Tyrebagger Hill is generally in a good condition with intact agricultural fields, drystone walls and mature tree field boundaries. The exception to this would be in areas close to the A96 road corridor where the landscape has degraded due to impact of traffic. The lack of variety in the single species conifer plantation areas has also introduced areas of slightly poorer condition.
Scenic Quality	Ordinary scenic views. Restricted views from within the woodland areas but high quality views available at edge of woodland to the north and west across open countryside or along the Don valley. Views to the east are impacted on by Aberdeen Airport and industrial development. Tyrebagger Hill is seen as a backdrop to views from many directions particularly from Dyce and the A96 road corridor.
Landscape and Visual Aims	Maintain rural character by returning land to agriculture where possible. Maintain setting of Tyrebagger Hill Stone Circle (Scheduled Ancient Monument) On higher ground avoid the introduction of intrusive cuttings and embankments which will be prominent in long distance views and from the grounds of Pitmedden House and local roads. Introduce mixed woodland to marry into adjoining conifer woodlands and to provide screening of the road corridor in long distance views. Maintain pattern of drystone walls along boundaries as appropriate. Mitigate the impacts of the road corridor on the valley of the Bogenjoss Burn. Provide screening to local properties, roads, paths and open spaces as appropriate.

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Foresterseat (Indirectly Affected)

- 1.2.17 This area is located to the north of the River Don approximately 3km north of Aberdeen Airport.
- 1.2.18 Foresterseat LLCA covers the hills to the west of the lower lying Goval area. There are several well-defined, rounded hills in the area with smaller hillocks located between the hills. The high points are in the north, 118m AOD near Highland Wood, and in the south, 115m AOD near Logie Wood, which forms part of the northern slope of the Don valley. The lower ground between the hills features several burns and drainage channels which drain to Goval and Elrick Burns in the east and the River Don to the south.
- 1.2.19 On the higher ground land cover comprises mature mixed woodland. The A947 road corridor and a local access road to Swailend form the eastern boundary and the B979 runs north east to south west through the northern part of the character area. The B977 forms the southern boundary of the character area and is lined with mature birch and beech trees. Medium to large sized fields are found on the lower slopes laid out in a well-ordered pattern with drystone walls and mixed agriculture.
- 1.2.20 Settlement consists of numerous farms and dwellings accessed by tracks from the B979 and the B977. The flight path from Aberdeen Airport passes overhead with planes frequently flying low above the character area.
- 1.2.21 The area is secluded and tranquil owing to the woodland cover and limited development but air traffic periodically disturbs the tranquillity.

Table 4: Landscape Character Summary for Foresterseat

Landscape Attributes	Description
Key Characteristics	Rolling, rounded landform; Dense woodland in higher areas; Agricultural land enclosed by woodland and scrub; Mature woodland and occasional field copses enclose dwellings; Strong pattern of drystone walls; Flight path overhead.
Positive Character Attributes	Mature woodland and trees; Drystone walls; Tranquil, rural character.
Negative Character Attributes	Aural intrusion from aircraft.
Landscape Designations	'Green Belt' (Finalised Aberdeenshire Local Plan, 2002) 'Area of Landscape Significance' (Finalised Aberdeenshire Local Plan, 2002) – SOUTHERN EDGE OF AREA ONLY
Landscape Condition	Woodland, agricultural fields and drystone walls in good condition.
Scenic Quality	Good scenic quality in this area. In the southern half of this area views tend to be restricted by woodland. The northern half offers less restricted views across open farmland to the north, east and west and towards Tyrebagger Hill to the south. This area is part of the general middle ground as seen in views from the northern side of Tyrebagger Hill and forms an attractive backdrop to views from the lower-lying area of the Don Valley to the south and Goval open farmland to the east.

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Open Farmland Landscape Character Type

Greenferns (Indirectly Affected)

- 1.2.22 Greenferns is located east of Kingswells and west of the Northfield and Mastrick areas of the Aberdeen.
- 1.2.23 The area slopes down from a ridge height of 155m AOD which marks the southern boundary of the character area. The Bucks Burn forms the northern boundary and runs from west to east. Fernhill Reservoir is built on a steep embankment on the high point of the area and is therefore noticeable from the surrounding area.
- 1.2.24 The area has a rural, upland character. Rectilinear, pastoral fields cover most of the area and divide it with high quality drystone walls. A number of field boundaries have been planted with shelterbelts on their north-south axis. Further tree cover occurs in clumps at field corners, around settlement and along the southern bank of the Bucks Burn.
- 1.2.25 Settlement is limited to scattered farms and Bucksburn House. Farm tracks follow the field pattern and are generally in poor repair.
- 1.2.26 There are views out to the wider landscape, notably Brimmond Hill, Newton open farmland near Dyce, and the settlements of Kingswells and Aberdeen which detract from the scenic quality, but the planted field boundaries create a sense of enclosure and often limit these views to intermittent glimpses.

Table 5: Landscape Character Summary for Greenferns

Landscape Attributes	Description
Key Characteristics	Sloping farmland with some enclosure from field boundary planting; High quality drystone wall boundaries; Wooded Bucks Burn valley; Steep man-made embankment of Fernhill Reservoir; Limited settlement within area.
Positive Character Attributes	Well maintained fields and boundaries; Strong rural character despite neighbouring conurbation; Semi-enclosed and tranquil.
Negative Character Attributes	Views of suburban settlement impact on rural views.
Landscape Designations	'Green Belt' (Finalised Aberdeen City Local Plan, 2004); 'Green Space Network' (Finalised Aberdeen City Local Plan, 2004).
Landscape Condition	Landscape in reasonable condition but several field boundaries tend to be either falling down or lost to post and wire fencing which gives the area an untidy character. Farm buildings and tracks also appear slightly neglected.
Scenic Quality	Good scenic quality. This area allows views across open agricultural land to the north and intermittent views of urban development to the west and east through the mature tree field boundaries. Views to the south are restricted by landform. Views into this attractive agricultural area tend to be from the eastern edge of Kingswells, the western edge of Aberdeen and the minor road which connects Bucksburn and Kingswells.

Overhills (Directly Affected)

- 1.2.27 This area is located west of Bucksburn and east of Brimmond Hill, with its southern boundary created by the Bucks Burn and the northern boundary marked by Craibstone Estate.

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- 1.2.28 The area is open and relatively exposed as it slopes downhill from a height of 175m AOD at the lower slopes of Brimmond Hill, to 75m AOD where the Bucks Burn passes into the settlement of Bucksburn.
- 1.2.29 Agriculture is the dominant land use and the area features small to large sized grazing fields with drystone walls and post and wire fencing field boundaries, laid out in an irregular pattern. A number of drainage channels have been introduced to improve fields but a large proportion of the area remains as rough grassland. There are small clumps of woodland concentrated around properties and large areas of gorse and scrub associated with the Bucks Burn valley.
- 1.2.30 There are a number of farms scattered throughout the area and a cluster of dwellings in the north of the area known as Newhills with a church, a cemetery with church ruins, a nursing home, transmission mast and a small reservoir. Two busy local roads pass through this area north to south and east to west with the junction between the two at Newhills becoming very busy and congested during rush hours.
- 1.2.31 From this area there are clear views to the east across Aberdeen. Views to the north are restricted by landform and views to the south and west focus on Brimmond Hill, Kingswells and the fields and tree avenues of the neighbouring character area of Greenferns.

Table 6: Landscape Character Survey for Overhills

Landscape Attributes	Description
Key Characteristics	Open, exposed, gently rolling farmland; Irregular field pattern with degraded drystone walls often replaced with post and wire fences; Few trees and large areas of gorse / rough grassland with clumps and strips of woodland and scrub; Busy local roads; Settlement at Newhills and scattered farms.
Positive Character Attributes	Attractive settlement at Newhills including historic cemetery and church ruins; Monkey puzzle tree at Newhills is a prominent landscape feature incongruous in views from open farmland; Scattered farms set in open farmland; Views to Brimmond Hill and Greenferns.
Negative Character Attributes	Busy local roads between settlements of Kingswells and Bucksburn; Visual impact of high rise tower blocks in Aberdeen, in an otherwise rural environment; Visual impact of masts on Brimmond Hill and in Aberdeen; Poor maintenance of drystone walls.
Landscape Designations	'Green Belt' (Finalised Aberdeen City Local Plan, 2004); 'Green Space Network' (Finalised Aberdeen City Local Plan, 2004).
Landscape Condition	This area is generally in a reasonable condition with areas of a much poorer condition due to loss of drystone wall field boundaries, neglected fields, growth of gorse over large areas and the impact of traffic on the busy minor road which crosses the area.
Scenic Quality	Ordinary scenic quality. Views from this area tend to be east across Aberdeen, west focussing on Brimmond Hill and south towards Kingswells and the attractive tree lined fields of Greenferns (neighbouring character area) Views towards the Overhills area are generally from the higher ground of Brimmond Hill or from the edge of Kingswells. It blends with neighbouring areas to provide a middle ground in long-range views.
Landscape and Visual Aims	To avoid unsympathetic embankments alongside grassland areas by grading out embankments and easing gradients where possible to visually integrate the road with the surrounding landform. Maintain setting of the historic settlement at Newhills including the Listed Buildings of Old Parish Church of Newhills and the Churchyard. Reflect existing open character and views.

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Landscape Attributes	Description
	<p>Provide screening to local properties, roads, paths and open spaces as appropriate.</p> <p>Maintain pattern of drystone walls along boundaries as appropriate.</p> <p>Reflect existing pattern of clumps and strips of woodland and scrub.</p>

Newton (Directly Affected)

- 1.2.32 Newton is located to the immediate west of the settlement of Dyce and stretches from the A96 in the south to Dyce Drive in the north.
- 1.2.33 The gently undulating land slopes downhill from a height of 105m AOD in the west to a height of 60m AOD in the east. A network of drainage channels in the south of the area feed into the Green Burn.
- 1.2.34 The main land use for the area is arable and pastoral farming which wraps around the dominant industrial estate and the airport. Fields are large and edged by drystone walls and gorse. In the south of the area the ground is flatter and fields are generally used for mixed production whereas, in the west of the area the land is more sloping and the fields tend to be used for grazing.
- 1.2.35 Settlement consists of farms and dwellings located throughout the area and a network of roads linking the airport, the industrial estate and the A96. Kirkhill Industrial Estate, Aberdeen Airport and Dyce encroach on the rural nature of this area. The Aberdeen to Inverness railway runs through the north of the area and the Aberdeenshire Canal (Scheduled Ancient Monument) is located close to the railway on the slopes of the River Don floodplain.
- 1.2.36 From the lower ground views out are limited by woodland and landform to the west and south, and Dyce urban area to the east. From higher ground there are open views to the north across the Don valley, to the south towards Brimmond Hill and to the east towards Aberdeen. The airport and Kirkhill Industrial Estate impact on views and there is substantial aural disturbance from the airport.

Table 7: Landscape Character Summary for Newton

Landscape Attributes	Description
Key Characteristics	<p>Open, gently sloping undulating land in the west and flatter in the east;</p> <p>Dominated by Kirkhill Industrial Estate and Aberdeen Airport to the east and the noise and movement of planes and helicopters;</p> <p>Higher land to the west adjoining the character area is clothed in coniferous woodlands which frame views from the character area;</p> <p>Medium quality farmland on the area fringes;</p> <p>Drystone walls;</p> <p>Scattered farms.</p>
Positive Character Attributes	<p>Open farmland with network of drystone walls;</p> <p>Attractive, rural views to hillside in the west.</p>
Negative Character Attributes	<p>Visual and aural disturbance from airport and industrial estate;</p> <p>Influences of air and road traffic and the closeness of the industrial estate have introduced areas of degradation and lower quality around the edges of the rural landscape.</p>
Landscape Designations	<p>'Green Belt' (Finalised Aberdeen City Local Plan, 2004);</p> <p>'Green Space Network' (Finalised Aberdeen City Local Plan, 2004).</p>

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Landscape Attributes	Description
Landscape Condition	This area tends to be in quite good condition apart from the areas close to the A96 and Dyce Drive road corridors and the edges of the airport, where air, rail and road traffic has impacted and introduced a slightly degraded condition. Areas of agricultural land tend to be intact, with only limited loss of drystone walls.
Scenic Quality	Ordinary scenic quality. Long-range views possible to Brimmond Hill, the Don Valley and Aberdeen. This open agricultural area forms part of the view from the surrounding higher ground of Tyrebagger Hill and Craibstone. Views to and from this area suffer from the negative visual impact of the airport and industrial estate.
Landscape and Visual Aims	To avoid unsympathetic embankments alongside grassland areas by grading out embankments and easing gradients where possible to visually integrate the road with the surrounding landform. Maintain rural open farmland character by returning land to agriculture where possible. Minimise diagonal cut across landscape by the introduction of areas of solid woodland planting on severed fields. On higher ground introduce coniferous woodland to marry into adjoining conifer woodlands and to provide screening from the airport and in long distance views. In open agricultural areas introduce clumps of scrub woodland and trees along boundaries to reflect the existing landscape pattern. Maintain pattern of drystone walls along boundaries as appropriate. Provide screening to local properties, roads, paths and open spaces as appropriate.

Goval (Directly Affected)

- 1.2.37 This LLCA is located to the north of the River Don, approximately 3km north of the settlement of Dyce. It stretches from the junction of the B977 and A947 routes to the settlement of Newmachar.
- 1.2.38 The valley of the Goval and Elrick Burns is the lowest part of the area. The landform is flatter in the west, rises steadily to the east and becomes more strongly undulating in the south. The valley floor is quite broad but the immediate surroundings of the burn become very incisive in places, depending on local soils and geology. Close to the River Don part of the burn is canalised which is recognised as a significant archaeological feature in the area.
- 1.2.39 Land cover comprises arable, pasture, mature woodland and scrub. On the lower slopes and on the valley floor, agriculture occurs in small to large sized fields laid out in a pattern reflective of local topography. Field boundaries feature both drystone walls and post and wire fencing. There is a significant area of mature mixed woodland at Goval Belt and semi-mature scrub regeneration along the Formartine & Buchan Way. Clumps of woodland are located next to properties and within the adjoining Newmachar Golf Course LLCA. The Formartine & Buchan Way, which is part of the National Cycle Network, runs north to south through the area.
- 1.2.40 Settlement consists of dwellings and farms clustered alongside the A947 and the Formartine & Buchan Way. Farms to the west of the Goval Burn tend to be much larger than those to the east. The main roads in the area are the A947, which runs through the middle of the character area, and the B977 which forms the southern boundary of the area. There are several minor roads and a network of access tracks to dwellings. Several roads converge at busy junctions close to the Don valley.
- 1.2.41 The area is generally open and flanked by higher ground to the east and west and as a result views are focussed to the north and south. The busy A947 road which runs through the valley detracts from the rural setting.

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Table 8: Landscape Character Summary for Goval

Landscape Attributes	Description
Key Characteristics	Landform strongly undulating in the south and flatter to the north; West of A947 – land rises gently towards the higher ground of Foresterseat; East of A947 – land rises steeply towards the higher ground of Red Moss; Mature woodland areas on boundaries and alongside the Formartine and Buchan Way; Open rural farmlands; Lines of Scots Pine along some boundaries; Scattered dwellings and farms alongside A947 and Formartine and Buchan Way; Noise and traffic movement associated with the busy A947 road corridor.
Positive Character Attributes	Undulating, open farmland with drystone walls; Use of Formartine and Buchan Way as a long distance footpath; Mature woodland enclosure.
Negative Character Attributes	Areas of dereliction around farms; Noise and traffic movement along busy north-south road corridor.
Landscape Designations	'Green Belt' (Finalised Aberdeenshire Local Plan, 2002) 'Area of Landscape Significance' (Finalised Aberdeenshire Local Plan, 2002) – SOUTHERN EDGE OF AREA ONLY
Landscape Condition	Generally in good condition with poorer condition landscape close to A947 road corridor.
Scenic Quality	Ordinary scenic quality. Views from Goval are restricted by higher ground to the west and east. Views north and south tend to be across open farmland. The busy A947 detracts from the view. From the southern part of Goval views across the Don Valley towards Tyrebagger Hill are possible but impacted on by the airport and industrial development. Views into Goval are limited as it is almost entirely enclosed by wooded farmland. It forms the foreground in views from Newmachar Golf Course and from the road along the western edge of Red Moss. There are no prominent features in this open farmland area.
Landscape and Visual Aims	To avoid unsympathetic embankments alongside grassland areas by grading out embankments and easing gradients where possible to visually integrate the road with the surrounding landform. Maintain rural character by returning land to agriculture wherever possible. Maintain pattern of drystone walls along boundaries as appropriate. Introduce areas of woodland planting to provide screening to the road corridor. Earthworks in the south of the character area should reflect the strongly undulating landform. Provide screening to local properties, roads, paths and open spaces as appropriate.

