TRANSPORT SCOTLAND
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A96 DUALLING
HARDMUIR TO FOCHABERS

A96 Dualling

Hardmuir to Fochabers scheme

DMRB Stage 2
Scheme Assessment Report

Volume 4b – Part 6
Appendices

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A96 Dualling Hardmuir to Fochabers

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Prepared for:
Transport Scotland
Buchanan House, 58 Port Dundas Road
Glasgow, G4 0HF

Prepared by:
Mott MacDonald Sweco JV
2nd Floor Quay 2
139 Fountainbridge
Edinburgh, EH3 9QG

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A9.1 Local Development Plan Policy Baseline and Assessment

Introduction

This Appendix supports Chapter 9 Policies and Plans presenting further information on how the options are predicted impact the Moray Local Development Plan[1] (MLDP) and Highland Wide Local Development Plan[2] (HwLDP).

All Local Development Plan (LDP) policies were initially assessed to determine their relevance to this Design Manual for Roads and Bridges (DMRB) Stage 2 assessment.

Not all policies are relevant due to their geographical location or due to the nature of the Scheme e.g. policies relating to town centres are not relevant as none of the options affects a town centre, and policies relating specifically to other development types such as renewables or tourism facilities are not relevant.

Some policies are relevant at a scheme wide level as they are not geographically specific to any area and apply equally to all options e.g. policies on sustainable economic growth and climate change.

Other policies are relevant to the options as they are specifically applicable to the options of the Scheme by virtue of their geographical location.

The performance of each route option has been assessed against each of the relevant policies with reference to the criteria set out in Table 1.1.

Table 1.1 Development Plan Policy Assessment Criteria

Performance against Policy	Definition
Complies	Option clearly complies with the policy / would facilitate the achievement of the policy.
Possible Conflict	Option would possibly conflict with the policy / would possibly hinder the achievement of the policy pending detailed environmental assessment, consideration of mitigation and further consultation. Full assessment against policy will be undertaken at DMRB Stage 3.
Conflict	Option clearly conflicts with the policy / would hinder the achievement of the policy.
Uncertain	Information is not yet available to consider performance against policy.
Not Relevant	Policy is not relevant to option.

Baseline

Tables 1.2 and 1.3 present the full list of MLDP and HwLDP policies. These tables list each policy by category, number and name and indicate if it is relevant or not to this assessment, and if so whether it applies to the Scheme at a scheme wide level or if it is geographically relevant to the

options (as described above). The MLDP and HwLDP should be referred to for full details of the policy wording.[1&2]

Table 1.2 Moray Local Development Plan Policies

Policy Category	Policy Number	Policy Name	Scheme Wide / Options / Not Relevant
Primary Polices	Policy PP1	Sustainable Economic Growth	Not Relevant – applies to employment land
	Policy PP2	Climate Change	**Scheme Wide**
	Policy PP3	Placemaking	Not Relevant – applies to residential and commercial developed
Economic Development / Employment Land	Policy ED1	Development of New Employment Land	Not Relevant - applies to employment proposals
	Policy ED2	Business Uses on Industrial Estates	Not Relevant - applies to businesses
	Policy ED3	Business Parks	Not Relevant - applies to business estates
	Policy ED4	Existing Business Areas	Not Relevant – applies to business estates
	Policy ED5	Opportunity Sites	Not Relevant – applies to town and village statements
	Policy ED6	Digital Communications	Not Relevant – applies to communications
	Policy ED7	Rural Business Proposals	Not Relevant – applies to rural businesses
	Policy ED8	Tourism Facilities and Accommodation	Not Relevant - applies to tourism facilities
	Policy ED9	Roadside Tourism Signs	Not Relevant – applies to tourism signs
Residential Development	Policy H1	Housing Land	Not Relevant – applies to housing
	Policy H2	Long Term Housing Designations (LONG)	Not Relevant – applies to housing
	Policy H3	Sub Division for House Plots	Not Relevant – applies to housing
	Policy H4	House Alterations and Extensions	Not Relevant – applies to housing

[1] Moray Council (2015) Moray Local Development Plan 2015. Development Plans, Environmental Services. Moray Council. Available at http://www.moray.gov.uk/moray_standard/page_100458.html
[2] The Highland Council (2012) Highland-wide Local Development Plan 2012. The Highland Council. Available at https://www.highland.gov.uk/info/178/local_and_statutory_development_plans/199/highland-wide_local_development_plan

Policy Category	Policy Number	Policy Name	Scheme Wide / Options / Not Relevant
	Policy H5	Development within Rural Groupings	Not Relevant – applies to housing in Rural Groupings
	Policy H6	Re-use & Replacement of Existing Buildings in the Countryside	Not Relevant – applies to building reuse
	Policy H7	New Housing in the Open Countryside	Not Relevant - applies to developments of housing
	Policy H8	Affordable Housing	Not Relevant - applies to housing
	Policy H9	Housing Mix / Accessible Housing	Not Relevant - applies to housing
	Policy H10	Residential Caravans and Sites	Not Relevant - applies to developments of caravan sites
	Policy H11	Gypsy / Traveller Sites	Not Relevant - applies to developments of traveller sites
Natural Environment	Policy E1	Natura 2000 and National Designations	**Options**
	Policy E2	Local Nature Conservation Sites and Biodiversity	**Options**
	Policy E3	Protected Species	**Options**
	Policy E4	Trees and Development	**Options**
	Policy E5	Open Spaces	**Options**
	Policy E6	National Parks and National Scenic Areas	Not Relevant - applies to National Parks and National Scenic Areas
	Policy E7	Areas of Great Landscape Value and impacts upon the wider landscape	**Options**
	Policy E8	Coastal Protection Zone	Not Relevant – applies to development within the Coastal Protection Zone
	Policy E9	Settlement Boundaries	**Options**
	Policy E10	Countryside Around Towns	**Options**
Built Environment	Policy BE1	Scheduled Monuments and National Designations	**Options**
	Policy BE2	Listed Buildings	**Options**
	Policy	Conservation Areas	**Options**

Policy Category	Policy Number	Policy Name	Scheme Wide / Options / Not Relevant
	BE3		
	Policy BE4	Micro-Renewables and Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas	Not Relevant – applies to micro renewable proposals
	Policy BE5	Battlefields, Gardens and Designed Landscapes	**Options**
	Policy BE6	Pluscarden Area of Special Control	Not Relevant – does not affect options
Environmental Protection	Policy EP1	Waste Management and Disposal Facilities	Not Relevant – relevant to new waste management facilities
	Policy EP2	Recycling Facilities	Not Relevant – relevant to new developments with waste collection systems
	Policy EP3	Identifying and Safeguarding Key Waste Sites	**Options**
	Policy EP4	Private Water Supply	Not Relevant – applies to developments requiring private water supply
	Policy EP5	Surface Water Drainage: Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems (SUDs)	**Options**
	Policy EP6	Waterbodies	**Options**
	Policy EP7	Control of Development in Flood Risk Areas	**Options**
	Policy EP8	Pollution	**Options**
	Policy EP9	Contaminated Land	**Options**
	Policy EP10	Foul Drainage	Not Relevant – applies to housing developments
	Policy EP11	Hazardous Sites	Not Relevant –applies to development near hazardous sites
	Policy EP12	Air Quality	**Options**
	Policy EP13	Ministry of Defence Safeguarding Areas	Not Relevant – applies to certain developments within the MOD safeguarding area
Environmental Resources	Policy ER1	Renewable Energy Proposals	Not Relevant – applies to energy proposals
	Policy ER2	Development in Woodlands	**Options**
	Policy	Safeguarding Mineral	**Options**

Policy Category	Policy Number	Policy Name	Scheme Wide / Options / Not Relevant
	ER3	Reserves	
	Policy ER4	Minerals	Not Relevant – applies to mineral proposals
	Policy ER5	Agriculture	**Options**
	Policy ER6	Soil Resources	**Options**
Transport and Accessibility	Policy T1	Transport Infrastructure Improvements	**Scheme Wide**
	Policy T2	Provision of Access	**Options**
	Policy T3	Roadside Facilities	Not Relevant – applies to developments with road side facilities
	Policy T4	Safeguarding of Bus, Rail and Harbour Facilities	**Options**
	Policy T5	Parking Standards	Not Relevant – applies to developments with parking provision
	Policy T6	Traffic Management	**Options**
	Policy T7	Safeguarding and Promotion of Walking, Cycling and Equestrian Networks	**Options**
Retail and Commercial Development	Policy R1	Town Development Centre	Not Relevant - applies to town centre development
	Policy R2	Out of Centre Development of Retail, Commercial, and Leisure Proposals	Not Relevant - applies to town centre development
	Policy R3	Neighbourhood and Local Shops Ancillary Retailing, and Recreation or Tourist Related Retailed	Not Relevant - applies to town centre development
Implementation	Policy IMP1	Developer Requirements	**Scheme Wide**
	Policy IMP2	Development Impact Assessment	**Scheme Wide**
	Policy IMP3	Developer Obligations	Not Relevant – applies to developers making applications to Moray Council
	Policy IMP4	Development Plans Monitoring	Not Relevant – relevant to Moray Council

A total of 4 policies are considered to be relevant at a Scheme wide level, and 27 policies are applicable to the options.

Table 1.3 Highland Wide Local Development Plan Policies

Policy Category	Policy Number	Policy Name	Scheme Wide / Options / Not Relevant
Consolidating the City	Policy 1	Completing the Unconstrained City Expansion Areas	Not Relevant – not applicable to options
	Policy 2	Inverness City Vision	Not Relevant – not applicable to options
	Policy 3	City Centre Development	Not Relevant – not applicable to options
	Policy 4	Longman Core Development	Not Relevant – not applicable to options
	Policy 5	Former Longman Landfill Site	Not Relevant – not applicable to options
	Policy 6	Muirtown and South Kessock	Not Relevant – not applicable to options
	Policy 7	Inshes and Raigmore	Not Relevant – not applicable to options
	Policy 8	Ness-side and Charleston	Not Relevant – not applicable to options
The A96 Corridor – Phasing and Infrastructure	Policy 9	A96 Corridor - Phasing and Infrastructure	Not Relevant – not applicable to options
East Inverness	Policy 10	Beechwood Campus	Not Relevant – not applicable to options
	Policy 11	Inverness Retail and Business Park	Not Relevant – not applicable to options
	Policy 12	Stratton	Not Relevant – not applicable to options
Tornagrain	Policy 13	Tornagrain	Not Relevant – not applicable to options
Whiteness	Policy 14	Whiteness	Not Relevant – not applicable to options
Nairn	Policy 15	Lochloy	Not Relevant – not applicable to options
	Policy 16	Sandown	Not Relevant – not applicable to options
	Policy 17	Delnies	Not Relevant – not applicable to options
	Policy 18	Nairn South	Not Relevant – not applicable to options
Smaller Settlements in the A96 Corridor	Policy 19	Smaller Settlements in the A96 Corridor	Not Relevant – not applicable to options
	Policy 20	Croy Expansion	Not Relevant – not applicable to options

Policy Category	Policy Number	Policy Name	Scheme Wide / Options / Not Relevant
	Policy 21	Ardersier Expansion	Not Relevant – not applicable to options
	Policy 22	Cawdor Expansion	Not Relevant – not applicable to options
Nigg	Policy 23	Nigg	Not Relevant – not applicable to options
Caithness	Policy 24	Dounreay	Not Relevant – not applicable to options
	Policy 25	John O'Groats	Not Relevant – not applicable to options
	Policy 26	Castletown	Not Relevant – not applicable to options
	Policy 27	Masterplanned Proposals in Caithness	Not Relevant – not applicable to options
Spatial Strategy – General Policies	Policy 28	Sustainable Design	Scheme Wide
	Policy 29	Design Quality and Place-Making	Not Relevant – applies to housing
	Policy 30	Physical Constraints	Scheme Wide
	Policy 31	Developer Contributions	Not Relevant – applies to developers making applications to The Highland Council
Sustainable Highland Communities	Policy 32	Affordable Housing	Not Relevant – applies to housing
	Policy 33	Houses in Multiple Occupation	Not Relevant - applies to housing
	Policy 34	Settlement Development Areas	Not Relevant - applies to housing
	Policy 35	Housing in the Countryside (Hinterland areas)	Not Relevant - applies to housing
	Policy 36	Development in the Wider Countryside	Options
	Policy 37	Accommodation for an Ageing Population	Not Relevant - applies to housing
	Policy 38	New Settlements	Not Relevant – applies to new settlements
	Policy 39	Gypsies/Travellers	Not Relevant – applies to traveller sites
Delivering a Competitive, Sustainable, Adaptable	Policy 40	Retail Development	Not Relevant – applies to retail development

Policy Category	Policy Number	Policy Name	Scheme Wide / Options / Not Relevant
Highland Economy	Policy 41	Business and Industrial Land	Not Relevant – applies to business developments
	Policy 42	Previously Used Land	Options
	Policy 43	Tourism	Not Relevant – applies to tourism proposals
	Policy 44	Tourist Accommodation	Not Relevant - applies to tourism proposals
	Policy 45	Communications	Not Relevant – applies to communication developments
	Policy 46	Siting and Design of Communications Infrastructure	Not Relevant - applies to communication developments
	Policy 47	Safeguarding Inbye/Apportioned Croftland	Options
	Policy 48	New/Extended Crofting Townships	Not Relevant – applies to crofting towns
	Policy 49	Coastal Development	Not Relevant – applies to coastal development
	Policy 50	Aquaculture	Not Relevant – applies to aquaculture
	Policy 51	Trees and Development	Options
	Policy 52	Principle of Development in Woodland	Options
	Policy 53	Minerals	Not Relevant - – applies to mineral operations
	Policy 54	Mineral Wastes	Not Relevant – applies to mineral operations
	Policy 55	Peat and Soils	Options
	Policy 56	Travel	Options
Safeguarding our Environment	Policy 57	Natural, Built and Cultural Heritage	Options
	Policy 58	Protected Species	Options
	Policy 59	Other Important Species	Options
	Policy 60	Other Important Habitats and Article 10 Features	Options
	Policy 61	Landscape	Options

Policy Category	Policy Number	Policy Name	Scheme Wide / Options / Not Relevant
	Policy 62	Geodiversity	Not Relevant - not relevant options
	Policy 63	Water Environment	Options
	Policy 64	Flood Risk	Options
	Policy 65	Waste Water Treatment	Not Relevant – applies to waste
	Policy 66	Surface Water Drainage	Options
Sustainable Development and Climate Change	Policy 67	Renewable Energy Developments	Not Relevant - applies to energy infrastructure
	Policy 68	"Community" Renewable Energy Developments	Not Relevant - applies to energy infrastructure
	Policy 69	Electricity Transmission Infrastructure	Not Relevant - applies to energy infrastructure
	Policy 70	Waste Management Facilities	Not Relevant - not affected by options
	Policy 71	Safeguarding of waste management sites	Not Relevant - not affected by options
	Policy 72	Pollution	Options
	Policy 73	Air Quality	Options
Healthier Highland	Policy 74	Green Networks	Not Relevant - not affected by options
	Policy 75	Open Space	Not Relevant - not affected by options
	Policy 76	Playing Fields and Sports Pitches	Not Relevant - applies to sports facilities
	Policy 77	Public Access	Options
	Policy 78	Long Distance Routes	Options

A total of two policies are considered to be relevant at a Scheme wide level and 19 policies apply to the options.

Policy Assessment of Options

The policy assessment was undertaken with input from the wider environmental team in the DMRB Stage 2 assessment. When considering each of the policies professional judgement was used to balance inputs from the environmental team to form a view as to the overall performance of each route option against each policy.

Each option was assessed with reference to the criteria set out in Table 1.1 above; the performance of each option against the relevant policies is presented in Tables 1.4 and 1.5 below. Relevant Scheme-wide policies are assessed in Table 9.6, Chapter 9, Policies and Plans.

Table 1.4 Moray Local Development Plan Policy Assessment

Topic	Policy Number	Policy Name	Hardmuir to Hillhead		Hillhead to Lhanbryde		Lhanbryde to East of Fochabers	
			North Option	South Option	North Option	South Option	North Option	South Option
Natural Environment	E1	Natura 2000 Designations	Possible Conflict	Possible Conflict	Possible Conflict	Possible Conflict	Possible Conflict	Possible Conflict
	E2	Local Nature Conservation Sites and Biodiversity	Possible Conflict	Possible Conflict	Possible Conflict	Possible Conflict	Possible Conflict	Possible Conflict
	E3	Protected Species	Possible Conflict	Possible Conflict	Possible Conflict	Possible Conflict	Possible Conflict	Possible Conflict
	E4	Trees and Development	Possible Conflict	Possible Conflict	Possible Conflict	Possible Conflict	Possible Conflict	Possible Conflict
	E5	Open Spaces	Possible Conflict	Possible Conflict	Possible Conflict	Possible Conflict	Possible Conflict	Possible Conflict
	E7	Areas of Great Landscape Value and	Possible Conflict	Possible Conflict	Possible Conflict	Possible Conflict	Possible Conflict	Possible Conflict

Topic	Policy Number	Policy Name	Hardmuir to Hillhead		Hillhead to Lhanbryde		Lhanbryde to East of Fochabers	
			North Option	South Option	North Option	South Option	North Option	South Option
		impacts upon the wider landscape						
	E9	Settlement Boundaries	Conflicts	Conflicts	Conflicts	Conflicts	Conflicts	Conflicts
	E10	Countryside Around Towns	Conflicts	Conflicts	Conflicts	Conflicts	Not Relevant	Not Relevant
Built Environment	BE1	Scheduled Monuments and National Designations	Possible Conflict	Possible Conflict	Possible Conflict	Possible Conflict	Possible Conflict	Possible Conflict
	BE2	Listed Buildings	Possible Conflict	Possible Conflict	Possible Conflict	Possible Conflict	Possible Conflict	Possible Conflict
	BE3	Conservation Areas	Complies	Complies	Complies	Complies	Complies	Complies
	BE5	Battlefields, Gardens and Designed Landscapes	Possible Conflict	Conflicts	Complies	Complies	Possible Conflict	Not Relevant
Environmental Protection	EP3	Identifying and Safeguarding Key Waste Sites	Complies	Complies	Not Relevant	Not Relevant	Not Relevant	Not Relevant
	EP5	Surface Water Drainage:	Possible Conflict	Possible Conflict	Possible Conflict	Possible Conflict	Possible Conflict	Possible Conflict

Topic	Policy Number	Policy Name	Hardmuir to Hillhead		Hillhead to Lhanbryde		Lhanbryde to East of Fochabers	
			North Option	South Option	North Option	South Option	North Option	South Option
		Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems (SUDs)						
	EP6	Waterbodies	Possible Conflict	Possible Conflict	Possible Conflict	Possible Conflict	Possible Conflict	Possible Conflict
	EP7	Control of Development in Flood Risk Areas	Complies	Complies	Complies	Complies	Complies	Complies
	EP8	Pollution	Possible Conflict	Possible Conflict	Possible Conflict	Possible Conflict	Possible Conflict	Possible Conflict
	EP9	Contaminated Land	Uncertain	Uncertain	Uncertain	Uncertain	Uncertain	Uncertain
	EP12	Air Quality	Possible Conflict	Possible Conflict	Possible Conflict	Possible Conflict	Possible Conflict	Possible Conflict
Environmental Resources	ER2	Development in Woodlands	Possible Conflict	Possible Conflict	Possible Conflict	Possible Conflict	Possible Conflict	Possible Conflict
	ER3	Safeguarding Mineral Reserves	Not Relevant	Possible Conflict	Possible Conflict	Possible Conflict	Not Relevant	Not Relevant
	ER5	Agriculture	Conflicts	Conflicts	Conflicts	Conflicts	Conflicts	Conflicts
	ER6	Soil Resources	Uncertain	Uncertain	Uncertain	Uncertain	Uncertain	Uncertain
Transportation and Accessibility	T2	Provision of Access	Possible Conflict	Possible Conflict	Possible Conflict	Possible Conflict	Possible Conflict	Possible Conflict

Topic	Policy Number	Policy Name	Hardmuir to Hillhead		Hillhead to Lhanbryde		Lhanbryde to East of Fochabers	
			North Option	South Option	North Option	South Option	North Option	South Option
	T4	Safeguarding Bus, Rail and Harbour Facilities	Complies	Complies	Complies	Complies	Complies	Complies
	T6	Traffic Management	Complies	Complies	Complies	Complies	Complies	Complies
	T7	Safeguarding and Promotion of Walking, Cycling and Equestrian Networks	Possible Conflict	Possible Conflict	Possible Conflict	Possible Conflict	Possible Conflict	Possible Conflict
		Complies	**5**	**5**	**5**	**5**	**4**	**4**
		Possible Conflict	**16**	**16**	**16**	**16**	**16**	**15**
		Uncertain	**2**	**2**	**2**	**2**	**2**	**2**
		Conflicts	**3**	**4**	**3**	**3**	**2**	**2**
		Not relevant	**1**	**0**	**1**	**1**	**3**	**4**
		Total	27	27	27	27	27	27

Table 1.5 Highland Wide Local Development Plan Policy Assessment

Topic	Policy Number	Policy Name	Hardmuir to Hillhead	
			North Option	South Option
Highland Communities	36	Development in the Wider Countryside	Complies	Complies
Delivering a Competitive, Sustainable, Adaptable Highland Economy	42	Previously Used Land	Uncertain	Uncertain
	47	Safeguarding Inbye/ Apportioned Croftland	Conflicts	Conflicts
	51	Trees and Development	Possible Conflict	Possible Conflict
	52	Principle of Development in Woodland	Possible Conflict	Possible Conflict
	55	Peat and Soils	Uncertain	Uncertain
	56	Travel	Possible Conflict	Possible Conflict
Safeguarding our Environment	57	Natural, Built and Cultural Heritage	Complies	Complies
	58	Protected Species	Possible Conflict	Possible Conflict
	59	Other Protected Species	Possible Conflict	Possible Conflict
	60	Other Important Habitat and Article 10 Features	Possible Conflict	Possible Conflict
	61	Landscape	Possible Conflict	Possible Conflict
	63	Water Environment	Possible Conflict	Possible Conflict
	64	Flood Risk	Complies	Complies
	66	Surface Water Drainage	Possible Conflict	Possible Conflict

Topic	Policy Number	Policy Name	Hardmuir to Hillhead	
			North Option	South Option
Sustainable Development and Climate Change	72	Pollution	Possible Conflict	Possible Conflict
	73	Air quality	Possible Conflict	Possible Conflict
Healthier Highland	77	Public Access	Possible Conflict	Possible Conflict
	78	Long Distance Routes	Complies	Complies
		Complies	**4**	**4**
		Possible Conflict	**12**	**12**
		Uncertain	**2**	**2**
		Conflicts	**1**	**1**
		Not relevant	**0**	**0**
		Total	19	19

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Appendix A9.2 - Local Development Plan Designated Sites Baseline and Assessment

A9.2 Local Development Plan Designated Sites Baseline and Assessment

Introduction

This Appendix supports Chapter 9 Policies and Plans presenting further information on how the options perform against Moray Local Development Plan's (MLDP)[1] designated sites and sites set out within Moray Council's Supplementary Guidance: Rural Groupings[2]. There are no relevant sites designated by The Highland Council.

Moray Council designate sites for future development, and for safeguarding or protection, generally under the following categories:

- residential areas;
- business parks;
- employment / industrial areas;
- community facilities;
- tourism areas;
- flood alleviation areas;
- landscape enhancements;
- amenity areas; and
- environmental areas.

The impact of each option on the local development plan designations was informed by an assessment of the approximate area of potential land take from each designation with reference to that land take as a percentage of the overall area of designation. Table 1.1 sets out the assessment criteria used. A buffer of 500m was used to identify local development plan designations that lie close to the options.

Table 1.1 Local Development Plan Assessment Criteria

Impact	Definition
Major	A fundamental reduction in the development capacity of the designated site (e.g. more than 50% of land-take).
Moderate	A material but non-fundamental reduction in the development capacity of the designated site (e.g. between 10% and 50% of land-take).
Minor	A minor reduction in the development capacity of the designated site (e.g. less than 10% of land-take).

[1] Moray Council (2015) Moray Local Development Plan 2015. Development Plans, Environmental Services. The Moray Council. Available at http://www.moray.gov.uk/moray_standard/page_100458.html. [Accessed 11 July 2018]
[2] Moray Council (2016) Rural Groupings Supplementary Guidance, Moray Local Development Plan. Environmental Services. The Moray Council. Available at http://www.moray.gov.uk/downloads/file107404.pdf. [Accessed 11 July 2018]

Baseline

This section sets out the Moray Local Development Plan sites which have been considered in this assessment.

The designated sites affected by the options are derived from the Moray Council's Settlement Statements as set out in the MLDP and Supplementary Guidance: Rural Groupings. These plans, supplemented by a map, set out the land use policies and designations for each settlement in the Moray area.

Tables 1.2 to 1.7 present the full list of designated sites within 500m of each option listed by settlement. These include the site reference numbers and site description / location details; these designations are shown in Figures 9.1, 9.2 and 9.3 (Volume 3). The MLDP and Supplementary Guidance: Rural Groupings should be referred to for full details of the designations.

Table 1.2 Local Development Plan Designated Sites within 500m - Hardmuir to Hillhead (North Option)

Settlement / Rural Grouping	Site Number	Site Description / Location	Designation Category
Brodie	Amenity Land	Brodie	Environment
Broom of Moy	Amenity Land	Broom of Moy	Environment
Forres	BP1	Enterprise Park Forres	Business Park
	BP2	Enterprise Park Forres Extension	Business Park
	ENV1	Public Parks and Gardens	Environment
	ENV4	Playspace for Children	Environment
	ENV6	Green Corridors/Natural/Semi Natural Greenspaces	Environment
	ENV9	Other Functional Greenspace	Environment
	FA2	River Findhorn/ Pilmuir	Flood Alleviation
	I1	Greshop West	Industrial
	I2	Greshop East	Industrial
	I3	Former Waterford Sawmill	Industrial
	I4	Waterford Road	Industrial
	I5	Ben Romach Distillery	Industrial
	I6	Railway Marshalling Yard	Industrial

Settlement / Rural Grouping	Site Number	Site Description / Location	Designation Category
	I7	Springfield West	Industrial
	I8	Springfield East	Industrial
	LONG1	Lochyhill	Residential
	OPP1	Caroline Street	Opportunity Site
	OPP7	Auction Hall, Tytler Street	Opportunity Site
	R4	Lochyhill	Residential
	TSP1	Forres	Transport Improvements
	TSP2	Forres	Transport Improvements
	TSP3	Forres	Transport Improvements
	TSP4	Forres	Transport Improvements
	TSP5	Forres	Transport Improvements
	TSP6	Forres	Transport Improvements
	TSP7	Forres	Transport Improvements
	TSP8	Forres	Transport Improvements
	TSP9	Forres	Transport Improvements
	TSP10	Forres	Transport Improvements
	TSP11	Forres	Transport Improvements
	TSP12	Forres	Transport Improvements
	TSP31	Forres	Transport Improvements
	TSP30	Forres	Transport Improvements

Table 1.3 Local Development Plan Designated Sites within 500m - Hardmuir to Hillhead (South Option)

Settlement / Rural Grouping	Site Number	Site Description / Location	Designation Category
Brodie	Amenity Land	Brodie	Environment
Forres	BP1	Enterprise Park Forres	Business Park
	BP2	Enterprise Park Forres Extension	Business Park
	ENV6	Green Corridors/Natural/Semi Natural Greenspaces	Environment
	ENV9	Other Functional Greenspace	Environment
	FA1	Mosset Burn	Flood Alleviation
	LONG1	Lochyhill	Residential
	LONG2	Dallas Dhu	Residential
	OPP4	Cathay	Opportunity Site
	OPP8	Whiterow	Opportunity Site
	R1	Knockomie (South)	Residential
	R10	Dallas Dhu	Residential
	TSP12	Forres	Transport Improvements
	TSP16	Forres	Transport Improvements
	TSP17	Forres	Transport Improvements
	TSP24	Forres	Transport Improvements
	TSP33	Forres	Transport Improvements
	TSP34	Forres	Transport Improvements
Mundole	Amenity Land	Mundole	Environment
	T1	Mundole	Tourism
Rafford	ENV11	Cemeteries	Environment

Table 1.4 Local Development Plan Designated Sites within 500m - Hillhead to Lhanbryde (North Option)

Settlement / Rural Grouping	Site Number	Site Description / Location	Designation Category
Alves	ENV5	Sports Areas	Environment
	ENV6	Green Corridors/Natural/Semi Natural Greenspaces	Environment
	LONG	Alves	Residential
Burgie	Amenity Land	Burgie	Environment
Elgin	ENV3	Amenity Greenspace	Environment
	ENV4	Playspace for Children	Environment
	ENV6	Green Corridors/Natural/Semi Natural Greenspaces	Environment
	I7	Barmuckity	Industrial
	I8	Newfield	Industrial
	LONG1	North East	Residential
	R11	Findrassie/Myreside Site	Residential
	R14	Lesmurdie Fields	Residential
	TSP8	Elgin	Transport Improvements
	TSP11	Elgin	Transport Improvements
	TSP16	Elgin	Transport Improvements
	TSP17	Elgin	Transport Improvements
Lhanbryde	ENV2	Private Gardens or Grounds	Environment
	ENV3	Amenity Greenspace	Environment
	ENV4	Playspace for Children	Environment
	ENV5	Sports Areas	Environment
	ENV6	Green Corridors/Natural/Semi Natural Greenspaces	Environment
	ENV11	Cemeteries	Environment
	R1	West of St Andrews Road	Residential

Table 1.5 Local Development Plan Designated Sites within 500m - Hillhead to Lhanbryde (South Option)

Settlement / Rural Grouping	Site Number	Site Description / Location	Designation Category
Alves	ENV5	Sports Areas	Environment
	ENV6	Green Corridors/Natural/Semi Natural Greenspaces	Environment
	LONG	Alves	Residential
Burgie	Amenity Land	Burgie	Environment
Darklands (North)	Amenity Land	Darklands (North)	Environment
Elgin	BP/OPP	Riverview	Business Park / Opportunity
	ENV2	Private Gardens or Grounds	Environment
	ENV4	Playspace for Children	Environment
	ENV6	Green Corridors/Natural/Semi Natural Greenspaces	Environment
	I12	Glen Moray Distillery, Bruceland Road	Industrial
	LONG2	South	Residential
	R6	Hattonhill	Residential
	TSP1	Elgin	Transport Improvements
	TSP2	Elgin	Transport Improvements
	TSP3	Elgin	Transport Improvements
	TSP23	Elgin	Transport Improvements
Lhanbryde	ENV2	Private Gardens or Grounds	Environment
	ENV3	Amenity Greenspace	Environment
	ENV4	Playspace for Children	Environment
	ENV5	Sports Areas	Environment
	ENV6	Green Corridors/Natural/Semi Natural Greenspaces	Environment
	ENV11	Cemeteries	Environment
	R1	West of St Andrews Road	Residential
Miltonduff (North)	Amenity Land	Miltonduff (North)	Environment
Troves Industrial Estates	I1	Troves Industrial Estate (including planting)	Industrial

Table 1.6 Local Development Plan Designated Sites within 500m - Lhanbryde to East of Fochabers (North Option)

Settlement / Rural Grouping	Site Number	Site Description / Location	Designation Category
Fochabers	ENV3	Amenity Greenspace	Environment
	ENV5	Sports Areas	Environment
	ENV6	Green Corridors/Natural/Semi Natural Greenspaces	Environment
	ENV7	Civic Space	Environment
	OPP1	High Street	Opportunity Site
	OPP2	Institution Road	Opportunity Site
	OPP3	Lennox Crescent	Opportunity Site
	OPP4	Garden Centre	Opportunity Site
	R3	East of Duncan Avenue	Residential
	T1	Caravan Site	Tourism
	TSP1	Fochabers	Transport Improvements
	TSP4	Fochabers	Transport Improvements
	TSP5	Fochabers	Transport Improvements
	TSP6	Fochabers	Transport Improvements
Lhanbryde	ENV3	Amenity Greenspace	Environment
	ENV4	Playspace for Children	Environment
	ENV5	Sports Areas	Environment
	ENV6	Green Corridors/Natural/Semi Natural Greenspaces	Environment
	ENV11	Cemeteries	Environment
Mosstodloch	ENV3	Amenity Greenspace	Environment
	ENV5	Sports Areas	Environment
	ENV6	Green Corridors/Natural/Semi Natural Greenspaces	Environment
	I3	South of A96	Industrial
	I5	Baxters	Industrial
	T1	Baxters	Tourism
	TSP2	Mosstodloch	Transport Improvements

Table 1.7 Local Development Plan Designated Sites within 500m - Lhanbryde to East of Fochabers (South Option)

Settlement / Rural Grouping	Site Number	Site Description / Location	Designation Category
Fochabers	ENV3	Amenity Greenspace	Environment
	ENV5	Sports Areas	Environment
	ENV6	Green Corridors/Natural/Semi Natural Greenspaces	Environment
	LONG	LONG	Residential
	OPP3	Lennox Crescent	Opportunity Site
	R1	Ordiquish Road	Residential
	R2	Ordiquish Road West	Residential
	T1	Caravan Site	Tourism
	TSP2/3	Fochabers	Transport Improvements
Lhanbryde	ENV3	Amenity Greenspace	Environment
	ENV4	Playspace for Children	Environment
	ENV5	Sports Areas	Environment
	ENV6	Green Corridors/Natural/Semi Natural Greenspaces	Environment
	ENV11	Cemeteries	Environment
	R1	West of St Andrews Road	Residential

Assessment

This section presents the findings of the designated sites assessment for the options; Tables 1.8 – 1.13 set out the predicted impacts of the options.