Perwinnes (Directly Affected)

- 1.2.42 This area stretches from the industrial estate at Denmore to the junction of the B997 and the B977 near Littlejohns Wood in the west to the local route between Shielhill and Lochgreens in the east.
- 1.2.43 The landform undulates with the lowest point around 70m AOD in the west rising to a ridge of higher ground in the east which lies at around 100m AOD. Drainage features include Corby Loch, Lily Loch, Burn of Mundurno, several channels and some small areas of water in quarry sites.
- 1.2.44 The dominant land use for the area is farming although there are several small areas of woodland and scrub on the higher ground and a significant area of low-lying heath at Perwinnes Moss and Scotstown Moor. Farming is a mix of pasture and arable and fields are generally medium to large in size and bounded by post and wire fencing or drystone walls. There are several sand and gravel quarries in the area and significant areas of gorse.

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1.2.45 Settlement is restricted to scattered farms alongside the roads which border the east and west of the character area. An overhead transmission line runs north-south through the area and a prominent radar station is located on Perwinnes Hill.

1.2.46 The rolling topography restricts views from some parts of Perwinnes but there are long-range views possible to the west towards Tyrebagger Hill, east to the North Sea and south to Aberdeen. Elevated positions are exposed to coastal winds and the general feel of the area is open and rugged. The overhead transmission line and radar station detract from the rural setting.

Table 9: Landscape Character Summary for Perwinnes

Landscape Attributes	Description
Key Characteristics	Exposed rolling farmland; Scattered scrub, heath and beech woodland clumps; Low-lying lochans of value for wildlife and fishing; Sand and gravel extraction sites; Overhead transmission line; Busy local road B997; Clustered settlement alongside B997; Radar station.
Positive Character Attributes	Attractive, rolling topography; Beech woodland clumps; Areas of heath and lochans of value for wildlife and fishing; Long-range views to a wide surrounding area.
Negative Character Attributes	Overhead transmission line; Radar station; Busy local road B997; Sand and gravel extraction sites.
Landscape Designations	'Green Belt' (Finalised Aberdeenshire Local Plan, 2002) 'Area of Landscape Significance' (Finalised Aberdeenshire Local Plan, 2002) – NORTH-WEST CORNER OF AREA ONLY 'Green Belt' (Finalised Aberdeen City Local Plan, 2004) 'Green Space Network' (Finalised Aberdeen City Local Plan, 2004)
Landscape Condition	Generally in reasonable condition, with several areas of degraded, poorer condition around quarries, radar station and overhead transmission line. Loss of field boundaries has introduced a stark, open and exposed condition in some areas.
Scenic Quality	Ordinary scenic quality. There is a mix of long- and short-range views from this open farmland landscape, often partially restricted by rolling topography. The radar station and overhead transmission line are prominent features and impact on views from within the area. Perwinnes farmland is seen as part of the general backdrop in views from areas to the west such as Tyrebagger Hill and Brimmond Hill. The radar station and overhead transmission line are quite noticeable when looking towards the area.
Landscape Aims	To avoid unsympathetic embankments alongside grassland areas by grading out embankments and easing gradients where possible to visually integrate the road with the surrounding landform. Maintain rural character by returning land to agriculture where possible. Maintain pattern of drystone walls along boundaries as appropriate. Introduce groups of feathered trees to reflect the existing pattern of small woodland copses. In open agricultural areas introduce clumps of scrub woodland along boundaries to reflect the existing landscape pattern. Provide screening to local properties, roads, paths and open spaces as appropriate.

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Potterton (Directly Affected)

- 1.2.47 This area stretches from the industrial estates at Denmore, Bridge of Don to the northern extents of the study area.
- 1.2.48 Topography is smoothly undulating and is generally lower in the east and south as the ground falls towards the coast. The Blackdog Burn and Potterton Burn run from west to east cutting incisive, small scale valleys through the rolling farmland.
- 1.2.49 Mixed agriculture is the dominant land use and features medium to large sized fields in an irregular pattern, bordered by drystone walling or post and wire fencing. A number of fields have mature lines of trees along their boundaries which are very prominent in this open landscape. Other woodland is visible with recent coniferous plantation to the south west of Potterton, scrub along the banks of the Blackdog Burn and mature blocks of deciduous woodlands in the grounds of Potterton House and along the Belhelvie road. Scattered areas of gorse alongside boundaries are a common feature of this coastal location.
- 1.2.50 The settlement of Potterton is located in the north of the area. Further settlement consists of farms alongside the B999 and a number of scattered farms and dwellings accessed by the minor tracks which cross the area from east to west. There are a number of commercial sites located alongside the A90, including a former mineral extraction site, a scrap yard and caravan park.
- 1.2.51 The landscape is generally very open with clear views possible. Focal points include the settlement of Potterton, the North Sea, woodland at the Blackdog Burn and the mature tree lines at the B999. Features such as the industrial site at Blackdog and the high volume of traffic on the B999 and A90 roads have a negative impact on this area.

Table 10: Landscape Character Summary for Potterton

Landscape Attributes	Description
Key Characteristics	Undulating landform dropping gently towards the coast; Incisive small-scale valleys and associated vegetation; Lines of mature trees along field boundaries (Beech, Sycamore, Scot's Pine); Irregular field pattern and mixed agriculture with drystone walls; Open views to North Sea and exposure to coastal winds; Rural settlement at Potterton and urban settlement at Blackdog; Existing and former landfill sites, scrap yard and caravan park closely associated with the noise and traffic movement on the A90 road corridor.
Positive Character Attributes	Lines of mature trees along field boundaries; Undulating, open farmland allows open views to North Sea.
Negative Character Attributes	Landfill sites and industrial development at the southern edge of the settlement of Potterton and to the north of Blackdog; Noise and traffic movement along the A90 road corridor.
Landscape Designations	'Green Belt' (Finalised Aberdeenshire Local Plan, 2002) 'Green Belt' (Finalised Aberdeen City Local Plan, 2004) 'Green Space Network' (Finalised Aberdeen City Local Plan, 2004)
Landscape Condition	In good condition with intact mature tree and drystone field boundaries, with the exception of quarries and landfill sites in the east of the area alongside the A90 road corridor.
Scenic Quality	Good scenic quality. Long-range views to the North Sea are possible where not restricted by rolling topography. Mature tree lines along field boundaries make attractive focal points and compartmentalise views. Negative focal points in views include the industrial developments at Blackdog and Denmore. The Potterton area forms the foreground and middle ground in views from the A90 road corridor with the higher ground of the neighbouring Perwinnes area providing the backdrop.

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Landscape Attributes	Description
Landscape Aims	<p>To avoid unsympathetic embankments alongside grasslands areas by grading out embankments and easing gradients where possible to visually integrate the road with the surrounding landform.</p> <p>Maintain rural character by returning land to agriculture where possible.</p> <p>Maintain pattern of drystone walls along boundaries as appropriate.</p> <p>Maintain and protect lines of existing trees along field boundaries and local roads.</p> <p>Introduce lines of trees along boundaries to strengthen the landscape pattern.</p> <p>In open agricultural areas introduce clumps of scrub woodland along boundaries to reflect the existing landscape pattern.</p> <p>Provide screening to local properties, roads, paths and open spaces as appropriate.</p>

Cloverhill (Indirectly Affected)

- 1.2.52 This area stretches from the northern edge of Bridge of Don to the settlement of Blackdog and lies to the west of the Balgownie Links coastal LLCA.
- 1.2.53 Ground slopes gently from west to east towards the coast and is marked by a number of small-scale valleys draining east towards the North Sea.
- 1.2.54 Agriculture is the dominant land use. To the south, there is evidence of the spreading urban fringe as housing, technology parks and industrial estates encroach on the green belt. To the north of the character area the landfill sites around Blackdog are prominent.
- 1.2.55 Settlement is limited to a small number of isolated farms scattered throughout the area, relating to field boundaries rather than alongside roads. The A90 is the only significant transport route through the area.
- 1.2.56 Proximity to the coast and limited areas of vegetation result in a highly exposed area. A cutting on the A90 reduces the visual impact of traffic movement on the area.

Table 11: Landscape Character Summary for Cloverhill

Landscape Attributes	Description
Key Characteristics	<p>Exposed coastal farmland;</p> <p>Gently sloping topography;</p> <p>Small scale valleys;</p> <p>A90 road corridor;</p> <p>Urban influence of housing and industrial development in neighbouring character area;</p> <p>Views across farmland to the North Sea.</p>
Positive Character Attributes	Coastal farmland with views to the North Sea.
Negative Character Attributes	<p>A90 road corridor;</p> <p>Urban influence.</p>
Landscape Designations	<p>'Green Belt' (Finalised Aberdeen City Local Plan, 2004)</p> <p>'Green Space Network' (Finalised Aberdeen City Local Plan, 2004)</p>
Landscape Condition	In reasonable condition, with poorer condition at edge of Bridge of Don and landfill/reclaimed land around the A90 road corridor.
Scenic Quality	<p>Ordinary scenic quality.</p> <p>This open, exposed landscape allows attractive, unrestricted views across farmland towards the North Sea. The A90 and the urban edge of Aberdeen detract from the quality of views.</p> <p>Views into this area are possible from the open landscapes to the east, north and west.</p> <p>Industrial development at the edge of Aberdeen allows only limited views towards Cloverhill.</p>

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Blackdog (Directly Affected)

- 1.2.57 This area lies at the north eastern extent of the study area on land to the east of the A90 road corridor with a small area west of the A90. It is bounded to the east by the North Sea, to the west by the A90 road, Potterton open farmland and East Aberdeenshire Golf Course, and to the edge of the landfill site to the south of Blackdog Burn.
- 1.2.58 The ground slopes gently from a height of around 50m AOD in the west of the area down towards sea level in the east. The land is marked by a number of burns which drain east to the North Sea. Several man-made features in this area such as mineral extraction sites, spoil heaps, landfill and safety bunds associated with Blackdog rifle ranges, have all influenced the landform.
- 1.2.59 Agriculture occurs in some areas but land use is generally diverse and significant areas are given over to mineral extraction sites, landfill sites, industrial units at the settlement of Blackdog, a rifle range, as well as the small settlement of Blackdog. There are several landfill sites, one on the west side of the A90, one just south of Blackdog settlement, and two smaller landfill sites at Blackdog Links and Millden Links in the north of the character area.
- 1.2.60 Settlement consists of several small concentrations alongside the A90. Blackdog is the largest of these and features an area of modern housing slightly distant from the A90. Large areas have been planted with woodlands east of the Blackdog settlement. The A90 road corridor is a prominent feature which emphasises the man-made/industrial character of the area.
- 1.2.61 Views in the area are interrupted by man-made landform created on completion of the landfill, as these shorten views which would previously have been medium to long range. The extent of landfill sites has created an unattractive area which is further impacted on by the A90 road corridor.

Table 12: Landscape Character Summary for Blackdog

Landscape Attributes	Description
Key Characteristics	Gently sloping coastal land with abrupt man-made landform; Open views towards the North Sea and exposure to coastal winds; Landform dominated by landfill sites and unnatural restoration; Noise and traffic movement along the A90 road corridor; Urban settlement and industrial land uses around Blackdog; Existing and former landfill sites, scrap yard and caravan park closely associated with the noise and movement on the A90 road corridor.
Positive Character Attributes	Open views to North Sea;
Negative Character Attributes	Abrupt man-made landform; Noise and traffic movement along the A90 road corridor; Derelict appearance on existing and former landfill sites, scrap yard and caravan park.
Landscape Designations	'Green Belt' (Finalised Aberdeenshire Local Plan, 2002) 'Green Belt' (Finalised Aberdeen City Local Plan, 2004) 'Green Space Network' (Finalised Aberdeen City Local Plan, 2004)
Landscape Condition	Poor condition due to landfill sites, quarries, industrial development and A90 road corridor. Small areas of slightly better quality landscape in some agricultural fields in the north of the area.
Scenic Quality	Poor scenic quality. Views from this area are poor quality as they are impacted on by landfill sites, industrial development or the A90 road corridor. Views into Blackdog are possible from the higher parts of East Aberdeenshire golf course or from the A90 road corridor and they are poor quality views impacted on by industrial development.

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Landscape Attributes	Description
Landscape and Visual Aims	<p>Reinforce rural character by returning land to agriculture where possible.</p> <p>Maintain pattern of drystone walls along boundaries as appropriate.</p> <p>Provide screening to the road corridor by earthworks and planting as appropriate.</p> <p>Reflect coastal location and landform wherever possible.</p> <p>Provide screening to local properties, roads, paths and open spaces as appropriate.</p>

Wooded Farmland Landscape Character Type

Craibstone (Directly Affected)

- 1.2.62 Craibstone is located south west of the settlement of Dyce, 1km south of Aberdeen Airport.
- 1.2.63 The topography of the area is influenced by Green Burn and its valley which is located between the Tyrebagger, Elrick and Brimmond Hills. The ground slopes down from an approximate height of 140m AOD in the south to around 85m AOD at the A96. The ground is strongly undulating and faces north.
- 1.2.64 The land use of the area is diverse and includes mature woodland, Craibstone College of Agriculture, Rowett Institute, and arable and pastoral fields. Craibstone Estate is also used for recreation and its path network links into the Four Hills walk.
- 1.2.65 There are a small number of scattered dwellings and farms throughout the area with a concentration at Chapel of Stoneywood next to the A96. Infrastructure includes the A96, a very busy local route between the A96 and Kingswells and several access tracks concentrated around the agricultural college.
- 1.2.66 The topography and land use patterns of the area are varied. This has resulted in a landscape with localised scenic and atmospheric qualities. In general terms the area is enclosed and tranquil except for the immediate locale of the local route and the A96. The mature woodlands within Craibstone Estate provide attractive enclosed views with coniferous shelterbelts, mature semi-natural woodlands and a mix of exotic conifers and flowering trees.

Table 13: Landscape Character Summary for Craibstone

Landscape Attributes	Description
Key Characteristics	<p>Strongly undulating ground;</p> <p>Dense mature coniferous shelterbelts, semi-natural woodlands and a mix of native and exotic conifers and flowering trees; enclosed and tranquil;</p> <p>Scattered dwellings and farms;</p> <p>Large institutions set within estates;</p> <p>Diverse land uses;</p> <p>Well used path network.</p>
Positive Character Attributes	<p>Attractive mature woodland;</p> <p>Access to a network of paths which link into the wider landscape;</p>
Negative Character Attributes	<p>Busy local route and the A96 detract from tranquil atmosphere.</p>
Landscape Designations	<p>'Green Belt' (Finalised Aberdeen City Local Plan, 2004);</p> <p>'Green Space Network' (Finalised Aberdeen City Local Plan, 2004).</p>
Landscape Condition	<p>Landscape generally in good condition with several areas alongside the A96 road corridor in slightly poorer condition. Agricultural College area tends to be well maintained with small areas which have been neglected.</p>

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Landscape Attributes	Description
Scenic Quality	<p>Good scenic quality.</p> <p>Views from this area are attractive but restricted by woodland and tend to be short-range views of the woodland areas and the path network.</p> <p>This wooded area forms part of the view from the higher ground of Brimmond and Elrick Hills, the A96 road corridor and lower lying open agricultural land of Newton.</p>
Landscape and Visual Aims	<p>Minimise the loss of trees and plants within existing woodland areas.</p> <p>Maintain woodland enclosure by the introduction of substantial areas of coniferous and mixed woodland planting.</p> <p>Maintain access to existing path network and maintain links to the wider landscape.</p> <p>Provide screening to local properties, roads, paths and open spaces as appropriate.</p>

Braes of Don (Directly Affected)

- 1.2.67 This area is located east of the River Don between the settlements of Dyce and Bridge of Don.
- 1.2.68 The undulating ground slopes downhill towards the River Don valley and the east of the area rises towards higher ground in the adjacent Perwinnes character area. The centre of the character area levels out into a plateau approx 60m AOD at Grandhome Moss. The western boundary is the lowest point at 30m AOD adjacent to the River Don, whilst the eastern boundary is the highest point at approximately 89m AOD. There is a network of drainage channels at Grandhome Moss and a number of ponds to the north of the character area which are associated with Parkhill House estate.
- 1.2.69 Land use in the area is divided between mature woodlands, scrub vegetation and agriculture. On the more level ground in the centre of the area, agriculture is the dominant land use with predominantly pastoral, medium-sized rectilinear fields alongside birch and heath vegetation in Grandhome Moss. In the north of the area, there are extensive areas of mature woodland around Parkhill House covered with a TPO designation, which vary in type and include semi-natural and plantation broadleaved woodland. The minor road in the south-east, Whitestripes Road, is lined with mature beech trees and surrounded with a mix of deciduous and coniferous woodlands.
- 1.2.70 Settlement consists of scattered farms and dwellings throughout the central and southern section of the character area while in the north there is limited settlement with farms, Parkhill House and its associated buildings. The northern area is more secluded due to the extent of woodland cover. Parkhill House in the north of the area and Grandhome House in the south of the area are both private estates enclosed by mature woodland.
- 1.2.71 As it is lower than the surrounding area and enclosed by woodland to the north and south, this character area has limited views out. There are some views possible to the settlements of Dyce and Bucksburn, and the working paper mills on the southern side of the River Don. Although the River Don runs along the edge of this area, it does not feature in views and is inaccessible as private land borders the river. The character area feels tranquil and secluded.

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Table 14: Landscape Character Summary for Braes of Don

Landscape Attributes	Description
Key Characteristics	Gently undulating landform; Mature policy woodland in private grounds; Woodland enclosure; Pastoral agriculture in a strong rectilinear pattern; Scattered dwellings.
Positive Character Attributes	Farmland enclosed by mature woodland; Mature deciduous trees within estate grounds; Public access to Parkhill Woods; Birch woodland at Grandhome Moss.
Negative Character Attributes	Private land restricts access to River Don.
Landscape Designations	'Area of Landscape Significance' (Finalised Aberdeenshire Local Plan, 2002) – NORTHERN PART OF AREA ONLY 'Green Belt' (Finalised Aberdeenshire Local Plan, 2002) 'Green Belt' (Finalised Aberdeen City Local Plan, 2004) 'Green Space Network' (Finalised Aberdeen City Local Plan, 2004)
Landscape Condition	In good condition, with well-maintained woodland areas and agricultural fields and field boundaries. Designed estate landscape at Parkhill House in good condition.
Scenic Quality	Ordinary scenic quality. From the north of the area there are limited views across Goval open farmland and from the south of the area there are long-range views across Aberdeen but the working paper mills at Bucksburn impact on views. Views into the area are limited and tend to be from the eastern edge of Dyce and the B977 which borders the northern edge of the area and the B997 which borders the western edge, but these are short-range views restricted by woodland planting.
Landscape Aims	Minimise loss of trees and plants within existing woodland areas. Maintain woodland enclosure by the introduction of substantial areas of broadleaved and mixed woodland planting. Provide screening to local properties, roads, paths and open spaces as appropriate.

Red Moss (Directly Affected)

- 1.2.72 This area is approximately 4km north east of the settlement of Dyce and stretches from the junction of the B997 and B977 at Littlejohn's Wood to the northern extent of the study area.
- 1.2.73 This area is higher than surrounding areas. The landform is gently rolling and the area has a rugged, upland character. There are two low hills, both approximately 125m AOD, in the west of the area at Moss-side and at Drumligair Wood. Land between these hills falls to a low of around 90m AOD. There are a number of ditches which run across this area, several of which are poorly drained and contain mature bog and scrub vegetation.
- 1.2.74 There are areas of birch scrub, mixed woodland, broadleaf and coniferous plantations. In addition, many of the roads feature lines of mature beech trees. There is pastoral and arable farming, typically in the west of the area. Fields are medium to large size with post and wire boundaries although there are some drystone wall boundaries in the west of the area. Other land uses include mineral extraction.
- 1.2.75 Settlement comprises farms and small groups of detached dwellings around Littlejohn's Wood. The B977 passes through the southern edge of the character area and a minor road passes along the western edge of the character area. There are two local access roads which cross the area from west to east and an overhead transmission line crosses the area on a north-south alignment.

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- 1.2.76 Mature woodland in the south of the area limits views but there are long-range views possible to the south-west towards Brimmond Hill, Tyrebagger Hill, Aberdeen Airport and the Don valley. Mature woodland, little traffic and elevation above the surrounding area results in a secluded and tranquil atmosphere which is occasionally disturbed by air traffic.

Table 15: Landscape Character Summary for Red Moss

Landscape Attributes	Description
Key Characteristics	Rolling, rugged upland with burns and drainage ditches; Rugged upland character with a secluded and tranquil atmosphere; Significant areas of heath and moss and associated scrub; Large woodland areas of varying type and quality with lines of mature beech trees in the south; Pastoral and arable land use; Views to south-west; Clustered dwellings.
Positive Character Attributes	Lines of mature beech trees; Heath and moss with associated scrub vegetation; Extensive views to south-west.
Negative Character Attributes	Visual impact of industrial sites and airport at Dyce; Aural intrusion from flight path; Overhead transmission line crosses north-south through area.
Landscape Designations	'Area of Landscape Significance' (Finalised Aberdeenshire Local Plan, 2002) – SOUTH-WEST CORNER OF AREA ONLY 'Green Belt' (Finalised Aberdeenshire Local Plan, 2002)
Landscape Condition	In reasonable condition. Some lost field boundaries create slightly neglected character.
Scenic Quality	Ordinary scenic quality. Long-range views from the area focus on Brimmond Hill and Tyrebagger Hill in the west. Views are impacted on by industrial development and the airport at Dyce. Views towards the area tend to be from the lower-lying open agricultural areas such as Perwinnes and Goval although the woodland and higher ground around the edge restricts views into the area.
Landscape and Visual Aims	Maintain rural character by returning land to agriculture wherever possible. Maintain pattern of drystone walls along boundaries as appropriate. Introduce lines of individual trees to reflect existing lines of mature beech. Introduce areas of mixed woodland to tie into existing woodlands to strengthen and reflect landscape character. Provide screening to local properties, roads, paths and open spaces as appropriate.

Valley Landscape Character Type

Lower Don Valley (Indirectly Affected)

- 1.2.77 The area covers part of the River Don valley and land to the north east of the river. It is located north of Bucksburn and east of Dyce.
- 1.2.78 The valley floor is relatively narrow although there are a number of meanders with localised wider floodplains. The ground rises from the River Don in an irregular landform to an undulating plateau with a highpoint of 93m AOD. The character area is generally south west facing.
- 1.2.79 The area features an estate at Persley and associated policy woodlands remain on the slopes rising up from the river. To the south of the area are the remnants of several quarries, one of which is now used as a car scrapyards, although these are largely screened by earthworks and mature broadleaved woodland. The remainder of the land has been divided into small to large

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sized fields with drystone wall boundaries. The farming is mixed in type and there are areas of scrub and heath on the plateau.

1.2.80 Settlement is sparse and consists of isolated farms and dwellings, typically located on the slopes leading up to the plateau and at the riverside. Several buildings, a scrapyard and sewage works are located in the south of the site. A local route runs through the area in addition to a network of access tracks on the slopes in the west of the area. An overhead transmission line runs north-south across the east of the area.

1.2.81 The character area is enclosed by housing and industrial development on the west, south and east. There are views across the river to the industrial development south of Dyce and to Bucksburn which have a negative impact on the scenic quality of the area. Views to the east are impacted on by residential development. The lack of development within the area contrasts with the developed nature of the surrounding settlements of Danestone, Dyce and Bucksburn.

Table 16: Landscape Character Summary for Lower Don Valley

Landscape Attributes	Description
Key Characteristics	South facing slopes; Mature estate policy woodlands; Enclosed by housing and industrial development to the west, south and east of the character area.
Positive Character Attributes	Mature estate policy woodlands; Enclosed with focus towards River Don.
Negative Character Attributes	Views dominated by industrial development and paper mills at Bucksburn and Dyce.
Landscape Designations	'Green Belt' (Finalised Aberdeen City Local Plan, 2004); 'Green Space Network' (Finalised Aberdeen City Local Plan, 2004).
Landscape Condition	Most of area tends to be in good condition, although the southern edge appears more neglected due to a concentration of derelict quarries, car scrapyards and sewage works. The A90 road corridor on the eastern edge is also in slightly poorer condition due to traffic impacts.
Scenic Quality	Ordinary scenic quality. Woodland and landform restrict views from the centre of this area but views are possible from the edges although the industrial development at Dyce and Bucksburn has a negative impact on the scenic quality. Views into this area are limited to from the surrounding roads or from the industrial areas on the western side of the River Don, as it is almost entirely enclosed by built development or woodland.

Upper Don Valley (Indirectly Affected)

1.2.82 This area is centred on the River Don and stretches from the settlement of Cothall in the east to Hatton of Fintray at the western extents of the study area. It includes the meandering River Don flowing from west to east, its broad floodplain and the steep valley sides to the north and south of the flood plain.

1.2.83 The southern valley edge is very steep in places and forms the lower slopes of Tyrebagger Hill. The floodplain is typically around 600m wide but this varies, most notably at Cothall and the spur at St. Fergus' Church where it narrows to around 60m wide. North of the river, the ground rises steeply to the higher ground of Foresterseat.

1.2.84 Pasture is the dominant land use in the area, occurring in medium to large sized fields divided by post and wire fencing and protected by bunds and walls from the risk of flooding. There is

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limited woodland in the valley but it benefits from the variety of woodland visible in the neighbouring character areas of Tyrebagger Hill to the south and Foresterseat to the north.

1.2.85 Settlement is spread throughout the area but on the north side of the river it is generally located alongside the B977 or clustered at Cothall on the opposite side of the river from St Fergus' church. Several access tracks lead off the B977 to access houses located on the slopes above the valley. South of the river there is no settlement and the Aberdeen to Inverness railway runs along the edge of the floodplain. Two overhead transmission lines feature in this area; the first running east to west then turning south-west across the lower slopes of Tyrebagger Hill and the second running alongside the Aberdeen to Inverness railway and turning north-east across the valley. Throughout the area, there are a number of historical features including two ruined churches, Liddell's Monument and the former Aberdeenshire canal which is a Scheduled Ancient Monument.

1.2.86 The valley floor is relatively open and allows medium-range views to the east and west whilst landform restricts views to the north and south. Within views from the valley floor, the gravel pit in the east of the area and the two overhead transmission lines crossing the valley have a negative impact on the scenic quality of the area. The north of the area is more enclosed and has a strong rural character despite the increasing levels of housing development and the busy B977 road.

Table 17: Landscape Character Summary for Upper Don Valley

Landscape Attributes	Description
Key Characteristics	Meandering River Don; Broad, open floodplain which narrows dramatically; Juxtaposition of floodplain against large-scale hillside landscape to north and south; Historical features; Railway line alongside valley; Two overhead transmission lines; Variety of settlement, woodland and farming on north bank.
Positive Character Attributes	Meandering River Don; Broad, open floodplain enclosed by hills; Historical features.
Negative Character Attributes	Two overhead transmission lines; Gravel pit.
Landscape Designations	'Green Belt' (Finalised Aberdeenshire Local Plan, 2002) 'Area of Landscape Significance' (Finalised Aberdeenshire Local Plan, 2002) – NORTHERN PART OF AREA ONLY 'Green Belt' (Finalised Aberdeen City Local Plan, 2004) 'Green Space Network' (Finalised Aberdeen City Local Plan, 2004)
Landscape Condition	Good condition landscape with intact field boundaries and woodland.
Scenic Quality	Good scenic quality. Attractive open views east and west along valley with a strong sense of enclosure from bordering hillsides. Overhead transmission line and gravel pit impact on views within valley. Views of the valley are possible from the surrounding higher ground of Tyrebagger Hill and Foresterseat and the elevated St. Fergus part of the valley.

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St. Fergus (Indirectly Affected)

- 1.2.87 This area is located 2km north west of the settlement of Dyce, between the character areas of Lower Goval and the Upper Don Valley.
- 1.2.88 The area is prominent within the local landscape as it is elevated above the surrounding River Don valley and has steep banks in contrast to the flat floodplain up and downstream of the area. The abrupt change in level is due to geological conditions and has resulted in a pronounced change of course for the River Don – forced north and then south by the hard rock in the area. The River Don is the main drainage feature in the area and there are several areas of standing water within the gravel pit close to the railway line.
- 1.2.89 Land use comprises small fields bounded by drystone walls, St. Fergus church (Listed Building), Liddell's Monument (Listed Building), a local authority cemetery and there are also several disused industrial buildings, extraction pits and a waste tip.
- 1.2.90 Two narrow tracks provide access to the area. The Aberdeen to Inverness railway line runs along the southern boundary of the character area and an overhead transmission line crosses the area in an east to west alignment. This area is directly beneath the Aberdeen Airport flight path.
- 1.2.91 Due to the change in elevation, the area is noticeable in views from the surrounding landscape areas such as Tyrebagger, Foresterseat, Upper Don Valley and Lower Goval valley. There are long-range views from within the area to the west and east along the valley. The gravel pit and overhead transmission line detract from views into and out of the area although it is reasonably well-screened when viewed from the east. Aberdeen Airport, associated industrial development and the flight path combine to create an industrialised feeling in the south of the area whilst the north of the area can feel tranquil and secluded at the riverside.

Table 18: Landscape Character Summary for St. Fergus

Landscape Attributes	Description
Key Characteristics	Elevated above surrounding valley; Steep slopes leading down to River Don; Large gravel pit and tip; Local road network; Anglers using river; Historic church remains ; Cemetery; Industrial influence; Overhead transmission line.
Positive Character Attributes	Contrast with surrounding broad river valley; Recreational access to River Don; Historical remains.
Negative Character Attributes	Gravel pit, tip and disused industrial buildings; Aural impact from flight path overhead; Overhead transmission line.
Landscape Designations	'Green Belt' (Finalised Aberdeen City Local Plan, 2004) 'Green Space Network' (Finalised Aberdeen City Local Plan, 2004)
Landscape Condition	Mostly in poor condition due to quarries, industrial development and degraded fields. Small areas of better quality landscape around St. Fergus' church with well maintained agricultural fields and drystone walls.
Scenic Quality	Ordinary scenic quality. There are intermittent long-range views out of the site to the south, east and west with those to

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Landscape Attributes	Description
	<p>the west generally being of higher quality despite the overhead transmission lines. To the east and south there is significant visual impact from industrial development at Dyce and the overhead transmission line.</p> <p>Views of the St. Fergus area are possible from the higher ground of Tyrebagger Hill and Foresterhill and the low lying neighbouring areas of the Upper Don Valley and Lower Goval. The industrial features within St. Fergus impact on views into the area.</p>

Lower Goval (Directly Affected)

- 1.2.92 Lower Goval is located to the immediate north of the settlement of Dyce and stretches to the B977 and Goval Farm in the north. The area covers a section of the River Don valley from the A947 in the east to Goval House in the west.
- 1.2.93 This area covers a section of the River Don valley from the A947 in the east to Goval House in the west. The landform is broad and flat on the floodplain then gently sloping and strongly rolling in parts as the land rises up on both sides of the river. Man-made embankments associated with Dyce Drive in the neighbouring Newton character area have introduced exaggerated gradients which are highly visible from Lower Goval. The River Don is the main drainage feature with the Goval Burn draining into it in the east of the area.
- 1.2.94 Land use in the area is largely agricultural although there are several commercial and light industrial sites close to the boundary of the area. Agriculture is a mixture of pasture and arable and occurs in large-sized fields, laid out in a varied pattern with drystone wall boundaries in the west of the area and post and wire closer to the industrial areas in the east.
- 1.2.95 The B977 passes through the north of the area and has a few properties located alongside it. An overhead transmission line passes through the area just south of the river close to the only property in the area. Aberdeen Airport flight path is directly above Lower Goval. Dyce Drive and industrial estates are in neighbouring landscape character areas but visually impact on the undeveloped nature of Lower Goval. The A947 borders the eastern edge of the character area.
- 1.2.96 The valley is broad but views are restricted by Dyce Drive embankment and the industrial estate at Dyce to the south, and by rising ground to the north. The views are influenced by the industrial development to the south but more pleasing views are possible to the south-west towards Tyrebagger Hill.