Table 1.8 Local Development Plan Designated Site Assessment - Hardmuir to Hillhead (North Option)

Settlement / Rural Grouping	Site Number	Site Description / Location	Designation Category	Predicted Impact	Magnitude
Forres	BP1	Enterprise Park Forres	Business Park	3ha (6%) – Forres East junction cuts into corner of site	Minor
	BP2	Enterprise Park Forres Extension	Business Park	4ha (23%) – Forres East junction cuts eastern extent of site	**Moderate**
	I8	Springfield East	Industrial	4ha (37%) – Mainline severs and takes land from northern half of site	**Moderate**
	I7	Springfield West	Industrial	<0.1ha (1%) - clips corner of site	Minor
	TSP11	A96 bus layby to serve BP and BP1 designations	Transportation Improvements	Location for bus layby would be lost	N/A
	TSP12	A96 bus layby to serve BP and BP1 designations	Transportation Improvements	Location for bus layby would be lost	N/A
	TSP30	Internal connection between I7 / I8 industrial designations	Transportation Improvements	Location for connecting road would be lost	N/A

Table 1.9 Local Development Plan Designated Site Assessment - Hardmuir to Hillhead (South Option)

Settlement / Rural Grouping	Site Number	Site Description / Location	Designation Category	Predicted Impact	Magnitude
Forres	FA1	Mosset Burn	Flood Alleviation	1ha (<1%) - abuts designation, minor land-take from edge	Minor
Mundole	Amenity Land	Mundole	Environment	<0.1ha (25%) - mainline embankment takes south-western area of site	**Moderate**

Table 1.10 Local Development Plan Designated Site Assessment - Hillhead to Lhanbryde (North Option)

Settlement / Rural Grouping	Site Number	Site Description / Location	Designation Category	Predicted Impact	Magnitude
Elgin	LONG1	North East	Long term Residential	16ha (14%) - severs site down the middle north/south	**Moderate**
	R14	Lesmurdie Fields	Residential (includes new woodland structure planting)	<0.1ha (1%) – clips site edge	Minor[3]
	R11	Findrassie / Myreside	Residential	<0.1ha (<1%) - clips site edge	Minor
	I7	Barmuckity	Industrial	<0.1ha (<1%) - clips site edge	Minor[3]
	I8	Newfield	Industrial	<0.1ha (<1%) - clips site edge	Minor

Table 1.11 Local Development Plan Designated Site Assessment - Hillhead to Lhanbryde (South Option)

Settlement / Rural Grouping	Site Number	Site Description / Location	Designation Category	Predicted Impact	Magnitude
Elgin	BP/OPP	Riverview	Business Park / Opportunity	1.2ha (29%) – link road cuts through site	**Moderate**
	ENV6	Green Corridors/Natural/ Semi Natural Greenspaces	Environmental	<0.5ha (<1%) – access road clips sites	Minor
	TSP2	A96/Morriston Road junction. BP/OPP needs to be considered in Transport Assessment (TA)	Transport Improvement	The local development plan sets out a requirement for a TA to be undertaken	N/A
Lhanbryde	R1	West of St Andrews Road	Residential (includes new woodland structure planting)	<1ha (13%) – cuts into south western extent of site	**Moderate**
Troves Industrial Estates	I1	Troves Industrial Estate	Industrial (includes land designated for planting)	<0.1ha (5%) – clips south side of the site	Minor[3]

[3] Design development and boundary alignment at DMRB Stage 3 should allow the design to avoid this land-take such that no direct impact would be predicted. The minor impact recorded here is therefore not included in the assessment of the option

Table 1.12 Local Development Plan Designated Site Assessment - Lhanbryde to East of Fochabers (North Option)

Settlement / Rural Grouping	Site Number	Site Description / Location	Designation Category	Impact	Magnitude
Fochabers	R3	East of Duncan Avenue	Residential	<1ha (8%) – clips north eastern edge of site	Minor
	ENV3	Lennox Crescent	Amenity Greenspace (this includes 3 separate ENV3 designated sites that are affected by North)	4ha (31%) – takes land from and clips various areas	**Moderate**
	ENV5	Sports Area	Environmental	<1ha (6%) – clips northern extent of site	Minor
	ENV6	Green Corridors/Natural/ Semi Natural Greenspaces	Environmental	<1ha (23%)	**Moderate**
Mosstodloch	I3	South of A96	Industrial	,0.1ha (<1%) – clips edge of site	Minor[3]

Table 1.13 Local Development Plan Designated Site Assessment - Lhanbryde to East of Fochabers (South Option)

Settlement / Rural Grouping	Site Number	Site Description / Location	Designation Category	Impact	Magnitude
N/A	No sites	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

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Appendix A9.3 - Planning Applications Baseline and Assessment

A9.3 Planning Applications Baseline and Assessment

Introduction

This Appendix supports Chapter 9, Policies and Plans presenting further information on how the options impact planning applications in the Moray Council and The Highland Council areas.

The planning application baseline was established using:

- data initially provided by Moray Council in February 2017, updated in September 2017, May 2018 and on 10 September 2018;
- data received from The Highland Council in December 2016, updated in September 2017; and on 13 June 2018; and
- information obtained from site visits undertaken in September 2017, February 2018 and June 2018.

Planning application data provided by the Councils were initially sifted to exclude the following types of applications which were not considered to be material to this assessment:

- applications more than 500m from an option;
- applications submitted to, but not yet validated by, the local planning authority for consideration;
- applications consented more than three years ago except major applications, e.g. mineral applications;
- applications now built or where construction or operation has started (these developments were considered to form part of the land use baseline);
- applications on a site that is designated in a Local Development Plan (these have been considered within the designated sites assessment – see Appendix 9.2);
- consents that will have expired before 2030 (Scheme year of opening) and the land expected to be restored;
- advertisement consents, Listed Building consents and Certificate of Lawful Development applications;
- minor applications for building extensions or internal alterations;
- applications for EIA screening or scoping opinions;
- applications that have been withdrawn or refused and the appeal period has passed; and
- applications relating to other sections of the A96 Dualling Programme.

Where an application is associated with the build-out of a designated site, the application has not been assessed if it aligns with that designation, to avoid duplication.

The method of assessment of the effects of route options on relevant planning applications is similar to that presented for designated sites in Appendix 9.2; Table 1.1 sets out the criteria used.

Table 1.1 Planning Application Assessment Criteria

Impact	Definition
Major	A fundamental reduction in the development capacity of the planning application site (e.g. more than 50% of land-take).
Moderate	A material but non-fundamental reduction in the development capacity of the planning application site (e.g. between 10% and 50% of land-take).
Minor	A minor reduction in the development capacity of the planning application site (e.g. less than 10% of land-take).

Baseline

This section sets out the planning applications which have been considered in the assessment. Tables 1.2 – 1.7 provide details of the planning applications within 500m of the options. These tables set out the application numbers, the application types and status (e.g. permitted or pending), the application address and details of the proposed development.

Table 1.2 Planning Application sites within 500m - Hardmuir to Hillhead (North Option)

Application Number	Application Type / Status	Development Proposal	Application Address
Moray Council			
13/00347/APP	Application for Planning Permission (Permitted)	Extend planning consent 08/01954/FUL for demolition of building and erect 24 new flatted dwellings for further 3 years	Forres Sale Room, Tytler Street, Forres, Moray IV36 1EL
15/00109/PNOT	Prior Notification (Permitted)	Erect agricultural building	Old Schoolhouse, Forres, Moray IV36 2QU
16/01383/APP	Application for Planning Permission (Permitted)	Erect dwellinghouse and associated works	Site South of Feddan Cottages, Forres, Moray
17/01346/APP	Application for Planning Permission (Permitted)	Change of use from storage facility to funeral directors	17 Tytler Street, Forres, Moray, IV36 1EL
18/00728/APP	Application for Planning Permission (Permitted)	Erection of agricultural building	Milton of Grange Farm, Forres, Moray, IV36 2TR
18/00735/APP	Application for Planning Permission (Permitted)	Revise house and garage design (approved under ref 15/00235/APP)	Site adjacent to Moray Park, Findhorn Road, Forres, Moray
18/00811/APP	Application for Planning Permission (Pending)	Development of a 4.7 hectare site to the north of the existing distillery to deliver 11 new cask warehouses new access formation of pond and associated landscaping	Land adjoining Benromach Distillery, Waterford Road, Forres
18/00838/APP	Application for Planning Permission (Permitted)	Retrospective change of use of domestic studio to holiday accommodation	2 Roseview, Forres, Moray, IV36 2TR
The Highland Council			
18/00466/FUL	Application for Planning Permission (Permitted)	Erection of summer house and decking	Hardmuir, Hardmuir of Boath, Nairn, IV12 5QG

Table 1.3 Planning Application sites within 500m - Hardmuir to Hillhead (South Option)

Application Number	Application Type / Status	Development Proposal	Application Address
Moray Council			
09/02390/MIN	Mineral Application (Permitted)	Extraction of up to 750,000 tonnes of sand and gravel and upgrading of access track	Fairyhills Wood, Forres, Moray
15/00812/AMC	Application Approval Matters Specified in Conditions (Permitted)	Erect dwellinghouse	Plot 1 Old Campsite, Whiterow, Forres, Moray
15/00813/AMC	Application Approval Matters Specified in Conditions (Permitted)	Erect dwellinghouse	Plot 2 Old Campsite, Whiterow Farm, Forres, Moray
15/01329/PPP	Planning Permission in Principle (Permitted)	Proposed house plot	Land North of Rafford Parish Church Cemetery, Rafford, Forres, Moray
16/01383/APP	Application for Planning Permission (Permitted)	Erect dwellinghouse and associated works	Site south of Feddan Cottages, Forres, Moray
18/00071/APP	Application for Planning Permission (Pending)	Erect guest accommodation with ancillary facilities	Marcassie Farm Rafford Forres Moray IV36 2RH
18/00519/APP	Application for Planning Permission (Pending)	Revise house design and extend site boundaries	Plot 2 Old Campsite, Whiterow, Forres, Moray
18/00985/APP	Application for Planning Permission (Pending)	Change of use of part of agricultural unit to Class 4 office accommodation including incubation business starts up unit and form new access road	Whiterow Farm, Forres, Moray, IV36 2SG
18/01117/APP	Application for Planning Permission (Pending)	Erect 14 dwellinghouses and associated roads and landscaping	OPP4, St Leonards Road, Forres, Moray
The Highland Council			
18/00466/FUL	Application for Planning Permission (Permitted)	Erection of summer house and decking	Hardmuir, Hardmuir of Boath, Nairn, IV12 5QG

Table 1.4 Planning Applications within 500m - Hillhead to Lhanbryde (North Option)

Application Number	Application Type / Status	Development Proposal	Application Address
15/00954/APP	Application for Planning Permission (Permitted)	Erect dwellinghouse	Plot 2 Ardgilzean, Elgin, Moray
15/00109/PNOT	Prior Notification (Permitted)	Erect agricultural building	Old Schoolhouse, Forres, Moray, IV36 2QU
15/00565/PPP	Planning Permission in Principle	Renew planning consent ref 10/00998/PPP for house plot	Site adjacent to Rosewood 1 Ardgye Cottages, Alves, Moray
15/01338/APP	Application for Planning Permission (Permitted)	Erect 2 dwellinghouses	Site within garden ground of Lachlanwells, Forres, Moray
15/02252/APP	Application for Planning Permission (Permitted)	Demolish existing hotel and erect new shop unit with associated car parking facilities	Tennant Arms, 15 St Andrew's Road, Lhanbryde, Elgin Moray IV30 8NZ
16/01020/APP	Application for Planning Permission (Permitted)	Revise existing and commenced consent ref: 05/01727/FUL for change of use of school into 2 houses	St Andrew's School Lhanbryde, Elgin, Moray, IV30 8LB
16/01132/APP	Application for Planning Permission (Permitted)	Erect dwellinghouse	Site within the grounds of Newton House, Newton Elgin, Moray
16/01824/APP	Application for Planning Permission (Permitted)	Erect dwellinghouse and erect temporary caravan during construction	Plot 3 Ardgilzean, Elgin, Moray
17/00574/PPP	Planning Permission in Principle (Permitted)	Retrospective permission for demolition of existing house and planning permission in principle for erection of new house	Beechbrae, Elgin, Moray, IV30 8UP
17/00670/APP	Application for Planning Permission (Permitted)	Demolish agricultural building and erect 2 dwellinghouses and detached garages	Lachlanwells, Forres, Moray, IV36 2RA
17/01676/APP	Application for Planning Permission (Permitted)	Vary house type approval under ref 08/00349/FUL	(Plot 9) 7 Quarrywood, Elgin, Moray, IV30 8XU
17/01798/APP	Application for Planning Permission (Permitted)	Renew planning consent for change of use of shed to thrift shop	Belmont 39, St Andrews Road, Lhanbryde, Elgin, Moray, IV30 8PU
17/01854/APP	Application for Planning Permission (Permitted)	Erect dwellinghouse	Site to rear of 2 Robertson Road, Lhanbryde, Moray
18/00361/APP	Application for Planning Permission (Pending)	Conversion of steadings to 3 dwellings, laboratory to dwelling, and erect 4 dwellinghouses and demolish general purpose shed	Ardgye Steading, Alves, Elgin, Moray
18/00555/APP	Application for Planning Permission (Permitted)	Erect dwellinghouse and garage	Site at Newton, Elgin, Moray
18/00803/APP	Application for Planning	Convert semi derelict existing steading to	Kilcluan House, Elgin, Moray, IV30 8LA

Application Number	Application Type / Status	Development Proposal	Application Address
	Permission (Pending)	dwellinghouse	
18/01134/APP	Application for Planning Permission (Pending)	Erect dwellinghouse and garage	Site at Newton, Elgin, Moray

** Refused but within Appeal period

Table 1.5 Planning Applications within 500m - Hillhead to Lhanbryde (South Option)

Application Number	Application Type / Status	Development Proposal	Application Address
15/00333/APP	Application for Planning Permission (Permitted)	Change of use of land to outdoor education facility including alterations to house and workshop access widening and formation of drop-off and car parking area	Badgers Wood, Elgin, Moray, IV30 8UN
15/00762/APP	Application for Planning Permission (Permitted)	Erect dwellinghouse	Site north of Hardhillock, Mosstowie, Elgin
15/00819/PPP	Planning Permission in Principle (Permitted)	Erect dwellinghouse	Site 250m north Of Hardhillock Farm, Mosstowie, Elgin, Moray
15/02252/APP	Application for Planning Permission (Permitted)	Demolish existing hotel and erect new shop unit with associated car parking facilities	Tennant Arms, 15 St Andrew's Road, Lhanbryde, Elgin, Moray, IV30 8NZ
16/01468/APP	Application for Planning Permission (Appeal Allowed)	Proposed erection of dwelling house with detached garage	East Troves, Trove, Elgin, Moray
16/01469/APP	Application for Planning Permission (Appeal Allowed)	Erect dwellinghouse with detached garage	West Troves, Troves, Elgin, Moray
17/00320/APP	Application for Planning Permission (Permitted)	Erect general purpose industrial building and associated works	Troves Industrial Estate, Elgin, Moray
17/01798/APP	Application for Planning Permission (Permitted)	Renew planning consent for change of use of shed to thrift shop	Belmont 39, St Andrews Road, Lhanbryde, Elgin Moray, IV30 8PU
17/01854/APP	Application for Planning Permission (Permitted)	Erect dwellinghouse	Site to rear of 2 Robertson Road, Lhanbryde, Moray
18/00125/APP	Application for Planning Permission (Permitted)	Demolish steadings and dwellinghouse	Site at Burnside of Birnie, Elgin, Moray
18/00150/AMC	Application Approval of Matters specified in	Erect dwellinghouse	Site 250m North of Hardhillock Farm, Mosstowie Elgin, Moray

Application Number	Application Type / Status	Development Proposal	Application Address
	Conditions		
18/00188/APP	Application for Planning Permission (Permitted)	Change of use of commercial car yard to garden drive	Pittendreich House, Elgin, Moray, IV30 8TE
18/00271/PPP	Planning Permission in Principle (Refused)*	Erect replacement dwellinghouse	Hillview, Garmouth Road, Lhanbryde, Elgin, Moray IV30 8PD
18/00273/APP	Application for Planning Permission (Permitted)	Proposed earth bank silage pit	Wester Manbeen Farm, Elgin, Moray, IV30 8TN
18/00612/APP	Application for Planning Permission (Pending)	Demolish derelict house and erect replacement dwellinghouse	Site At Nether Birnie, Elgin, Moray
18/00681/APP	Application for Planning Permission (Pending)	Convert existing stone store to habitable accommodation forming 2 self-catering apartments	Longhouse, Sheriffmill Road, Elgin, Moray
18/01130/APP	Application for Planning Permission (Pending)	Revise house design approved under ref 12/01463/APP and site temporary caravan for accommodation during house construction	Plot 2, Nether Birnie, Elgin, Moray

* Refused but within Appeal period

Table 1.6 Planning Applications within 500m buffer - Lhanbryde to East of Fochabers (North Option)

Application Number	Application Type / Status	Development Proposal	Application Address
15/00548/APP	Application for Planning Permission (Permitted)	Erect dwellinghouse	Site at Threapland Wood Lhanbryde, Elgin, Moray
15/01050/APP	Application for Planning Permission (Permitted)	Erect dwellinghouse	Site adjacent to Sunndach George Street, Fochabers, Moray
15/02252/APP	Application for Planning Permission (Permitted)	Demolish existing hotel and erect new shop unit with associated car parking facilities	Tennant Arms, 15 St Andrew's Road Lhanbryde Elgin, Moray, IV30 8NZ
16/00707/APP	Application for Planning Permission (Permitted)	Erect dwellinghouse	Plot adjacent to Balnacoul, Mosstodloch, Moray
16/01692/APP	Application for Planning Permission (Permitted)	Erect new bungalow with single detached garage	Market Green Garage Site, Christie Place Fochabers, Moray
16/01767/APP	Application for Planning Permission (Permitted)	Erect extension to rear of existing school to provide new nursery and early years	Milnes Primary School, High Street Fochabers, Moray, IV32 7ER

Application Number	Application Type / Status	Development Proposal	Application Address
		accommodation and refurbish the existing dining hall and kitchen building	
16/01814/APP	Application for Planning Permission (Permitted)	Erect dwellinghouse and garage	Site south east of Loch Oire, Lhanbryde, Moray
17/00774/PPP	Planning Permission in Principle (Permitted)	Erect dwellinghouse	Plot adjacent To Larchfield, Loch Oire, Lhanbryde
17/01798/APP	Application for Planning Permission (Permitted)	Renew planning consent for change of use of shed to thrift shop	Belmont, 39 St Andrews Road, Lhanbryde, Elgin, Moray, IV30 8PU
17/01854/APP	Application for Planning Permission (Permitted)	Erect dwellinghouse	Site to rear of 2 Robertson Road, Lhanbryde, Moray
18/00073/PPP	Planning Permission in Principle (Permitted)	Erect dwellinghouse	Plot adjacent to Westcote, Main Road, Mosstodloch, Moray
18/00392/APP	Application for Planning Permission (Permitted)	Erect 2 general purpose farm buildings	Wester Marchfield, Lhanbryde Elgin, Moray, IV30 8LL
18/00782/APP	Planning Permission in Principle (Permitted)	Change of use of office to dwellinghouse	6 Charlotte Street, Fochabers, Moray, IV32 7EE

* Refused but within Appeal period

Table 1.7 Planning Application sites within 500m - Lhanbryde to East of Fochabers (South Option)

Application Number	Application Type / Status	Development Proposal	Application Address
15/00548/APP	Application for Planning Permission (Permitted)	Erect dwellinghouse	Site at Threapland Wood, Lhanbryde, Elgin, Moray
15/01035/PPP	Planning Permission in Principle (Permitted)	Proposed erection of single dwellinghouse	Site at Cairnend, Fochabers, Moray
15/02252/APP	Application for Planning Permission (Permitted)	Demolish existing hotel and erect new shop unit with associated car parking facilities	Tennant Arms, 15 St Andrew's Road, Lhanbryde Elgin Moray IV30 8NZ
16/01814/APP	Application for Planning Permission (Permitted)	Erect dwellinghouse and garage	Site south east Of Loch Oire, Lhanbryde, Moray
17/00774/PPP	Planning Permission in Principle (Permitted)	Erect dwellinghouse	Plot adjacent to Larchfield, Loch Oire, Lhanbryde
17/00907/APP	Application for Planning	Erect replacement dwellinghouse	Lennox Brae, Fochabers, Moray, IV32 7PE

Application Number	Application Type / Status	Development Proposal	Application Address
	Permission (Permitted)		
17/01798/APP	Application for Planning Permission (Permitted)	Renew planning consent for change of use of shed to thrift shop	Belmont, 39 St Andrews Road, Lhanbryde Elgin Moray IV30 8PU
17/01854/APP	Application for Planning Permission (Permitted)	Erect dwellinghouse	Site to Rear Of 2 Robertson Road, Lhanbryde, Moray
18/00392/APP	Application for Planning Permission (Permitted)	Erect 2no general purpose farm buildings	Wester Marchfield, Lhanbryde, Elgin, Moray, IV30 8LL

* Refused but within Appeal period

Assessment

This section presents the findings of the planning application assessment for the options. Tables 1.8 to 1.13 set out the predicted impacts of the options on planning applications.

Table 1.8 Planning Application Assessment - Hardmuir to Hillhead (North Option)

Application Number	Application Type / Status	Application Address	Development Proposal	Impact	Magnitude
18/00811/APP	Pending determination	Land adjoining Benromach Distillery, Waterford Road, Forres	Development of a 4.7 hectare site to the north of the existing distillery to deliver 11 new cask warehouses new access formation of pond and associated landscaping	<2ha (42%) – site is severed	**Moderate**

Table 1.9 Planning Application Assessment - Hardmuir to Hillhead (South Option)

Application Number	Application Type / Status	Application Address	Development Proposal	Impact	Magnitude
No applications	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

Table 1.10 Planning Application Assessment - Hillhead to Lhanbryde (North Option)

Application Number	Application Type / Status	Application Address	Development Proposal	Impact	Magnitude
16/01132/APP	Permitted	Site within the grounds of Newton House, Newton	Erect dwellinghouse	<1ha (14%) - part of site lost to mainline embankment	**Moderate**
17/00574/PPP	Permitted	Beechbrae, Elgin	Retrospective permission for demolition of existing house and planning permission in principle for erection of new	<1ha (93%) - most of the site taken	**Major**

Application Number	Application Type / Status	Application Address	Development Proposal	Impact	Magnitude
			house		
18/00361/APP	Pending determination	Ardgye, Steading Alves	Conversion of steadings to 3 dwellings, laboratory to dwelling, erect 4 dwellinghouses and demolish general purpose shed	< 1ha (4%) - severs access route	Minor
18/00555/APP	Permitted	Site at Newton, Elgin, Moray	Erect dwellinghouse and garage	<1ha (81%) – most of site is taken by mainline	**Major**
18/01134/APP	Pending determination	Site at Newton, Elgin, Moray	Erect dwellinghouse and garage	<1ha (82%) – most of site is taken by mainline	**Major**

Table 1.11 Planning Application Assessment - Hillhead to Lhanbryde (South Option)

Application Number	Application Type / Status	Application Address	Development Proposal	Impact	Magnitude
15/00451/APP	Permitted	Site at Easter Cloves, Mosstowie	Erect dwellinghouse	< 1ha (19%) access route lost in part by access re-provision	**Moderate**
16/01468/APP	Allowed on Appeal	East Troves, Troves	Proposed erection of dwelling house with detached garage	<1ha (2%) - slight land take along road from road tie-in	Minor[1]
16/01469/APP	Allowed on Appeal	West Troves, Troves	Erect dwellinghouse with detached garage	<1ha (12%) - slight land take along road from road tie-in	Moderate[1]

[1] Design development and boundary alignment at DMRB Stage 3 should allow the design to avoid this land-take and remove this impact such that no direct impact would be predicted. The impact recorded here has therefore been disregarded for the purposes of this assessment

Table 1.12 Planning Application Assessment - Lhanbryde to East of Fochabers (North Option)

Application Number	Application Type / Status	Application Address	Development Proposal	Impact	Magnitude
18/00392/APP	Permitted	Wester Marchfield, Lhanbryde	Erect 2 general purpose farm buildings	<1ha (84%) - majority of site is taken by the mainline	**Major**

Table 1.13 Planning Application Assessment - Lhanbryde to East of Fochabers (South Option)

Application Number	Application Type / Status	Application Address	Development Proposal	Impact	Magnitude
18/00392/APP	Permitted	Wester Marchfield, Lhanbryde	Erect 2 general purpose farm buildings	<1ha (84%) - majority of site is taken by the mainline	**Major**
15/01035/PPP	Permitted	Site at Cairnend, Fochabers	Proposed erection of single dwellinghouse	<1ha (8%) – slight land take along road from road tie-in	Minor[1]

Appendix A9.4 - Proposed Moray Local Development Plan 2020 Sites Assessment

A9.4 Proposed Moray Local Development Plan 2020 Sites Assessment

Introduction

This Appendix presents the assessment of how the options perform against Moray Council's recommended Moray Local Development Plan 2020 sites. This Appendix provides further information to the assessment presented in Chapter 9 Policies and Plans.

The Moray Local Development Plan 2015 (MLDP) is in the process of being reviewed and updated. In December 2017 Moray Council published a Main Issues Report (MIR) for consultation which included a number of proposed policy revisions and sites to be considered for designation in the pending Moray Local Development Plan 2020. The MIR was the first formal stage towards updating and replacing the MLDP 2015. The MIR included Moray Council's categorisations of the proposed designated sites as follows:

- preferred;
- requiring further information; and
- non-preferred.