Table 19: Landscape Character Summary for Lower Goval

Landscape Attributes	Description
Key Characteristics	<p>Broad valley with strongly rolling agricultural land on either side;</p> <p>Eastern boundary of the Newton character area is formed by man-made gradients due to infrastructure and industrial development and this is highly visible from Lower Goval</p> <p>Rural landscape is visually influenced by adjoining industrial use, the noise and movement of aircraft and overhead transmission lines.</p>
Positive Character Attributes	<p>Attractive gently sloping river valley with distinctive esker and steeply undulating landform;</p> <p>Open agricultural aspect and rural character.</p>
Negative Character Attributes	<p>Man-made embankments, bridges and industrial landuses;</p> <p>Noise and movement of aircraft;</p> <p>Areas of dereliction associated with industrial landuses;</p> <p>Overhead transmission lines.</p>
Landscape Designations	<p>'Green Belt' (Finalised Aberdeenshire Local Plan, 2002)</p> <p>'Area of Landscape Significance' (Finalised Aberdeenshire Local Plan, 2002) – NORTHERN PART OF AREA ONLY</p>

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Landscape Attributes	Description
	'Green Belt' (Finalised Aberdeen City Local Plan, 2004) 'Green Space Network' (Finalised Aberdeen City Local Plan, 2004)
Landscape Condition	Good condition on the northern side of the River Don. Intact drystone walls and rolling agricultural fields. Poor condition on the southern side of the River Don due to overhead transmission lines, poorly maintained field boundaries, industrial encroachment.
Scenic Quality	Ordinary scenic quality. There are attractive medium- to long-range views to the north and east which are enclosed by attractive mature woodland. To the south, industrial development and associated infrastructure has greatly reduced the quality of views and the appearance of the area from outside. Good views south-west to Tyrebagger Hill. Lower Goval is relatively hidden from surrounding areas but there are views possible from the northern edge of the industrial development at Dyce and the northern side of Tyrebagger Hill.
Landscape and Visual Aims	Maintain rural character by returning land to agriculture where possible. Introduce planting and earthworks to complement the bridge over the River Don and provide screening to adjoining industrial area. Maintain existing woodland and distinctive landform to the east bank of the River Don. Maintain open quality of the flood plain. Maintain pattern of drystone walls along boundaries as appropriate. Maintain setting of Aberdeenshire Canal (Scheduled Ancient Monument); Parkhill Pumping Station/Lade/Aqueduct/Tanks and Supervisors House (Listed Buildings) Provide screening to local properties, roads, paths and open spaces as appropriate.

Coast Landscape Character Type

Balgownie Links (Indirectly Affected)

- 1.2.97 This area stretches from the mouth of the River Don to Balmedie and includes the beach, adjacent sand dunes and links golf courses.
- 1.2.98 The area includes the narrow sandy beach, roughly 200m at mean low tide, 50m at mean high tide, and the dunes which mark its edge. The dunes are around 15m high and extend inland for up to 400m. Beyond the dunes the land undulates and has various stages of vegetative cover. Across the area, there are several small waterways with sources in adjacent agricultural land which drain east to the North Sea.
- 1.2.99 Land use is divided between the beach which has public access for recreation and the private Murcar and Royal Aberdeen Golf Courses. The public beach is sandy and level with adjacent dunes colonised by various grass species. Alongside the intensely managed golf courses are areas of sand and sandy soils which have been colonised by grasses and gorse.
- 1.2.100 Other than that associated with the golf courses, there is no built development. Areas of the beach are occasionally 'no-go' areas due to the use of Blackdog Rifle Range which shoots across the beach into the North Sea.
- 1.2.101 Visibility in the beach area is good with long range views possible up and down the beach and out to sea. The height of sand dunes adjacent to the beach prevents any views west. From the links golf courses, views to the west are possible but can be restricted depending on the positioning of sand dunes.

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Table 20: Landscape Character Summary for Balgownie Links

Landscape Attributes	Description
Key Characteristics	Exposed coastal recreational area; Flat sandy beach with dune landscape now developed for links golf courses; Grassland and gorse; Limited development; Views focused north, south and east.
Positive Character Attributes	Sandy beach with dune landscape; Access for recreation; Lack of built development.
Negative Character Attributes	Loss of coastal land and vegetation to accommodate golf courses.
Landscape Designations	'Green Belt' (Finalised Aberdeen City Local Plan, 2004) 'Green Space Network' (Finalised Aberdeen City Local Plan, 2004)
Landscape Condition	Fair condition. Sensitive dunes and vegetation impacted on by golf courses.
Scenic Quality	Good scenic quality. From within the open coastal area there are attractive long-range views to the north, east and south. The sand dunes restrict views to the west. This low-lying coastal area is generally hidden from view behind the sand dunes and there are few places which offer a view into the area.

Recreational Landscape Character Type

Auchmill Golf Course (Indirectly Affected)

- 1.2.102 The golf course is located on an area of high ground to the east of Greenferns and Overhills LLCAs and is enclosed on three sides by Aberdeen urban development.
- 1.2.103 From a high point of 105m AOD, there is a plateau before the ground slopes steeply downhill northwards to 75m AOD at the edge of Bucksburn.
- 1.2.104 The area is a highly managed landscape which features fairways and greens, bordered by areas of rough grass, and structural tree belts, which are either uniform coniferous or broadleaf.
- 1.2.105 The course allows open views throughout, generally focused to the north, east and west across open countryside. There are views to the Don valley in the north, across the urban development of Bucksburn and Brimmond Hill in the west. Views to the east are limited by topography and the Aberdeen conurbation. There is a feeling of exposure in this area owing to its location on the side of a hillside.

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Table 21: Landscape Character Summary for Auchmill Golf Course

Landscape Attributes	Description
Key Characteristics	Prominent hillside with open views; Intensely managed grassland landscape with uniform coniferous and broadleaf structure planting; Club house, one dwelling, a storage shed; Well-used urban recreational facility.
Positive Character Attributes	Recreational facility; and Views of countryside.
Negative Character Attributes	Mono-species planting; Visual impact from surrounding urban development; Visual and aural disturbance from flight path.
Landscape Designations	'Green Belt' (Finalised Aberdeen City Local Plan, 2004); and, 'Green Space Network' (Finalised Aberdeen City Local Plan, 2004).
Landscape Condition	Good condition in terms of golf course landscape. Overly maintained compared to the surrounding landscape character.
Scenic Quality	Good scenic quality. The elevated location of the course offers long-range views to the north across Bucksburn and Dyce, and attractive views the west across open farmland towards Brimmond Hill. Industrial development has a negative impact on views to the north. Views into the area are limited as it is almost entirely enclosed by built development.

Craibstone Golf Course (Indirectly Affected)

- 1.2.106 This area is located to the immediate north east of Brimmond Hill, 2.5km south of Aberdeen Airport.
- 1.2.107 The gently undulating landform slopes to the north and east from a height of around 160m AOD, on the lower slopes of Brimmond Hill, down to 130m AOD on the north-facing slope next to West Woods. The Gough Burn runs through the south-east corner of the area and a tributary of the Green Burn flows along the western edge of the area.
- 1.2.108 The area comprises a recently developed golf course. There is mature woodland in the surrounding character area of Craibstone which provides enclosure but planting within the golf course is still immature. The highly maintained golf course contrasts with the rougher appearance of the farmlands and the gorse covered slopes of Brimmond Hill beyond.
- 1.2.109 Settlement is limited to a traditional farm and cottages at Ashtown and Greenwelltree in the west of the area. There are two local routes through the area which link to car parks and footpaths for Elrick Hill and Brimmond Hill. There is a club house and other buildings within the golf course.
- 1.2.110 Views to the east and north are limited by mature woodland. Brimmond Hill is a focal point to the west and views to the south across open farmland are possible. The area lies beneath the flight path and the tranquillity is frequently interrupted by air traffic noise.

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Table 22: Landscape Character Summary for Craibstone Golf Course

Landscape Attributes	Description
Key Characteristics	Enclosure from Brimmond Hill in the west and surrounding woodland in north and east; Golf course landscape; Open, rural farmland to the south.
Positive Character Attributes	View to Brimmond Hill.
Negative Character Attributes	Uniform coniferous plantation to north and east of golf course.
Landscape Designations	'Green Belt' (Finalised Aberdeen City Local Plan, 2004); 'Green Space Network' (Finalised Aberdeen City Local Plan, 2004).
Landscape Condition	Good condition in terms of golf course landscape. Overly maintained compared to the surrounding landscape character.
Scenic Quality	Ordinary scenic quality. Views out of the area are reasonably attractive medium-range views enclosed by Brimmond Hill to the west and open across the farmland to the south. Views into the area tend to be from the minor road between Kingswells and the A96, and from the higher ground of Brimmond Hill.

Newmachar Golf Course (Indirectly Affected)

- 1.2.111 Situated 3km north of Aberdeen Airport, this is a small character area between the Foresterseat and Goval Character Areas.
- 1.2.112 Topography is gently undulating and ranges from over 65m AOD in the southern area to around 85m AOD in the west which begins to merge with the higher ground of Foresterseat LLCA. There are a number of small ponds in the area which feed into ditches draining towards Elrick Burn in the east.
- 1.2.113 Golf is the single land use of the area and has resulted in a manicured landscape. Within the golf course there are remnants of mature woodland which have been reinforced with areas of younger planting to aid structure and screening.
- 1.2.114 There is no built development within the character area apart from the club house and access roads.
- 1.2.115 In the south and west the area is generally enclosed by mature woodland and views are typically short-range and focused within the course. From the north and east there are views across to the open farmland of Goval character area. Due to the areas of woodland surrounding the area the site is generally secluded and tranquil.

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Table 23: Landscape Character Summary for Newmachar Golf Course

Landscape Attributes	Description
Key Characteristics	Gently undulating topography; Manicured landscape; Small ponds; Mature woodland remnants, reinforced by younger planting to aid structure and screening; Limited development; Secluded and tranquil environment.
Positive Character Attributes	Retained woodland with varied age structure; Small ponds; Limited development.
Negative Character Attributes	Manicured landscape – young planting is yet to become fully established and currently looks highly artificial but this will improve with age.
Landscape Designations	None.
Landscape Condition	Good condition in terms of golf course landscape. Overly maintained compared to the surrounding landscape character.
Scenic Quality	Good scenic quality. There are attractive short-range views within the golf course and occasional long-range views through gaps in the vegetation or from the more open landscape in the north of the area. The golf course forms part of the general wooded backdrop as seen from the A947 road corridor and Goyal open farmland.

East Aberdeenshire Golf Course (Indirectly Affected)

- 1.2.116 Situated 5km north of Bridge of Don, this small recreational character area is located between Blackdog and Potterton character areas.
- 1.2.117 Topography generally slopes eastwards towards the coast. The highest point is 75m AOD in the west which slopes down to 25m AOD in the south next to the Millden Burn in the south of the area.
- 1.2.118 Golf is the only land use in this character area and this has produced a manicured landscape. Due to its coastal location there is minimal vegetation, apart from grass and gorse. There are some newly planted trees around the club house but these have not yet made an impact. The A90 road corridor bordering the eastern side of the golf course and the landfill on the south-western side are both very noticeable and visually impact on the rural location of the golf course.
- 1.2.119 Development is limited to the eastern side of the golf course with a club house, shop, car park and several houses alongside the access road.
- 1.2.120 The area is surrounded by open farmland with little vegetation to the north and west therefore long range views are possible in all directions from the highest point of the character area. Of particular note is the view east towards the North Sea and along the Aberdeenshire coast but this is impacted on by the quarry and industrial yard at Hatton on the opposite side of the A90. The landfill site immediately to the south of the golf course impacts on views to the south.

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Table 24: Landscape Character Summary for East Aberdeenshire Golf Course

Landscape Attributes	Description
Key Characteristics	Exposed, coastal situation; Sloping landform and burn relate to surrounding landscape; Manicured landscape; Limited vegetation apart from grass and gorse; A90 road corridor and landfill sites in neighbouring areas; Views towards North Sea.
Positive Character Attributes	Sloping landform is unaltered and relates to surroundings; Burn running through area; Good views towards coast.
Negative Character Attributes	Manicured landscape with little vegetation; A90 road corridor and landfill sites dominate views.
Landscape Designations	None.
Landscape Condition	Good condition in terms of golf course landscape. Overly maintained compared to the surrounding landscape character.
Scenic Quality	Ordinary scenic quality. From the higher parts of the golf course there are attractive long-range views possible to the North Sea in the east, and across open farmland in the north and west. Short-range views to the east and south are poor quality as they are impacted on by the landfill site and A90 road corridor at Blackdog. Views into the golf course tend to be only from the man-made/industrial landscape of Blackdog and the A90 road corridor and these are impacted on by the traffic movement on the road and the landfill sites in Blackdog.

Urban Landscape Character Type

Bucksburn (Indirectly Affected)

1.2.121 Situated, on the north western edge of the Aberdeen, Bucksburn developed around the junction of the A947 and A96 routes, close to the River Don.

1.2.122 Historically, the settlement developed in response to industry which made use of the River Don during the 19th Century. This resulted in a large area of heavy industry which still remains on the river's southern bank, with smaller-scale development uphill, alongside the A96. To the west and south, housing was built during the first half of the 20th Century in the form of traditional granite buildings. The most modern phase of development, of council housing and community facilities, occurred between 1945 and 1970 on the higher ground towards the Overhills LLCA.

Kirkhill Industrial Estate/Aberdeen Airport (Indirectly Affected)

1.2.123 Kirkhill Industrial Estate/Aberdeen Airport developed to the west of Aberdeen Airport and Dyce in the north-west of Aberdeen.

1.2.124 This industrial estate is closely linked to Aberdeen Airport and a network of spine roads serves the area with large buildings set well back from the roads, often surrounded by car parks, yards and landscaped grounds. Structure planting occurs alongside the main roads.

Dyce (Indirectly Affected)

1.2.125 Dyce developed between the River Don and the Aberdeen to Inverness railway. It covers an area of around 4km² of gently undulating ground west of the River Don.

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1.2.126 The settlement comprises residential areas alongside large-scale industrial development which grew up due to the proximity to Aberdeen Airport and the River Don. The airport and oil industry have encouraged the development of several large hotels in the area. The historic core of the residential settlement is located around the A947 and dates from the 19th century, taking the form of vernacular granite terraced, semi-detached houses and small shops. Large-scale housing development and community facilities expanded east towards the River Don and industrial development grew to the west of the A947. Views from within Dyce are generally enclosed due to topography and development blocking views. Long range views are obtained from the playing fields to Tyrebagger Hill.

Potterton (Indirectly Affected)

1.2.127 Situated north of Aberdeen, 6km north of the River Don, Potterton covers an area of less than 1km².

1.2.128 The settlement is predominantly residential with limited business premises such as a car sales yard, a fruit & vegetable wholesalers and a seed specialist. Development spread from a single street alongside the church during the latter part of the 20th century. The village lies lower than the surrounding land and views out are limited by houses and undulating land around the village.

Balmedie (Indirectly Affected)

1.2.129 Balmedie is situated to the east of the A90, approximately 8km north of the River Don, close to the North Sea coast, and covers an area of around 1km².

1.2.130 Balmedie is a predominantly residential coastal settlement which expanded in recent years due to the development of housing. There are some community facilities such as a school, hotel, library and post office. Views to the south are limited by a housing estate on southern boundary of the character area.

Denmore (Indirectly Affected)

1.2.131 Denmore is part of Bridge of Don, located 1km west and 3km north of the River Don. It covers an area of around 1km², almost entirely comprising late 20th century housing development of mostly brick or harled, semi-detached or detached villas located around small access roads and cul-de-sacs branching from main spine roads. Housing is generally inward looking with few houses having long range views to the rural surroundings.

1.2.132 Denmore is located between several heavily used roads, the A90 to the south and east and the B997 to the west. Industrial estates have developed close to the A90 road corridor.