On 25 September 2018 Moray Council presented an update on the MIR to a special meeting of the Planning and Regulatory Services Committee[1] including the housing and employment sites Moray Council recommended for inclusion in the Proposed Moray Local Development Plan 2020 (the Proposed Plan). The Council's Planning and Regulatory Services Committee agreed in principle the sites to be designated for housing and employment uses in the Proposed Plan.

The assessment of these sites (referred to here as Proposed Plan sites) is included in this Appendix for information only as the sites have as yet no material planning status. A number of these sites are the same or similar to current MLDP designations (these would continue to be identified for development), some sites have had their designation type changed and some sites are new.

It should be noted that some amendments to these sites were discussed at the September 2018 committee meeting and Moray Council is currently considering and addressing these. Once finalisation of the sites has been concluded it is anticipated that Moray Council will present a Proposed Plan to committee in December 2018.

1 Moray Council, Special Meeting of the Planning and Regulatory Services Committee, Summary of Representations to MLDP 2020 Main issues report & Proposed Council Response, 25 September 2018 https://moray.cmis.uk.com/moray/CouncilandGovernance/Meetings/tabid/70/ctl/ViewMeetingPublic/mid/397/Meeting/323/Committee/6/Default.aspx

Methodology

Table 1.1 sets out the criteria used to determine the potential impact of the options on the Proposed Plan Sites.

Table 1.1 Assessment criteria for Proposed Plan sites

Impact	Definition
Major	A fundamental reduction in the development capacity of the designated site (e.g. more than 50% of land-take).
Moderate	A material but non-fundamental reduction in the development capacity of the designated site (e.g. between 10% and 50% of land-take).
Minor	A minor reduction in the development capacity of the designated site (e.g. less than 10% of land-take).

Assessment

This section presents the findings of the sites assessment which has been structured for the three Scheme sections.

Hardmuir to Hillhead

The North Option is predicted to have a major impact on site FR14/FR15 which is a site recommended for industrial designation in the Waterford Road area of Forres (8ha, 50- 60% lost). Moderate impacts are predicted on two other sites in Forres: site I5/FR17 an industrial designation for the expansion of Benromach Distillery (3ha, 20-30% lost) and site BP2/FR21 at Forres Enterprise Park / Tarras Farm which is recommended for residential development (4ha, 20-30% lost). A minor impact is predicted on site BP1 Forres Enterprise Park (2ha, 5-10% lost) which is recommended for business park use.

The South option would not affect any recommended sites in the Proposed Plan.

A summary of the predicted impacts of the options on recommended designated sites in the Proposed Plan is set out in Table 1.2 with the sites ordered from west to east.

Table 1.2 Proposed Plan Sites Assessment - Hardmuir to Hillhead

Settlement / Rural Grouping	Site Number and Location	Proposed Designation	Impact	Magnitude
North Option				
Forres	FR14/ FR15 Waterford Road	Industrial	8ha (50-60%)	Major
	I5/FR17 Benromach Distillery	Industrial (existing designation)	3ha (20-30%)	Moderate
	BP2/FR21 Enterprise Park, Forres / Tarras Farm	Residential	4ha (20-30%)	Moderate
	BP1 Enterprise Park, Forres	Business Park (existing designation)	2ha (5-10%)	Minor
South Option				
N/A	No Sites	N/A	N/A	N/A

If the Proposed Plan sites were taken into consideration the South Option would be slightly preferred as it would avoid impacts on recommended Local Development Plan sites.

Hillhead to Lhanbryde

The North Option is predicted to have a major impact on recommended site EL9 (E) a mixed-use site at Lossiemouth Road North (5ha, 70% lost). Moderate impacts are predicted on three other recommended sites in Elgin: site EL9 (W) for residential use at Lossiemouth Road North (4ha, 20-30% lost), and two long lead housing sites known as Elgin North East at site LONG1 (6ha, 10-20% lost) and site LONG1/EL10 (4ha, 10-20% lost). It is predicted that there would be minor impacts on four other sites recommended for designation in Elgin: site I8 industrial site at Newfield (<1ha, <1% lost); a residential site at Findrassie site R11 (<0.1ha, <1% lost); site R14 (<1ha, 1% lost) a residential site in the area of Lesmurdie Fields; and site I7/EL14E (<1ha, 1% lost) a mixed use site at Barmuckity Business Park.

The South Option would have moderate impacts predicted on two sites recommended for designation in Elgin, at site EL13/EL46 (9ha, 20% lost) and EL20/BP/OPP (1ha, 20-30% lost). Site EL13/EL46 is a potential industrial estate designation at Burnside of Birnie and EL20/BP/OPP is a potential mixed-use designation at Riverview. A minor impact is predicted in Elgin on site EL40 (1ha, 5-10% lost) a potential industrial designation on land south of Burnside of Birnie.

The South Option would also have a predicted moderate impact on the residential site R1 West of St Andrew's Road in Lhanbryde (1ha, 10-20% lost), and a minor impact on site I1 Troves Industrial Estate (<1ha, 5% lost) a potential industrial designation in Troves.

A summary of the predicted impacts for the options on recommended designated sites in the Proposed Plan is presented in Tables 1.3 and 1.4, with the sites ordered from west to east.

Table 1.3 Proposed Plan Sites Assessment - Hillhead to Lhanbryde (North Option)

Settlement / Rural Grouping	Site Number and Location	Proposed Designation	Impact	Magnitude
Elgin	R11 Findrassie	Residential (existing designation)	<0.1ha (<1%)	Minor
	EL9 (W) Lossiemouth Road North	Residential	4ha (20-30%)	Moderate
	EL9 (E) Lossiemouth Road North	Mixed	5ha (70%)	Major
	I8 Newfield	Industrial (existing designation)	<1ha (<1%)	Minor
	LONG1/EL10 North East	Residential (existing designation)	4ha (10-20%)	Moderate
	LONG1 North East	Residential (existing designation)	6ha (10-20%)	Moderate
	R14 Lesmurdie Fields	Residential (existing designation)	<1ha (1%)	Minor
	I7/EL14E Barmuckity Business Park	Mixed / Business Park (existing designation)	<1ha (<1%)	Minor

Table 1.4 Proposed Plan Sites Assessment - Hillhead to Lhanbryde (South Option)

Settlement / Rural Grouping	Site Number and Location	Proposed Designation	Impact	Magnitude
Elgin	EL20/BP/OPP Riverview	Mixed	1ha (20-30%)	Moderate
	EL40 South of Burnside of Birnie	Industrial	1ha (5-10%)	Minor
	EL13/EL46 Burnside of Birnie	Industrial	9ha (20%)	Moderate
Troves	I1 Troves Industrial Estate	Industrial (existing designation)	<1ha (5%)	Minor
Lhanbryde	R1 West of St Andrews Road	Residential (existing designation)	1ha (10-20%)	Moderate

If the Proposed Plan sites were taken into consideration the South Option would be slightly preferred as it would have fewer predicted impacts on recommended Local Development Plan sites.

Lhanbryde to East of Fochabers

The North Option is predicted to have a minor impact on three sites recommended for designation: site R3 (<1ha, 5-10% lost) a potential residential site at East of Duncan Avenue in Fochabers; site

FC2/OPP3 (<1ha, 1% lost) a potential community facility on land at Lennox Crescent in Fochabers; and site MS2/I3 (1ha, 5-10% lost) a potential mixed use site on land south of the A96 bypass in Mosstodloch.

The South option would not be predicted to affect any recommended sites in the Proposed Plan.

A summary of the predicted impacts for the options on recommended designated sites in the Proposed Plan is presented in Table 1.5, with the sites ordered from west to east.

Table 1.5 Proposed Plan Sites Assessment - Lhanbryde to East of Fochabers

Settlement / Rural Grouping	Site Number and Location	Proposed Designation	Impact	Magnitude
North Option				
Fochabers	R3 East of Duncan Avenue	Residential (existing designation)	<1ha (5-10%)	Minor
	FC2/OPP3 Lennox Crescent	Community Facility	<1ha (1%)	Minor
Mosstodloch	MS2/I3 Land south of A96 bypass	Mixed	1ha (5-10%)	Minor
South Option				
N/A	No Sites	N/A	N/A	N/A

If the Proposed Plan sites were taken into consideration the South option would be slightly preferred as it would avoid impacts on recommended Local Development Plan sites.

Summary

The findings of the assessment is summarised in Table 1.6 which shows the number of sites affected under each assessment category.

Table 1.6 Proposed Plan Sites Assessment Summary

Option	Major Impact	Moderate Impact	Minor Impact
Hardmuir to Hillhead			
North	1	2	1
South	0	0	0
Hillhead to Lhanbryde			
North	1	3	4
South	0	3	2
Lhanbryde to East of Fochabers			
North	0	0	3
South	0	0	0

Next Steps

Moray Council's Planning and Regulatory Services Committee will be asked on 5 December to approve the Proposed Plan as the 'settled view' of Moray Council, which will then be subject to public consultation for a 12-week period running to the end of March 2019. Any objections that are received and cannot be resolved will be referred to an Examination, where a Reporter from the Scottish Government Directorate for Planning and Environmental Appeals would arbitrate.

The Design Manual for Roads and Bridges (DMRB) Stage 3 assessment will take account of any new adopted Local Development Plan.

Appendix A10.1 - Air Quality Assessment Methodology

A10.1 Air Quality Assessment Methodology

Introduction

Operational air quality effects have been considered in accordance with the guidance listed in Section 10.2 of Chapter 10. The full methodology for the air quality assessment adopted for the Design Manual for Roads and Bridges (DMRB) Stage 2 options assessment is outlined in this appendix.

Legislation Context

The Air Quality Standards (Scotland) Regulations 2010[1] came into force in June 2010; they implement EU Directive 2008/50/EC on ambient air quality, which sets out the air quality limit values. Part IV of the Environment Act 1995[2] requires that every local authority periodically carry out a review of air quality within its area, including likely future air quality. As part of this review, the authority must assess whether Air Quality Objectives (AQOs) are being achieved or are likely to be achieved within the relevant periods. Any part of an authority's area where the objectives are not being achieved or are not likely to be achieved within the relevant period must be identified and declared as an Air Quality Management Area (AQMA). Once such a declaration has been made, local authorities are under a duty to prepare an Action Plan which sets out measures to pursue the achievement of the air quality objectives within the AQMA. The Highland Council produced an Action Plan in March 2016[3] following the declaration of an AQMA in Inverness. Moray Council have no declared AQMAs and as such have not been required to prepare an Action Plan.

The AQOs specifically for use by local authorities in carrying out their air quality management duties are set out in the Air Quality (Scotland) Regulations[4] and the Air Quality (Scotland) (Amendment) Regulations 2002[5]. In most cases, the AQOs are numerically synonymous with the limit values specified in the EU Directives although compliance dates differ. The air quality assessment has assessed air quality relevant to AQOs and has not assessed the effect on limit values.

The Air Quality Strategy (AQS) establishes the UK framework for air quality improvements. The AQOs in the AQS are a statement of policy intentions and policy targets. As such, there is no legal requirement to meet these objectives, although Local Authorities are also required to work towards achieving the AQS's objectives.

1 Statutory Instrument. (2010), 'Air Quality Standards (Scotland) Regulations 2007', No. 204. Queen's Printer of Acts of Parliament.
2 Department for Environment Food and Rural Affairs. (2003), 'Part IV of the Environment Act 1995 Local Air Quality Management', Department for Environment Food and Rural Affairs.
3 Air Quality Consultants (2016), 'Air Quality Action Plan; Inverness. Highland Council.'
4 Statutory Instrument. (2000), 'Air Quality (Scotland) Regulations', No. 97. Queen's Printer of Acts of Parliament
5 Statutory Instrument. (2002), 'Air Quality (Scotland) (Amendment) Regulations', No. 297. Queen's Printer of Acts of Parliament.

The Air Quality Objectives and limit values relevant to the assessment are summarised in Table 1.1.

Table 1.1 Relevant Air Quality Objectives and Limit Values

Pollutant	Averaging Period	Air Quality Objective and Limit Values		Attainment Date
		Concentration	Allowance	
Nitrogen Dioxide (NO_2)	1-hour	200 µg/m^3	18 per calendar year[d]	31 December 2005[a][b] 1 January 2010[c]
	Annual	40 µg/m^3	-	31 December 2005[a][b] 1 January 2010[c]
Particulates (PM_{10})	24-hour	50 µg/m^3	35 per calendar year[e]	31 December 2004[a][b] 1 January 2005[c]
	Annual	40 µg/m^3	UK	31 December 2004[a][b] 1 January 2005[c]
	Annual	18 µg/m^3	Scotland	31 December 2010[b]
NO_X	Annual	30µg/m^3	-	31 December 2000[c]

Notes: (a) Air Quality (Scotland) Regulations 2000 as amended.
(b) Air Quality Strategy 2007.
(c) EU Directive 2008/50/EEC on ambient air quality and cleaner air for Europe and The Air Quality Standards Regulations, 2010. Derogations (time extensions) have been agreed by the EU for meeting the NO2 limit values in some zones/agglomerations.
(d) Can be expressed as the 99.79th percentile of 1 hour means.
(e) Can be expressed as the 90.41st percentile of 24 hour means.

Assessment Approach

Screening method

An operational local and regional air quality assessment has been undertaken using Highways England's DMRB Screening Method, using the most up to date Emission Factor Toolkit v8.0.1. The Screening Method uses road link traffic inputs, road widths and information on the distance between the road and receptor to predict concentrations of Nitrogen Oxides (NOx) and Particulate Matter (PM_{10}) at a local scale and total emissions of NO_x, PM_{10} and Carbon Dioxide (CO_2) at a regional scale.

Assessment Scenarios

Local Assessment

The following scenarios have been considered in the assessment for local air quality:

- Base Year 2017;
- Model Verification Year 2017;
- Do Minimum (without the Scheme) 2030 Opening Year; and
- Do Something (with the Scheme) 2030 Opening Year.

Base year air quality predictions have been used to verify the model against air quality monitoring data (as described in Appendix 10.2). A model verification year of 2017 has been used, in

accordance with the Scheme-specific monitoring undertaken by MMS and the most recent data collected by the local authority, Moray Council. This approach is in accordance with that requested during consultation with Moray Council's Environmental Health Officer.

Pollutant concentrations predicted in the Opening Year Do Minimum (DM) and Do Something (DS) scenario of the Scheme have been compared to ascertain the effect of the Scheme on local air quality. It should be noted that an assessment of Opening Year air quality effects is expected to provide a worst-case assessment, as air quality is expected to improve in future years as a result of reductions in average concentrations of pollutants in vehicle emissions and improvements in background air quality.

Regional Assessment

The following scenarios have been considered in the assessment for regional air quality:

- Do Minimum (without proposed Scheme) 2030 Opening Year;
- Do Something (with proposed Scheme) 2030 Opening Year;
- Do Minimum (without proposed Scheme) 2045 Design Year; and
- Do Something (with proposed Scheme) 2045 Design Year.

Emissions were estimated using traffic flows, speeds and link lengths from the traffic model. It should be noted that emission factors are not available beyond 2030. Emission factors for 2030 have therefore been used to represent emissions in 2045 for the design year scenarios. This is a worst-case approach which is likely to overestimate actual emissions for this scenario.

Traffic Data

Outputs from the Corridor Road Assignment Model (CRAM) traffic model developed to assess the traffic impacts for each of the options have been used for this assessment. Data on vehicle flow, percentage of Heavy Duty Vehicles (HDVs - the sum of Heavy Goods Vehicles and buses) and speeds are available for the 24 hour Annual Average Daily Traffic (AADT) period in the base, DM and DS scenarios for the Scheme.

Background Pollutants

Total air pollutant concentrations comprise a background and local component. Background concentrations are determined by regional, national and international emissions, and often represent a significant proportion of the total pollutant concentration. The local component is determined by local pollutant sources such as roads, and in this case, has been considered and assessed using the DMRB Screening Method.

Background pollutant concentrations are spatially and temporally variable throughout the UK. Annual mean background concentrations of NO_x, NO_2 and PM_{10} were obtained from Air Quality in

Scotland[6]. The background maps provide yearly forecasts based on a grid at a resolution of 1km^2 across Scotland.

It is possible to adjust the Scotland background maps to remove sources modelled explicitly, and so avoid double counting. No sources were removed from the Scotland maps used in the assessment, as the air quality screening model predictions presented here only include road sources within 200m of a receptor, and so do not consider the full contribution of these sources included in the Defra 1km^2 background concentrations.

The background NO_2 concentrations from Air Quality in Scotland were compared against the results of the background monitoring sites within the study area. This is presented in Table 1.2. There are three locations within the Moray Council data classified as background sites, however the Forres tube is influenced by emissions from High Street which is within 5m of the tube so has been discounted from the comparison. The results indicate that modelled concentrations have good agreement with the monitored concentrations, therefore Air Quality in Scotland backgrounds are considered appropriate for use within the assessment.

Table 1.2 Scotland Background Pollutant Map Data for the Local Assessment

Monitoring location	Grid Square Location (Easting, Northing)	2017 NO_2 (µg/m^3)	
		Monitored Concentration (Moray Council)	Modelled Concentration from Air Quality in Scotland
Elgin 4	322249,862630	9.6	11.2
Lossie 2	323515,870931	5.1	5.5

Defra background levels applied to sensitive receptors have been presented in Table 1.3. Further details of the Defra background data used within model verification are set out in Appendix 10.2.

Table 1.3 Scotland Background Pollutant Map Data for the Local Assessment

Grid Square Location (Easting, Northing)	2030		
	NOx (µg/m^3)	NO_2 (µg/m^3)	PM_{10} (µg/m^3)
295500,856500	2.54	1.92	6.92
296500,856500	2.51	1.90	7.16
297500,857500	2.51	1.90	7.28
298500,857500	2.67	2.02	7.55
299500,857500	2.66	2.02	7.00
300500,856500	2.18	1.66	6.26
300500,858500	2.54	1.92	7.22
301500,856500	2.25	1.71	6.60
301500,858500	3.05	2.30	7.60
302500,858500	5.68	4.18	8.72

[6] Air Quality in Scotland background maps available at: http://www.scottishairquality.co.uk/data/mapping?view=data [Accessed 9 July 2018]

Grid Square Location (Easting, Northing)	2030		
	NOx (µg/m^3)	NO_2 (µg/m^3)	PM_{10} (µg/m^3)
302500,859500	2.72	2.06	6.96
303500,858500	5.71	4.21	8.09
304500,859500	3.88	2.91	7.82
304500,860500	2.58	1.95	6.78
305500,856500	2.40	1.82	6.63
305500,857500	2.63	1.99	6.82
305500,859500	3.55	2.67	7.98
306500,859500	3.92	2.94	7.31
306500,860500	2.85	2.15	6.98
307500,859500	2.90	2.19	7.87
307500,860500	3.08	2.32	9.32
308500,860500	3.01	2.27	8.61
309500,860500	3.04	2.29	8.22
310500,860500	2.69	2.03	8.12
312500,861500	3.02	2.28	7.63
313500,862500	3.16	2.38	8.18
314500,862500	3.20	2.41	7.19
315500,863500	3.09	2.33	7.95
316500,863500	3.41	2.57	8.02
317500,861500	2.81	2.12	6.22
319500,862500	4.40	3.28	7.09
320500,862500	6.02	4.43	7.28
320500,863500	4.72	3.51	6.70
320500,865500	3.11	2.34	6.97
321500,861500	8.67	6.23	7.76
321500,862500	11.16	7.87	8.44
321500,863500	8.72	6.27	8.02
322500,859500	3.68	2.76	7.84
322500,862500	11.36	8.00	8.92
322500,864500	4.82	3.58	7.01
323500,862500	10.31	7.31	9.79
323500,863500	6.49	4.75	9.54
325500,861500	4.58	3.41	7.67
325500,862500	4.49	3.34	7.71
326500,860500	3.47	2.60	8.01

Grid Square Location (Easting, Northing)	2030		
	NOx (µg/m^3)	NO_2 (µg/m^3)	PM_{10} (µg/m^3)
326500,861500	4.44	3.31	7.78
327500,861500	5.28	3.90	7.79
328500,860500	3.55	2.66	6.51
328500,861500	4.19	3.13	8.10
330500,859500	3.16	2.38	6.77
330500,860500	3.86	2.89	7.25
331500,860500	4.04	3.03	6.83
332500,859500	4.08	3.05	7.72
333500,859500	8.88	6.36	8.28
334500,857500	3.15	2.37	6.95
334500,858500	5.30	3.92	7.58
334500,859500	4.93	3.66	7.34
335500,857500	3.33	2.50	6.50
335500,858500	4.32	3.22	6.96

NOx to NO_2 Relationship

Emission rates used within the DMRB Screening Method use NO_x to represent all nitrogen-oxygen species emitted in vehicle exhaust gases. The proportion of NO_2 is needed for comparison with the AQOs presented in Table 1.1.

Research undertaken on behalf of Defra has provided a spreadsheet-based method which is available from Defra's AIR website[7] for calculating annual mean NO_x to NO_2 conversions. Modelled road traffic NO_x was converted to NO_2 using Version 6.1 of the calculator.

Predicted 1 Hour NO_2

Annual mean NO_2 concentrations have been presented for identified worst affected receptors. According to Defra guidance[8], the hourly NO_2 air quality objective of 200µg/m^3 (not to be exceeded more than 18 times per year) is unlikely to be exceeded at roadside locations where the annual mean concentration is less than 60µg/m^3. Therefore, exceedances of 60µg/m^3 as an annual mean are used as an indicator of potential exceedances of the 1-hour mean NO_2 objective.

[7] Department for Environment Food and Rural Affairs NOx to NO2 calculator available at: https://laqm.defra.gov.uk/review-and-assessment/tools/background-maps.html#NOxNO2calc [accessed 19 July 2018]
[8] Defra (2016) Part IV of the Environment Act 1995, Environment (Northern Ireland) Order 2002 Part III: Local Air Quality Management Technical Guidance (TG16), available online at http://laqm.defra.gov.uk/documents/LAQM-TG16-April-16-v1.pdf

Assessment of Ecological Designated Sites

Elevated NO_x concentrations can adversely affect some sensitive ecosystems, including those found in some Special Areas of Conservation (SACs); Special Protection Areas (SPAs); Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs) and Ramsar sites ('Designated Sites'). An assessment of Scheme effects on Designated Sites has been undertaken using the key stages (following the DMRB methodology):

- identification of all Designated Sites within 200m of roads 'affected' by the proposed Scheme which have features sensitive to air pollutants directly or indirectly; and
- calculation of annual average NOx concentrations at the Designated Sites in the DM and DS scenarios.

IAN 174/13 requires that where Designated Sites experience concentrations exceeding the annual mean NO_x objective of 30µg/m^3 and changes in NO_x concentrations are predicted to be greater than 0.4µg/m^3, then nutrient nitrogen deposition should also be calculated and used to determine the overall significance of the predicted effect.

Receptors – Human Health and Wellbeing

Pollutant concentrations have been predicted at sensitive receptors, defined according to Defra[9] as:

'Locations where members of the public are likely to be regularly present and are likely to be exposed for a period of time appropriate to the averaging period of the relevant air quality objective'.

A selection of sensitive receptors has been identified for each option within 200m of the affected roads in the study area, as shown in

[9] Defra (2016) Part IV of the Environment Act 1995, Environment (Northern Ireland) Order 2002 Part III: Local Air Quality Management Technical Guidance (TG16), available online at http://laqm.defra.gov.uk/documents/LAQM-TG16-April-16-v1.pdf

Table 1.4 below and Figure 0.1 to Figure 0.3. Receptors were selected using professional judgement and knowledge of the study area to determine where the highest pollutant concentrations would be likely to arise, and where the greatest effects would be expected to occur as a result of each option.

Table 1.4 Sensitive Receptors

Receptor ID	Receptor	OS Grid Reference	
		X	Y
Hardmuir to Hillhead North and South Options			
R1	Heathfield Easter Hardmuir	295744	856484
R2	Feddan Farm	296743	856554
R3	2 Station Cottages	297849	857244
R4	2 Dalvey Cottages	300266	858042
R5	Banarach Farmhouse	300036	858141
R6	Boathill of Dalvey	301005	858217
R7	Drumine Road	302346	858602
R8	Brannian Cottage	302901	858924
R9	Moray Gardens	304839	859603
R10	1 Tarras Cottages	305870	859857
R11	Grangehall South Lodge	306359	860001
R12	Hillhead Chuillin	306784	859979
R13	1 Cassieford Cottages	304865	860049
R14	Greshop House	302419	859148
R15	Shiralee	298630	857400
R16	Woodside Cottage	299677	857429
R17	Beech Avenues	300905	856934
R18	Marcassie Cottage	305497	856886
R19	Wester New Forres Farm	305894	857908
R20	1 Rafford Road Cottages	307070	859657
R21	1 Gean Cottages	301578	856566
R22	Fleurs Cottage	303237	858464
Hillhead to Lhanbryde North and South Options			
R1	Scotsburn Cottage	307950	860358
R2	1 Gean Cottages	308519	860343
R3	Burgie New Schoolhouse	308739	860565
R4	Birchbrae	310714	860680
R5	Treetops	312113	861764
R6	Alves Primary School	313192	862178
R7	Ben Wyvis	314483	862807
R8	Ardgye Lodge	315443	863093
R9	Lochside Cottage	320519	865904

Receptor ID	Receptor	OS Grid Reference	
		X	Y
R10	Muir of Linksfield	322680	864726
R11	1 Sheriffston Cottages	325507	861614
R12	1 Easter Coxton	326440	861008
R13	Templand Place	327547	861022
R14	Sherifston Winton	325538	862032
R15	Leggat Cottage	316908	863675
R16	2 Lower Woodside	323477	863497
R17	1 Waulkmill Cottages	323753	862378
R18	Pinefield Road	322488	862781
R19	West Road	320482	862742
R20	Alexandra Road	321212	862892
R21	North Port	321628	863068
R22	Morriston Road	320705	863514
R23	Station Road	321793	862325
R24	Milnefield House	322361	862161
R25	Reket Lane	323220	862121
R26	Easter Wards Farm	314895	862083
R27	Lochinver Cottages	317927	861701
R28	Burnside of Birnie	322287	859510
R29	Coxton Doohill	326425	860505
R30	Easter Coxton Greenacres	326386	861238
R31	Skarabrae	327010	861139
R32	Lady Margaret Drive	327320	861131
R33	North Street	321375	863752
R34	South view road	321464	862389
R35	The wards	321328	861911
R36	Birkenhill	322484	859852
R37	Scoggiemill House	319334	862724
R38	New Mill Cottage	309510	860818
Lhanbryde to East of Fochabers North and South Options			
R1	Threapland Pomona	328444	861078
R2	Blinkbonny	330727	860345
R3	1 Cowford Cottages	331730	860203
R4	Craigawan	333801	859694
R5	2 West Lodge	334199	859143

Receptor ID	Receptor	OS Grid Reference	
		X	Y
R6	Castle Street	334502	858953
R7	Castle Avenue	334933	858724
R8	Beech Wakj	335112	858520
R9	Whitegates Lodge	335728	858725
R10	Pittensair Farm	328073	860705
R11	Wester Bauds	330245	860087
R12	Ordiquish Farm	334110	857463
R13	Beech Walk	335004	858504
R14	Inchberry Road	333656	859468
R15	Easter Bauds	330663	859396
R16	Pinetree Cottage	332479	859523

Receptors – Ecological Designated Sites

There are five Designated Sites within 200m of the affected road networks for the options:

- Lower Findhorn Woods SSSI and SAC;
- Darnaway and Lethen Forest SPA;
- Quarry Wood SSSI
- Loch Oire SSSI; and
- River Spey SSSI and SAC.

All the above Designated Sites include habitat features such as the presence of grassland, meadows or woodland which may be sensitive to NO_x and nitrogen deposition. Further information on designated sites is set out in Section 18.3 of Chapter 18 (Nature Conservation).

Concentrations of NO_x have been predicted within these Designated Sites using the DMRB Screening Method. Where NO_x concentrations exceed 30µg/m^3 and have a change greater than 0.4µg/m^3 as a result of the Scheme then nitrogen deposition should be assessed.

Table 1.5 below and Figure 1.1 to Figure 1.3 presents the location of the nearest point of the transects assessed for the Designated Site and its distance to the adjacent affected road.

Table 1.5 Sensitive Receptors - Ecological

Scheme Option	Receptor ID	Receptor	OS Grid Reference	
			X	Y
Hardmuir to Hillhead South	Eco 1	Lower Findhorn Woods SSSI and SAC and Darnaway and Lethen Forest SPA	300737	856855
Hillhead to Lhanbryde North and South	Eco 1	Quarry Wood SSSI	319223	862589
	Eco 2		319507	862862
	Eco 3		320093	863324
Lhanbryde to East of Fochabers North and South	Eco 1	Loch Oire SSSI	328707	861054
	Eco 2		328856	860639
	Eco 3	River Spey SSSI and SAC	334098	859413
	Eco 4		334063	859271
	Eco 5		334022	857559
	Eco 6		335100	857867

Figure 0.1 Hardmuir to Hillhead Section - Receptor Locations

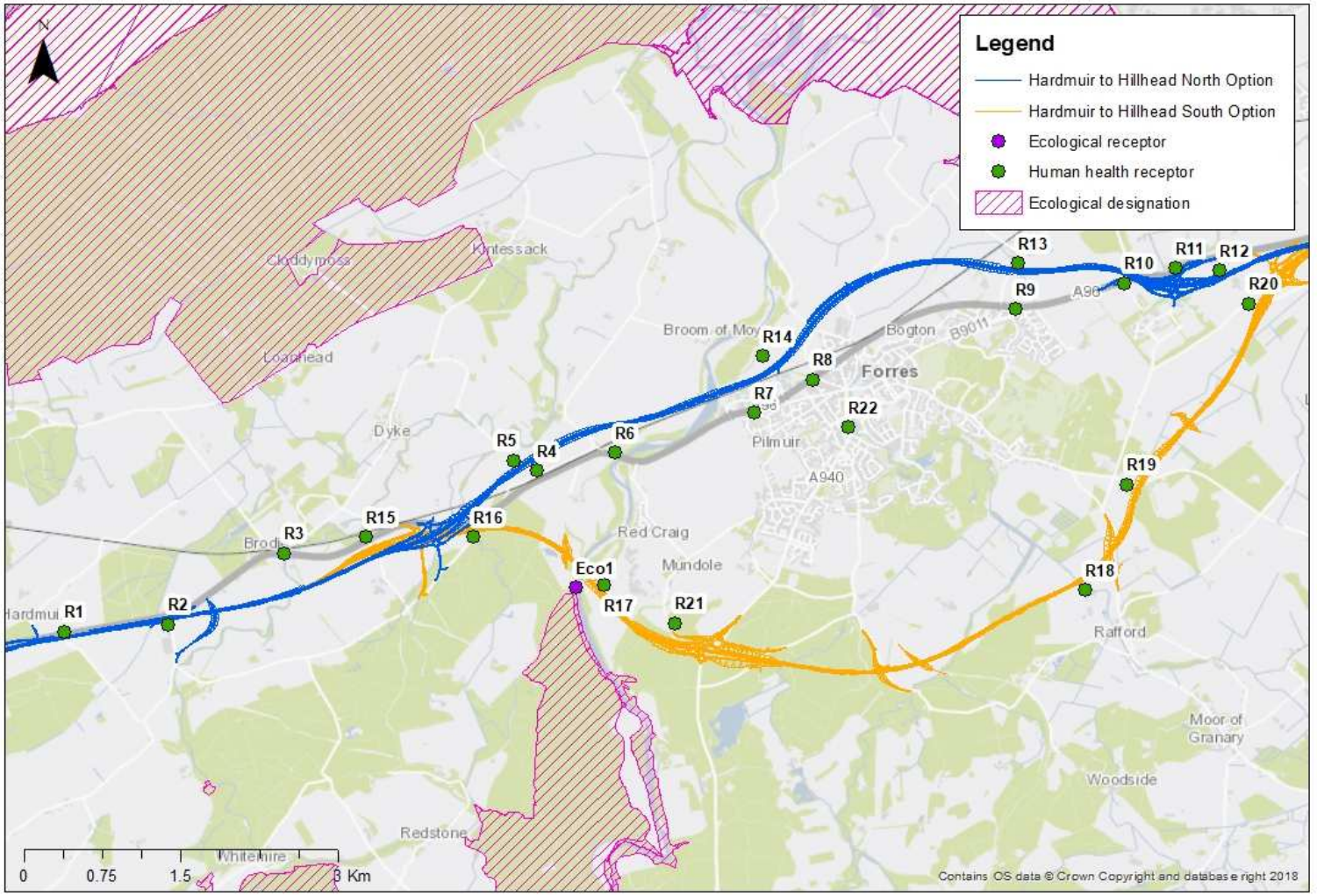


Figure 0.2 Hillhead to Lhanbryde Section - Receptor Locations

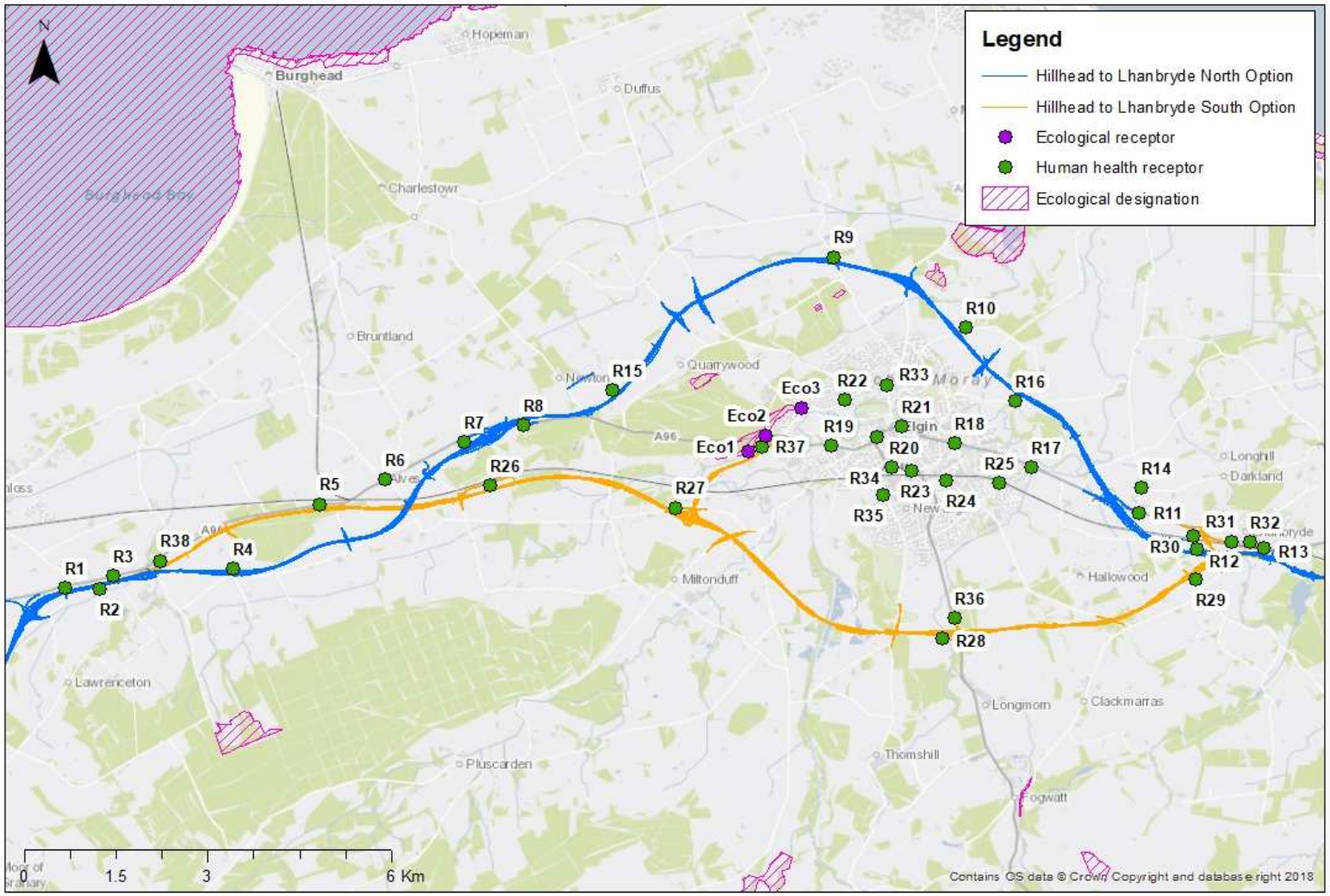
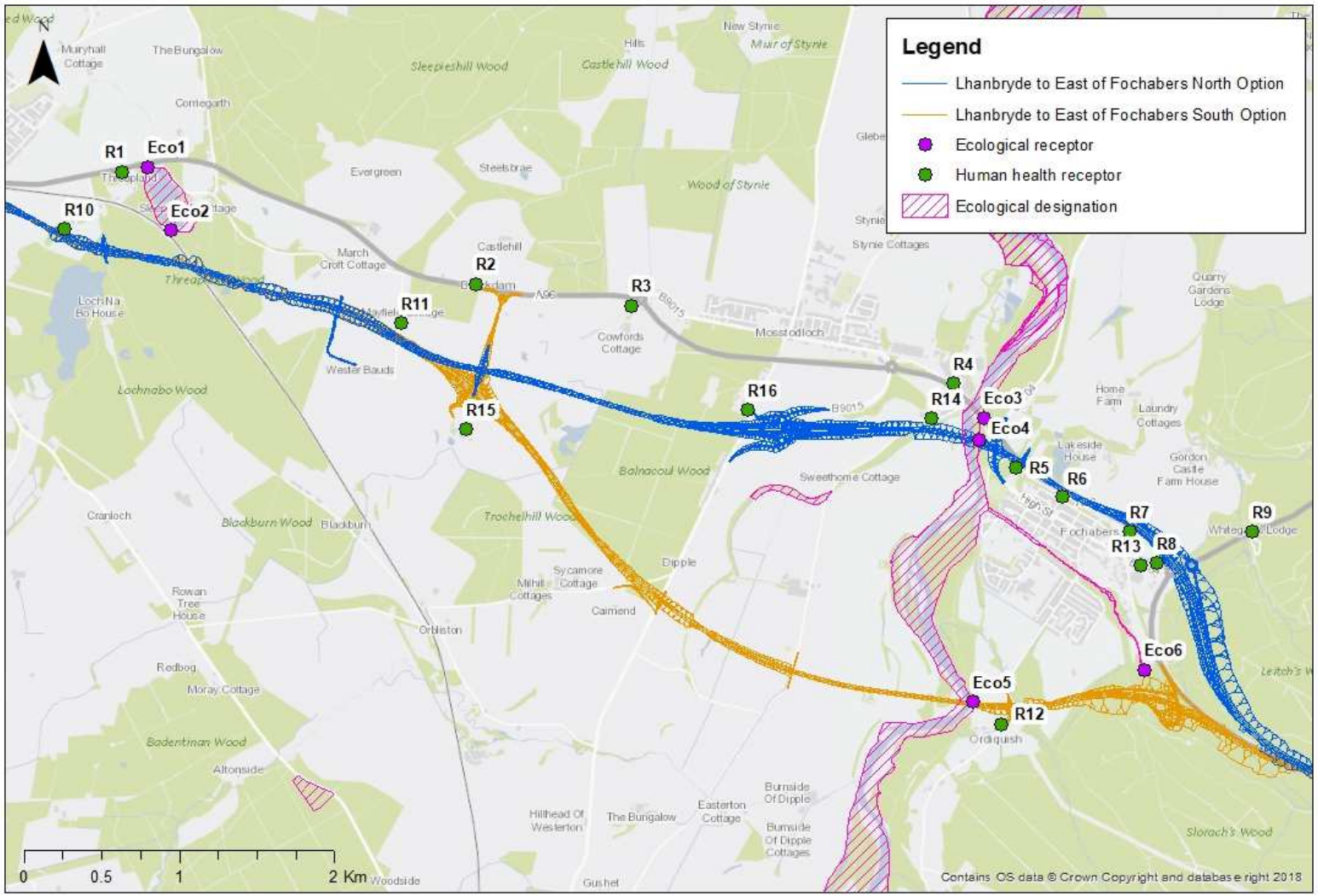


Figure 0.3 Lhanbryde to East of Fochabers Section - Receptor Locations



Significance

IAN 174/13 provides advice for evaluating significant local air quality effects for public exposure and Designated Sites. Evaluation of the significance of local air quality effects is undertaken in accordance with IAN 174/13, a summary of which is provided here.

The difference in pollutant concentrations between the DM and DS for each route option is used to describe the magnitude of change in accordance with Table 1.6. The larger the magnitude of change, the more certainty there is that there will be an impact on local air quality. Where the change in concentrations is less than 1% of the AQO, then the change at these receptors is considered to be imperceptible, and these receptors are scoped out of the judgement on significance of effect.

Table 1.6 Magnitude of Change Criteria

Magnitude of change in concentration ($\mu g/m^3$)	Value of change in annual NO_2 and PM_{10} concentration
Large (>4/>1.8)	Greater than full MoU value of 10% of the Air Quality Objective (4µg/m^3 for NO_2 and 1.8µg/m^3 for PM_{10})
Medium (>2/>0.9)	Greater than half of the MoU (2µg/m^3 for NO_2 and 0.9µg/m^3 for PM_{10}), but less than the full MoU (4µg/m^3 for NO_2 and 1.8µg/m^3 for PM_{10}) of 10% of the air quality objective
Small (>0.4/>0.2)	More than 1% of objective (0.4µg/m^3 for NO_2 and 0.2µg/m^3 for PM_{10}) but less than the full MoU (2µg/m^3 for NO_2 and 0.9µg/m^3 for PM_{10}) of 5% of the air quality objective
Imperceptible (<= 0.4/<= 0.2)	Less than or equal to 1% of objective (0.4µg/m^3 for NO_2 and 0.2µg/m^3 for PM_{10})

Notes: MoU = Measure of Uncertainty (% of the objective) this is an element of residual uncertainty, which in IAN 174/13 is referred to a MoU

Magnitude of Change Concentration Criteria adapted from IAN 174/13 to include descriptors for PM_{10} (NO_2/PM_{10})

Only receptors which exceed the relevant AQO (NO_2 annual mean of 40µg/m³ and PM_{10} annual mean of 18µg/m^3) in either the DM or DS for each option are considered in the judgement of overall significance. To determine if the effect is significant, the total number of receptors in each magnitude band are then aggregated and compared to the guideline number of receptors constituting a significant effect as shown in Table 1.7 sets out the guideline bands which have been developed for each magnitude category and set the upper level of likely non-significance and the lower level of likely significance. Between these two levels are the ranges where likely significance is more uncertain, and therefore professional judgment would be required.

Table 1.7 Guideline to number of properties constituting a significant effect

Magnitude of change in concentration	Value of change in annual NO_2 and PM_{10} concentration	
	Worsening of AQO already above objective or creation of a new exceedance	Improvement of an AQO already above objective or the removal of an existing exceedance
Large (>4/>1.8)	1 to 10	1 to 10
Medium (>2/>0.9)	10 to 30	10 to 30
Small (>0.4/>0.2)	30 to 60	30 to 60

If any pollutant concentrations are predicted to be above the lower level of likely significance, consideration should be given to all the evidence that may support or detract from the conclusion of a significant effect. The information compiled to complete Table 1.7 is then used along with the following key criteria to determine the overall evaluation of local air quality significance:

- is there a risk that the AQO will be breached?
- will there be a large change in environmental conditions?
- will the effect continue for a long time?
- will many people be affected?
- is there a risk that protected sites, areas, or features will be affected?
- will it be difficult to avoid, or reduce, or repair, or compensate for the effect?

This assessment has followed advice in IAN 174/13 on how to determine the effect significance in relation to each of the criteria above. However, not every receptor has been modelled across the affected roads; rather a selection to infer the judgement on significance. The results predicted at the most sensitive receptor locations (receptors closest to roads with the largest changes in traffic characteristics) have been used to determine if there is a risk of an exceedance of the AQO.

IAN 174/13 also requires that where Designated Sites would exceed the annual mean NO_x objective of 30µg/m^3 and changes in NO_x concentrations are greater than 0.4µg/m^3, then nutrient nitrogen deposition should also be calculated and used to determine the overall significance of effect.

Compliance Risk Assessment

IAN 175/13 provides guidance in relation to the assessment of the risk of the Scheme being non-compliant with the EU Directive. The compliance risk assessment is undertaken using the results obtained from the local air quality assessment. To undertake the compliance risk assessment the following information is required:

- Local air quality modelled results;
- Defra's Pollution Climate Mapping (PCM) model outputs for the compliance road network; and
- Defra's zones and agglomeration maps.

Defra's PCM model is used to report compliance with the EU limit values and provides NO_2 concentrations for a number of roads across the UK for a selection of future years. For this

assessment, PCM data has been obtained from the PCM model outputs which were released in August 2017, following the issue of Defra's Air Quality Action Plan[10].

To determine the study area for the compliance risk assessment, the local air ARN, as defined in Chapter 10, and the road network from the PCM model is used. A compliance risk road network (CRRN) is then defined where the two networks overlap, which then forms the basis for the assessment of compliance risk. There are 60 PCM links in total that overlap the ARN networks generated for the options, all located within Elgin. The highest predicted annual mean concentrations on these PCM links is on the existing A96 and is predicted to be 16µg/m^3 in the opening year of 2030, which is well below the annual mean limit value of 40µg/m3 for NO_2.

Based on the PCM data and the local air quality results in this assessment, it is not predicted that there would be an exceedance of the EU NO_2 limit value in the Opening Year for any of the options assessed (2030).

The options are therefore considered to have a low compliance risk rating, in accordance with IAN175/13, and no further consideration of Scheme effects in relation to compliance with the EU Directive has been undertaken.

Considering the current PCM model and the above description it is considered unlikely that the any future updates to the PCM model would cause a non-compliance.

[10] Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (2017). UK plan for tackling roadside nitrogen dioxide concentrations

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Appendix A10.2 - Air Quality Model Verification

A10.2 Air Quality Model Verification

Methodology

Model verification is a process by which checks are carried out to determine the performance of a model at a local level, primarily by the comparison of modelled results with monitoring data. The verification process benefits an assessment by investigating uncertainties and minimising them either through informed refinement of model input parameters or adjustment of the model output if it is deemed necessary.

Guidance produced by Defra (TG16) provides a methodology for model verification including calculation methods and directions on the suitability of monitoring data.

Verification of modelled 2017 annual mean NO_2 concentrations has been undertaken utilising monitoring results from a Scheme specific baseline monitoring exercise involving diffusion tube sites within the study area.

Background concentrations used in the model verification have been taken from the Air Quality in Scotland website and are presented in **Error! Reference source not found.** below.

Table 0.1 Background Pollutant Map Data for Verification

Grid Square location (Easting, Northing)	2017	
	NOx (µg/m^3)	NO_2 (µg/m^3)
301500,858500	5.0	3.7
305500,859500	5.6	4.1
305500,859500	5.6	4.1
313500,862500	5.2	3.8
325500,861500	7.3	5.3
333500,859500	11.5	8.1
332500,859500	6.0	4.4
335500,858500	6.7	4.9
322500,860500	7.3	5.3
321500,864500	7.2	5.3
321500,862500	16.9	11.4
322500,862500	16.4	11.2
320500,862500	9.4	6.7

Data from The Highland Council, Moray Council and the Scheme specific diffusion tube monitoring was reviewed and only sites that are in areas representative of receptors used within the Design Manual for Roads and Bridges (DMRB) simple assessment have been included in the verification process.

No sites within The Highland Council met this criterion as all the monitoring sites were outside the local ARNs and therefore were not included in the verification.

Three Moray Council sites and ten scheme specific monitoring sites were used for verification. The exact location of each of the Moray Council sites was confirmed with the Moray Council Environmental Health Officer (EHO) and the scheme specific sites were obtained during commissioning of the monitoring survey. Diffusion tubes 11 to 15 from the scheme monitoring survey were excluded from verification as they are in locations which are not representative of the receptors used in the DMRB simple assessment. Sixteen Moray Council diffusion tubes were excluded from verification as they were located outside of the affected road networks of all scheme options or were not sited at roadside locations.

The location of the monitoring sites used in model verification are indicated in Figure 10.4 to Figure 10.6 in Chapter 10. The data from the scheme specific monitoring sites were annualised and bias adjusted in accordance with Defra guidance. Table 0.2 presents the monitoring data used within the model verification.

Table 0.2 Monitoring Data used within Model Verification

Source	Site ID	Site Name	OS Grid Reference		2017 Annual Mean NO_2 ($\mu g/m^3$)
			X	Y	
Scheme Monitoring Survey Sites	1	Site 1	301536	858169	10.3
	2	Site 2A	305352	859625	6.7
	3	Site 2B	305505	859667	8.3
	4	Site 4	313466	862213	9.4
	5	Site 5	325096	861727	8.1
	6	Site 6	333990	859528	15.5
	7	Site 7	332403	859048	5.2
	8	Site 8	335146	858423	5.2
	9	Site 9	322531	860027	6.1
	10	Site 10	321815	864511	10.4
Moray Council Sites	11	Elgin 1	321105	862669	20.7
	12	Elgin 2A	322348	862745	23.0
	13	Elgin 10	320641	862291	13.0

Results

Table 0.3 and Figure 0.1 presents a comparison of the monitored and modelled concentrations of NOx and NO_2 at the diffusion tube sites for 2017. There is no systematic under or over prediction of monitored concentrations across most of the study area however there were two areas where the model appears to perform differently to the other. Two verification zones have therefore been used within the assessment as follows;

- Verification Zone 1 – All monitoring locations directly adjacent to the existing A96; and
- Verification Zone 2 – All other monitoring locations.

Table 0.3 Unadjusted Model Verification Results – All Monitoring Locations

Site ID	Monitored road NO_X ($\mu g/m^3$)	Modelled road NO_X ($\mu g/m^3$)	Monitored total NO_2 ($\mu g/m^3$)	Modelled total NO_2 ($\mu g/m^3$)	Total NO_2 % difference	Verification zone
1	14.9	11.8	10.3	10.2	-1.0	1
2	7.2	12.7	6.7	11.1	65.7	1
3	10.1	13.4	8.3	11.5	38.6	1
4	13.4	16.0	9.4	12.6	33.1	1
5	5.6	13.8	8.1	12.9	59.0	1
6	10.6	18.7	15.5	18.1	16.9	1
7	3.3	0.3	5.2	4.6	-11.8	2
8	1.0	1.8	5.2	6.0	13.5	2
9	2.7	4.0	6.1	7.3	18.9	2
10	9.7	10.3	10.4	11.4	9.0	2
11	9.4	20.6	20.7	22.6	9.3	1
12	15.4	36.4	23.0	29.6	28.7	1
13	9.7	6.8	13.0	10.5	-19.3	2

Verification Zone 1

Figure 0.3 and Figure 0.1 present a comparison of the monitored and modelled concentrations of NO_X and NO_2 at the sites in Verification Zone 1. Following Defra guidance, modelled and measured road traffic concentrations have been compared to derive a verification factor to apply to the modelled results. As diffusion tubes only measure total NO_2, the road traffic NO_X concentration measured by the diffusion tube was estimated following Defra TG.16. Monitored road traffic NO_X was estimated using Version 6.1 of the NO_X to NO_2 calculator, based on the Defra predicted background NO_2.

Following Defra guidance, a model adjustment factor of 0.54 has been calculated when comparing modelled and monitored road traffic NOx.

Figure 0.1 Zone 1 – Unadjusted Model Verification (Annual mean NO_2 µg/m^3)

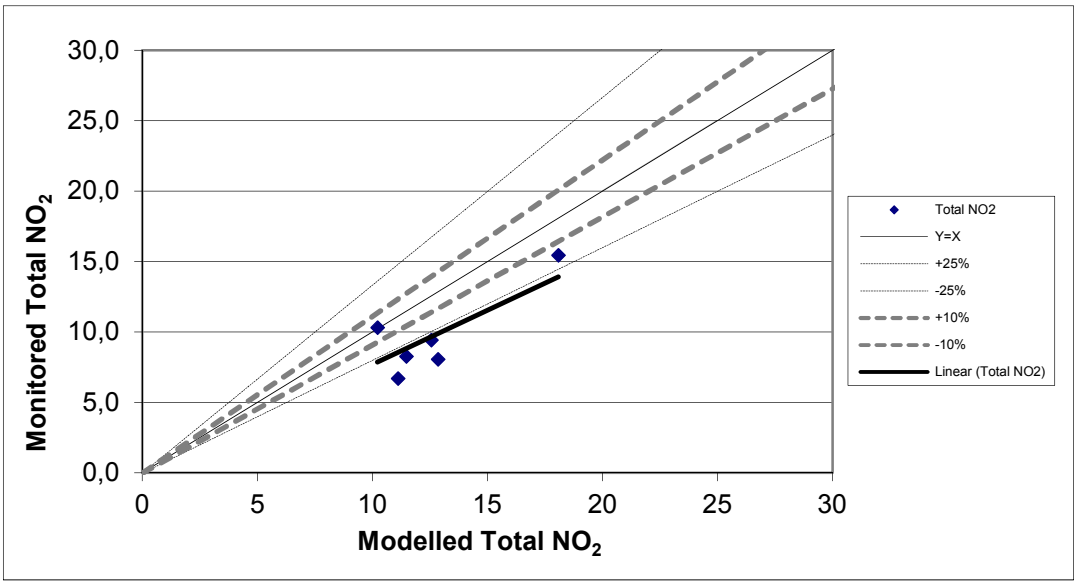

Table 0.4 and Figure 0.2 present the adjusted modelled NO_2 with monitored NO_2 at the verification sites. The model predicts NO_2 within 20% of the monitored concentrations at 8 of the 9 sites and predicts NO_2 within 30% of the monitored concentrations at the remaining site.

Table 0.4 Adjusted Model Verification Results – Zone 1

Site ID	Monitored total NO_2 (µg/m^3)	Modelled total NO_2 (µg/m^3)	Total NO_2 % difference
1	10.3	7.3	-29.7
2	6.7	8.0	18.6
3	8.3	8.2	-1.4
4	9.4	8.6	-8.6
5	8.1	9.5	16.9
6	15.5	13.6	-12.1
11	20.7	17.6	-14.9
12	23.0	21.5	-6.5

Figure 0.2 Zone 1 – Adjusted Model Verification (Annual mean NO_2 µg/m^3)

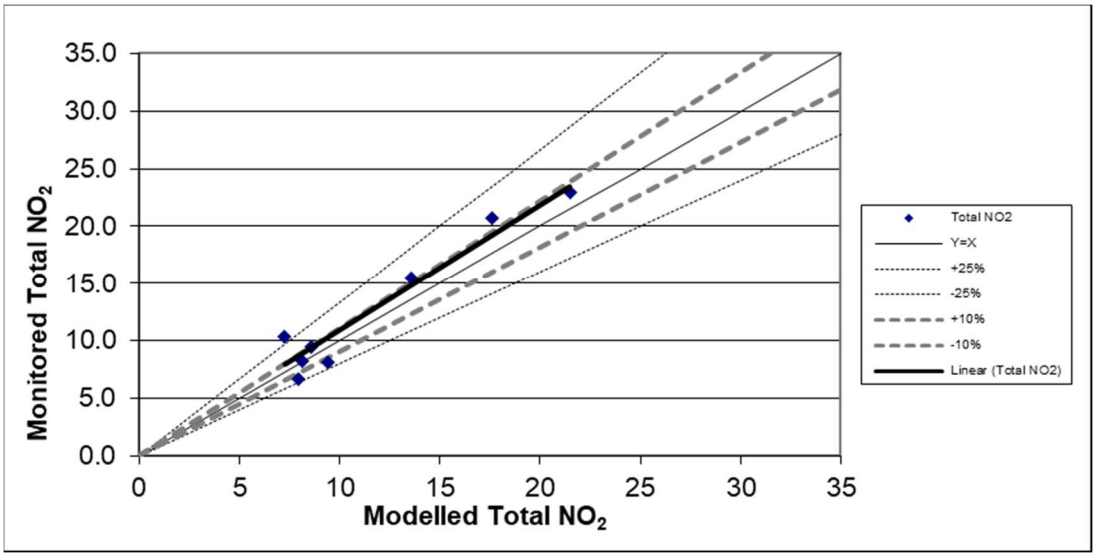

Table 0.5 presents statistical parameters for describing model uncertainty. The Root Mean Square Error (RMSE) is used to define the average error or uncertainty of the model. The results of the RMSE calculation in this case are concentrations of NO_2 measured in units of micrograms per metre cubed. Table 0.5 shows that before adjustment the model uncertainty was ±3.8µg/m^3 or 9.5% of the annual mean NO_2 objective. After adjustment the model uncertainty is reduced to ±1.9µg/m^3 or 4.8% of the annual mean NO_2 objective. After adjustment the model uncertainty is within the desired 10% of the relevant objective, as recommended by Defra guidance.

Fractional Bias (FB) is used to identify if the model shows a tendency to over or under predict and values can vary between +2 and -2 and have an ideal value of 0. Negative values suggest a model over-prediction and positive values suggest a model under-prediction. Table 0.5 shows that before adjustment the model is under-predicting annual mean NO_2 concentrations. Following adjustment the model is very close to the desired FB value of 0 with a slight tendency to over-predict.

The correlation coefficient (R) is used to measure the linear relationship between modelled and measured data. A value of zero means no relationship and a value of 1 means absolute relationship. The value of R is increases slightly from 0.96 to 0.97 following model adjustment.

Table 0.5 Description of Model Uncertainty

Statistical parameter	Before adjustment	After adjustment	Ideal value
Root mean square error	3.81	1.89	0
Fractional bias (a)	-0.23	0.08	0
Correlation coefficient	0.96	0.97	1

The statistical analysis above demonstrates that the model performs adequately versus monitoring data, following adjustment. As the adjustment factor is less than 1 (0.54), no adjustment factor has been applied to modelled road NOx contributions at receptors within this zone to provide a worst-case assessment.

Verification Zone 2

Table 0.6 and Figure 0.3 present a comparison of the monitored and modelled concentrations of NO_X and NO_2 at the sites in Verification Zone 2. Following Defra guidance, modelled and measured road traffic concentrations have been compared to derive a verification factor to apply to the modelled results. As diffusion tubes only measure total NO_2, the road traffic NO_X concentration measured by the diffusion tube was estimated following Defra TG.16. Monitored road traffic NOx was estimated using Version 6.1 of the NO_X to NO_2 calculator, based on the Defra predicted background NO_2.

Following Defra guidance, a model adjustment factor of 1.04 has been calculated when comparing modelled and monitored road traffic NOx.