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Table 25 Landscape Sensitivity Evaluation

1) Directly Affected Areas

Landscape Character Type and Area/ Settlement Character Area	Factors Considered	Value	Susceptibility	Sensitivity
DIRECTLY AFFECTED AREAS				
Open Farmland: Overhills (chainage 314800 – 316300)				
Farmland	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Open fields with drystone wall boundaries - Irregular small to large sized fields are mostly rough grassland with some large gorse outcrops on boundaries and in fields - Clear views across Aberdeen with focus on Brimmond Hill to west, Aberdeen to east and Kingswells to south - Views to north are limited due to landform, woodland and settlement 	Medium	Low-Medium	Low-Medium
Busy local roads between Kingswells and Bucksburn	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - High volumes of traffic on the minor road detract from its rural setting - Poor maintenance of field boundaries along sections of the roads 	Low	Low	Low
Newhills scattered settlement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Remote from proposed route but in close proximity so only susceptible to indirect impacts - Dispersed collection of houses, Old Parish Church and Churchyard (Listed Buildings), new church, nursing home, mast, reservoir - Volume of traffic on minor road has a visual and aural impact on Newhills settlement and detracts from its rural setting 	Medium	Medium	Medium
OVERALL SENSITIVITY				Low-Medium
Wooded Farmland: Craibstone (chainage 316300 – 317500)				
A96 road corridor	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Aural and visual impact from traffic 	Low	Low	Low
Craibstone SAC estate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Mostly wooded area which features Craibstone Estate and West Woods - Network of footpaths link to the Four Hills walk - Diverse land use with mature woodland, Craibstone College, Rowett Institute and Forrit Brae, arable and pasture fields - Mature woodland provides attractive enclosed views - Generally enclosed and tranquil apart from area immediately adjacent to A96 and north-south minor road and occasional disturbance from flight path 	Medium	High	High
Woodland and farmland west of SAC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Remote from proposed route so only susceptible to indirect impacts 	Medium	Medium	Medium

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Landscape Character Type and Area/ Settlement Character Area	Factors Considered	Value	Susceptibility	Sensitivity
estate	- Grazing fields surrounded by woodland on west and south which limits any views towards the Northern Leg			
OVERALL SENSITIVITY				Medium-High
Open Farmland: Newton (chainage 317500 – 318900)				
Farmland on eastern slopes of Tyrebagger Hill	- Sloping farmland with drystone wall field boundaries - Scattered farms and dwellings with network of access tracks - Higher ground allows views to east over airport and Dyce towards the Braes of Don and Aberdeen - Semi-rural setting already affected by neighbouring industrial estates and bust road corridors	Medium	Medium	Medium
Minor road between A96 and Kirkhill Industrial Estate	- High volumes of traffic and industrial surroundings detract from semi-rural setting	Low	Low	Low
OVERALL SENSITIVITY				Low-Medium
Hill: Tyrebagger Hill / Kirkhill (chainage 318900 – 322300)				
Commercial plantations on Tyrebagger Hill	- Commercial plantations dominate this landscape character area - Enclosed and tranquil within Tyrebagger Hill plantation - Access track network within plantations used by public for recreation	Low	Low-Medium	Low-Medium
Farmland on eastern slopes of Tyrebagger Hill (south of stone circle)	- Agriculture on north and east facing slopes - Drystone walls common - Outwith plantation, long-range views to east but proximity of car scrapyards, Aberdeen airport and Dyce industrial estate significantly detract from the visual quality and atmosphere of the area	Medium	Medium	Medium
Farmland on western slopes of Tyrebagger Hill	- Remote from proposed route so only susceptible to indirect impacts - Long range views to west over Don valley	Medium	Medium	Medium
Farmland on north facing slopes of Tyrebagger Hill	- Improved grassland fields on north facing slopes - One large area of coniferous plantation - Drystone walls feature within area - Long-range views to west, north and east but proximity of car scrapyards, Aberdeen airport and Dyce industrial estate significantly detract from the visual quality and atmosphere of the area	Medium	Medium	Medium
Pitmedden House estate landscape	- Remote from proposed route but in close proximity so only susceptible to indirect impacts - Wooded and tranquil within estate - Glimpsed views out of estate possible to the south towards Tyrebagger Hill	Medium	High	High

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A96 road corridor	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Remote from proposed route so only susceptible to indirect impacts - Heavy volume of traffic on road detracts from rural setting 	Low	Low	Low
OVERALL SENSITIVITY				Medium-High
Open Farmland Type: Newton (chainage 322300 - 322800)				
Farmland north of airport	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Arable and pasture medium sized fields separated with drystone walls or post and wire fence - Scattered scrub along field boundaries - Scattered dwellings and associated commercial development - Neighbouring industrial estate impacts on agricultural character 	Low-Medium	Low-Medium	Low-Medium
Dyce Drive, railway corridor and industrial edge	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Strong influence of traffic on road emphasises the industrial character of the area - Railway track runs through area and introduces another transport element alongside road and airport 	Low	Low	Low
OVERALL SENSITIVITY				Low-Medium
Valley Type: Lower Goval (chainage 322800 – 324000, includes bridge across River Don)				
Farmland south of river	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Valley floor south of the river is impacted on by neighbouring industrial development, an overhead transmission line and the railway line 	Low-Medium	Low-Medium	Low-Medium
Farmland north of river	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Area of Landscape Significance – Aberdeenshire Council - Rural character and attractive, undulating landform - Higher ground above valley floor allows views south across River Don. Visual intrusion from overhead transmission line, industrial estate, Dyce Drive, railway and airport - Rural surroundings and attractive views to the north and east 	High	High	High
OVERALL SENSITIVITY				Medium-High
Open Farmland Type: Goval (chainage 324000 – 325350)				
Open farmland north of Goval Belt	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Remote from proposed route so only susceptible to indirect impacts - Mixed agriculture covering fairly flat, open farmland east and west of A947 road corridor - Small to large sized fields with drystone walls and post and wire fencing 	Medium	Medium	Medium
Open farmland south of Goval Belt	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Area of Landscape Significance – Aberdeenshire Council - Mixed agriculture covering strongly undulating land east and west of A947 road corridor - Small to large sized fields with drystone walls and post and wire fencing 	High	High	High

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	- Mature woodland clumps related to farm buildings and scattered dwellings			
Formartine and Buchan Way	- Part of national cycle route network and local path network - Semi-mature scrub regeneration along corridor encloses views	Medium-High	High	High
OVERALL SENSITIVITY				Medium-High
Wooded Farmland Type: Braes of Don (A947 realignment)				
Northern part of area	- Designated as an Area of Landscape Significance – Aberdeenshire - Mature policy woodlands surround private estates - Secluded and tranquil atmosphere due to enclosure, mature woodland and lack of development - Mixture of short and long-range views which are occasionally impacted on by Aberdeen and Dyce development - Busy A947 road corridor with eastern edge bordered by broadleaf semi-natural mature trees in Parkhill Estate grounds (designated TPO – Aberdeenshire Council)	High	Medium	Medium-High
Southern part of area	- Remote from proposed route so only susceptible to indirect impacts - Mature policy woodlands surround private estates - Secluded and tranquil atmosphere due to enclosure, mature woodland and lack of development - Mixture of short and long-range views which are occasionally impacted on by Aberdeen and Dyce development	Medium	Medium	Medium
OVERALL SENSITIVITY				Medium-High
Wooded Farmland Type: Red Moss (chainage 325350 – 326000)				
Littlejohn's Wood area	- Designated as an Area of Landscape Significance – Aberdeenshire Council - Enclosed feeling due to large areas of woodland. Mature beech trees alongside road are a local feature. - B977 minor road crosses area and is mostly enclosed by mature coniferous and deciduous planting - Influence of traffic on road detracts slightly from secluded setting	High	Medium-High	Medium-High
Wooded Farmland	- Remote from proposed route so only susceptible to indirect impacts - Heath areas with mature scrub vegetation - Elevated views possible to Brimmond and Tyrebagger Hill but impacted on by airport and industrial sites at Dyce - Secluded and tranquil area	Low-Medium	Low-Medium	Low-Medium

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Landscape Character Type and Area/ Settlement Character Area	Factors Considered	Value	Susceptibility	Sensitivity
	- Overhead transmission line crossing north-south through area			
OVERALL SENSITIVITY				Medium
Open Farmland Type: Perwinnes (chainage 326000 - 328200)				
Open farmland at Perwinnes Hill, Leuchlands, Lochgreens	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - North-west corner is partly designated as an Area of Landscape Significance but extraction sites reduce value - Exposed, rolling farmland with small areas of woodland and scrub on higher ground - Area surrounded by network of busy local roads which detract from rural surroundings - Overhead transmission line, radar station and mineral extraction sites detract from rural surroundings - Long-range views to the south, west and east include overhead transmission line and radar station 	Low-Medium	Low-Medium	Low-Medium
Lily Loch / Corby Loch	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Remote from proposed route but in close proximity so only susceptible to indirect impacts - Area used for recreational fishing - Tranquil and secluded area - The low-lying nature of the loch only allows mid-range views in all directions - Views to the west and south include overhead transmission line and radar station which detract from rural setting 	Medium-High	Medium-High	Medium-High
Perwinnes Moss / Scotstown Moor	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Remote from proposed route so only susceptible to indirect impacts - Area of low lying heath separated from majority of area by minor road - Scrubby regeneration and mature coniferous plantation only allows views to the west and north - Heavily used for recreation 	Medium	Medium	Medium
OVERALL SENSITIVITY				Low-Medium
Open Farmland Type: Potterton (chainage 328200 – A90 North junction)				
Open farmland	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Smoothly undulating landform - Mixed agriculture with medium-large fields in an irregular pattern with drystone wall, and post and wire fencing - Mature tree lines and hedges alongside fields - Open landscape with clear views of focal points which include Potterton, the North Sea, woodland at Blackdog Burn and the mature trees alongside at the B999. 	Medium	Medium	Medium
A90 road corridor	- Adjoining industrial land uses and the high volume of traffic on A90 detract from the rural, coastal setting	Low	Low	Low
B999 road corridor	- Mature tree lines alongside boundaries are a notable feature	Medium	Medium	Medium
OVERALL SENSITIVITY				Medium

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Landscape Character Type and Area/ Settlement Character Area	Factors Considered	Value	Susceptibility	Sensitivity
Open Farmland Type: Blackdog (east of A90 and proposed AWPR(N) junction)				
Blackdog settlement	- Remote from proposed route so only susceptible to indirect impacts - Landfill sites are visible from the settlement, detract from the rural setting and shorten views from settlement	Low-Medium	Low-Medium	Low-Medium
Blackdog Industrial Estate	- Enclosed by artificial bunding the area is detached and divorced by the A90 road corridor	Low	Low	Low
A90 road corridor	- Adjoining industrial land uses and high volume of traffic on A90 detract from the rural setting close to North Sea	Low	Low	Low
Man-made / Industrial areas	- Landfill sites dominate the area and unnatural restoration has resulted in an unattractive and disjointed landscape pattern - Young community woodland and local footpath to the north and east of the settlement of Blackdog	Low	Low	Low
OVERALL SENSITIVITY				Low

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Appendix A11.1 – Landscape Sensitivity, Impact Magnitude and Significance

2) Indirectly Affected Areas

Landscape Character Type and Area/ Settlement Character Area	Factors Considered	Value	Susceptibility	Sensitivity
INDIRECTLY AFFECTED AREAS				
Hill: Brimmond Hill (indirectly affected)				
All areas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Remote from proposed route so only susceptible to indirect impacts - Exposed area much higher than surrounding land allowing long range views in all directions - A network of footpaths which is part of the Four Hills walk - Large scale masts detract from views to and from hill 	Medium-High	Medium-High	Medium-High
OVERALL SENSITIVITY				Medium-High
Recreation: Craibstone Golf Course (indirectly affected)				
All areas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Remote from proposed route but in close proximity so only susceptible to indirect impacts - Recently developed golf course - Views west to Brimmond Hill, views to east, north and south restricted by landform and woodland 	Low	Medium	Low-Medium
OVERALL SENSITIVITY				Low-Medium
Hill: Elrick Hill (indirectly affected)				
All areas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Remote from proposed route so only susceptible to indirect impacts - Brimmond Hill and Tyrebagger Hill restrict views to south and north - A network of footpaths part of the Four Hills walk - Panoramic view to east and west - Lack of traffic or development and attractive regenerating native planting creates a secluded feel 	Medium-High	Medium	Medium-High
OVERALL SENSITIVITY				Medium-High
Open Farmland: Greenferns (indirectly affected)				
All areas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Remote from proposed route so only susceptible to indirect impacts - Enclosed and tranquil with strong rural upland character despite neighbouring conurbation of Kingswells and Northfield - Attractive and enclosed agricultural area with views to neighbouring development largely reduced by tree lines - Views of edge of Aberdeen detract from scenic quality 	Low-Medium	Medium	Low-Medium

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Landscape Character Type and Area/ Settlement Character Area	Factors Considered	Value	Susceptibility	Sensitivity
	- Good views from area			
OVERALL SENSITIVITY				Low-Medium
Recreation: Auchmill Golf Course (indirectly affected)				
All areas	- Remote from proposed route but susceptible to indirect impacts - Golf course, manicured and artificial landscape - Heavily used local authority golf course - Open, panoramic views to north and west, across Don valley and towards Brimmond Hill	Low	Medium	Low-Medium
OVERALL SENSITIVITY				Low-Medium
Urban: Bucksburn (indirectly affected)				
All areas	- Remote from proposed route so only susceptible to indirect impacts - Densely developed suburb of Aberdeen with a mix of housing and industry	Medium	Medium	Medium
OVERALL SENSITIVITY				Medium
Urban: Kirkhill Industrial Estate (indirectly affected)				
All areas	- Remote from proposed route but in close proximity so only susceptible to indirect impacts - Industrial estate which impacts visually on surrounding area	Low	Low	Low
OVERALL SENSITIVITY				Low
Urban: Dyce (indirectly affected)				
All areas	- Remote from proposed route so only susceptible to indirect impacts - Densely developed settlement with large areas of housing and industrial development - Views from within Dyce are generally enclosed due to topography and development blocking long-range views - The highest point in Dyce (playing fields near schools) allows long-range views towards Tyrebagger Hill in the west	Low to Medium	Low	Low
OVERALL SENSITIVITY				Low
Valley: Lower Don Valley (indirectly affected)				
All areas	- Remote from proposed route so only susceptible to indirect impacts - Views from the southern part of this area across to Dyce and Bucksburn are impacted on by industrial development	Medium	Medium	Medium

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Landscape Character Type and Area/ Settlement Character Area	Factors Considered	Value	Susceptibility	Sensitivity
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Views to the east are impacted on by residential development - Northern part of the area is less developed and more rural in character 			
OVERALL SENSITIVITY				Medium
Valley Type: Upper Don Valley (indirectly affected)				
All areas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Remote from proposed route so only susceptible to indirect impacts - North of river is designated as an Area of Landscape Significance – Aberdeenshire - The broad floodplain and steep valley sides restrict views to the north and south and focus views east and west along the valley 	High	Medium	Medium-High
OVERALL SENSITIVITY				Medium-High
Valley Type: St. Fergus (indirectly affected)				
All areas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Remote from proposed route but in close proximity so only susceptible to indirect impacts - Prominent high point within valley which has intermittent long-range views to surroundings - Views to the east and south are impacted on by development around Aberdeen airport and gravel pit, tip and disused industrial buildings - Historical features within landscape such as St. Fergus church (Listed Building) and Liddell's Monument (Listed Building) 	Medium	Low-Medium	Low-Medium
OVERALL SENSITIVITY				Low-Medium
Hill Type: Foresterseat (indirectly affected)				
All areas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Remote from proposed route so only susceptible to indirect impacts - Area of higher ground with mature woodland and little development - Very secluded area with low amount of traffic but some aural intrusion from aircraft 	Medium	Medium	Medium
OVERALL SENSITIVITY				Medium
Recreation Type: Newmachar Golf Course (indirectly affected)				
All areas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Remote from proposed route so only susceptible to indirect impacts - Mature woodland encloses the area and creates a secluded and tranquil atmosphere - Views mostly short-range with occasional long-range views to east across Goval character area and A947 	Low	Medium	Low-Medium
OVERALL SENSITIVITY				Low-Medium

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Landscape Character Type and Area/ Settlement Character Area	Factors Considered	Value	Susceptibility	Sensitivity
Urban Area Type: Potterton (indirectly affected)				
All areas	- Remote from proposed route so only susceptible to indirect impacts - Rural village, lying lower than surrounding land and views out are limited by surrounding houses and undulating land around the village	Medium	Medium	Medium
OVERALL SENSITIVITY				Medium
Urban Area Type: Balmedie (indirectly affected)				
All areas	- Remote from proposed route so only susceptible to indirect impacts - Coastal town expanding to south - Views to south limited to housing estate on southern boundary, rest of town inward looking	Medium	Medium	Medium
OVERALL SENSITIVITY				Medium
Recreation Type: East Aberdeenshire Golf Course (indirectly affected)				
All areas	- Remote from proposed route so only susceptible to indirect impacts - Good views particularly to North Sea - Manicured landscape with limited vegetation	Low	Low-Medium	Low-Medium
OVERALL SENSITIVITY				Low-Medium
Urban Area Type: Denmore (indirectly affected)				
All areas	- Remote from proposed route so only susceptible to indirect impacts - Suburb in north of Aberdeen with large areas of housing and industrial development - Housing generally inward looking with few houses having long-range views to rural surroundings - Industrial development and road networks throughout the area impact on views	Low-Medium	Low	Low
OVERALL SENSITIVITY				Low
Open Farmland Type: Cloverhill (indirectly affected)				
All areas	- Remote from proposed route so only susceptible to indirect impacts - Landfill sites around Blackdog , the high volume of traffic on the A90 and the urban edge of Aberdeen detract from the coastal setting	Low-Medium	Low-Medium	Low-Medium
OVERALL SENSITIVITY				Low-Medium

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Landscape Character Type and Area/ Settlement Character Area	Factors Considered	Value	Susceptibility	Sensitivity
Coast Type: Balgownie Links (indirectly affected)				
All areas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Remote from proposed route so only susceptible to indirect impacts - Coastal strip with beach, sand dunes and golf course - Long-range views to north, east and south - Views to west restricted by higher ground - Parts of beach have poorly maintained access, landfill sites next to beach and Blackdog rifle range has introduced a 'no-go' area in the landscape and encloses Blackdog to the north 	Medium	Low-Medium	Low-Medium

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Appendix A11.1 – Landscape Sensitivity, Impact Magnitude and Significance