Figure 0.3 Zone 2 – Unadjusted Model Verification (Annual mean NO_2 µg/m^3)

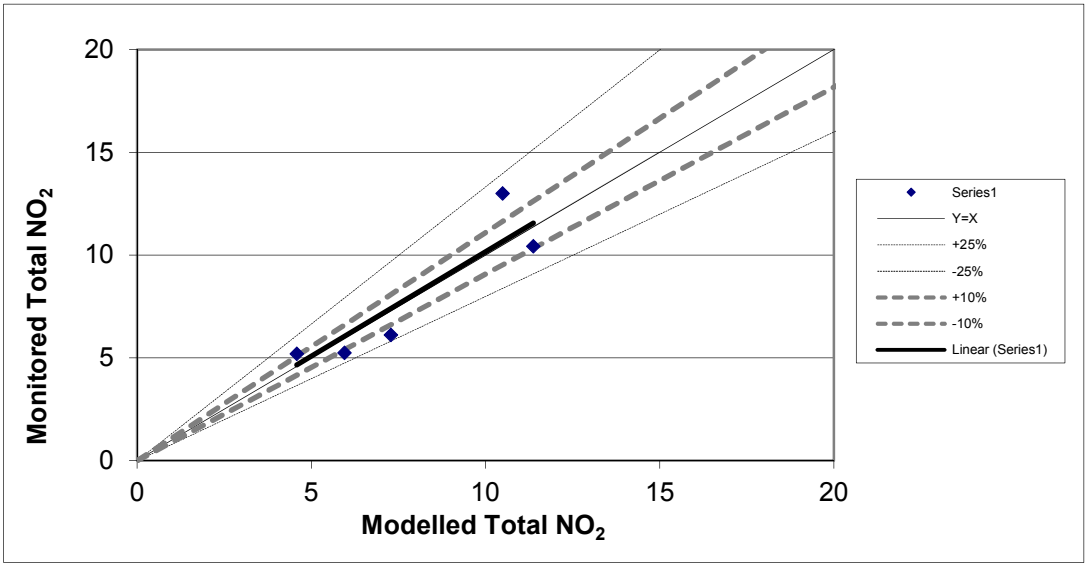

Table 0.6 and Figure 0.4 present the adjusted modelled NO_2 with monitored NO_2 at the verification sites. The model predicts NO_2 within 20% of the monitored concentrations at all sites.

Table 0.6 Adjusted Model Verification Results – Zone 2

Site ID	Monitored total NO_2 (µg/m^3)	Modelled total NO_2 (µg/m^3)	Total NO_2 % difference
7	5.2	4.6	-11.8
8	5.2	6.0	13.5
9	6.1	7.3	18.9
10	10.4	11.4	9.0
13	13.0	10.5	-19.3

Figure 0.4 Zone 2 – Adjusted Model Verification (Annual mean NO_2 µg/m^3)

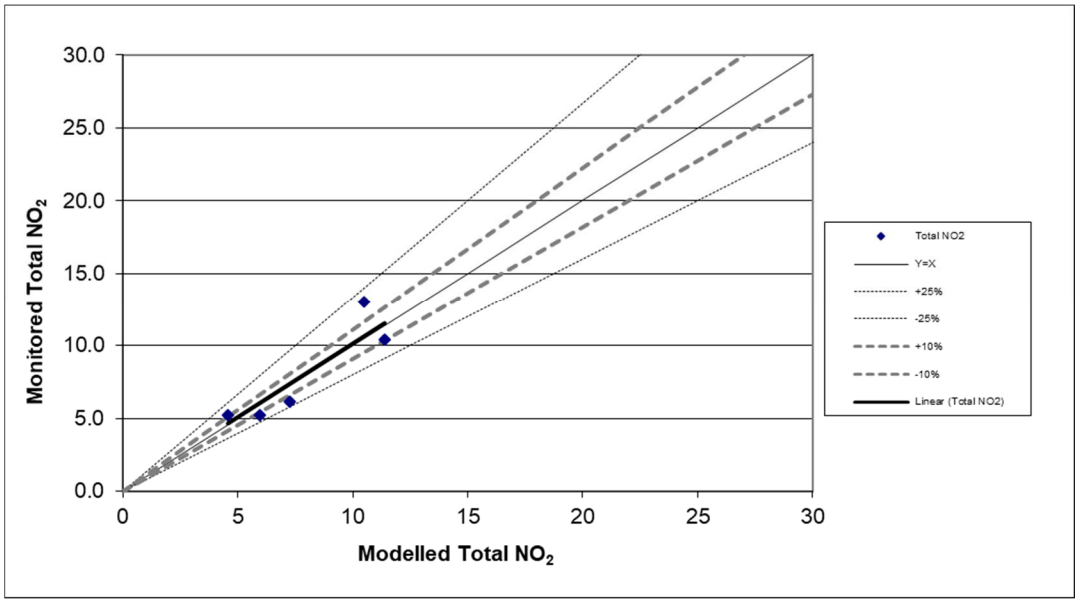

Table 0.7 presents statistical parameters for describing model uncertainty. The Root Mean Square Error (RMSE) is used to define the average error or uncertainty of the model. The results of the RMSE calculation in this case are concentrations of NO_2 measured in units of micrograms per metre cubed. Table 0.7 shows that before adjustment the model uncertainty was ±1.4µg/m^3 or 3.5% of the annual mean NO_2 objective. As the adjustment factor is so close to 1 the model uncertainty stays at ±1.4µg/m^3 after adjustment. The model uncertainty is within the desired 10% of the relevant objective, as recommended by Defra guidance.

Fractional Bias (FB) is used to identify if the model shows a tendency to over or under predict and values can vary between +2 and -2 and have an ideal value of 0. Negative values suggest a model over-prediction and positive values suggest a model under-prediction. Table 0.7 shows that the model is slightly over-predicting annual mean NO_2 concentrations. Following adjustment, the model is very close to the desired FB value of 0 with a slight tendency to over-predict.

The correlation coefficient (R) is used to measure the linear relationship between modelled and measured data. A value of zero means no relationship and a value of 1 means absolute relationship. The value of R is 0.90 following model adjustment.

Table 0.7 Description of Model Uncertainty

Statistical parameter	Before adjustment	After adjustment	Ideal value
Root mean square error	1.37	1.37	0
Fractional bias (a)	0.01	0.01	0
Correlation coefficient	0.90	0.90	1

The statistical analysis above demonstrates that the model performs adequately versus monitoring data, following adjustment. An adjustment factor of 1.04 has therefore been applied to modelled road NOx contributions at all receptors within this zone.

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Appendix A10.3 - Monitoring Data Adjustment

A10.3 Monitoring Data Adjustment

Introduction

Mott MacDonald Sweco (MMS) commenced a monitoring survey of Nitrogen Dioxide (NO_2) concentrations at 15 sites in the study area from September 2017 to January 2018. Monitoring was carried out using diffusion tubes, which are a passive method designed to provide information on long term trends and existing concentrations. The tubes are exposed at each location for approximately one month, then collected, sent back to a laboratory for analysis to determine the NO_2 concentration measured and replaced with new tubes.

The tubes were prepared and analysed by Gradko International Ltd using the 20% Triethanolamine (TEA) in water method.

Monitoring Locations

Monitoring sites were selected based on their proximity to roads and junctions likely to be affected by the Scheme and at locations where sensitive receptors are present. The locations of the monitoring locations were agreed with the EHO at Moray Council. The location of each tube is indicated in Figure 10.1 to 10.3 in Chapter 10. Two diffusion tubes were located at each monitoring location to improve the precision of the results.

The raw data obtained from the three-month diffusion tube survey was annualised and bias adjusted to enable comparison with the annual mean NO_2 objective. The methodology behind the adjustment process is outlined below.

Bias Adjustment

Diffusion tubes are less accurate than continuous monitoring methods and typically under or over read concentrations. In order to correct for this, diffusion tubes are co-located with continuous monitoring stations, and a bias adjustment factor is calculated by comparing results from both techniques. Diffusion tube results were bias adjusted using the monitored data from Site 15 which was co-located with the Inverness Telford Street automatic monitor. A bias adjustment factor of 0.83 was calculated following the guidance provided in the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra) LAQM(TG(16))[1] and applied to the results.

Annual Adjustment

Automatic monitoring data were obtained from four automatic monitoring stations within 50 miles of the Scheme and the period average concentration was compared to the annual mean concentration monitored for the stations in 2017. Only one urban background monitoring station was available within 50 miles of the Scheme (Aberdeen) so three additional roadside sites have

[1] The Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (2016) Local Air Quality Management Technical Guidance

been included. This approach is considered appropriate for adjustment of roadside diffusion tubes as per Defra's LAQM.TG(16). The results of this comparison are summarised in Table 0.1.

Table 0.1 Annualisation Factors

Site ID	Aberdeen Union		Aberdeen Wellington		Aberdeen		Inverness	
	ug/m³	% DC	ug/m³	% DC	ug/m³	% DC	ug/m³	% DC
Annual Mean NO_2*(µg/m³)	46.35	92.3	42.22	100.0	32.03	99.9	23.98	99.8
Period Mean NO_2** (µg/m³)	40.12	95.7	39.27	96.2	22.05	96.2	20.12	96.6
Annualisation Factor	0.87		0.93		0.69		0.84	
Average Annualisation Factor	0.83							

Source: Defra Automatic Urban and Rural Network (AURN)
Note: *Average for 2017 DC = Data Capture **Average for period 27/09/2017 to 23/01/2018

An average annualisation factor of 0.83 was obtained from the automatic monitoring stations. The annualisation factor was applied to the bias adjusted tube results to convert to an annual mean value for 2017.

Appendix A10.4 - Predicted Effects Supporting Assessment

A10.4 Predicted Effects Supporting Assessment

Introduction

This appendix presents the detailed assessment of the potential air quality impacts of the proposals for each option to support the assessment tables presented in Section 10.6 of Chapter 10 of the Design Manual for Roads and Bridges (DMRB) Stage 2 assessment. The magnitude of predicted impacts has been considered in combination with resultant pollutant concentrations to determine the potential for significant effects.

The air quality assessment indicates that there are no human health or ecological sensitive receptors with predicted concentrations of NO_2, PM_{10} or NO_x which exceed the relevant Air Quality Objectives (AQOs) in either the Do-Minimum (DM) or Do-Something (DS) scenarios for any of the options. In accordance with the significance criteria in IAN 174/13 Update advice for evaluating significant local air quality effects for users of DMRB Volume 11, Section 3, Part 1 'Air Quality' (referred to as IAN 174/13), as presented in Appendix 10.1, there are therefore no significant effects predicted at any location for any option for air quality.

Predicted Effects

Hardmuir to Hillhead

Human Health Impacts

Predicted NO_2 concentrations at the Hardmuir to Hillhead north and south option worst-case sensitive receptors are presented in Table 0.1.

Table 0.1 Predicted Annual Mean NO_2 Concentrations – Hardmuir to Hillhead

ID	Location	NO_2 Annual Mean Concentration (µg/m^3)						
		2030 DM	2030 DS North	Change	Magnitude	2030 DS South	Change	Magnitude
R1	Heathfield Easter Hardmuir	3.8	3.9	0.1	Imperceptible	3.9	0.1	Imperceptible
R2	Feddan Farm	2.5	3.6	1.1	Small	3.5	1.0	Small
R3	2 Station Cottages	5.1	2.2	-2.9	Medium	2.2	-2.9	Medium
R4	2 Dalvey Cottages	2.4	2.4	0.0	Imperceptible	2.1	-0.3	Imperceptible
R5	Banarach Farmhouse	1.9	2.5	0.6	Small	1.9	0.0	Imperceptible
R6	Boathill of Dalvey	4.7	3.3	-1.4	Small	3.2	-1.5	Small
R7	Drumine Road	5.9	4.9	-1.0	Small	4.8	-1.1	Small
R8	Brannian Cottage	7.1	4.8	-2.3	Medium	4.9	-2.2	Medium
R9	Moray Gardens	5.2	4.0	-1.2	Small	3.8	-1.4	Small

ID	Location	NO_2 Annual Mean Concentration (µg/m^3)						
		2030 DM	2030 DS North	Change	Magnitude	2030 DS South	Change	Magnitude
R10	1 Tarras Cottages	5.8	3.7	-2.1	Medium	3.9	-1.9	Small
R11	Grangehall South Lodge	4.7	2.5	-2.2	Medium	3.2	-1.5	Small
R12	Hillhead Chuillin	3.1	4.4	1.3	Small	3.0	-0.1	Imperceptible
R13	1 Cassieford Cottages	3.1	4.0	0.9	Small	3.1	0.0	Imperceptible
R14	Greshop House	2.1	2.2	0.1	Imperceptible	2.1	0.0	Imperceptible
R15	Shiralee	3.7	2.2	-1.5	Small	2.4	-1.3	Small
R16	Woodside Cottage	2.3	2.1	-0.2	Imperceptible	3.5	1.2	Small
R17	Beech Avenues	1.7	1.7	0.0	Imperceptible	2.5	0.8	Small
R18	Marcassie Cottage	1.8	1.8	0.0	Imperceptible	2.2	0.4	Imperceptible
R19	Wester New Forres Farm	2.0	2.0	0.0	Imperceptible	2.4	0.4	Imperceptible
R20	1 Rafford Road Cottages	2.2	2.2	0.0	Imperceptible	2.5	0.3	Imperceptible
R21	1 Gean Cottages	1.7	1.7	0.0	Imperceptible	1.8	0.1	Imperceptible
R22	Fleurs Cottage	5.2	5.4	0.2	Imperceptible	4.9	-0.3	Imperceptible

The highest predicted annual mean NO_2 concentrations would occur at sensitive receptor R8 in the DM Scenario, which is located adjacent to the existing A96 within Forres. Predicted annual mean NO_2 concentrations at this location would reduce by 2.3µg/m^3 for both the North and 2.2µg/m^3 for the South options in the DS Scenarios. Sensitive receptor R8 is located within approximately 10m of the existing A96, experiencing traffic flows of approximately 14,100 vehicles per day in the DM Scenario. At this location, total vehicle flows as a result of the options are predicted to reduce by approximately 10,400 vehicles per day and 10,200 vehicles per day respectively.

The greatest increase in annual mean NO_2 for the North option is predicted at sensitive receptor R12, where an increase of 1.3µg/m^3 compared to the DM is predicted. Concentrations are well below the air quality objectives in both the DM and DS Scenarios. Sensitive receptor R12 is located over 120m from the existing A96 in the DM Scenario and within approximately 60m of the North option in the DS scenario, which is predicted to have traffic flows of approximately 24,700 vehicles per day.

The greatest increase in annual mean NO_2 for the South option is predicted at sensitive receptor R16, where an increase of 1.2µg/m^3 compared to the DM is predicted. Sensitive receptor R16 is located over 120m from the existing A96 in the DM Scenario and within approximately 50m of the South option in the DS scenario, which is predicted to have traffic flows of approximately 18,400 vehicles per day.

Predicted PM_{10} concentrations for the Hardmuir to Hillhead section worst-case sensitive receptors are presented in Table 0.2.

Table 0.2 Predicted Annual Mean PM_{10} Concentrations – Hardmuir to Hillhead

ID	Location	NO2 Annual Mean Concentration (µg/m³)						
		2030 DM	2030 DS North	Change	Magnitude	2030 DS South	Change	Magnitude
R1	Heathfield Easter Hardmuir	7.6	7.5	-0.1	Imperceptible	7.5	-0.1	Imperceptible
R2	Feddan Farm	7.4	7.6	2	Small	7.6	2	Small
R3	2 Station Cottages	8.5	7.4	-1.1	Medium	7.4	-1.1	Medium
R4	2 Dalvey Cottages	7.4	7.4	0.0	Imperceptible	7.3	-0.1	Imperceptible
R5	Banarach Farmhouse	7.2	7.4	0.2	Small	7.2	0.0	Imperceptible
R6	Boathill of Dalvey	8.5	7.9	-0.4	Small	7.9	-0.6	Small
R7	Drumine Road	9.6	9.1	-0.5	Small	9.0	-0.6	Small
R8	Brannian Cottage	10.1	9.0	-1.1	Medium	9.1	-1.0	Medium
R9	Moray Gardens	9.0	8.3	-0.7	Small	8.3	-0.7	Small
R10	1 Tarras Cottages	9.1	8.3	-0.8	Small	8.4	-0.7	Small
R11	Grangehall South Lodge	7.9	7.1	-0.8	Small	7.3	-0.6	Small
R12	Hillhead Chuillin	7.4	7.8	0.4	Small	7.3	-0.1	Imperceptible
R13	1 Cassieford Cottages	7.1	7.4	0.3	Small	7.1	0.0	Imperceptible
R14	Greshop House	7.0	7.0	0.0	Imperceptible	7.0	0.0	Imperceptible
R15	Shiralee	8.1	7.6	-0.5	Small	7.7	-0.4	Small
R16	Woodside Cottage	7.1	7.0	-0.1	Imperceptible	7.5	0.4	Small
R17	Beech Avenues	6.3	6.3	0.0	Imperceptible	6.5	0.2	Small
R18	Marcassie Cottage	6.6	6.6	0.0	Imperceptible	6.7	0.1	Imperceptible
R19	Wester New Forres Farm	6.8	6.8	0.0	Imperceptible	6.9	0.1	Imperceptible
R20	1 Rafford Road Cottages	7.9	7.9	0.0	Imperceptible	8.0	0.1	Imperceptible
R21	1 Gean Cottages	6.6	6.6	0.0	Imperceptible	6.6	0.0	Imperceptible
R22	Fleurs Cottage	8.5	8.6	0.1	Imperceptible	8.4	-0.1	Imperceptible

The highest predicted annual mean PM_{10} concentrations would occur at sensitive receptor R8 in the DM Scenario, which is on the existing A96 within Forres. Predicted annual mean PM_{10} concentrations would reduce by 1.1µg/m^3 for the North option and by 1.0µg/m^3 for the South option in the DS Scenarios at this receptor. Sensitive receptor R8 is located within approximately 10m of the existing A96 and the reduction in concentrations is predicted a result of a reduction in total vehicle flows in the North and South DS options of approximately 10,400 vehicles per day and 10,200 vehicles per day respectively.

The greatest increase in annual mean PM_{10} is predicted at sensitive receptor R12 for the North option and R16 for the South option where an increase of 0.4µg/m^3 is predicted for both Options, from 7.4µg/m^3 to 7.8µg/m^3 at R12 in the North DS and from 7.1µg/m^3 to 7.5µg/m^3 at R16 in the South DS. R12 is located over 120m from the existing A96 in the DM Scenario and within approximately 60m of the North option in the DS scenario, which is predicted to have traffic flows of approximately 24,700 vehicles per day. R16 is located over 120m from the existing A96 in the DM Scenario and within approximately 50m of the South option in the DS scenario, and predicted to have traffic flows of approximately 18,400 vehicles per day.

Ecological Impacts

Concentrations of NO_X have been predicted along one ecological sensitive receptor transect at 10m intervals up to 200m within the Lower Findhorn Woods Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) and Special Area of Conservation (SAC) and Darnaway and Lethen Forest SPA as presented in Figure 10.4 of Chapter 10.

As indicated in Table 1.3, predicted NOx concentrations are below 30µg/m^3 and imperceptible changes in NOx concentrations are predicted. An assessment of nitrogen deposition at ecological receptors is not required in accordance with IAN 174/13 and as such has not been considered further.

Table 0.3 Predicted Annual Mean NO_x Concentrations – Hardmuir to Hillhead

ID	Location	NO_x Annual Mean Concentration (µg/m^3)			
		2030 DM	2030 Hardmuir to Hillhead South DS	Change	Magnitude
R1	Lower Findhorn Woods SSSI and SAC and Darnaway and Lethen Forest SPA	2.18	2.47	0.29	Imperceptible

Regional Impacts

Results from the regional impact assessment are presented in Table 1.4 and Table 0.5. Both the North and South options are predicted to cause an increase in regional emissions of NOx, PM_{10} and CO_2 compared to the DM scenario in the Opening (2030) and Design (2045) Years. This is due to an increase in the number of vehicles using the new roads and an increase in the overall kilometres travelled by vehicles in the Do-Something scenario with the new road alignment relative to the Do Minimum scenario.

Table 0.4 Regional Impacts – Hardmuir to Hillhead North Option

Pollutant	2030			2045		
	DM	DS	Change	DM	DS	Change
NOx (kg/yr)	597,819	731,234	133,415	683,361	841,968	158,607
PM_{10} (kg/yr)	102,706	119,123	16,417	120,955	140,649	19,694
CO_2 (tn/yr)	632,406	764,976	132,569	754,753	905,287	150,534

Table 0.5 Regional Impacts – Hardmuir to Hillhead South Option

Pollutant	2030			2045		
	DM	DS	Change	DM	DS	Change
NOx (kg/yr)	598,232	732,890	134,658	681,553	843,662	162,109
PM_{10} (kg/yr)	102,789	119,420	16,631	120,695	140,772	20,077
CO_2 (tn/yr)	632,807	767,076	134,269	752,855	907,988	155,133

Hillhead to Lhanbryde

Human Health Impacts

Predicted NO_2 concentrations at the Hillhead to Lhanbryde north and south options worst-case sensitive receptors are presented in Table 0.6.

Table 0.6 Predicted Annual Mean NO_2 Concentrations – Hillhead to Lhanbryde

ID	Location	NO_2 Annual Mean Concentration (µg/m^3)						
		2030 DM	2030 DS North	Change	Magnitude	2030 DS South	Change	Magnitude
R1	Scotsburn Cottage	4.4	4.1	-0.3	Imperceptible	4.3	-0.1	Imperceptible
R2	1 Gean Cottages	2.4	3.0	0.6	Small	3.0	0.6	Small
R3	Burgie New Schoolhouse	5.5	3.5	-2.0	Medium	3.6	-1.9	Small
R4	Birchbrae	2.0	3.5	1.5	Small	2.0	0.0	Imperceptible
R5	Treetops	5.0	2.6	-2.4	Medium	3.8	-1.2	Small
R6	Alves Primary School	7.1	3.0	-4.1	Large	3.2	-3.9	Medium
R7	Ben Wyvis	3.5	3.0	-0.5	Small	2.6	-0.9	Small
R8	Ardgye Lodge	5.0	4.1	-0.9	Small	2.9	-2.1	Medium
R9	Lochside Cottage	2.3	3.0	0.7	Small	2.3	0.0	Imperceptible

ID	Location	NO_2 Annual Mean Concentration (µg/m^3)						
		2030 DM	2030 DS North	Change	Magnitude	2030 DS South	Change	Magnitude
R10	Muir of Linksfield	3.6	3.7	0.1	Imperceptible	3.6	0.0	Imperceptible
R11	1 Sheriffston Cottages	8.6	5.0	-3.6	Medium	6.9	-1.7	Small
R12	1 Easter Coxton	3.3	5.0	1.7	Small	3.3	0.0	Imperceptible
R13	Templand Place	7.6	4.9	-2.7	Medium	4.8	-2.8	Medium
R14	Sherifston Winton	3.9	3.5	-0.4	Imperceptible	3.8	-0.1	Imperceptible
R15	Leggat Cottage	2.6	3.0	0.4	Small	2.6	0.0	Imperceptible
R16	2 Lower Woodside	4.8	4.9	0.1	Imperceptible	4.8	-0.0	Imperceptible
R17	1 Waulkmill Cottages	13.0	10.9	-2.1	Medium	10.7	-2.3	Medium
R18	Pinefield Road	14.6	12.4	-2.32	Medium	12.7	-1.9	Small
R19	West Road	8.0	6.7	-1.3	Small	6.2	-1.8	Small
R20	Alexandra Road	17.9	14.7	-3.2	Medium	14.4	-3.5	Medium
R21	North Port	11.2	9.0	-2.2	Medium	9.3	-1.9	Small
R22	Morriston Road	4.1	3.9	-0.2	Imperceptible	4.3	0.2	Imperceptible
R23	Station Road	11.7	11.4	-0.3	Imperceptible	11.0	-0.7	Small
R24	Milnefield House	12.0	11.5	-0.5	Small	11.3	-0.7	Small
R25	Reket Lane	9.5	9.3	-0.2	Imperceptible	9.1	-0.4	Small
R26	Easter Wards Farm	2.4	2.4	0.0	Imperceptible	3.7	1.3	Small
R27	Lochinver Cottages	2.1	2.1	0.0	Imperceptible	3.6	1.5	Small
R28	Burnside of Birnie	2.8	2.8	0.0	Imperceptible	3.1	0.3	Imperceptible
R29	Coxton Doohill	2.7	2.7	0.0	Imperceptible	2.9	0.2	Imperceptible
R30	Easter Coxton Greenacres	4.1	3.5	-0.6	Small	3.9	-0.2	Imperceptible
R31	Skarabrae	6.8	4.4	-2.4	Medium	4.3	-2.5	Medium
R32	Lady Margaret Drive	5.0	4.3	-0.7	Small	4.2	-0.8	Small
R33	North Street	9.4	9.2	-0.2	Imperceptible	9.7	0.3	Imperceptible
R34	South View Road	10.9	10.8	-0.1	Imperceptible	10.4	-0.5	Small
R35	The Wards	7.6	7.6	0.0	Imperceptible	7.4	-0.2	Imperceptible
R36	Birkenhill	3.7	3.6	-0.1	Imperceptible	4.1	0.4	Imperceptible

ID	Location	NO_2 Annual Mean Concentration (µg/m³)						
		2030 DM	2030 DS North	Change	Magnitude	2030 DS South	Change	Magnitude
R37	Scoggiemill House	3.4	3.4	0.0	Imperceptible	4.2	0.8	Small
R38	New Mill Cottage	4.4	2.6	-1.8	Small	3.3	-1.0	Small

The highest predicted annual mean NO_2 concentrations would occur at sensitive receptor R20 in the DM Scenario, which is located adjacent to the existing A96 within Elgin. Predicted annual mean NO_2 concentrations at this location would reduce by 3.2µg/m³ for the North option and by 3.5µg/m³ for the South option in the DS Scenarios. Sensitive receptor R20 is located within approximately 10m of the existing A96, experiencing approximately 20,700 vehicles per day in the DM Scenario. At this location, total vehicle flows as a result of the options are predicted to reduce by approximately 5,500 vehicles per day and 6,000 vehicles per day respectively.

The greatest increase in annual mean NO_2 for the North option is predicted at sensitive receptor R12, where an increase of 1.7µg/m³ compared to the DM is predicted. Concentrations are well below the air quality objectives in both the DM and DS Scenarios. Sensitive receptor R12 is located over 200m from the existing A96 in the DM Scenario and within approximately 50m of the North option in the DS scenario, which is predicted to have traffic flows of approximately 23,100 vehicles per day.

The greatest increase in annual mean NO_2 for the South option is predicted at sensitive receptor R27, where an increase of 1.5µg/m³ compared to the DM is predicted. Sensitive receptor R27 is located over 200m from the existing A96 in the DM Scenario and within approximately 60m from the South option in the DS scenario, which is predicted to have traffic flows of approximately 14,200 vehicles per day.

Predicted PM_{10} concentrations at the Hillhead to Lhanbryde worst-case sensitive receptors are presented in Table 0.7.

Table 0.7 Predicted Annual Mean PM_{10} Concentrations – Hillhead to Lhanbryde

ID	Location	PM_{10} Annual Mean Concentration (µg/m³)						
		2030 DM	2030 DS North	Change	Magnitude	2030 DS South	Change	Magnitude
R1	Scotsburn Cottage	10.1	9.9	-0.2	Small	9.9	-0.2	Imperceptible
R2	1 Gean Cottages	8.7	8.8	0.1	Small	8.6	-0.1	Imperceptible
R3	Burgie New Schoolhouse	9.8	9.0	-0.8	Small	8.8	-1.0	Medium
R4	Birchbrae	8.1	8.6	0.5	Small	8.1	0.0	Imperceptible
R5	Treetops	8.6	7.7	-0.9	Medium	8.1	-0.5	Small

ID	Location	PM_{10} Annual Mean Concentration (µg/m³)						
		2030 DM	2030 DS North	Change	Magnitude	2030 DS South	Change	Magnitude
R6	Alves Primary School	9.5	8.4	-1.1	Medium	8.4	-1.1	Medium
R7	Ben Wyvis	7.6	7.4	-0.2	Small	7.2	-0.4	Small
R8	Ardgye Lodge	8.9	8.5	-0.4	Small	8.1	-0.8	Small
R9	Lochside Cottage	7.0	7.1	0.1	Small	7.0	0.0	Imperceptible
R10	Muir of Linksfield	7.0	7.0	0.0	Imperceptible	7.0	0.0	Imperceptible
R11	1 Sheriffston Cottages	9.4	8.2	-1.2	Medium	8.8	-0.6	Small
R12	1 Easter Coxton	7.8	8.3	0.5	Small	7.8	0.0	Imperceptible
R13	Templand Place	9.1	8.1	-1.0	Medium	8.1	-1.0	Medium
R14	Sherifston Winton	7.9	7.8	-0.1	Imperceptible	7.9	0.0	Imperceptible
R15	Leggat Cottage	8.0	8.1	0.1	Imperceptible	8.0	0.0	Imperceptible
R16	2 Lower Woodside	9.6	9.6	0.0	Imperceptible	9.5	-0.1	Imperceptible
R17	1 Waulkmill Cottages	12.1	11.3	-0.8	Small	11.2	-0.9	Small
R18	Pinefield Road	11.2	10.6	-0.6	Small	10.7	-0.5	Small
R19	West Road	8.9	8.3	-0.6	Small	8.1	-0.8	Small
R20	Alexandra Road	11.6	10.8	-0.8	Medium	10.7	-0.9	Medium
R21	North Port	9.8	9.1	-0.7	Small	9.2	-0.6	Small
R22	Morriston Road	7.0	6.9	-0.1	Imperceptible	7.1	0.1	Imperceptible
R23	Station Road	9.8	9.7	-0.1	Imperceptible	9.6	-0.2	Small
R24	Milnefield House	10.6	10.4	-0.2	Small	10.3	-0.3	Small
R25	Reket Lane	10.8	10.7	-0.1	Imperceptible	10.6	-0.2	Small
R26	Easter Wards Farm	7.2	7.2	0.0	Imperceptible	7.6	0.4	Small
R27	Lochinver Cottages	6.2	6.2	0.0	Imperceptible	6.7	0.5	Small
R28	Burnside of Birnie	7.8	7.8	0.0	Imperceptible	7.9	0.1	Imperceptible
R29	Coxton Doohill	8.0	8.0	0.0	Imperceptible	8.1	0.1	Imperceptible
R30	Easter Coxton Greenacres	8.0	7.8	-0.2	Small	8.0	0.0	Imperceptible

ID	Location	PM_{10} Annual Mean Concentration (µg/m³)						
		2030 DM	2030 DS North	Change	Magnitude	2030 DS South	Change	Magnitude
R31	Skarabrae	8.8	8.0	-0.8	Small	7.9	-0.9	Medium
R32	Lady Margaret Drive	8.2	7.9	-0.3	Small	7.9	-0.3	Small
R33	North Street	9.3	9.3	0.0	Imperceptible	9.4	0.1	Imperceptible
R34	South View Road	9.7	9.6	-0.1	Imperceptible	9.5	-0.2	Small
R35	The Wards	8.3	8.3	0.0	Imperceptible	7.8	-0.5	Small
R36	Birkenhill	8.1	8.1	0.0	Imperceptible	7.8	-0.3	Small
R37	Scoggiemill House	7.1	7.1	0.0	Imperceptible	7.1	0.0	Imperceptible
R38	New Mill Cottage	9.0	8.3	-0.7	Small	8.4	-0.6	Small

The highest predicted annual mean PM_{10} concentrations would occur at sensitive receptor R17 in the DM Scenario, which is on the existing A96 to the east of Elgin. Predicted annual mean PM_{10} concentrations would reduce by 0.8µg/m³ for both the North option and the South option in the DS Scenarios at this receptor. Sensitive receptor R17 is located within approximately 10m of the existing A96 and the reduction in concentrations is a result of a reduction in total vehicle flows in the North and South DS Options of approximately 5,800 vehicles per day and 6,300 vehicles per day, respectively.

The greatest increase in annual mean PM_{10} is predicted at sensitive receptor R12 for the North option and R27 for the South option where an increase of 0.5µg/m³ is predicted for both options, from 7.8µg/m³ to 8.0µg/m³ at R12 in the North DS and from 6.2µg/m³ to 6.7µg/m³ at R27 in the South DS. R12 is located over 200m from the existing A96 in the DM Scenario and within approximately 50m of the North option in the DS scenario, which is predicted to have traffic flows of approximately 23,100 vehicles per day. R27 is located over 200m from the existing A96 in the DM Scenario and within approximately 60m of the South option in the DS scenario, which is predicted to have traffic flows of approximately 14,200 vehicles per day.

Ecological Impacts

Concentrations of NO_X have been predicted along three ecological sensitive receptor transects at 10m intervals up to 200m within the Quarry Woods SSSI as presented in Figure 10.5 of Chapter 10.

As indicated in Table 1.8, predicted NOx concentrations at all ecological sensitive receptor locations are below 30µg/m³ and imperceptible increases to large decreases in NOx concentrations are predicted. An assessment of ecological receptors is not required in accordance with IAN 174/13 and as such has not been considered further.

Table 0.8 Predicted Annual Mean NO_x Concentrations – Hillhead to Lhanbryde

ID	Location	NO_x Annual Mean Concentration (µg/m^3)						
		2030 DM	2030 North option	Change	Magnitude	2030 South option	Change	Magnitude
Eco 1	Quarry Woods SSSI	4.40	4.40	0.00	Imperceptible	4.72	0.32	Imperceptible
Eco 2	Quarry Woods SSSI	12.70	10.08	-2.62	Medium	6.42	-6.28	Large
Eco 3	Quarry Woods SSSI	4.88	4.82	-0.06	Imperceptible	4.94	0.06	Imperceptible

Regional Impacts

Results from the regional impact assessment are presented in Table 0.9 and 1.10. Both the North and South Hillhead to Lhanbryde options are predicted to cause an increase in emissions of NO_X, PM_{10} and CO_2 compared to the Do-Minimum scenario in the Opening and Design Year. This is due to an increase in the number of vehicles using the new roads and an increase in the overall kilometres travelled by vehicles in the Do-Something scenario with the new road alignment relative to the Do-Minimum scenario.

Table 0.9 Regional Impacts – Hillhead to Lhanbryde North Option

Pollutant	2030			2045		
	DM	DS	Change	DM	DS	Change
NOx (kg/yr)	588,904	728,275	139,371	676,084	840,145	164,061
PM_{10} (kg/yr)	101,245	118,064	16,819	119,868	140,438	20,570
CO_2 (tn/yr)	623,425	762,367	138,942	747,903	905,907	158,004

Table 0.10 Regional Impacts – Hillhead to Lhanbryde South Option

Pollutant	2030			2045		
	DM	DS	Change	DM	DS	Change
NOx (kg/yr)	599,843	734,722	134,879	683,252	846,413	163,161
PM_{10} (kg/yr)	102,998	119,596	16,597	120,934	140,999	20,065
CO_2 (tn/yr)	634,264	768,922	134,657	754,659	910,171	155,512

Lhanbryde to East of Fochabers

Human Health Impacts

Predicted NO_2 concentrations at the Lhanbryde to Fochabers north and south worst-case sensitive receptors are presented in Table 0.11.

Table 0.11 Predicted Annual Mean NO_2 Concentrations – Lhanbryde to East of Fochabers

ID	Location	NO_2 Annual Mean Concentration (µg/m^3)						
		2030 DM	2030 DS North	Change	Magnitude	2030 DS South	Change	Magnitude
R1	Threapland Pomona	6.4	3.7	-2.7	Medium	3.6	-2.8	Medium
R2	Blinkbonny	5.9	3.4	-2.5	Medium	3.3	-2.6	Medium
R3	1 Cowford Cottages	5.1	3.4	-1.7	Small	3.5	-1.6	Small
R4	Craigawan	9.7	6.6	-3.1	Medium	6.8	-2.9	Medium
R5	2 West Lodge	4.8	5.4	0.6	Small	3.8	-1.0	Small
R6	Castle Street	5.4	5.9	0.5	Small	4.1	-1.3	Small
R7	Castle Avenue	5.5	5.3	-0.2	Imperceptible	4.1	-1.4	Small
R8	Beech Walk	4.0	4.1	0.1	Imperceptible	3.4	-0.6	Small
R9	Whitegates Lodge	4.8	5.2	0.4	Imperceptible	5.2	0.4	Imperceptible
R10	Pittensair Farm	2.7	4.8	2.1	Medium	4.8	2.1	Medium
R11	Wester Bauds	2.9	3.4	0.5	Small	3.6	0.7	Small
R12	Ordiquish Farm	2.4	2.4	0.0	Imperceptible	2.7	0.3	Imperceptible
R13	Beech Walk	3.5	3.7	0.2	Imperceptible	3.5	0.0	Imperceptible
R14	Inchberry Road	6.4	7.3	0.9	Small	6.4	0.0	Imperceptible
R15	Easter Bauds	2.4	2.4	0.0	Imperceptible	2.4	0.0	Imperceptible
R16	Pinetree Cottage	3.1	3.3	0.2	Imperceptible	3.1	0.0	Imperceptible

The highest predicted annual mean NO_2 concentrations would occur at sensitive receptor R4 in the DM Scenario, which is located adjacent to the existing A96 west of Fochabers. Predicted annual mean NO_2 concentrations at this location would reduce by 3.1µg/m^3 for the North option and by 2.9µg/m^3 for the South option in the DS Scenarios. Sensitive receptor R4 is located within approximately 20m of the existing A96, experiencing approximately 19,100 vehicles per day in the DM Scenario. At this location, total vehicle flows as a result of the options are predicted to reduce by approximately 17,400 vehicles per day and 15,900 vehicles per day respectively.

The greatest increase in annual mean NO_2 for the North and South options is predicted at sensitive receptor R10, where an increase of 2.1µg/m^3 compared to the DM is predicted for both options. Concentrations are well below the air quality objectives in both the DM and DS Scenarios. Sensitive receptor R10 is located over 200m from the existing A96 in the DM Scenario and within approximately 40m of the North and South Options in the DS scenario, which is predicted to have flows of approximately 23,200 vehicles per day in the North option and 24,000 vehicles per day in the South option.

Predicted PM_{10} concentrations at the Lhanbryde to East of Fochabers worst-case sensitive receptors are presented in Table 0.12.

Table 0.12 Predicted Annual Mean PM_{10} Concentrations – Lhanbryde to East of Fochabers

ID	Location	PM_{10} Annual Mean Concentration (µg/m^3)						
		2030 DM	2030 DS North	Change	Magnitude	2030 DS South	Change	Magnitude
R1	Threapland Pomona	9.3	8.3	-1.0	Medium	8.2	-1.1	Medium
R2	Blinkbonny	8.3	7.4	-0.9	Medium	7.4	-0.9	Medium
R3	1 Cowford Cottages	7.6	6.9	-0.7	Small	7.0	-0.6	Small
R4	Craigawan	9.2	8.4	-0.8	Medium	8.4	-0.8	Small
R5	2 West Lodge	7.8	7.9	0.1	Imperceptible	7.4	-0.4	Small
R6	Castle Street	8.4	8.5	0.1	Imperceptible	7.7	-0.7	Small
R7	Castle Avenue	8.2	8.0	-0.2	Small	7.6	-0.6	Small
R8	Beech Walk	7.3	7.3	0.0	Imperceptible	7.0	-0.3	Small
R9	Whitegates Lodge	7.5	7.6	0.1	Imperceptible	7.6	0.1	Imperceptible
R10	Pittensair Farm	6.5	7.1	0.6	Small	7.2	0.7	Small
R11	Wester Bauds	7.2	7.4	0.2	Small	7.4	0.2	Small
R12	Ordiquish Farm	7.0	7.0	0.0	Imperceptible	7.1	0.1	Imperceptible
R13	Beech Walk	7.1	7.2	0.1	Imperceptible	7.1	0.0	Imperceptible
R14	Inchberry Road	8.3	8.6	0.3	Small	8.3	0.0	Imperceptible
R15	Easter Bauds	6.8	6.8	0.0	Imperceptible	6.8	0.0	Imperceptible
R16	Pinetree Cottage	7.7	7.8	0.1	Imperceptible	7.7	0.0	Imperceptible

The highest predicted annual mean PM_{10} concentrations would occur at sensitive receptor R1 in the DM Scenario, which is on the existing A96 east of Lhanbryde. Predicted annual mean PM_{10} concentrations would reduce by 1.0µg/m^3 for the North option and by 1.1µg/m^3 in the South option

in the DS Scenarios at this receptor. Sensitive receptor R1 is located within approximately 20m of the existing A96 and the reduction in concentrations is predicted from a reduction in total vehicle flows in the North and South DS options of approximately 17,300 vehicles per day and 18,100 vehicles per day respectively.

The greatest increase in annual mean PM_{10} is predicted at sensitive receptor R10 for the North and South options where an increase of 0.6µg/m^3 and 0.7µg/m^3 is predicted respectively, from 6.5µg/m^3 to 7.1µg/m^3 in the North DS option and from 6.5µg/m^3 to 7.2µg/m^3 in the South DS option. R10 is located over 200m from the existing A96 in the DM Scenario and within approximately 40m of the North and South options in the DS scenario, which is predicted to have traffic flows of approximately 23,200 vehicles per day in the North option and 24,000 vehicles per day in the South option.

Ecological Impacts

Concentrations of NO_X have been predicted along three ecological sensitive receptor transects at 10m intervals up to 200m within the Loch Oire SSSI and the River Spey SSSI and SAC as presented in Figure 10.6 of Chapter 10.

As indicated in Table 1.13, predicted NOx concentrations at all ecological sensitive receptor locations are below 30µg/m^3 with imperceptible to large changes in NOx concentrations predicted. Further assessment of ecological receptors is not required in accordance with IAN 174/13 and as such has not been considered further.

Table 0.13 Predicted Annual Mean NO_x Concentrations – Lhanbryde to East of Fochabers

ID	Location	NO_x Annual Mean Concentration (µg/m^3)						
		2030 DM	2030 North	Change	Magnitude	2030 South	Change	Magnitude
Eco 1	Loch Oire SSSI	10.16	5.22	-4.94	Large	5.01	-5.15	Large
Eco 2	Loch Oire SSSI	3.55	3.70	0.15	Imperceptible	3.71	0.16	Imperceptible
Eco 3	River Spey SSSI and SAC	14.42	5.87	-8.55	Large	6.20	-8.22	Large
Eco 4	River Spey SSSI and SAC	6.10	13.62	7.52	Large	5.20	-0.90	Small
Eco 5	River Spey SSSI and SAC	3.15	3.15	0.00	Imperceptible	10.96	7.81	Large
Eco 6	River Spey SSSI and SAC	3.59	3.33	-0.26	Imperceptible	3.77	0.18	Imperceptible

Regional Impacts

Results from the regional impact assessment are presented in Table 0.14 and Table 0.15. Both the North and South options are predicted to cause an increase in emissions of NO_X, PM_{10} and CO_2 compared to the Do-Minimum scenario in the Opening and Design Year. This would be due to an increase in the number of vehicles using the new roads and an increase in the overall kilometres travelled by vehicles in the Do-Something scenario with the new road alignment relative to the Do-Minimum scenario.

Table 0.14 Regional Impacts – Lhanbryde to East of Fochabers North Option

Pollutant	2030			2045		
	DM	DS	Change	DM	DS	Change
NOx (kg/yr)	588,867	727,159	138,292	676,051	837,826	161,775
PM_{10} (kg/yr)	101,227	117,875	16,648	119,897	140,099	20,202
CO_2 (tn/yr)	623,422	761,053	137,632	748,267	903,446	155,179

Table 0.15 Regional Impacts – Lhanbryde to East of Fochabers South Option

Pollutant	2030			2045		
	DM	DS	Change	DM	DS	Change
NOx (kg/yr)	590,476	735,093	144,617	675,912	853,883	177,971
PM_{10} (kg/yr)	101,458	118,386	16,928	119,869	140,332	20,463
CO_2 (tn/yr)	624,808	767,492	142,685	747,966	918,742	170,776

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Appendix A12.1 - People and Communities Assessment Methodology

A12.1 Methodology

Introduction

This chapter presents methodology for the Design Manual for Rods and Bridges (DMRB) Stage 2 assessment of the predicted effects on People and Communities. The assessment has been undertaken in accordance with DMRB, Interim Advice Note (IAN) 125/15, Supplementary guidance for users of DMRB Volume 11 'Environmental Assessment') which recommends that the following parts of the DMRB Guidance are combined into a single assessment on 'People and Communities':

- DMRB, Volume 11, Section 3, Part 6, Land Use, which comprises assessments of private property, loss of land used by the community, effects of development land, effects on agricultural land and waterway restoration projects.
- DMRB, Volume 11, Section 3, Part 8, Pedestrians, Cyclists and Community Effects, which comprises assessments of changes in journey length, changes in amenity, community severance, new severance and relief from existing severance.
- DMRB, Volume 11, Section 3, Part 9, Vehicle Travellers, which comprises assessments of views from the road and driver stress.

The assessment of impacts of the Scheme on development land (including planning application sites) is presented in Chapter 9, Policies and Plans, and the assessment of impacts on agriculture, forestry and sporting Interests is set out in Chapter 13. Effects on vehicle travellers have been scoped out from this options assessment as it is not predicted that these issues will have material differences between options.

This assessment therefore covers:

- Non-Motorised Users (NMU) – walkers, cyclists and equestrians.
- Private Properties.
- Community Land, Facilities and Outdoor Access Areas.
- Community Severance.

Impact Assessment

NMU Assessment

The magnitude criteria for the assessment of impacts on NMUs is set out in Table 1.1. The criteria were developed using professional judgement and have been based on a review of guidance contained within DMRB (Volume 11, Section 3, Part 8, Pedestrians, Cyclists, Equestrians and Community Effects), the nature and design of the proposed scheme options[1], and professional judgement.

[1] The options have been designed so that no at-grade crossings of the dual carriageway are designed in, as such the magnitude criteria relating to at-grade crossings from the DMRB guidance has been omitted with the focus of the assessment relating to traffic flows and their impacts upon NMU journeys.

Table 1.1 Magnitude Criteria for Assessing Impacts on Users of NMU Routes

Impact Magnitude	Description
Major Adverse	People are likely to be sufficiently deterred from making trips leading to a reorganisation of their habits. Considerable hindrance would be caused to existing journeys, for example by any of the following: • Increase in journey lengths >500m • Considerable adverse change in the existing views, air quality, noise levels and/or traffic flows resulting in a change in amenity or perceived safety • Increases in traffic volumes to a subsequent level of over 16,000 vehicles per day on a road (Opening Year), such that it would be likely to deter use by most NMUs • Three or more of the hindrances set out under 'minor adverse' or two or more hindrances set out under 'moderate adverse'
Moderate Adverse	Some NMUs, particularly vulnerable users, are likely to be deterred from making trips, for example by any of the following: • Journey lengths would be increased by between 250m and 500m • Noticeable adverse change in the existing views, air quality, noise levels and/or traffic flows resulting in a change in amenity or perceived safety • The creation of a new road near to a previously uninterrupted NMU route leading to an alteration in the character of a (part of a) previously tranquil route • Increased traffic volumes of between 8,000 and 16,000 vehicles per day (Opening Year) such that would be likely to deter use by some NMUs, particularly road cyclists, or cause noticeably more intimidating conditions • Two or more of the hindrances set out under 'minor adverse'
Minor Adverse	The current journey pattern is generally maintained but some hindrance to movement occurs, for example from: • An increase in journey length of up to 250m • A barely noticeable adverse change in the existing views, air quality, noise levels and/or traffic flows resulting in a change in amenity or perceived safety • Introduction of a new road to cross but for which traffic volumes are below 8,000 vehicles per day (Opening Year) • A new bridge would need to be climbed or a subway traversed
Negligible	Little noticeable change from the current conditions
Minor Beneficial	A minor improvement to routes used by NMUs i.e. a minor beneficial change to existing views, air quality, noise levels and/or traffic flows resulting in a change in amenity and perceived safety
Moderate Beneficial	• Reductions in traffic to below 8,000 vehicles per day or by more than 30% such that conditions for NMUs are less intimidating • An overall noticeable beneficial change in the existing views, air quality, noise levels and/or traffic flows resulting in a change in amenity or perceived safety
Major Beneficial	• Provision of a new NMU route which is perceived as being safer, more direct or having a greater amenity value than routes previously used and / or lead to enhanced links to the wider NMU network and/or improve access to outdoor, recreational and residential areas • Reductions in traffic to below the threshold of 8,000 vehicles per day or by more than 60% encouraging more NMUs to take the route, particularly road cyclists

Impact Magnitude	Description
	• An overall considerable beneficial change in the existing views, air quality, noise levels or traffic flows resulting in a change in amenity or perceived safety

The evaluation of the significance of effects of the options on users of NMU routes takes into account changes in journey length, likely flows along a route and amenity value. The assessment has considered all users of the paths, irrespective of the purpose of their journey. It should be noted that, as this assessment included a wide range of considerations, the final significance category has, in some instances, been adjusted using professional judgement.

All NMU users are considered to have high sensitivity, and the significance of residual effects on NMUs is therefore informed by the impact magnitude as set out in Table 1.1.

Private Property Assessment

The assessment of land-take effects on private property has been informed by the baseline sensitivity and impact magnitude criteria in Table 1.2 and Table 1.3. The criteria were developed using professional judgement and have been based on a review of guidance contained within DMRB (Volume 11, Section 3, Part 6, Land Use)

Table 1.2 Sensitivity Criteria for Private Property[2]

Sensitivity	Description
High	Residential or commercial buildings
Medium	The curtilage of residential or commercial land (e.g. gardens, garages or parking spaces)
Low	Derelict or unoccupied buildings

The assessment of the magnitude of impacts has been informed by the predicted change from the identified baseline including the demolition of buildings as well as land-take from the buildings/facility and its curtilage.

The impact on private property accesses has considered those properties where, as a result of the options the current access arrangements to/from the property are adversely affected. For the purposes of the assessment of effects to access the impact significance was adapted from distances for pedestrians to distances for vehicles using (DMRB, Volume 11, Section 3, Part 8, Pedestrians, Cyclists, Equestrians and Community) guidance (Chapter 6) and determined using professional judgement.

Table 1.3 Magnitude Criteria for Assessing Impacts on Private Property

Impact Magnitude	Description
Major	• Demolition of property; and/or • >50% loss of land holding and/or complete separation of the holding due to land-take; and/or • Increase in vehicle distance for access of > 5,000m

[2] The sensitivity criteria for private properties have also been applied to land and other facilities used by the community (see Table 1.2)

Impact Magnitude	Description
Moderate	• Between 10% and 50% loss of land holding; and/or • major separation of the holding due to land-take; and/or • Increase in vehicle distance for access of 1,000 – 5,000m
Minor	• < 10% land loss; and/or • partial separation of the holding due to land-take; and/or • Increase in vehicle distance for access of 500 – 1,000m
Negligible	• Very slight or no detectable change from the existing baseline condition • Increase in vehicle distance for access of < 500m

The evaluation of effect significance was determined taking into account sensitivity and magnitude, drawing on the matrix in Table 1.4. It should be noted that, as this assessment included a wide range of considerations, the final significance category has, in some instances, been adjusted using professional judgement. Where such an adjustment was made, an explanation is provided in Section 12.6 'Predicted Environmental Effects' of Chapter 12.

Table 1.4 Significance Matrix for Effects on Private Properties and Community Land / Facilities

	Impact Magnitude			
Sensitivity	**Major**	**Moderate**	**Minor**	**Negligible**
High	Major	Moderate / Major	Minor / Moderate	Minor
Medium	Moderate / Major	Moderate	Minor	Negligible / Minor
Low	Moderate	Minor / Moderate	Negligible / Minor	Negligible

Community Land, Facilities and Outdoor Access Areas Assessment

Sensitivity criteria for community land and facilities are detailed in Table 1.5. The criteria were developed using professional judgement and have been based on a review of guidance contained within DMRB (Volume 11, Section 3, Part 6, Land Use) and the with methodology described in Appendix 6 of the Environmental Impact Assessment Handbook[3]. The Highland Council's Audit of Greenspace[4] and the Moray Council Open Space Strategy[5] have been used to determine additional areas of community land in the study area.

Direct effects to land / facilities used by the community as a result of permanent change in land use from the new routes is considered using the sensitivity criteria and impact magnitudes detailed in Tables 1.5 and 1.6. The evaluation of effect significance was determined taking into account sensitivity and magnitude, drawing on the matrix in Table 1.4.

[3] Environmental Impact Assessment Handbook, Guidance for competent authorities, consultation bodies, and others involved in the Environmental Impact Assessment process in Scotland. Scottish Natural Heritage and Historic Environment Scotland, 5th Edition, April 2018
[4] The Highland Council (2010) Highland Greenspace Audit 2010
[5] Moray Council (2018) Open Space Strategy

Table 1.5 Sensitivity Criteria for Community Land / Facilities

Sensitivity	Description
High	• Public Open Space and green infrastructure (e.g. public garden or burial grounds) • Doctors surgeries, Hospitals and Emergency Services* • Aged persons homes • Schools • Churches and Places of Worship • Post offices and shops • Parks, play areas and sports centres • Woodland used by communities • Outdoor area based facilities including: – National Parks, Regional Parks, Country Parks* – National and Local Nature Reserves* – Munros* and other popular hills*, beaches and other popular coastal areas*, and other types of recreational attraction – Local open space and green infrastructure – Lochs and reservoirs used for water-based recreation – Rivers[6] – Places that are used or promoted for more specialised recreational activities such as surfing, diving, mountain biking or climbing
Medium	• The curtilage of areas of community land / facilities
Low	• Derelict or disused land*

*Areas of community land / facilities which are outwith the study area and therefore not considered in this assessment

The assessment of the magnitude of impacts has been informed by the predicted change from the identified baseline including land-take from the receptor and its curtilage.

Table 1.6 Magnitude Criteria for Assessing Indirect Impacts for Community Land and Outdoor Areas

Significance	Description
Major	Visitors to areas of community land are likely to experience considerable hindrance or be deterred from making journeys to community facilities, land and outdoor access areas, for example: • Pedestrian at-grade crossing of a new road carrying >16,000 vehicles Annual Average Daily Traffic (AADT) in the opening year • An increase in journey distance of over 0.3km for pedestrians (vulnerable groups), 0.5km for pedestrians (non-vulnerable groups), 2km for cyclists and/or >6km for vehicles • Considerable adverse change in the existing views, air quality, noise levels and/or traffic flows resulting in a change in amenity or perceived safety[7]

[6] As outlined in Appendix 6, SNH Guidance (2018) rivers are considered as a linear access facility however in this assessment they are considered under the area-based facility assessment as the rivers in the study area are not officially classified as core paths / rights of way. The rivers are generally used for some recreational activities such as fishing, canoeing and rafting

[7] Impacts to amenity are considered for journeys to community land, facilities and outdoor access areas only rather than all possible journeys in the community

Significance	Description
	• Three or more of the hindrances set out under 'Minor' or two or more under 'Moderate'
Moderate	Visitors to areas of community land are likely to be dissuaded from making trips or where trips would become less attractive, for example: • Pedestrian at-grade crossing of a new road carrying between 8,000 and 16,000 vehicles AADT in the opening year • Journey distance would be increased by 0.15km to 0.3km for pedestrians (vulnerable groups), 0.25km to 0.5km for pedestrians (non-vulnerable groups), 1km to 2km for cyclists and/or 3km to 6km for vehicles • Noticeable adverse change in the existing views, air quality, noise levels and/or traffic flows resulting in a change in amenity or perceived safety • Two or more of the hindrances set out under 'Minor' applying to single trips
Minor	The current journey pattern is likely to be maintained but there may be some hindrance to movement for communities, for example: • Pedestrian at-grade crossing of a new road carrying <8,000 vehicles AADT in the opening year • An increase in journey distance by up to 0.15km for pedestrians (vulnerable groups), 0.25km for pedestrians (non-vulnerable groups), up to 1km for cyclists and/or up to 3km for vehicles • A barely noticeable adverse change in the existing views, air quality, noise levels and/or traffic flows resulting in a change in amenity or perceived safety • One hindrance (e.g. a new bridge or underpass) would need to be negotiated by NMUs
Negligible	• Very slight or no detectable change from the existing baseline condition

Community Severance

The criteria for the assessment of community severance (New Severance and Relief from Existing Severance) has been developed using professional judgement based on a review of guidance contained within DMRB (Volume 11, Section 3, Part 8, Pedestrians, Cyclists, Equestrians and Community Effects) . All communities (such as Forres, Elgin, Fochabers etc.) have been assessed as being high value receptors and the significance of residual effects on NMUs is therefore informed by the impact magnitude as set out in Table 1.7.

Table 1.7 Significance Criteria for New Severance

Significance	Description
Major	Local residents are likely to experience considerable hindrance or be deterred from making trips to the extent that routes are changed, for example: • Pedestrian at-grade crossing of a new road carrying >16,000 vehicles AADT in the opening year; or • An increase in journey distance of over 0.3km for pedestrians (vulnerable groups, 0.5km for pedestrians (non-vulnerable users), 2km for cyclists and/or >6km for vehicles; or • Three of more of the hindrances set out under 'Minor' or two or more set out under 'Moderate'

Significance	Description
Moderate	When some local residents (particularly elderly and children) are likely to be dissuaded from making trips or where trips would become longer or less attractive, for example: • Pedestrian at-grade crossing of a new road carrying between 8,000 and 16,000 vehicles AADT in the opening year • Journey distance would be increased by 0.15km to 0.3km for pedestrians (vulnerable groups), 0.25km to 0.5km for pedestrians (non-vulnerable groups), 1km to 2km for cyclists and/or 3km to 6km for vehicles • Two or more of the hindrances set out under 'Minor' applying to single trips
Minor	The current journey pattern is likely to be maintained but there may be some hindrance to movement, for example: • Pedestrian at-grade crossing of a new road carrying <8,000 vehicles AADT in the opening year • An increase in journey distance by up to 0.15km for pedestrians (vulnerable groups), 0.25km for pedestrians (non-vulnerable groups), up to 1km for cyclists and/or up to 3km for vehicles • One hindrance (e.g. a new bridge or underpass) would need to be negotiated by NMUs

Significance of effects arising from relief of severance was assessed using the criteria presented in Table 1.8.

Table 1.8 Significance Criteria for Relief from Existing Severance

Significance	Description	
	Urban Area	Rural Area
Major (Beneficial)	When existing traffic levels are reduced by >60%	When existing traffic levels are reduced by >90% Where the existing road substantially bisects a village or small town 60% was used as per DMRB Guidance
Moderate (Beneficial)	When existing traffic levels are reduced from >30% to 60%	When existing traffic levels are reduced from >75% to 90% Where the existing road substantially bisects a village or small town, >30% to 60% was used
Minor (Beneficial)	When existing traffic levels are reduced by approximately 30%	When existing traffic levels are reduced from 60 to 75% Where the existing road passes through a village or on the perimeter of a built-up area, 30% was used

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Appendix A12.2 - NMU Assessment Tables

A12.2 People and Communities - NMU Assessment Tables

The following tables set out the NMU assessment. All receptors in Tables 1.1 – 1.6 have been identified as being of a high sensitivity.