Table 26: Landscape Impact Assessment

Landscape Character Type and Area/ Settlement Character Area	Landscape Sensitivity	Details of Change WYO	Summary of Mitigation Proposals Magnitude of Change WYO taking into account the mitigation proposals	Impact – Winter Year of Opening	Details of change summer 15 years after opening Magnitude of change summer 15 years after opening	Impact – Summer 15 years after opening
Open Farmland: Overhills (chainage 314800 – 316300)						
Farmland	Low to Medium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - introduction of Northern Leg at grade, on embankment and in cutting up to 8.5m deep - introduction of North Kingswells underbridge at chainage 314950, Kepplestone overbridge at chainage 315600, Ashtown overbridge at chainage 316000 - introduction of 2 slip roads from North Kingswells underbridge at chainage 314950 to 315500 to access Northern Leg - loss of fields, stone walls and field boundary planting - rural setting affected by visual and aural impact of new road 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - groups of feathered trees along new field boundaries to reflect existing open character and soften and frame views from local properties, roads and paths - scrub woodland planting around North Kingswells junction to strengthen remaining woodlands and reflect landscape character and screen views of junction - treatment of rock cutting to ensure natural appearance - drystone walls between northbound chainages 315120 and 315600, and between southbound chainages 315260 and 315630, to tie into existing walls and reflect existing landscape pattern - Ashtown overbridge embankments eased out to improve integration with the surrounding landform <p>negative/adverse; large-scale; long-term; permanent High magnitude</p>	Moderate adverse impact	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - planting matured to reduce impact and screen views of the road corridor and embankments - vegetation on rock cutting matured to soften the cut into the landscape <p>negative/adverse and positive/reduction of negative/adverse (planting); medium-scale; long-term; permanent Medium magnitude</p>	Slight to Moderate adverse impact
Busy local roads between Kingswells and Bucksburn	Low	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - realignment of minor road at Dykeside (chainage 315000) with introduction of roundabout at grade 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - groups of feathered trees along new road to reflect existing field boundary character and soften views of road 	Slight adverse impact	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - planting on false cutting matured to reduce impact of road corridor and screen views between mainline and Chapel of Stoneywood to Fairley 	Negligible adverse impact

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Appendix A11.1 – Landscape Sensitivity, Impact Magnitude and Significance

Landscape Character Type and Area/ Settlement Character Area	Landscape Sensitivity	Details of Change WYO	Summary of Mitigation Proposals Magnitude of Change WYO taking into account the mitigation proposals	Impact – Winter Year of Opening	Details of change summer 15 years after opening Magnitude of change summer 15 years after opening	Impact – Summer 15 years after opening
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - existing minor road stopped up - realignment of Chapel of Stoneywood to Fairley access road along the eastern carriageway of Northern Leg - loss of rural road experience - rural setting of minor road affected by visual and aural impact of new road 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - false cutting and scrub woodland to provide screening between mainline and Chapel of Stoneywood to Fairley access road between southbound chainages 316200 and 316380 - scrub woodland planting around North Kingswells junction to strengthen remaining woodlands and reflect landscape character and screen views of junction - treatment of rock cutting to ensure natural appearance - drystone walls between northbound chainages 315120 and 315600, and between southbound chainages 315260 and 315630, to tie into existing walls and reflect landscape pattern <p>negative/adverse and positive/ reduction of negative adverse (reduction of traffic on minor road); medium-scale; long-term; permanent Medium magnitude</p>		<p>access road</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - vegetation on rock cutting matured to soften the cut into the landscape - planting around junction matured to reduce impact and screen views of the road corridor and embankments <p>negative/adverse and positive/reduction of negative/adverse (reduction of traffic on minor road); small-scale; long-term; permanent Low magnitude</p>	
Newhills scattered settlement	Medium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - no direct impact but rural setting would be slightly affected by visual and aural impact of new road - visual and aural benefit of reduction in volume of traffic on minor road which passes through Newhills 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - groups of feathered trees along new road to reflect existing field boundary character and soften views of road - scrub woodland planting around North Kingswells junction to strengthen remaining woodlands and reflect landscape character and screen views of junction - treatment of rock cutting to ensure natural 	Slight beneficial impact	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - planting matured to reduce impact and screen views of the road corridor and embankments - vegetation on rock cutting matured to soften the cut into the landscape <p>positive/reduction of negative/adverse (less traffic on</p>	Slight beneficial impact

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Appendix A11.1 – Landscape Sensitivity, Impact Magnitude and Significance

Landscape Character Type and Area/ Settlement Character Area	Landscape Sensitivity	Details of Change WYO	Summary of Mitigation Proposals Magnitude of Change WYO taking into account the mitigation proposals	Impact – Winter Year of Opening	Details of change summer 15 years after opening Magnitude of change summer 15 years after opening	Impact – Summer 15 years after opening
			appearance - drystone walls between northbound chainages 315120 and 315600, and between southbound chainages 315260 and 315630, to tie into existing walls and reflect existing landscape pattern positive/ reduction of negative adverse (less traffic on minor road through Newhills reinforces rural character); small-scale; long-term; permanent Low magnitude		minor road and matured planting); small-scale; long-term; permanent Low magnitude	
Wooded Farmland: Craibstone (chainage 316300 – 317500)						
A96 road corridor	Low	- widening of A96 road corridor and the introduction of an at grade junction, with associated slip roads, lighting and signage - introduction of Northern Leg on overbridge, up to 11m above A96 - Green Burn realigned	- graded landform to enclose Green Burn and / or feature within roundabout junction to highlight approach to Aberdeen and airport - scrub and mixed woodland to enclose Green Burn, ponds and roundabout junction, and assist in screening views between AWPR and A96 link road - ponds to the north of the A96 terraced on rising ground to provide interest on approach to Aberdeen city and airport - A96 bridge underlit with feature lighting to highlight the approach to Aberdeen and airport - mixed woodland to enclose and frame ponds - scrub woodland to provide enclosure to	Moderate adverse impact	- planting matured to reduce impact of the road corridor and embankments on wooded setting and provide screening from properties negative/adverse and positive/reduction of negative/adverse (matured planting); small-scale; long-term; permanent Low magnitude	Negligible adverse impact

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Landscape Character Type and Area/ Settlement Character Area	Landscape Sensitivity	Details of Change WYO	Summary of Mitigation Proposals Magnitude of Change WYO taking into account the mitigation proposals	Impact – Winter Year of Opening	Details of change summer 15 years after opening Magnitude of change summer 15 years after opening	Impact – Summer 15 years after opening
			<p>roundabout</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - embankments eased out to improve integration with the surrounding landform - drystone wall (1.0m high) and 145m long on eastern side of A96 junction to provide noise attenuation for properties (Mill of Craibstone Veterinary Centre) <p>negative/adverse; medium-scale; long-term; permanent</p> <p>High magnitude</p>			
Craibstone SAC estate	High	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - introduction of A96 Link underbridge at chainage 317400 - introduction of A96 Link road from Chapel of Stonewood to Fairley road to go under Northern Leg and provide a link to A96 and associated slip roads - introduction of Northern Leg and 4 slip roads in cutting and on embankment - severance and loss of mature planting in Craibstone Estate - introduction of 4 ponds and access track to the south of the A96 road corridor (within the area enclosed by the Northern Leg, A96 and slip roads) - Green Burn and Gough Burn realigned - rural setting affected by visual and aural impact of new road 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - mixed woodland planting alongside A96 to integrate with existing wooded character on south side of the A96 - mixed woodland planting to screen views from Craibstone College buildings including residences, and integrate with adjoining woodland areas - protect existing woodland to minimise losses - provide links to existing path network <p>negative/adverse; large-scale; long-term; permanent</p> <p>High magnitude</p>	Severe adverse impact	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - planting matured to reduce impact of the road corridor and embankments on wooded setting and provide screening from properties <p>negative/adverse and positive/reduction of negative/adverse (matured planting); large-scale; long-term; permanent</p> <p>Medium magnitude</p>	Substantial adverse impact

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Appendix A11.1 – Landscape Sensitivity, Impact Magnitude and Significance

Landscape Character Type and Area/ Settlement Character Area	Landscape Sensitivity	Details of Change WYO	Summary of Mitigation Proposals Magnitude of Change WYO taking into account the mitigation proposals	Impact – Winter Year of Opening	Details of change summer 15 years after opening Magnitude of change summer 15 years after opening	Impact – Summer 15 years after opening
Woodland and farmland west of SAC estate	Medium	- no direct impact but may be marginally affected by visual and aural impact of the Northern Leg	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - coniferous and mixed woodland planting to screen views and integrate with adjoining woodland areas - embankments eased out to improve integration with the surrounding landform - scrub woodland between the Northern Leg and A96 junction slip roads to screen views - false cutting and mixed woodland to screen properties west of the Northern Leg at Chapel of Stoneywood negative/adverse; large-scale; long-term; permanent Medium magnitude	Moderate adverse impact	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - planting matured to provide screening from properties and assimilate road into wooded landscape setting negative/adverse and positive/reduction of negative/adverse (matured planting); large-scale; long-term; permanent Low magnitude	Slight adverse impact
Open Farmland: Newton (chainage 317500 – 318900)						
Farmland on eastern slopes of Tyrebagger Hill	Medium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - introduction of the Northern Leg and slip roads on embankment - Chapel of Stoneywood – Newton – Kirkhill Road closed to either side of the Northern Leg at chainage 317800 - semi-rural setting affected by visual and aural impact of new road - introduction of 4 ponds and access track to the north of the A96 at chainage 317500 - loss of fields and drystone walls - loss of scrubby vegetation alongside field boundaries 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - easing embankments between southbound: chainage 317450 to 318900 to visually integrate road with surrounding landform; and between chainages 318100 to 318900 to allow potential return to agriculture - drystone walls between northbound chainages 318100 and 318900, and between southbound chainages 317850 and 318900, to tie into existing walls and reflect existing landscape pattern - groups of feathered trees and scrub woodland along new field boundaries to reflect existing pattern of vegetation - false cutting between northbound 	Substantial adverse impact	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - land returned to agricultural use - planting matured to reduce impact and screen views of the road corridor and embankments negative/adverse and positive/reduction of negative/adverse (planting); large-scale; long-term; permanent Medium magnitude	Moderate adverse impact

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Landscape Character Type and Area/ Settlement Character Area	Landscape Sensitivity	Details of Change WYO	Summary of Mitigation Proposals Magnitude of Change WYO taking into account the mitigation proposals	Impact – Winter Year of Opening	Details of change summer 15 years after opening Magnitude of change summer 15 years after opening	Impact – Summer 15 years after opening
			<p>chainages 317685 and 318100 and noise barrier (varying in height from 1.2-2.8m) and scrub woodland between chainages 317685 and 317880 to provide screening and noise attenuation for properties (Greenacres and Walton View)</p> <p>- false cutting between southbound chainages 317450 and 317685 to provide screening for properties (Walton Cottages)</p> <p>- false cutting and scrub woodland between southbound chainages 318100 and 318900 to provide screening for properties (Howemoss Farm)</p> <p>negative/adverse; large-scale; long-term; permanent High magnitude</p>			
Minor road between A96 and Kirkhill Industrial Estate	Low	<p>- Chapel of Stoneywood – Newton – Kirkhill Road closed to through traffic at chainage 317800</p> <p>- semi-rural setting affected by visual and aural impact of the Northern Leg</p>	<p>- false cutting between northbound chainages 317685 and 318100 and noise barrier (varying in height from 1.2-2.8m) and scrub woodland between chainages 317685 and 317880 to provide screening and noise attenuation for properties (Greenacres and Walton View)</p> <p>- false cutting between southbound chainages 317450 and 317700 to provide screening for properties (Walton Cottages)</p> <p>negative/adverse; small-scale; long-term;</p>	Slight adverse impact	<p>- planting matured to reduce impact and screen views of the road corridor and embankments</p> <p>negative/adverse and positive/reduction of negative/adverse (matured planting); medium-scale; long-term; permanent Low magnitude</p>	Negligible adverse impact

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Landscape Character Type and Area/ Settlement Character Area	Landscape Sensitivity	Details of Change WYO	Summary of Mitigation Proposals Magnitude of Change WYO taking into account the mitigation proposals	Impact – Winter Year of Opening	Details of change summer 15 years after opening Magnitude of change summer 15 years after opening	Impact – Summer 15 years after opening
			permanent Medium magnitude			
Hill: Tyrebagger Hill / Kirkhill (chainage 318900 – 322300)						
Commercial plantations on Tyrebagger Hill	Low to Medium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - introduction of the Northern Leg on embankment up to 15m high and in cutting up to 13m deep - loss of varied age coniferous plantation - severance of field pattern and drystone walls - visual and aural impact on footpaths within woodland - realignment of Bogenjoss Burn to run parallel with the Northern Leg between chainage 320000 to 320400 then crossing beneath the Northern Leg at chainage 320500 to rejoin the original burn alignment on the east side of the Northern Leg - realignment of access road to Bogenjoss House to cross the Northern Leg on Kirkhill overbridge at chainage 320180 - introduction of a wildlife overbridge at chainage 319950 to provide a wildlife habitat corridor - introduction of 2 ponds and access track north of the Northern Leg at chainage 321000 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - mixed woodland to marry into adjoining woodlands and provide screening of road in long views - treatment of rock cutting to ensure natural appearance - riparian woodland alongside realigned Bogenjoss Burn to improve integration with surroundings and promote biodiversity - scrub woodland between mainline and realigned access track to Bogenjoss House to provide screening to access road - noise barrier (2.5m high) between northbound chainages 320430 and 320545, to provide screening and noise attenuation for property (Bogenjoss House) - easing embankments between northbound chainages 318900 and 319550 to improve integration with surroundings <p>negative/adverse; medium-scale; long-term; permanent High magnitude</p>	Moderate adverse impact	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - planting matured to reduce impact and screen views of road corridor and embankments <p>negative/adverse and positive/reduction of negative/adverse (matured planting); small-scale; long-term; permanent Low to Medium magnitude</p>	Slight adverse impact

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Landscape Character Type and Area/ Settlement Character Area	Landscape Sensitivity	Details of Change WYO	Summary of Mitigation Proposals Magnitude of Change WYO taking into account the mitigation proposals	Impact – Winter Year of Opening	Details of change summer 15 years after opening Magnitude of change summer 15 years after opening	Impact – Summer 15 years after opening
Farmland on eastern slopes of Tyrebagger Hill (south of Stone Circle)	Medium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - introduction of the Northern Leg on embankment up to 9m high and in cutting up to 13m deep - severance of field pattern and drystone walls - rural setting affected by visual and aural impact of the Northern Leg 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - scrub woodland planting on field remnants to screen views from properties, maintain setting of Tyrebagger Hill stone circle (SAM) and help integrate road into surroundings - drystone walls to enclose severed fields and replace walls lost to the route, between southbound chainages 319250 and 319460, and 319580 to 319700 - treatment of rock cutting to ensure natural appearance - false cutting and scrub woodland alongside southbound carriageway chainages 318920 and 319600 to assist screening traffic movement and the road corridor from the wider landscape - wildlife overbridge embankments eased out to improve integration with the surrounding landform <p>negative/adverse; large-scale; long-term; permanent High magnitude</p>	Substantial adverse impact	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - planting matured to reduce impact and screen views of road corridor and embankments <p>negative/adverse and positive/reduction of negative/adverse (planting); medium-scale; long-term; permanent Medium magnitude</p>	Moderate adverse impact
Farmland on western slopes of Tyrebagger Hill	Medium	- no direct impact but may be marginally affected by aural impact of the Northern Leg	- none			
Farmland on north facing slopes of	Medium	- introduction of road on embankment, up to 15m high (Bogenjoss Burn crossing), and in cutting, up to 12m	- easing embankments between northbound chainages 320500 and 321500, to integrate with surrounding	Substantial adverse impact	- planting matured to reduce impact and screen views of road corridor	Moderate adverse impact

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Landscape Character Type and Area/ Settlement Character Area	Landscape Sensitivity	Details of Change WYO	Summary of Mitigation Proposals Magnitude of Change WYO taking into account the mitigation proposals	Impact – Winter Year of Opening	Details of change summer 15 years after opening Magnitude of change summer 15 years after opening	Impact – Summer 15 years after opening
Tyrebagger Hill		<p>deep</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - severance of field pattern and drystone walls - loss of coniferous plantation and woodland plantation edge - rural setting affected by visual and aural impact of the Northern Leg 	<p>landform, allow potential return to agriculture and mitigate the road in views from the wider landscape</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - easing of gradients between southbound chainages 320500 and 321000, to improve integration with the surrounding landform of the Bogenjoss Burn valley and scrub woodland to soften views from the road - mixed woodland to screen traffic movement and the road corridor in views from Pitmedden House estate properties and in distant views - treatment of rock cutting to ensure natural appearance - drystone wall to enclose field at northbound chainage 321500 and 322200 - noise barrier (1.5m high) between northbound chainages 322210 and 322685 alongside the carriageway to provide screening and noise attenuation for properties (Lyndmoor and Tillybrig) - noise barrier (1.6m high) between southbound chainage 322200 and 322475, alongside the carriageway to provide screening and noise attenuation for property (Upper Kirkton) <p>negative/adverse; large-scale; long-term; permanent High magnitude</p>		<p>and embankments</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - vegetation on rock cutting matured to soften the cut into the landscape - land between chainages 321000 and 321500 returned to agricultural use <p>negative/adverse and positive/ reduction of negative adverse (planting); large-scale; long-term; permanent Medium magnitude</p>	