Table 1.1 Hardmuir to Hillhead - North Option: NMU Assessment

Route Description	Assessment of changes of journey length	Effects on Amenity	Pre-Mitigation Effect	Mitigation	Residual Effect
Scotland's Great Trails					
Moray Coast Trail (including Core Path CP-FR13-00) - Long distance NMU route from Forres to Cullen	Path is realigned alongside the route option resulting in a predicted reduction in journey lengths.	Path is realigned alongside the route option and will also pass under the mainline to the west of the Benromach Distillery resulting in some users being dissuaded from using the route.	Moderate Adverse	N/A	**Moderate Adverse**
Core Paths					
CP-FR09-00 - Route following the western bank of the River Findhorn to Broom of Moy	No predicted change in journey length.	Path crosses under the route option immediately north of the Aberdeen to Inverness Railway crossing of the River Findhorn. Users are predicted to experience a significant change to the amenity of their journeys resulting from disturbance caused by traffic altering the amenity of the River Findhorn corridor.	Moderate Adverse	N/A	**Moderate Adverse**
CP-FR10-01 - Path connecting Red Craig across the Bridge of Findhorn	No predicted change in journey length.	Users of the path are predicted experience an improvement to amenity due to the traffic reductions along the A96.	Moderate Beneficial	N/A	**Moderate Beneficial**
CP-FR10-02 - Path adjacent to the A96	No predicted change in journey length.	Path would be predominantly screened from the route option. Traffic flow reductions along the A96 are predicted to result in a beneficial impact to the amenity for users of the path.	Moderate Beneficial	N/A	**Moderate Beneficial**
CP-FR11-00 - Path adjacent to the A96 crossing the River Findhorn	No predicted change in journey length.	Path would be predominantly screened from the route option. Traffic flow reductions along the A96 are predicted to result in a beneficial impact to the amenity for users of the path.	Moderate Beneficial	N/A	**Moderate Beneficial**
CP-FR14-00 - route adjacent to the existing A96 along the Sewage Works	No predicted change in journey length.	Path would be predominantly screened from the route option. Traffic flow reductions along the A96	Moderate Beneficial	N/A	**Moderate Beneficial**

Route Description	Assessment of changes of journey length	Effects on Amenity	Pre-Mitigation Effect	Mitigation	Residual Effect
		are predicted to result in a beneficial impact to the amenity for users of the path.			
CP-FR15-02 - Path adjacent to the B9011 to the north of Forres	No predicted change in journey length.	Users of the path would be required to navigate an underbridge at Cassieford. It is also predicted that there would be a noticeable change to the amenity of the path.	Moderate Adverse	N/A	**Moderate Adverse**
CP-FR28-02 - route in Forres crossing the existing A96 at Greshop Industrial Estate	No predicted change in journey length.	Path would be screened from the route option. Traffic flow reductions along the A96 are predicted to result in a beneficial impact to the amenity for users of the path which crosses the existing A96 at-grade.	Moderate Beneficial	N/A	**Moderate Beneficial**
CP-FR30-00 - route in Forres which crosses the existing A96 at Forres Train Station	No predicted change in journey length.	Path would be screened from the route option. Traffic flow reductions along the A96 are predicted to result in a beneficial impact to the amenity for users of the path which crosses the existing A96 at-grade.	Moderate Beneficial	N/A	**Moderate Beneficial**
The following Core Paths are located within the study area and it was predicted that there would be less than a 250m increase to journey lengths with journey patterns generally maintained, or that users would be unlikely to be deterred from using the path, an overall minor adverse effect: CP-FR07-00, CP-FR08-00, and CP-FR16-00					
The following Core Paths are located within the study area and it was predicted that there would be a negligible impact to users of the paths as a result of the option: CP-FR12-00, CP-FR15-01, CP-FR17-01 and CP-FR28-01.					
The following Core Paths are located within the study area and it was predicted that there would be minor beneficial impacts to users of the routes resulting from a reduction in traffic flows along the existing A96: CP-FR31-02					
Public Rights of Way					
GM47 - Broom of Moy to Greshop Industrial Estate	No predicted change in journey length.	Users of the path would be required to navigate an underbridge at Greeshop House. It is also predicted that there would be a noticeable change to the amenity of the path.	Moderate Adverse	N/A	**Moderate Adverse**
The following Public Rights of Way are located within the study area and it was predicted that there would be a negligible impact to users of the paths as a result of the option: GM49					

Route Description	Assessment of changes of journey length	Effects on Amenity	Pre-Mitigation Effect	Mitigation	Residual Effect
Aspirational Core Paths					
ACP1 - Route following U67E road between existing A96 and B9011	Route is stopped up resulting in an increase in journey length of over 500m.	Diversion of the route along the existing A96 and B9011 would lead to a significant decrease in amenity for users who may be dissuaded from utilising the route.	Major Adverse	PC1	**Moderate Adverse**
ACP22 - follows the existing A96 to the east of the Enterprise Park	Route will be diverted via the Forres East junction resulting in a minor increase in journey length	The diversion of ACP22 through the Forres East junction is predicted to have a negative impact to the amenity of the path as journeys required crossing multiple slip roads resulting in a potentially significant impact to the safety of NMUs. However, the reduction of traffic along the existing A96 is expected to result in a. significant beneficial impact.	Moderate Beneficial	N/A	**Moderate Beneficial**
ACP43 - route follows the existing A96 to the east of Greshop Industrial Estate	No predicted change in journey length.	Predicted beneficial impacts to the path along the length of the existing A96 from the improved amenity due to reductions in traffic flows.	Moderate Beneficial	N/A	**Moderate Beneficial**
ACP44 - route follows the existing A96 by Forres Train Station	No predicted change in journey length.	Predicted beneficial impacts to users of the path along the length of the existing A96 due to the improved amenity resulting from a reduction in traffic flows. Reduced traffic also benefits NMUs (including vulnerable users) accessing Forres Railway Station.	Moderate Beneficial	N/A	**Moderate Beneficial**
The following Aspirational Core Paths are located within the study area and it was predicted that there would be less than a 250m increase to journey lengths with journey patterns generally maintained, or that users would be unlikely to be deterred from using the path, an overall minor adverse effect: ACP29 and ACP46					
The following Aspirational Core Paths are located within the study area and it was predicted that there would be a negligible impact to users of the paths as a result of the option: ACP31, ACP35 and ACP39.					
The following Aspirational Core Paths are located within the study area and it was predicted that there would be minor beneficial impacts to users of the routes resulting from a reduction in traffic flows along the existing A96: ACP45					
National Cycle Network					
NCN1 (and CP-FR06-00) - Long distance cycling route which routes to the north of the study area	Path is realigned alongside the route option resulting in a	Noticeable change to amenity with presence of the option in area currently covered by farmland, furthermore a path diversion is required alongside the proposed dualling. Stopping up of the local	Minor Adverse	N/A	Minor Adverse

Route Description	Assessment of changes of journey length	Effects on Amenity	Pre-Mitigation Effect	Mitigation	Residual Effect
	predicted reduction in journey lengths.	road would however improve perceived safety on those sections due to reduced traffic flows. An overall minor adverse impact is predicted to users of NCN1.			
Existing Local Routes					
ELR187 - Path following local road from Dalvey Smithy Cottages to Wester Moy Cottages	No predicted change in journey length.	Users of the path would be required to navigate an underbridge north of Dalvey Smith Cottages. It is also predicted that there would be a noticeable change to the amenity of the path.	Moderate Adverse	N/A	**Moderate Adverse**
ELR271 - route connecting Darnaway Forest to Brodie Castle via Tearie Farm	Route is stopped up resulting from the local road closure resulting in an increase in journey length of over 500m.	Users of the path would be required to navigate through the Forres West junction. A noticeable change to the amenity of journeys would occur with users following the existing A96 and crossing the slip roads associated with the Forres West junction.	Major Adverse	N/A	**Major Adverse**
ELR343 - route following local road to the east of Hardmuir Wood	Route is stopped up to the south of the existing A96 resulting in an increase in journey length of over 500m.	Users of the path would be required to navigate an overbridge at Feddan Farm via the local road network. Some users are predicted to be dissuaded from using the route.	Major Adverse	N/A	**Major Adverse**
ELR344 - route following local road (C10E) to Feddan	Route is stopped up to the south of the existing A96 resulting in an increase in journey length of over 500m.	Users of the path would be required to navigate an overbridge at Feddan Farm via the local road network. Some users are predicted to be dissuaded from using the route.	Major Adverse	N/A	**Major Adverse**
ELR28 - route along the east bank of the River Findhorn	No predicted change in journey length.	Path crosses under the route option immediately north of the Aberdeen to Inverness Railway crossing of the River Findhorn. Users are predicted to experience a significant change to the amenity of their journeys resulting from disturbance caused by traffic altering the amenity of the River Findhorn corridor.	Moderate Adverse	N/A	**Moderate Adverse**

Route Description	Assessment of changes of journey length	Effects on Amenity	Pre-Mitigation Effect	Mitigation	Residual Effect
ELR432 - route following local road (C27E) to the south of Forres Enterprise Park	Route is stopped up to the east of the Forres East junction resulting in an increase in journey length of over 500m.	Users of the path would have to navigate an underbridge and are predicted to experience a negative change in amenity along the path.	Major Adverse	N/A	**Major Adverse**
ELR477 - Route through Forres Flood Defence scheme	No predicted change in journey length.	Users are predicted to experience a noticeable decrease in amenity due to the proximity of the route option and the limited screening from the recently felled woodland to the south.	Moderate Adverse	N/A	**Moderate Adverse**
ELR498 - route crossing the existing A96 at the western extent of Forres	No predicted change in journey length.	Traffic flow reductions along the A96 are predicted to result in a beneficial impact to the amenity for users of the path which crosses the existing A96 at-grade.	Moderate Beneficial	N/A	**Moderate Beneficial**
ELR500 - route adjacent to the existing A96 to the north of Red Craig	No predicted change in journey length.	Path would be screened by existing vegetation. Path is predicted to experience improvements to its amenity resulting from reductions in vehicular traffic on the existing A96 which lies in close proximity to the path.	Moderate Beneficial	N/A	**Moderate Beneficial**
ELR533 - route along the existing A96 crossing at the Forres Railway Station	No predicted change in journey length.	Path would be screened by existing infrastructure of the railway line and buildings. Traffic flow reduction along the existing A96 is predicted to improve access to Forres Railway Station.	Moderate Beneficial	N/A	**Moderate Beneficial**
ELR534 - Route following local road crossing the Forres Railway Line	No predicted change in journey length.	Users are predicted to experience a noticeable decrease in amenity due to the proximity of the option and the associated changes brought about from traffic using the road leading to some users being dissuaded from using the route.	Moderate Adverse	N/A	**Moderate Adverse**
ELR539 - Route in the woodland at the Forres Enterprise Park	No predicted change in journey length.	Users are predicted to experience a noticeable decrease in amenity due to the proximity of the option and the associated changes brought about from traffic using the road leading to some users being dissuaded from using the route.	Moderate Adverse	N/A	**Moderate Adverse**
The following Existing Local Routes are located within the study area and it was predicted that there would be less than a 250m increase to journey lengths with journey patterns generally maintained, or that users would be unlikely to be deterred from using the path, an overall minor adverse effect:					

Route Description	Assessment of changes of journey length	Effects on Amenity	Pre-Mitigation Effect	Mitigation	Residual Effect
ELR13, ELR289, ELR278, ELR337, ELR342, ELR429, ELR430, ELR431, ELR468, ELR478 and ELR637					
The following Existing Local Paths are located within the study area and it was predicted that there would be a negligible impact to users of the paths as a result of the option: ELR9, ELR10, ELR11, ELR18, ELR26, ELR27, ELR34, ELR188, ELR272, ELR277, ELR332, ELR333, ELR334, ELR335, ELR336, ELR338, ELR339, ELR340, ELR469, ELR471, ELR479, ELR482, ELR514, ELR540, ELR588, ELR595, ELR598, ELR608, ELR609					
The following Existing Local Routes are located within the study area and it was predicted that there would be minor beneficial impacts to users of the routes resulting from a reduction in traffic flows along the existing A96: ELR341					

Table 1.2 Hardmuir to Hillhead - South Option: NMU Assessment

Path Description	Assessment of changes of journey length	Effects on Amenity	Pre-Mitigation Effects	Mitigation	Residual Effect
Scotland's Great Trails					
Dava Way (including PRoW & Core Path CP-DA01-02) - Long distance path from south of Forres to Grantown-on-Spey	No predicted change in journey length.	Path crosses the route option to the south of Forres via an overbridge. Users are predicted to experience a moderate adverse impact to the amenity of their journey in the vicinity of the option, resulting in some users being dissuaded from using the route.	Moderate Adverse	N/A	**Moderate Adverse**
Core Paths					
The following Core Paths are located within the study area and it was predicted that there would be no change to journey lengths and that users would experience a barely noticeable change to the amenity of the paths: CP-FR16-00, CP-FR19-03 and CP-FR19-04					
The following Core Paths are located within the study area and it was predicted that there would be minor beneficial impacts to users of the routes resulting from a reduction in traffic flows along the existing A96: CP-FR16-00					
Public Rights of Way					
The following Public rights of Way are located within the study area and it was predicted that there would be a negligible impact to users of the paths as a result of the option: GM49 and GM54.					
Aspirational Core Paths					
ACP22 - route along the existing A96 between Forres and Elgin	No predicted change in journey length.	Users of the path are predicted to experience an improvement to the amenity of the path resulting from traffic flow reductions along the existing A96.	Moderate Beneficial	N/A	**Moderate Beneficial**
The following Aspirational Core Paths are located within the study area and it was predicted that there would be a negligible impact to users of the paths as a result of the option: ACP39.					
National Cycle Network					
National Cycle Network 1 is located within the study area however it was predicted that there would be a negligible impact to users of the path as a result of the option.					
Existing Local Paths					
ELR18 - route connecting Darnaway Forest to the existing A96 via Newton of Dalvey	Route is realigned via an overbridge resulting in a minor increase in journey length	Path crosses the route option to the west of the River Findhorn via an overbridge and would experience a noticeable decrease in amenity with the route option affecting the amenity of a large section of the path which is a popular access to the river valley.	Moderate Adverse	N/A	**Moderate Adverse**

Path Description	Assessment of changes of journey length	Effects on Amenity	Pre-Mitigation Effects	Mitigation	Residual Effect
ELR21 - route around Loch of Blairs	Route is realigned to connect to the U85E Road to the west resulting in a minor increase in journey length	Users of the path would experience significant negative amenity impacts in the vicinity of the route option, however the majority of the path is located to the south and it is predicted that there would be a barely noticeable change in amenity to users of the path around the Loch of Blairs. It is predicted that the proximity of the option may dissuade some users from utilising the path to access the Loch.	Moderate Adverse	N/A	**Moderate Adverse**
ELR23 - route along the local road (U23E) through Fairyhills Wood	Journey length increase is predicted due to the stopping up of the local road. Users of the path would be required to divert through the Forres South junction.	Users of the path would be required to travel through the Forres South junction and travel along the A940 (where no footpath exists). Users would experience a significant decrease in amenity which is predicted to deter some users from using the path.	Major Adverse	N/A	**Major Adverse**
ELR32 - Path connecting Redhill to Marcassie	No predicted change in journey length.	Users are predicted to experience a noticeable decrease in amenity from the proximity of the route option and the associated changes brought about from traffic within the rural area surrounding the route.	Moderate Adverse	N/A	**Moderate Adverse**
ELR197 - route following the Mains of Blervie access road	Minor journey length increase is predicted resulting from the B9010 realignment	Users would experience a noticeable decrease in the amenity of the path with the B9010 significantly elevated to the north-west over the route option.	Moderate Adverse	N/A	**Moderate Adverse**
ELR271 - route connecting Darnaway Forest to Brodie Castle via Tearie Farm	Route is stopped up resulting from the local road closure resulting in an increase in journey length of over 500m.	Users of the path would be required to navigate through the Forres West junction. A noticeable change to the amenity of journeys would occur with users following the existing A96 and crossing the slip roads associated with the Forres West junction.	Major Adverse	N/A	**Major Adverse**
ELR279 & ELR280 - paths in Council Wood to the east of Muiry Wood to the east of Cathay Care Home	No predicted change in journey length.	Users of the paths may experience adverse impacts to the amenity of their journey as a result of the proximity of the option. Users may be dissuaded from using the paths with other paths in Muiry Wood to the west providing local alternatives.	Moderate Adverse	N/A	**Moderate Adverse**

Path Description	Assessment of changes of journey length	Effects on Amenity	Pre-Mitigation Effects	Mitigation	Residual Effect
ELR319 - forestry track and private access road in Limekilns Wood connecting A940 to Mundole Road via Limekilns Cottage	Route is stopped up resulting in an increase in journey length of over 500m.	Users of the path would experience significant negative amenity impacts due to associated changes from traffic on the option in a peaceful, woodland location.	Major Adverse	PC1	**Major Adverse**
ELR341 - route along the existing A96 from Brodie to Forres	No predicted change in journey length.	Users of the path are predicted to experience beneficial impacts through a reduction in traffic flows along the existing A96.	Moderate Beneficial	N/A	**Moderate Beneficial**
ELR343 - route following local road to the east of Hardmuir Wood	Route is stopped up to the south of the existing A96 resulting in an increase in journey length of over 500m.	Users of the path would be required to navigate an overbridge at Feddan Farm via the local road network. Some Users are predicted to be dissuaded from using the route.	Major Adverse	N/A	**Major Adverse**
ELR344 - route following local road (C10E) to Feddan	Route is stopped up to the south of the existing A96 resulting in an increase in journey length of over 500m.	Users of the path would be required to navigate an overbridge at Feddan Farm via the local road network. Some Users are predicted to be dissuaded from using the route.	Major Adverse	N/A	**Major Adverse**
ELR368 - well defined path in the field adjacent to Riverview Caravan Park	No predicted change in journey length.	Users are predicted to experience a noticeable decrease in amenity due to the proximity of the route option and the associated changes brought about from traffic using the road leading to some users being dissuaded from using the route.	Moderate Adverse	N/A	**Moderate Adverse**
ELR427 - woodland path running north-south within the eastern section of Limekilns Wood	Route is stopped up at its intersection with Mundole Road resulting in an increase in journey length of over 500m.	Users are predicted to experience a noticeable decrease in amenity due to the proximity of the option (including the Forres South junction) leading to some users being dissuaded from using the route.	Major Adverse	PC1	**Major Adverse**
ELR428 - route along local road (U82E) connecting Limekilns Wood to Mundole	Minor journey length changes are predicted as a result of the realignment of Mundole Road to connect to the Forres South junction.	Users of the southern section of the path would experience adverse impacts to their amenity due to the realignment of the local road and the proximity of the Forres South junction leading to some users being dissuaded from using the route.	Major Adverse	N/A	**Major Adverse**

Path Description	Assessment of changes of journey length	Effects on Amenity	Pre-Mitigation Effects	Mitigation	Residual Effect
ELR431 - route following existing local road (C10E) along the north-western edge of Darnaway Forest	Route is stopped up at its intersection with Mundole Road resulting in an increase in journey length of over 500m.	Users are predicted to experience a decrease in amenity with the option in close proximity to route, as well as severing the route north of Woodside Cottage.	Major Adverse	N/A	**Major Adverse**
ELR432 - route following existing local road (B9010) from Rafford to the existing A96	B9010 diversion is predicted to increase journey lengths south of Forres, and ELR432 is also stopped up to the south of the Forres East junction resulting in increased journey lengths of over 500m.	Users are predicted to experience a decrease in amenity with the option in close proximity to the path for a large distance, as well as the need for users to cross an overbridge on the B9010 Rafford Road, and the presence of the Forres East junction which severs the route to the east of the Forres Enterprise Park.	Major Adverse	N/A	**Major Adverse**
ELR456 - muddy woodland paths in Office Wood to the south of Dallas Dhu distillery, leading to Blairs Home Farm and a circular path to Garden's Cottages	Route is stopped up west of the C14E resulting in an increase in journey length of over 500m.	Users of the path would experience significant negative amenity impacts due to associated changes from traffic on the shortlisted route in a peaceful, woodland location.	Major Adverse	PC1	**Moderate Adverse**
ELR474 - path in Fairyhills Wood to the west of the Quarry	No predicted change in journey length.	Users are predicted to experience a decrease in their amenity with the removal of woodland within Fairyhills Wood and the associated change to amenity from the presence of traffic within the woodland setting.	Moderate Adverse	N/A	**Moderate Adverse**
ELR553 - path along the western bank of the River Findhorn	No predicted change in journey length.	Users of the path would be required to navigate an underbridge alongside the River Findhorn. The effect upon the enclosed nature of the river valley within which the NMU path resides may dissuade some NMUs from using the path in the future.	Moderate Adverse	N/A	**Moderate Adverse**
ELR624 - woodland path in the south-western section of Fairyhills Wood between the A940 and the U85E local road	No predicted change in journey length.	Users of the path are predicted to experience significant negative amenity impacts due to associated changes from traffic using the Forres South junction and the route option through the woodland area.	Major Adverse	PC1	**Major Adverse**

Path Description	Assessment of changes of journey length	Effects on Amenity	Pre-Mitigation Effects	Mitigation	Residual Effect
ELR626 - woodland track running north-east to south-west in the western section of Fairyhills Wood	Route is stopped up south-west of the Forres South junction resulting in an increase in journey length of over 500m.	Users of the path are predicted to experience significant negative amenity impacts due to associated changes from traffic using the Forres South junction and the route option through the woodland area.	Major Adverse	PC1	**Major Adverse**
ELR627 - path in the north of Darnaway Forest connecting to the existing A96 to the east of Woodside Cottage	Route is stopped up east of the Woodside Cottage resulting in an increase in journey length of over 500m.	Users are predicted to experience a decrease in their amenity with the removal of woodland within Darnaway Forest and the associated change to amenity from the presence of traffic within the woodland setting.	Major Adverse	PC1	**Major Adverse**
The following Existing Local Routes are located within the study area and it was predicted that there would be less than a 250m increase to journey lengths with journey patterns generally maintained, or that users would be unlikely to be deterred from using the path, an overall minor adverse effect: ELR20, ELR209, ELR281, ELR337, ELR342, ELR457, ELR468, ELR469, ELR470, ELR471, ELR475, ELR554, ELR593, ELR607, ELR608, ELR609 and ELR625					
The following Existing Local Paths are located within the study area and it was predicted that there would be a negligible impact to users of the paths as a result of the option: ELR9, ELR10, ELR11, ELR13, ELR19, ELR24, ELR25, ELR33, ELR34, ELR272, ELR277, ELR278, ELR299, ELR320, ELR332, ELR333, ELR334, ELR335, ELR336, ELR338, ELR339, ELR340, ELR430, ELR478, ELR479, ELR480, ELR485, ELR588, ELR596, ELR598, ELR614, ELR632, ELR633, ELR634, ELR635, ELR636, ELR637, ELR638 and ELR639.					
Moray Cycle Route					
Forres Foray – route from the centre of Forres following local roads to the south of the town with some challenging hills	No predicted change in journey length.	Users of the route would be required to navigate crossings of the route option south of Forres and it is predicted that users would experience a decrease in amenity due to associated changes to the setting of the route. However, it is predicted that users are unlikely to be deterred from using the route with effects being limited to small sections of the overall route.	Minor Adverse	N/A	Minor Adverse

Table 1.3 Hillhead to Lhanbryde - North Option: NMU Assessment

Path Description	Assessment of changes of journey length	Impacts to Amenity	Pre-Mitigation Impact	Mitigation	Residual Effect
Core Paths					
CP-EG03-01 - route following the A941	Minor journey length changes predicted as a result of the realignment of the A941 at the Elgin North junction.	Users of the path would be required to navigate through the Elgin North junction and across slip roads thereby reducing the amenity of journeys through increasing the safety risk for users who currently utilise a segregated multi-use path.	Moderate Adverse	N/A	**Moderate Adverse**
The following Core Paths are located within the study area and it was predicted that there would be a negligible impact to users of the paths as a result of the option: CP-EG04-01, CP-EG04-05, CP-EG04-07, CP-EG27-00, CP-EG52-02, CP-EG56-01, CP-EG56-02, CP-EG57-01, CP-EG57-02, CP-EG57-03, CP-EG57-04, CP-EG57-05, CP-EG57-06, CP-EG57-07, CP-EG57-08, CP-EG57-09, CP-EG57-10					
The following Core Paths are located within the study area and it was predicted that there would be no change to journey lengths and that users would experience a barely noticeable change to the amenity of the paths: CP-EG04-06					
Public Rights of Way					
The following PRoW are located within the study area and it was predicted that there would be a negligible impact to users of the paths as a result of the option: GM65, GM133 and the Lossiemouth to Elgin Railway.					
Aspirational Core Paths					
ACP2 - route following the existing A96 to the west of Lhanbryde	Minor journey length changes predicted as a result of the realignment of the A96 at the Elgin East junction.	Users of the path along the existing A96 is predicted to experience a beneficial amenity impact as a result of reduced traffic flows along the A96. However, users of the path would be required to travel through the Elgin East junction.	Moderate Beneficial	N/A	**Moderate Beneficial**
ACP4 - route following the existing A96 from Lhanbryde to Mosstodloch	No predicted change in journey length.	Users of the NMU path are predicted to experience a significant reduction in traffic flows reductions along the existing A96.	Moderate Beneficial	N/A	**Moderate Beneficial**
The following Aspirational Core Paths are located within the study area and it was predicted that there would be no change to journey lengths and that users would experience a barely noticeable change to the amenity of the paths: ACP63					
The following Aspirational Core Paths are located within the study area and it was predicted that there would be a negligible impact to users of the paths as a result of the option: ACP3, ACP25, ACP40, ACP41 AND ACP61.					
The following Aspirational Core Paths are located within the study area and it was predicted that there would be minor beneficial impacts to users of the routes resulting from a reduction in traffic flows along the existing A96: ACP22					

Path Description	Assessment of changes of journey length	Impacts to Amenity	Pre-Mitigation Impact	Mitigation	Residual Effect
National Cycle Network					
NCN1 - Long distance cycling route to the north of the study area	No predicted change in journey length.	NCN1 would cross the option twice via overbridge north-west of Elgin, and via an underbridge to the east of Elgin. The amenity impacts to users of NCN1 are predicted to be moderate adverse in the vicinity of the crossings resulting in a noticeable impact to the amenity of users' journeys. However, much of NCN1 remains remote from the option, passing through the centre of Elgin and it is therefore predicted that there would be an overall minor adverse impact to the amenity of path users.	Minor Adverse	N/A	Minor Adverse
Existing Local Routes					
ELR38 - path in Carden Hill Wood	Route is stopped up at the Elgin West junction resulting in an increase in journey length of over 500m.	Significant amenity impacts are predicted as a result of the proximity of the route to the Elgin West junction. However, users of the majority of the path within Carden Hill Wood are not predicted to experience significant amenity impacts.	Major Adverse	PC1	**Moderate Adverse**
ELR58 - circular route in Spynie Wood	It is predicted that users of the path would no longer be able to use the path which would be stopped up by the option.	It is predicted that users of the path would experience significant negative amenity impacts as a result of the location of the option with the removal of woodland from Spynie Wood and the proximity of the path to the NMU path significantly affecting the experience of the user with some NMUs being potentially dissuaded from utilising the path.	Moderate Adverse	PC1	**Minor Adverse**
ELR59 - gated, grassy forestry track connecting the A941 to Spynie Wood	No predicted change in journey length.	Users are predicted to experience a noticeable decrease in amenity due to the proximity of the option and Elgin North junction leading to some users being dissuaded from using the route.	Moderate Adverse	N/A	**Moderate Adverse**
ELR61 - route following local road (U39E) to Spynie Cemetery	A minor journey length increase (<250m) is predicted due to the stopping up of the path. Users of the path would be required to divert	Users of the path would experience a noticeable change in the amenity of their journeys as it is predicted that they would be required to navigate through the Elgin North junction. This is predicted to significantly affect the safety of their journeys with the requirement to cross slip roads, as well as	Major Adverse	N/A	**Major Adverse**

Path Description	Assessment of changes of journey length	Impacts to Amenity	Pre-Mitigation Impact	Mitigation	Residual Effect
	through the Elgin North junction.	the disruption to journeys caused by traffic on the trunk road network.			
ELR63 - Route following local road (C21E) from Elgin to Muir of Linksfield	No predicted change in journey length.	Users of the path would follow an underpass leading to a noticeable adverse change in amenity with the trunk road on embankment in a predominantly flat, rural area with open views.	Moderate Adverse	N/A	**Moderate Adverse**
ELR66 - route following local road (U123E) to the south of existing A96 at Barmuckity	Route is stopped up at Greens of Coxton resulting in an increase in journey length of over 500m.	A minor adverse impact is predicted for users of the path with moderate adverse impacts at the eastern extent of the path to the south of the Elgin East junction. The stopping up of the path through the closure of the local road network is predicted to dissuade some users from using the path.	Major Adverse	N/A	**Major Adverse**
ELR68 - route following the western bank of the River Lossie to the east of Elgin	No predicted change in journey length.	Users of the path would be required to navigate an underbridge. It is also predicted that there would be a noticeable change to the amenity of the path with a large section of the route being impacted by the route option on embankment north of the river.	Moderate Adverse	N/A	**Moderate Adverse**
ELR71 - Path following Pitgaveny Road to Caysbriggs	No predicted change in journey length.	Users of the path would follow an overbridge leading to a noticeable adverse change in amenity with the trunk road on embankment in a predominantly flat, rural area with open views.	Moderate Adverse	N/A	**Moderate Adverse**
ELR72 - Path from Kirkhill Wood to Pitgaveny Wood	No predicted change in journey length.	Users are predicted to experience a noticeable decrease in amenity due to the proximity of the option and the associated changes brought about from routing of the option through a flat, rural landscape.	Moderate Adverse	N/A	**Moderate Adverse**
ELR87 - Path following local road to the East of Elgin towards Moss of Meft	No predicted change in journey length.	Users of the path would be required to navigate an underbridge. It is also predicted that there would be a noticeable change to the amenity of the path with the Elgin East junction located close to users, as well as woodland removal along the River Lossie contributing to a reduction in overall amenity of the route.	Moderate Adverse	N/A	**Moderate Adverse**