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Appendix A11.1 – Landscape Sensitivity, Impact Magnitude and Significance

Landscape Character Type and Area/ Settlement Character Area	Landscape Sensitivity	Details of Change WYO	Summary of Mitigation Proposals Magnitude of Change WYO taking into account the mitigation proposals	Impact – Winter Year of Opening	Details of change summer 15 years after opening Magnitude of change summer 15 years after opening	Impact – Summer 15 years after opening
Pitmedden House estate landscape	High	- no direct impact but may be marginally affected by visual and aural impact of the Northern Leg	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - easing embankments between northbound chainages 321000 and 321500, to integrate with surrounding landform, allow potential return to agriculture and mitigate the road in views from the wider landscape - mixed woodland to provide screening of traffic movement in views from Pitmedden House estate, Pitmedden Road and in distant views - treatment of rock cutting to ensure natural appearance - broadleaved woodland around ponds to improve integration with the surroundings - drystone walls to tie into existing walls and reflect landscape pattern <p>negative/adverse; large-scale; long-term; permanent Medium magnitude</p>	Substantial adverse impact	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - planting matured to reduce impact and screen views of the road corridor and embankments - vegetation on rock cutting matured to soften the cut into the landscape - land between chainages 321000 and 321500 returned to agricultural use <p>negative/adverse and positive/reduction of negative adverse (planting); medium-scale; long-term; permanent Low magnitude</p>	Moderate adverse impact
A96 road corridor	Low	- no change	- none			
Open Farmland Type: Newton (chainage 322300 - 322800)						
Farmland north of airport	Low to Medium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - introduction of the Northern Leg on embankment, up to 8m high - severance of field pattern and drystone walls 	- easing embankments between north and southbound chainages 322200 and 322750 to improve integration with surrounding landform and allow potential return to agriculture (land capability may be	Moderate to Substantial adverse impact	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - planting matured to reduce impact and screen views of the road corridor and embankments - land between chainages 322200 	Moderate adverse impact

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Landscape Character Type and Area/ Settlement Character Area	Landscape Sensitivity	Details of Change WYO	Summary of Mitigation Proposals Magnitude of Change WYO taking into account the mitigation proposals	Impact – Winter Year of Opening	Details of change summer 15 years after opening Magnitude of change summer 15 years after opening	Impact – Summer 15 years after opening
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Pitmedden Road to be bridged at 322550 - rural setting affected by visual and aural impact of new road 	<p>reduced)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - noise barrier (varying in height from 1.2 to 1.5m) between northbound chainages 322210 to 322685 alongside the northbound carriageway to provide screening and noise attenuation for properties (Lyndmoor and Tillybrig) - noise barrier (varying in height from 1.0m to 1.6m) between southbound chainage 322200- and 322475, alongside the carriageway to provide screening and noise attenuation for property (Upper Kirkton) - noise barrier (1m high) between southbound chainage 322705 and 322855, alongside the carriageway to provide screening and noise attenuation for property (Nether Kirkton) - introduction of false cuttings and scrub woodland planting between north and southbound chainages 322200 and 322750 to assist in screening views of the road from nearby properties and the wider landscape - scrub woodland and eased embankments to complement the bridge over the River Don and reduce impact on the Don Valley - avoid disturbance to remains of the Aberdeenshire Canal (SAM) <p>negative/adverse; large-scale; long-term;</p>		<p>and 322700 returned to agricultural use (land capability may be reduced)</p> <p>negative/adverse and positive/ reduction of negative adverse (planting); large-scale; long-term; permanent</p> <p>Medium magnitude</p>	

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Landscape Character Type and Area/ Settlement Character Area	Landscape Sensitivity	Details of Change WYO	Summary of Mitigation Proposals Magnitude of Change WYO taking into account the mitigation proposals	Impact – Winter Year of Opening	Details of change summer 15 years after opening Magnitude of change summer 15 years after opening	Impact – Summer 15 years after opening
			permanent High magnitude			
Dyce Drive, railway corridor and industrial edge	Low	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - introduction of the Northern Leg on embankment, up to 12m high, in close proximity to Dyce Drive, bridging the Aberdeen to Inverness railway - introduction of Pitmedden Road underbridge at chainage 322600 - urban setting affected by visual and aural impact of new road 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - easing embankments between north and southbound chainages 322200 and 322750 to improve integration with surrounding landform and allow potential return to agriculture - scrub woodland and eased embankments to complement the bridge over the River Don and reduce impact on the Don Valley - introduction of false cuttings and noise barriers on either side of road between north and southbound chainages 322200 and 322750 to assist in screening views of the road from Dyce Drive, the railway and the wider landscape <p>negative/adverse; large-scale; long-term; permanent Medium magnitude</p>	Slight adverse impact	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - planting matured to reduce impact and screen views of the road corridor and embankments <p>negative/adverse and positive/reduction of negative adverse (planting); large-scale; long-term; permanent Medium magnitude</p>	Slight adverse impact
Valley Type: Lower Goval (chainage 322800 – 324000, includes bridge across River Don)						
Farmland south of river	Low to Medium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - introduction of the Northern Leg and bridge across the River Don, on embankment up to 21m high - introduction of 3 ponds and an access road south of the Northern Leg at chainage 323000 - severance of fields, drystone walls 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - scrub woodland and eased embankments to complement the bridge over the River Don and reduce impact on the Don Valley - scrub woodland around ponds and access road to improve integration with surroundings 	Moderate to Substantial adverse impact	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - planting matured to reduce impact and screen views of the road corridor and embankments <p>negative/adverse and positive/reduction of negative adverse (planting); medium-scale; long-term;</p>	Moderate adverse impact

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Landscape Character Type and Area/ Settlement Character Area	Landscape Sensitivity	Details of Change WYO	Summary of Mitigation Proposals Magnitude of Change WYO taking into account the mitigation proposals	Impact – Winter Year of Opening	Details of change summer 15 years after opening Magnitude of change summer 15 years after opening	Impact – Summer 15 years after opening
		and field boundary vegetation - rural setting affected by visual and aural impact of new road	negative/adverse; large-scale; long-term; permanent High magnitude		permanent Medium magnitude	
Farmland north of river	High	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - introduction of the Northern Leg and bridge across the River Don, on embankment up to 5m high - realignment of B977 (west) onto overbridge above the Northern Leg - severance of fields, drystone walls and field boundary vegetation - introduction of 2 ponds and access road south of the Northern Leg at chainage 323800 - realignment of Goval Mill Lade onto Parkhill Pumping Station Aqueduct up to 7m above the Northern Leg - severance of the Goval Burn by the realigned B977 - introduction of an access track from the realigned B977 to the proposed River Don bridge - rural setting affected by visual and aural impact of new road 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - scrub woodland and eased embankments to complement the bridge over the River Don and reduce impact on the Don Valley - drystone walls alongside sections of the realigned B977, between northbound chainages 323600 and 324100, and between southbound chainages 323600 and 323950, to tie into existing walls and reflect landscape pattern - drystone wall (0.5m high) between southbound chainage 323955 and 324055 alongside carriageway to reduce noise impacts on properties (Parkhill Cottage and Parkhill Pumping Station) - false cutting and scrub woodland to assist screening views from Goval Villa - cutting between northbound chainages 323650 and 324050 graded out to tie smoothly into existing levels and allow potential return to agriculture - riparian woodland around ponds and the Goval Burn to improve integration with surroundings - bridge has been designed to provide an attractive landscape feature 	Severe adverse impact	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - planting matured to reduce impact and screen views of the road corridor and embankments - land between chainages 323650 and 324050 returned to agricultural use negative/adverse and positive/ reduction of negative adverse (planting); large-scale; long-term; permanent Medium magnitude 	Substantial adverse impact

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Landscape Character Type and Area/ Settlement Character Area	Landscape Sensitivity	Details of Change WYO	Summary of Mitigation Proposals Magnitude of Change WYO taking into account the mitigation proposals	Impact – Winter Year of Opening	Details of change summer 15 years after opening Magnitude of change summer 15 years after opening	Impact – Summer 15 years after opening
			negative/adverse; large-scale; long-term; permanent High magnitude			
Open Farmland Type: Goval (chainage 324000 – 325350)						
Open farmland north of Goval Belt	Medium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - introduction of realigned A947 at grade, approximately 30m east of existing A947 - loss of broadleaved woodland at Goval Belt - rural setting affected by visual and aural impact of new road 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - broadleaved woodland to link into existing broadleaved woodland of Goval Belt - scrub and mixed woodland planting around Goval junction and alongside the Northern Leg to assist screening of views <p>negative/adverse; medium-scale; long-term; permanent Low magnitude</p>	Slight adverse impact	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - planting matured to reduce impact and screen views of road corridor and embankments <p>negative/adverse and positive/reduction of negative adverse (planting); medium-scale; long-term; permanent Low magnitude</p>	Negligible adverse impact
Open farmland south of Goval Belt	High	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - introduction of the Northern Leg on embankment up to 12m high, roundabout junction at grade, 4 slip roads from roundabout, realigned B977 at grade - introduction of signage and junction lighting - severance of fields, drystone walls and scrubby vegetation alongside field boundaries - introduction of 2 ponds and access track south of the Northern Leg at chainage 324700 and realignment of 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - false cuttings and scrub woodland around Goval junction to assist screening of views from properties to the north and south of the junction - easing embankments between north and southbound chainages 324550 and 325400 to improve integration of road with surrounding landform, and allow potential return to agriculture between southbound chainages 325100 and 325330 - riparian woodland around ponds and alongside Goval Burn and Corsehill Burn to improve integration with surroundings - grade embankments either side of 	Severe adverse impact	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - planting matured to reduce impact and screen views of the road corridor and embankments - land between chainages 324900 to 325400 returned to agriculture <p>negative/adverse and positive/reduction of negative adverse (planting); large-scale; long-term; permanent Medium magnitude</p>	Substantial adverse impact

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		<p>Corsehill Burn</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - severance of Goval Burn - A947 realigned approximately 300m east of existing A947, up to 9m above existing ground level - existing A947 stopped up and used to maintain access to local properties - loss of mature trees due to realigned A947 - loss of mature trees due to roundabout junction - B977 realigned with old sections being grubbed up - change to experience of local roads - rural setting affected by visual and aural impact of new road 	<p>realigned A947 to reflect undulating landform and visually integrate road with surroundings</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - broadleaved and mixed woodland planting to screen movement of traffic on A947 from nearby properties - drystone wall between southbound chainages 323955 and 324055 to provide noise attenuation for property (Parkhill Cottage, Parkhill Pumping Station) - drystone wall (1.0m high) between southbound chainage 325000 and 325375, alongside the carriageway and slip road to provide noise attenuation for property (Corsehill Cottage) - existing Scots Pine trees near southbound chainage 324800 to be retained <p>negative/adverse; large-scale; long-term; permanent High magnitude</p>			
Formartine and Buchan Way	High	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Formartine and Buchan Way crosses beneath the Northern Leg, for a length of approximately 50m and beneath the realigned A947, for a length of approximately 50m - loss of vegetation alongside Formartine and Buchan Way - change to the nature of views and 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - false cuttings and scrub woodland around Goval junction to assist screening of views from the Formartine and Buchan Way to the north and south of the junction - drystone wall (0.5m high and 117m long) alongside the realigned A947 between Kinnaird and the Formartine and Buchan Way to provide noise attenuation for 	Severe adverse impact	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - planting matured to reduce impact and screen views of road corridor and embankments <p>negative/adverse and positive/reduction of negative adverse (planting); large-scale; long-term; permanent</p>	Substantial adverse impact

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		experience of the railway path - rural setting affected by visual and aural impact of new road	property (Kinnaird) negative/adverse; large-scale; long-term; permanent High magnitude		Medium magnitude	
Wooded Farmland: Braes of Don (A947 realignment)						
Northern part of area	Medium to High	- realignment of A947 approximately 50m east of existing A947 - loss of mature trees at western edge of Parkhill Estate (designated TPO by Aberdeenshire Council) - realignment of B977 approximately 40m south of existing road - introduction of new access road to Beech Cottage - visual and aural impact of the Northern Leg, A947 and Goval junction	- proposed mixed woodland alongside realigned A947 as it passes through Parkhill Estate to replace those TPO trees lost to the route, tie into existing woodland and provide screening for Old Toll House - mixed and broadleaved woodland planting to screen movement of traffic on A947 from nearby properties - grade embankments either side of realigned A947 to reflect undulating landform and visually integrate road with surroundings - false cuttings and scrub woodland around Goval junction to assist screening of views from the properties to the north and south of the junction - noise barrier (1.8m high, 190m long) alongside the northbound carriageway of the A947 to provide screening and noise attenuation for properties (Old Toll House and The Bungalow) negative/adverse; large-scale; long-term;	Moderate adverse impact	- planting matured to reduce impact and screen views of the road corridor and embankments negative/adverse and positive/reduction of negative adverse (planting); medium-scale; long-term; permanent Low magnitude	Slight adverse impact

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Landscape Character Type and Area/ Settlement Character Area	Landscape Sensitivity	Details of Change WYO	Summary of Mitigation Proposals Magnitude of Change WYO taking into account the mitigation proposals	Impact – Winter Year of Opening	Details of change summer 15 years after opening Magnitude of change summer 15 years after opening	Impact – Summer 15 years after opening
			permanent Medium magnitude			
Southern part of area	Medium	- rural setting affected by aural impact of new road	- none			
Wooded Farmland Type: Red Moss (chainage 325350 – 326000)						
Littlejohn's Wood area	Medium to High	- introduction of the Northern Leg in cutting up to 9m deep - realignment of B977 onto overbridge up to 8m above the Northern Leg - introduction of new access road to Newpark Farm from B977 - loss of vegetation - rural setting affected by visual and aural impact of new road	- mixed woodland to reduce visual impact on properties at Corsehill - treatment of rock cutting to ensure natural appearance - overbridge embankments eased to improve integration with surrounding landform negative/adverse; large-scale; long-term; permanent Medium magnitude	Substantial adverse impact	- planting matured to reduce impact and screen views of the road corridor and embankments - vegetation on rock cutting will have matured to soften the cut into the landscape negative/adverse and positive/reduction of negative adverse (planting); large-scale; long-term; permanent Low magnitude	Moderate adverse impact
Wooded Farmland	Low to Medium	- rural setting affected by aural impact of new road	- none			
Open Farmland Type: Perwinnes (chainage 326000 - 328200)						
Open farmland at Perwinnes Hill, Leuchlands, Lochgreens	Low to Medium	- introduction of the Northern Leg at grade, on embankment up to 7m high, and cutting, up to 13m deep - introduction of new access road to Loch Hills Farm - realignment of Lochgreens road onto	- false cutting, mixed woodland and extra heavy tree planting to assist screening of views from properties east of Littlejohns Wood and reflect landscape pattern - easing embankments between north and southbound chainages 327000 and 327750 to allow for potential return to agriculture	Moderate to Substantial adverse impact	- planting matured to reduce impact and screen views of the road corridor and embankments - land returned to agricultural use between chainage 327100 and 327700	Moderate adverse impact

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		<p>overbridge up to 8m above the Northern Leg, to access Lochgreens Cottage</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - rural setting affected by visual and aural impact of new road - severance of fields and drystone wall field boundaries - introduction of 2 ponds and access track at chainage 327400 on north side of the Northern Leg - introduction of flood flow alleviation ditches on north side of carriageway at chainages 326020 to 326130, 326250 to 326340, 326380 to 326480, 326510 to 326640 - severance of Lochgreens Pond and Red Moss burn - rural setting affected by visual and aural impact of new road 	<p>and improve integration with surroundings</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - groups of feathered trees between north and southbound chainages 326340 and 327500 to reflect existing open landscape character and soften views of road from properties, roads and paths - false cutting between 32670 and 326980 and barrier (1.6m high) between southbound chainages 326755 and 326925 to provide screening and noise attenuation for property (Lochgreens Cottage) - drystone walls between northbound chainages 326800 and 327500 and southbound chainages 326920 and 327750 to tie into existing walls and reflect landscape pattern - Lochgreens overbridge embankments eased to improve integration with surrounding landform - riparian planting around ponds to improve integration with surroundings and promote biodiversity - scrub woodland between northbound chainages 327800 and 328300 to screen views of the road from properties - scrub woodland between southbound chainages 327950 and 328150 to minimise the diagonal cut across the landscape <p>negative/adverse; large-scale; long-term;</p>		<p>negative/adverse and positive/reduction of negative adverse (planting); large-scale; long-term; permanent</p> <p>Medium magnitude</p>	

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			permanent High magnitude			
Lily Loch / Corby Loch	Medium to High	- no direct impact but secluded, rural setting affected by visual and aural impact of new road on embankment up to 7m higher than existing ground level	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - easing embankments between north and southbound chainages 327000 and 327750 to allow for potential return to agriculture and improve integration with surroundings - groups of feathered trees between north and southbound chainages 326340 and 327500 to reflect existing open landscape character and soften views of road from properties, roads and paths - drystone walls between southbound chainages 326800 and 327750 to tie into existing walls and reflect landscape pattern - Lochgreens overbridge embankments eased to improve integration with surrounding landform <p>negative/adverse; small-scale; long-term; permanent Medium magnitude</p>	Moderate adverse impact	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - planting matured to reduce impact and screen views of road corridor and embankments - land returned to agricultural use between chainage 327100 and 327700 <p>negative/adverse and positive/ reduction of negative adverse (planting); large-scale; long-term; permanent Low magnitude</p>	Slight to Moderate adverse impact
Perwinnes Moss / Scotstown Moor	Medium	- no direct impact, however may be marginally affected by visual and aural impact of new road	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - groups of feathered trees between north and southbound chainages 326340 and 327500 to reflect existing open landscape character and soften views of road from properties, roads and paths - drystone walls between southbound chainages 326920 and 327750 to tie into existing walls and reflect landscape pattern 	Slight adverse impact	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - planting matured to reduce impact and screen views of road corridor and embankments - land returned to agricultural use <p>negative/adverse and positive/ reduction of negative adverse</p>	Negligible adverse impact

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			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - easing embankments between north and southbound chainages 327000 and 327750 to allow for potential return to agriculture and improve integration with surroundings negative/adverse; small-scale; long-term; permanent Low magnitude 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> (planting); small-scale; long-term; permanent Low magnitude 	
Open Farmland Type: Potterton (chainage 328200 – A90 North junction)						
Open farmland	Medium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - introduction of the Northern Leg in cutting, up to 15m deep, at grade, and on embankment up to 5m high - introduction of road on embankment over Blackdog Burn - realignment of minor road onto Newtonhill overbridge at Backhill of Cranbog up to 13m above the Northern Leg - realignment of B999 approximately 30m west of existing road and onto overbridge up to 9m above the Northern Leg - loss of mature trees on field boundaries close to B999 - rural setting affected by visual and aural impact of new road - severance of fields and drystone walls - introduction of 2 ponds and access 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - drystone walls between north and southbound chainages 328200 and 328900 to tie into existing walls and reflect landscape pattern - treatment of rock cutting to ensure natural appearance - realignment of the Northern Leg to minimise mature tree loss in the area around the B999 - drystone wall, 1.0m high, between northbound chainage 330420 and 330595, alongside the carriageway to provide noise attenuation for properties (Middleton Farm, Middleton East Steading and Middleton West Steading) - extra heavy standard trees alongside realigned B999 to replace those lost to the route and strengthen landscape pattern - embankment over Blackdog Burn eased and planted with scrub woodland to 	Substantial adverse impact	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - planting matured to reduce impact and screen views of road corridor and embankments negative/adverse and positive/ reduction of negative adverse (planting); medium-scale; long-term; permanent Low magnitude 	Moderate adverse impact

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		track south of the Northern Leg at chainage 323000 - severance of Blackdog Burn - introduction of new access road to Middleton Steadings	improve integration with surrounding landform - riparian woodland around ponds and Blackdog Burn to improve integration with surroundings and promote biodiversity - scrub woodland alongside road to screen views between traffic and Middleton Steadings - drystone wall alongside access road to Middleton Steadings to tie into existing walls and reflect landscape pattern negative/adverse; medium-scale; long-term; permanent High magnitude			
A90 road corridor	Low	- widening of A90 - elevated roundabout junction up to 8m high with 2 slip roads on embankment - realignment of Belhelvie Road - severance of fields and drystone walls - introduction of 2 ponds and access track west of A90 junction	- embankments west and south west of the roundabout junction to be eased to allow potential return to agriculture and improve integration with surroundings - scrub woodland between roundabout and Middleton Farm to screen views of traffic movement - scrub woodland around ponds to improve integration with surroundings and promote biodiversity - landform within roundabout to be sculpted and seeded with native coastal grasses to reflect the coastal location	Moderate adverse impact	- planting matured to reduce impact and screen views of road corridor and embankments - land returned to agricultural use negative/adverse and positive/reduction of negative adverse (planting); medium-scale; long-term; permanent Medium magnitude	Slight adverse impact

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			negative/adverse; medium-scale; long-term; permanent High magnitude			
B999 road corridor	Medium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - realignment of B999 west of existing road and onto overbridge above the Northern Leg - loss of mature trees alongside B999 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - realignment of B999 to minimise mature tree loss - extra heavy standard trees alongside realigned B999 to replace those lost to the route and strengthen landscape pattern - overbridge embankments eased to improve integration with surrounding landform <p>negative/adverse; medium-scale; long-term; permanent Medium magnitude</p>	Moderate adverse impact	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - planting matured to reduce impact and screen views of road corridor and embankments <p>negative/adverse and positive/ reduction of negative adverse (planting); medium-scale; long-term; permanent Low magnitude</p>	Slight adverse impact
Open Farmland Type: Blackdog						
Blackdog settlement	Low to Medium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - introduction of an access road and 2 ponds from Tarbothill towards Blackdog -Introduction of a new access road from the elevated roundabout at the A90 junction to the north of the Blackdog settlement and severance of community woodland 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - scrub woodland between Blackdog Croft and new Tarbothill access to screen views - scrub woodland around ponds to improve integration with surroundings - mixed woodland to screen views of the access road from properties and reinforce community woodland <p>positive/ reduction of negative adverse (improved approach to Blackdog); small-scale; long-term; permanent</p>	Slight beneficial impact	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - planting matured to reduce impact and screen views of road corridor and embankments <p>positive/ reduction of negative adverse (planting); small-scale; long-term; permanent Low magnitude</p>	Slight beneficial impact

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			Medium magnitude			
Blackdog Industrial Estate	Low	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - new access road to link A90 elevated roundabout junction and Blackdog Industrial Estate and nearby properties (The Gables and Blackdog Heights) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - false cutting and scrub woodland to reduce visual impact of elevated roundabout on Blackdog Industrial Estate and properties (The Gables and Blackdog Heights) <p>positive/ reduction of negative adverse; small-scale; long-term; permanent Low magnitude</p>	Slight beneficial impact	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - planting matured to reduce impact and screen views of road corridor and embankments <p>positive/ reduction of negative adverse (planting); small-scale; long-term; permanent Low magnitude</p>	Slight beneficial impact
A90 road corridor	Low	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - widening of A90 to accommodate slip roads - introduction of elevated roundabout junction up to 8m above A90 and 2 slip roads on embankment - introduction of new access road to Wester Hatton Cottages - introduction of new access road to Wester Hatton Farm - introduction of 2 ponds and access track alongside Wester Hatton Cottages access road 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - false cutting and scrub woodland between A90 and Wester Hatton Cottages access road to screen views between roads - drystone wall (1.0m high, 48m in length) alongside A90 in front of Wester Hatton Cottages to provide noise attenuation - false cutting and scrub woodland between A90 and Wester Hatton Farm access road to screen views between roads - scrub woodland around ponds to improve integration with surroundings and promote biodiversity - landform within roundabout to be sculpted and seeded with native coastal grasses to reflect the coastal location - drystone wall to tie into existing walls and reflect landscape pattern 	Slight adverse impact	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - planting matured to reduce impact and screen views of road corridor and embankments <p>negative/adverse and positive/ reduction of negative adverse (planting); small-scale; long-term; permanent Low magnitude</p>	Negligible adverse impact

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Appendix A11.1 – Landscape Sensitivity, Impact Magnitude and Significance

Landscape Character Type and Area/ Settlement Character Area	Landscape Sensitivity	Details of Change WYO	Summary of Mitigation Proposals Magnitude of Change WYO taking into account the mitigation proposals	Impact – Winter Year of Opening	Details of change summer 15 years after opening Magnitude of change summer 15 years after opening	Impact – Summer 15 years after opening
			negative/adverse; small-scale; long-term; permanent Medium magnitude			
Man-made / Industrial areas	Low	- introduction of a new access road from elevated roundabout at the A90 junction to Blackdog settlement - realignment of the access from Tarbothill to Blackdog and the introduction of 2 ponds	- scrub and mixed woodland planting to assist in the integration of the access roads and ponds - embankments and cuttings eased to integrate with the existing landform negative/adverse; small-scale; long-term; permanent Low magnitude	Slight adverse impact	- planting matured to reduce impact and screen views of road corridor positive/ reduction of negative adverse (planting); small-scale; long-term; permanent Low magnitude	Negligible adverse impact
INDIRECTLY AFFECTED AREAS						
Hill: Brimmond Hill (indirectly affected)						
All areas	Medium to High	- no direct impact but may be marginally affected by visual and aural impact of the Northern Leg	- mitigation planting and earthworks to assist integration of the road corridor into surroundings negative/adverse; medium-scale; medium-term; permanent Low magnitude	Slight to Moderate adverse impact	- planting matured to reduce impact and screen views of road corridor and embankments negative/adverse and positive/ reduction of negative adverse (planting); medium-scale; medium-term; permanent Low magnitude	Negligible adverse impact

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Landscape Character Type and Area/ Settlement Character Area	Landscape Sensitivity	Details of Change WYO	Summary of Mitigation Proposals Magnitude of Change WYO taking into account the mitigation proposals	Impact – Winter Year of Opening	Details of change summer 15 years after opening Magnitude of change summer 15 years after opening	Impact – Summer 15 years after opening
Recreation: Craibstone Golf Course (indirectly affected)						
All areas	Low to Medium	- no direct impact but will be affected by visual and aural impacts of the Northern Leg at grade, in cutting and on embankment in close proximity to Craibstone Golf Course	- groups of feathered trees and coniferous woodland along new field boundaries to reflect existing landscape character and soften and frame views from Craibstone Golf Course negative/adverse; medium-scale; medium-term; permanent Low magnitude	Slight adverse impact	- planting matured to reduce impact and screen views of road corridor and embankments negative/adverse and positive/reduction of negative adverse (planting); medium-scale; medium-term; permanent Low magnitude	Slight to Negligible adverse impact
Hill: Elrick Hill (indirectly affected)						
All areas	Medium to High	- no direct impact but may be marginally affected by visual and aural impact of the Northern Leg	- mitigation planting and earthworks to assist integration of the road corridor into surroundings in distant and intermittent views negative/adverse; medium-scale; medium-term; permanent Low magnitude	Slight adverse impact	- planting matured to reduce impact and screen views of road corridor and embankments negative/adverse and positive/reduction of negative adverse (matured planting); medium-scale; medium-term; permanent Low magnitude	Negligible adverse impact
Open Farmland: Greenferns (indirectly affected)						
All areas	Low to Medium	- no direct impact but may be marginally affected by visual and aural impact of the Northern Leg	- mitigation planting and earthworks to assist integration of the road corridor into surroundings in distant and intermittent views	Slight adverse impact	- planting matured to reduce impact and screen views of road corridor and embankments	Negligible adverse impact

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Landscape Character Type and Area/ Settlement Character Area	Landscape Sensitivity	Details of Change WYO	Summary of Mitigation Proposals Magnitude of Change WYO taking into account the mitigation proposals	Impact – Winter Year of Opening	Details of change summer 15 years after opening Magnitude of change summer 15 years after opening	Impact – Summer 15 years after opening
			negative/adverse; medium-scale; medium-term; permanent Low magnitude		negative/adverse and positive/reduction of negative adverse (planting); medium-scale; medium-term; permanent Low magnitude	
Recreation: Auchmill Golf Course (indirectly affected)						
All areas	Low to Medium	- no direct impact but may be marginally affected by visual and aural impact of the Northern Leg	- mitigation planting and earthworks to assist integration of the road corridor into surroundings in distant and intermittent views negative/adverse; medium-scale; medium-term; permanent Low magnitude	Slight adverse impact	- planting matured to reduce impact and screen views of road corridor and embankments negative/adverse and positive/reduction of negative adverse (planting); medium-scale; medium-term; permanent Low magnitude	Negligible adverse impact
Urban: Bucksburn (indirectly affected)						
All areas	Medium	- no direct impact but may be marginally affected by aural impact of the Northern Leg	Low magnitude	Slight adverse impact		Negligible adverse impact
Urban: Kirkhill Industrial Estate (indirectly affected)						
All areas	Low	- no direct impact but may be marginally affected by visual and aural impact of the Northern Leg	- mitigation planting and earthworks to assist integration of the road corridor into surroundings in distant and intermittent views negative/adverse; medium-scale; medium-term; permanent	Negligible adverse impact		Negligible adverse impact

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Landscape Character Type and Area/ Settlement Character Area	Landscape Sensitivity	Details of Change WYO	Summary of Mitigation Proposals Magnitude of Change WYO taking into account the mitigation proposals	Impact – Winter Year of Opening	Details of change summer 15 years after opening Magnitude of change summer 15 years after opening	Impact – Summer 15 years after opening
			Low magnitude			
Urban: Dyce (indirectly affected)						
All areas	Low	- no direct impact but may be marginally affected by visual and aural impact of the Northern Leg	- mitigation planting and earthworks to assist integration of the road corridor into surroundings in distant and intermittent views negative/adverse; medium-scale; medium-term; permanent Low magnitude	Negligible adverse impact		Negligible adverse impact
Valley: Lower Don Valley (indirectly affected)						
All areas	Medium	- no change	- none			
Valley Type: Upper Don Valley (indirectly affected)						
All areas	Medium to High	- no direct impact but may be marginally affected by visual and aural impact of the Northern Leg	- mitigation planting and earthworks to assist integration of the road corridor into surroundings in distant and intermittent views - ease embankments between chainages 321000 and 321500 to visually integrate road with surrounding landform negative/adverse; medium-scale; medium-term; permanent Low magnitude	Negligible adverse impact		Negligible adverse impact

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Valley Type: St. Fergus (indirectly affected)						
All areas	Low to Medium	- no direct impact but may be marginally affected by visual and aural impact of the Northern Leg	- mitigation planting and earthworks to assist integration of the road corridor into surroundings in distant and intermittent views negative/adverse; medium scale; long-term; permanent Low magnitude	Slight adverse impact	- planting matured to reduce impact and screen views of road corridor and embankments - land returned to agricultural use negative/adverse and positive/reduction of negative adverse (planting); small-scale; long-term; permanent Low magnitude	Slight adverse impact
Hill Type: Foresterseat (indirectly affected)						
All areas	Medium	- no direct impact but may be marginally affected by aural impacts of the Northern Leg	Low magnitude	Slight adverse impact		Negligible adverse impact
Recreation Type: Newmachar Golf Course (indirectly affected)						
All areas	Low to Medium	- no direct impact but may be marginally affected by aural impacts of the Northern Leg	Low magnitude	Slight adverse impact		Negligible adverse impact
Urban Area Type: Potterton (indirectly affected)						
All areas	Medium	- no direct impact but may be marginally affected by visual and aural impact of the Northern Leg	- mitigation planting and earthworks to assist integration of the road corridor into surroundings in distant and intermittent views negative/adverse; medium scale; long-	Slight adverse impact	- planting matured to reduce impact and screen views of road corridor and embankments negative/adverse and positive/reduction of negative adverse	Negligible adverse impact

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			term; permanent Low magnitude		(planting); medium-scale; medium-term; permanent Low magnitude	
Urban Area Type: Balmedie (indirectly affected)						
All areas	Medium	- no change	- none			
Recreation: East Aberdeenshire Golf Course (indirectly affected)						
All areas	Low to Medium	- no direct impact but may be marginally affected by aural impacts of the Northern Leg	- Low magnitude	Slight adverse impact		Negligible adverse impact
Urban Area Type: Denmore (indirectly affected)						
All areas	Low	- no direct impact but may be marginally affected by aural impacts of the Northern Leg	- Low magnitude	Negligible adverse impact		Negligible adverse impact
Open Farmland Type: Cloverhill (indirectly affected)						
All areas	Low to Medium	- no direct impact but may be marginally affected by aural impacts of the Northern Leg	- low magnitude	Slight adverse impact		Negligible adverse impact
Coast Type: Balgownie Links (indirectly affected)						
All areas	Medium	- no change	- none			