Path Description	Assessment of changes of journey length	Impacts to Amenity	Pre-Mitigation Impact	Mitigation	Residual Effect
ELR93 - route to the south of Lhanbryde connecting to the standing stones	No predicted change in journey length.	Adverse amenity impacts to users of the NMU path as a result of the option. Users would be required to travel via an overbridge and adjacent to the route option.	Moderate Adverse	N/A	**Moderate Adverse**
ELR266 - route connecting the properties at Carsehill to the existing A96.	Minor journey length changes predicted as a result of the realignment of the path to the south-east of Elgin.	Significant adverse amenity impact to users of the predicted path as it would be required to cross the option by overbridge. The impacts to amenity would be limited to the northern side of Carse Hill with the southern section of the path screened by the existing landform.	Moderate Adverse	N/A	**Moderate Adverse**
ELR291 - route along the eastern edge of the woodland at Kirkhill	No predicted change in journey length.	Users are predicted to experience a noticeable decrease in amenity due to the proximity of the option leading to some users being dissuaded from using the route.	Moderate Adverse	N/A	**Moderate Adverse**
ELR300 - route which follows the B9012 to the north-west of Elgin	Minor journey length changes predicted as a result of the realignment of the B9012 to the north-west of Elgin.	Users of the path would be required to navigate an overbridge as a result of the option. It is predicted that there would be a noticeable adverse impact to the amenity in the vicinity of the overbridge and to the north of the crossing, however, much of the path to the south being screened by the existing landform and woodland and would be unaffected.	Moderate Adverse	N/A	**Moderate Adverse**
ELR321 - route which follows the dismantled railway to the north-east of Elgin	Minor journey length changes predicted as a result of the realignment of the path via the local road network.	Users of the path would be required to navigate an overbridge to cross the option to continue along the dismantled railway. It is predicted that there would be a noticeable adverse impact to the amenity with users would be required to cross the road network.	Major Adverse	N/A	**Major Adverse**
ELR459 - route follows local road (C4E) to the south of Alves Wood	No predicted change in journey length.	Users are predicted to experience a noticeable decrease in amenity due to the proximity of the option along a large section of the route leading to some users being dissuaded from using the route.	Moderate Adverse	N/A	**Moderate Adverse**
ELR463 - route follows local road (C24E) at Findrassie Lodge	No predicted change in journey length.	Users of the path would be required to navigate an underpass to cross the option. Predicted adverse impact to the amenity as a result of the option being imposing on a large section of the path	Moderate Adverse	N/A	**Moderate Adverse**

Path Description	Assessment of changes of journey length	Impacts to Amenity	Pre-Mitigation Impact	Mitigation	Residual Effect
		resulting in a predicted significant disruption to users of the NMU path.			
ELR550 - route which connects the Elgin Flood Defence Scheme to the existing A96	No predicted change in journey length.	Path would be situated between the existing A96 and the Elgin East junction. The amenity to users of the path are predicted to be noticeably affected as a result of the proximity of the path to the infrastructure associated with both roads.	Moderate Adverse	N/A	**Moderate Adverse**
ELR565 - route following the local road (U101E) to the east of Alves Wood passing by Alves Church	No predicted change in journey length.	Users of the path would be required to navigate an underbridge. There would be a noticeable change to amenity to the amenity of the path to the south of Church Cottages.	Moderate Adverse	N/A	**Moderate Adverse**
ELR566 - route following the local road (C4E) connecting Alves to Viewhill via Cloves	No predicted change in journey length.	Users of the path would be required to navigate an underbridge. It is also predicted that there would be a noticeable change to the amenity of the path between Cloves and Alves.	Moderate Adverse	N/A	**Moderate Adverse**
ELR572 - path along local road (C1E) to the south of Lhanbryde	Route is stopped up south of the railway crossing resulting in an increase in journey length of over 250m.	It is predicted that there would be a noticeable adverse impact to the amenity as a result of the proximity to the route option which is on embankment and the requirement to divert from the current route alignment.	Major Adverse	PC1	**Moderate Adverse**
ELR600 - Path following local road from the River Lossie to Bridge of Calcots	No predicted change in journey length.	Users are predicted to experience a noticeable decrease in amenity with the path crossing under the route option which will be visible in the flat, arable landscape.	Moderate Adverse	N/A	**Moderate Adverse**
The following Existing Local Routes are located within the study area and it was predicted that there would be less than a 250m increase to journey lengths with journey patterns generally maintained, or that users would be unlikely to be deterred from using the path, an overall minor adverse effect: ELR35, ELR47, ELR64, ELR69, ELR292, ELR298, ELR462 and ELR571					
The following Existing Local Paths are located within the study area and it was predicted that there would be a negligible impact to users of the paths as a result of the option: ELR34, ELR36, ELR37, ELR39, ELR51, ELR65, ELR67, ELR70, ELR84, ELR86, ELR94, ELR95, ELR96, ELR301, ELR385, ELR432, ELR433, ELR434, ELR435, ELR436, ELR461, ELR473, ELR568, ELR591 and ELR609.					
The following Aspirational Core Paths are located within the study area and it was predicted that there would be minor beneficial impacts to users of the routes resulting from a reduction in traffic flows along the existing A96: ELR570					

Path Description	Assessment of changes of journey length	Impacts to Amenity	Pre-Mitigation Impact	Mitigation	Residual Effect
Moray Cycle Route					
The Elgin Experience – 13 mile route from Elgin town centre covering countryside to the north-west and south-west of Elgin	No predicted change in journey length.	It is predicted that users would experience a decrease in amenity due to associated changes to the setting of the route primarily to the north-west of Elgin. However, it is predicted that users are unlikely to be deterred from using the route with effects to the overall route being limited.	Minor Adverse	N/A	Minor Adverse
Forestry Commission Recreational Paths					
The following Forestry Commission Recreational Paths are located within the study area and it was predicted that there would be a negligible impact to users of the paths as a result of the option: FC26 and FC27.					

Table 1.4 Hillhead to Lhanbryde - South Option: NMU Assessment

Path Description	Assessment of changes of journey length	Impacts to Amenity	Pre-Mitigation Impact	Mitigation	Residual Effect
Core Paths					
CP-EG07-03 - looping path in Birkenhill Wood	No predicted change in journey length.	Users are predicted to experience a noticeable decrease in amenity due to the proximity of the option and the Elgin South junction.	Moderate Adverse	N/A	**Moderate Adverse**
CP-EG07-04 - route in Birkenhill Wood accessing the informal car park; and CP-EG07-05 - looping path in Birkenhill Wood	Routes are stopped up to the west of the Elgin South junction within Birkenhill Wood.	Significant negative amenity impacts are predicted to users of the paths with negative amenity impacts resulting from the proximity of the option and the Elgin South junction.	Major Adverse	PC1	**Moderate Adverse**
The following Core Paths are located within the study area and it was predicted that there would be a negligible impact to users of the paths as a result of the option: CP-EG04-02, CP-EG04-03, CP-EG04-17, CP-EG05-00, CP-EG07-02, CP-EG07-06, CP-EG56-01, CP-EG56-02, CP-EG57-01, CP-EG57-02, CP-EG57-03, CP-EG57-04, CP-EG57-05, CP-EG57-06, CP-EG57-07, CP-EG57-08 and CP-EG57-10					
Public Rights of Way					
The following Public rights of Way are located within the study area and it was predicted that there would be a negligible impact to users of the paths as a result of the option: GM133 and GM134					
Aspirational Core Paths					
ACP4 - route follows the existing A96 between Lhanbryde and Mosstodloch	No predicted change in journey length.	Users of the NMU path are predicted to experience a significant reduction in traffic flows reductions along the existing A96.	Moderate Beneficial	N/A	**Moderate Beneficial**
ACP22 - route follows the existing A96 between Forres and Elgin	No predicted change in journey length.	Users of the NMU path are predicted to experience a significant reduction in traffic flows reductions along the existing A96.	Moderate Beneficial	N/A	**Moderate Beneficial**
The following Aspirational Core Path are located within the study area and it was predicted that there would be less than a 250m increase to journey lengths with journey patterns generally maintained, or that users would be unlikely to be deterred from using the path, an overall minor adverse effect: ACP57 and ACP77					
The following Aspirational Core Paths are located within the study area and it was predicted that there would be a negligible impact to users of the paths as a result of the option: ACP3, ACP21, ACP25 ACP40, ACP41, ACP58 and ACP66					
The following Aspirational Core Paths are located within the study area and it was predicted that there would be minor beneficial impacts to users of the routes resulting from a reduction in traffic flows along the existing A96: ACP2 and ACP67					

Path Description	Assessment of changes of journey length	Impacts to Amenity	Pre-Mitigation Impact	Mitigation	Residual Effect
Existing Local Routes					
ELR35 - route to Morayscairn to the west of Alves Wood	Minor journey length changes (<250m) predicted as a result of the realignment of the local road network.	Users are predicted to experience a noticeable decrease in amenity with the path crossing over the route option and the associated removal of woodland to the east.	Moderate Adverse	N/A	**Moderate Adverse**
ELR82 - route along the Black Burn at Miltonduff	No predicted change in journey length.	Users of the path would be required to navigate an underbridge and would experience a significant change to the amenity of their journeys in the vicinity of the crossing which is in a quiet, rural location.	Moderate Adverse	N/A	**Moderate Adverse**
ELR93 - route to the south of Lhanbryde connecting to the standing stones	Minor journey length changes (<250m) predicted as a result of the realignment of the local access road.	Users of the path are predicted to experience adverse impacts resulting from the requirement to cross the option and the associated amenity impacts of the path being located between the existing A96 and the route option.	Moderate Adverse	N/A	**Moderate Adverse**
ELR219 - route follows local road (C3E) which passes Miltonduff	Minor journey length changes (<250m) predicted as a result of the realignment of the local road network and associated overbridge.	Users of the path would be required to navigate an overbridge and would experience a significant change to the amenity of their journeys in the vicinity of the crossing. However, it is predicted that the overall amenity of the path would be largely unaffected.	Moderate Adverse	N/A	**Moderate Adverse**
ELR236 - looping path at Duffus Hillock	No predicted change in journey length.	Users are predicted to experience a noticeable decrease in amenity due to the proximity of the option along a large section of the route leading to some users being dissuaded from using the route.	Moderate Adverse	N/A	**Moderate Adverse**
ELR263 - path in the southern section of Birkenhill Wood	Route is stopped up resulting in an increase in journey length of over 500m.	Users are predicted to experience a noticeable decrease in amenity due to the proximity of the option and the Elgin South junction.	Major Adverse	PC1	**Moderate Adverse**
ELR266 - route connecting the properties at Carsehill to the existing A96 at Alves	No predicted change in journey length.	Users of the NMU path would be required to traverse an overbridge which would lead to negative amenity impacts, furthermore much of the path would overlook the option which would be located in a largely rural environment.	Moderate Adverse	N/A	**Moderate Adverse**

Path Description	Assessment of changes of journey length	Impacts to Amenity	Pre-Mitigation Impact	Mitigation	Residual Effect
ELR439 - route along local track at Nether Birnie	No predicted change in journey length.	Users would be required to traverse an underbridge resulting in negative amenity impacts. It is predicted that some NMUs would be dissuaded from using the path as a result of the option crossing an area of flat agricultural land which is visible from a large section of the path.	Moderate Adverse	N/A	**Moderate Adverse**
ELR441 - route follows local road (C4E) at Lochinver	It is predicted that users of the path would experience moderate increases in journey length with users being diverted through the Elgin West junction.	Users of the path would be required to travel through the Elgin West junction and cross slip roads thereby adversely affecting the safety of those users. The amenity of the path is predicted to be significantly adversely impacted as a result of the option.	Moderate Adverse	N/A	**Moderate Adverse**
ELR464 - route following local road (B9010) at Pittendreich	No predicted change in journey length.	Users of the path would be required to navigate an underbridge and would experience a significant change to the amenity of their journeys in the vicinity of the crossing. It is predicted that some NMUs would be dissuaded from using the path as a result of the option crossing an area of flat agricultural land which is visible from a large section of the path.	Moderate Adverse	N/A	**Moderate Adverse**
ELR465 - route following the A941 south of Elgin	Minor journey length changes (<250m) are predicted as a result of the realignment of the A941 at the Elgin South junction.	Users of the NMU path would be required to traverse the Elgin South junction which would lead to negative amenity impacts. Due to the length of the NMU path it is not predicted that any significant effects would be experienced except those immediately adjacent to the junction.	Moderate Adverse	N/A	**Moderate Adverse**
ELR473 - route located in Alves Wood	Route is stopped up resulting in an increase in journey length of up to 250m.	Users are predicted to experience a noticeable decrease in amenity due to the proximity of the option and the associated changes to the woodland surrounding the path leading to some users being dissuaded from using the route.	Moderate Adverse	PC1	**Moderate Adverse**
ELR551 - route from Burnside Farm to the coarse fishing area at Hardhillock	Route is stopped up resulting in an increase	The routing of the route into the rural environment is predicted to significantly affect the amenity of	Major Adverse	PC1	**Major Adverse**

Path Description	Assessment of changes of journey length	Impacts to Amenity	Pre-Mitigation Impact	Mitigation	Residual Effect
	in journey length of over 500m.	users of the path with some users being dissuaded from using the path			
ELR565 - route following the local road (U101E) to the east of Alves Wood passing by Alves Church	No predicted change in journey length.	Users of the path would be required to navigate an overbridge. There would be a noticeable change to amenity to the amenity of the path through woodland felling and the route option being on embankment immediately adjacent to the path	Moderate Adverse	N/A	**Moderate Adverse**
ELR566 - route which follows the local road network (C4E) between Alves and Viewhill	No predicted change in journey length.	Users of the path would be required to navigate an underbridge. It is also predicted that there would be a noticeable change to the amenity of the path between Cloves and Alves.	Moderate Adverse	N/A	**Moderate Adverse**
ELR570 - route along the existing A96 to the south of Lhanbryde	Minor journey length changes (<250m) are predicted as a result of the realignment of the existing A96.	Users of the NMU path are predicted to experience a significant reduction in traffic flows reductions along the existing A96.	Moderate Beneficial	N/A	**Moderate Beneficial**
ELR572 - route following local road (C1E) to the south of Lhanbryde	Route is stopped up south of the railway crossing resulting in an increase in journey length of up to 500m.	It is predicted that there would be a noticeable adverse impact to the amenity as a result of disruption caused by the option on embankment and the proximity of the Elgin East junction and associated slip roads.	Major Adverse	PC1	**Moderate Adverse**
ELR590 - route in the north-west of Alves Wood ELR591 - route in the north-east of Alves Wood	Routes are stopped up resulting in an increase in journey length of over 500m.	Users of the NMU paths are anticipated to experience negative amenity impacts due to associated changes felling of the woodland and the presence of the route option directly impacting the paths.	Major Adverse	N/A	**Major Adverse**
ELR629 - Route around the Elgin Caravan Park	No predicted change in journey length.	Users are predicted to experience a noticeable decrease in amenity due to the proximity of the link road and the associated changes brought about from traffic using the road leading to some users being dissuaded from using the route.	Moderate Adverse	N/A	**Moderate Adverse**
The following Existing Local Routes are located within the study area and it was predicted that there would be less than a 250m increase to journey lengths with journey patterns generally maintained, or that users would be unlikely to be deterred from using the path, an overall minor adverse effect: ELR36, ELR37, ELR261, ELR298, ELR438, ELR520, ELR569, ELR571, ELR573, ELR628 and ELR629					

Path Description	Assessment of changes of journey length	Impacts to Amenity	Pre-Mitigation Impact	Mitigation	Residual Effect
The following Existing Local Paths are located within the study area and it was predicted that there would be a negligible impact to users of the paths as a result of the option: ELR34, ELR38, ELR39, ELR51, ELR54, ELR55, ELR67, ELR76, ELR77, ELR80, ELR94, ELR95, ELR234, ELR237, ELR238, ELR259, ELR264, ELR385, ELR432, ELR433, ELR435, ELR436, ELR459, ELR460, ELR472 and ELR609.					
Moray Cycle Route					
The Elgin Experience - 13-mile route from Elgin town centre covering countryside to the north-west and south-west of Elgin	No predicted change in journey length.	It is predicted that users would experience a decrease in amenity due to associated changes to the setting of the route primarily to the west and south of Elgin. However, it is predicted that users are unlikely to be deterred from using the route with effects to the overall route being limited.	Minor Adverse	N/A	Minor Adverse

Table 1.5 Lhanbryde to East of Fochabers – North Option: NMU Assessment

Path Description	Assessment of changes of journey length	Impacts to Amenity	Pre-Mitigation Impact	Mitigation	Residual Effect
Scotland's Great Trails					
Speyside Way - Long distance NMU route from Spey Bay to Ballindalloch	No predicted change in journey length.	Users of the path would be required to navigate an overbridge resulting in a predicted moderate adverse amenity impact to the west of Fochabers. However, the significant impact only relates to a small portion of the long-distance path and therefore the overall impact to the amenity of users is predicted to be minor adverse.	Minor Adverse	N/A	Minor Adverse
Core Paths					
CP-EG52-02 - Path connecting Lhanbryde cemetery to Loch na Bo	No predicted change in journey length.	Users are required to traverse an overbridge leading to a decrease in amenity of the path with moderate adverse impacts predicted from the crossing of the option some and the change to its setting resulting woodland removal. Some amenity impacts are offset by beneficial impacts resulting from reduced traffic flows on the existing A96.	Moderate Adverse	N/A	**Moderate Adverse**
CP-FB08-01 - path adjacent to the A96 which crosses the A96 at Mosstodloch and provides a pedestrian crossing of the River Spey	No predicted change in journey length.	Users of the path are expected to experience a negative impact to the amenity of the path as a result of the impact to views looking to the south along the River Spey. The route would be located between two carriageways. the existing A96 and the route option.	Moderate Adverse	N/A	**Moderate Adverse**
CP-FB08-02 - path adjacent to the B9014 to the east of the Spey Crossing	No predicted change in journey length.	Users of the path would be required to navigate an underbridge. It is also predicted that there would be a noticeable change to the amenity of the path.	Moderate Adverse	N/A	**Moderate Adverse**
CP-FB13-00 - circular path in Balnacoul Wood located adjacent to the existing A96	No predicted change in journey length.	Significant traffic reductions are predicted along the existing A96 to the south of the path which would reduce disturbance to users of the path network within Balnacoul Wood resulting in a significant benefit to the amenity of journeys including those made by vulnerable users.	Moderate Beneficial	N/A	**Moderate Beneficial**

Path Description	Assessment of changes of journey length	Impacts to Amenity	Pre-Mitigation Impact	Mitigation	Residual Effect
CP-FB14-01 - path from Fochabers to Gordon Castle Farm	No predicted change in journey length.	Users are predicted to experience a noticeable decrease in amenity due to the proximity of the option on embankment and the associated changes to the backcloth of Leitch's Wood.	Moderate Adverse	N/A	**Moderate Adverse**
CP-FB16-01 - path adjacent to the B9104 and A98	Minor journey length changes (<250m) are predicted as a result of the realignment of the path through the Fochabers East junction.	Significant decreases in amenity for users is predicted along this path with the existing NMU underpass stopped up and users being required to travel through the Fochabers East junction, crossing slips roads and navigating an underbridge to complete their journeys.	Major Adverse	PC1	**Major Adverse**
CP-SW02-06 route along the eastern bank of the River Spey	No predicted change in journey length.	Users of the path would be required to navigate an underbridge. It is also predicted that there would be a noticeable change to the amenity of the path.	Moderate Adverse	N/A	**Moderate Adverse**
The following Core Paths are located within the study area and it was predicted that there would be less than a 250m increase to journey lengths with journey patterns generally maintained, or that users would be unlikely to be deterred from using the path, an overall minor adverse effect: CP-EG53-03, CP-EG53-00, CP-FB08-03, CP-FB08-04 and CP-SW02-07.					
The following Core Paths are located within the study area and it was predicted that there would be a negligible impact to users of the paths as a result of the option: CP-EG56-02, CP-EG57-01, CP-EG57-02, CP-EG57-03, CP-EG57-04, CP-EG57-05, CP-EG57-06, CP-EG57-07, CP-EG57-08, CP-EG57-09, CP-EG57-10, CP-FB09-01, CP-FB14-02, CP-FB16-02, CP-FB17-01, CP-FB17-02, CP-FB18-01, CP-FB18-02, CP-FB18-03, CP-FB19-00, CP-FB20-00, CP-FB21-01, CP-SW02-03, CP-SW02-08, CP-SW02-09 and CP-SW03-01					
The following Core Paths are located within the study area and it was predicted that there would be minor beneficial impacts to users of the routes resulting from a reduction in traffic flows along the existing A96: CP-SRA02-01, CP-SRA02-02, CP-SRA02-03, CP-SW02-04 and CP-SW02-05					
Public Rights of Way					
The following Public rights of Way are located within the study area and it was predicted that there would be a negligible impact to users of the paths as a result of the option: GM9, GM65, GM133 and GM138.					
Aspirational Core Paths					
The following Aspirational Core Paths are located within the study area and it was predicted that there would be a negligible impact to users of the paths as a result of the option: ACP40.					

Path Description	Assessment of changes of journey length	Impacts to Amenity	Pre-Mitigation Impact	Mitigation	Residual Effect
The following Aspirational Core Paths are located within the study area and it was predicted that there would be minor beneficial impacts to users of the routes resulting from a reduction in traffic flows along the existing A96: ACP4 and ACP25					
Existing Local Routes					
ELR94 - route connecting the existing A96 to Lochnabo Wood	Minor journey length changes (<250m) are predicted as a result of the realignment of the path at the Elgin Kart Raceway	Users are predicted to experience a noticeable decrease in amenity due to the proximity of the option and the associated changes brought about from traffic using the route leading to some users being dissuaded from using the route.	Moderate Adverse	PC1	**Moderate Adverse**
ELR114 wide woodland path running approximately east-west through Balnacoul Wood	Path would be stopped up at its northern extent by the option resulting in a requirement to use an alternative path	A noticeable adverse amenity impact for users is predicted at the northern section of the path at Balnacoul Wood, however the majority of the path would be unaffected.	Moderate Adverse	PC1	**Minor Adverse**
ELR116 & ELR117 - wide woodland paths running approximately north-south through Balnacoul Wood	Routes are stopped up resulting in an increase in journey length of over 500m.	Users are predicted to experience a noticeable decrease in amenity due to the proximity of the option and the associated changes to the woodland area within which the paths are located.	Major Adverse	N/A	**Major Adverse**
ELR145 - wide woodland path running approximately east-west through Balnacoul Wood	No predicted change in journey length.	An adverse amenity impact is predicted to users at the path in Balnacoul Wood which would run parallel to the option. The existing woodland would provide a degree of screening, but the option is still predicted to significantly disturb users of the path.	Moderate Adverse	N/A	**Moderate Adverse**
ELR158 - path in Leitch's Wood parallel to the A96	Route is stopped up resulting in an increase in journey length of over 500m.	Users of the path are predicted to experience considerable adverse change to the amenity of the path deterring users from utilising the path.	Major Adverse	N/A	**Major Adverse**
ELR186 - path in Slorach's Wood connecting to the existing A96	Access to the NMU path would be stopped up as access is only afforded from the A96.	Users of the path are predicted to experience a negative amenity impact of the path as a result of the proposed cuttings along the option.	Major Adverse	PC1	**Moderate Adverse**

Path Description	Assessment of changes of journey length	Impacts to Amenity	Pre-Mitigation Impact	Mitigation	Residual Effect
ELR265 - route following local road (U11E) to the east of Balnacoul Wood	Moderate journey length changes (<500m) are predicted as a result of the realignment of the road at the Fochabers West junction.	A noticeable adverse amenity impact is predicted with users having to travel via the Fochabers West junction reducing safety as a result of the requirement to cross slip roads. It is predicted the amenity impacts would deter some users from making trips along this NMU path.	Major Adverse	N/A	**Major Adverse**
ELR329 - Looping path in Threapland Wood	No predicted change in journey length.	Users are predicted to experience a noticeable decrease in amenity due to the proximity of the option leading to some users (including vulnerable users) being dissuaded from using the route.	Moderate Adverse	N/A	**Moderate Adverse**
ELR392 & ELR446 - short woodland paths connecting Forestry Commission routes in Leitch's Wood	No predicted change in journey length.	It is predicted that there would be a major adverse impact to the amenity of users of the path with users predicted to be deterred from using the path. The NMU path would be located between the existing A96 and the option with no opportunities to connect to/from the wider path network to the east	Major Adverse	N/A	**Major Adverse**
ELR455 - woodland path in the western section of Leitch's Wood	Route is stopped up resulting in an increase in journey length of over 500m.	It is predicted that users would no longer be able to use the path with the entirety of the path being located within the footprint of the option.	Major Adverse	N/A	**Major Adverse**
ELR467 - route following the B9015 south from Mosstodloch to Inchberry	Minor journey length changes (<250m) are predicted as a result of the realignment of the road at the Fochabers West junction.	A noticeable adverse amenity impact is predicted with users having to travel via the Fochabers West junction reducing safety as a result of the requirement to cross slip roads. It is predicted the amenity impacts would deter some users from making trips along this NMU path.	Moderate Adverse	N/A	**Moderate Adverse**
ELR570 - path along the existing A96 at Lhanbryde	No predicted change in journey length.	Users of the NMU path are predicted to experience a significant reduction in traffic flows reductions along the existing A96.	Moderate Beneficial	N/A	**Moderate Beneficial**
ELR578 - path along the west of Sleepieshill Wood crossing the existing A96	No predicted change in journey length.	Users of this path would experience a beneficial amenity impact due to the traffic flows on the existing A96 being significantly reduced thereby improving the safety of the crossing.	Moderate Beneficial	N/A	**Moderate Beneficial**

Path Description	Assessment of changes of journey length	Impacts to Amenity	Pre-Mitigation Impact	Mitigation	Residual Effect
ELR584 - woodland path in the western section of Leitch's Wood	Route is stopped up resulting in an increase in journey length of over 500m.	Users of the path at the A96 are predicted to experience a negative impact to the amenity which would prevent movement within the woodland area between Slorach's Wood and Leitch's Wood.	Major Adverse	PC1	**Major Adverse**
ELR592 - path along the western edge of Balnacoul Wood	Route is stopped up resulting in an increase in journey length of over 500m.	Users are predicted to experience a noticeable decrease in amenity due to the proximity of the option and the associated changes to the woodland area within which the path is located.	Major Adverse	PC1	**Major Adverse**
ELR597 - overgrown path to the east of Loch Oire which routes south to the Aberdeen to Inverness Railway before turning north back through the woodland	Route is stopped up resulting in an increase in journey length of up to 250m.	Users are predicted to experience a noticeable decrease in amenity due to the proximity of the option and the associated changes to the woodland area within which the paths are located.	Moderate Adverse	PC1	**Moderate Adverse**
ELR615 - short connecting woodland path in Balnacoul Wood	Route is stopped up resulting in an increase in journey length of up to 250m.	Users are predicted to experience a noticeable decrease in amenity due to the proximity of the option and the associated changes brought about from traffic using the road leading to some users being dissuaded from using the route.	Major Adverse	PC1	**Moderate Adverse**
The following Existing Local Routes are located within the study area and it was predicted that there would be less than a 250m increase to journey lengths with journey patterns generally maintained, or that users would be unlikely to be deterred from using the path, an overall minor adverse effect: ELR115, ELR151, ELR152, ELR192, ELR315, ELR330, ELR391, ELR493, ELR576, ELR583 and ELR589					
The following Existing Local Paths are located within the study area and it was predicted that there would be a negligible impact to users of the paths as a result of the option: ELR95, ELR107, ELR125, ELR161, ELR162, ELR164, ELR166, ELR167, ELR168, ELR178, ELR184, ELR185, ELR302, ELR316, ELR322, ELR323, ELR324, ELR325, ELR326, ELR327, ELR328, ELR393, ELR396, ELR453, ELR466, ELR572, ELR575, ELR585, ELR586, ELR613, ELR618, ELR619, ELR620 and ELR631					
Moray Cycle Route					
Scenic Speyside - Looping path from Fochabers to Boat o'Brig and back via the Speyside Way.	No predicted change in journey length.	Users of the path would be required to navigate an overbridge on Dipple Road and an underbridge at the River Spey crossing resulting in a predicted adverse amenity impact. However, this is only a small portion of the northern section of the path. It is not predicted that users of the overall path would experience any significant amenity impacts.	Minor Adverse	N/A	Minor Adverse

Path Description	Assessment of changes of journey length	Impacts to Amenity	Pre-Mitigation Impact	Mitigation	Residual Effect
Forestry Commission Recreational Routes					
FC11 - path to Peep's View viewpoint in Leitch's Wood	Route is stopped up to the east of Peep's View resulting in an increase in journey length of over 500m.	Significant adverse impacts to the amenity for users of the path. Users of the path are predicted to be deterred from using the path as access would be severed which would require users to navigate the Fochabers East junction	Major Adverse	PC1	**Major Adverse**
FC37 (The Fochabers Ring) - The Fochabers Ring Moray Mountain Bike Trail which forms a circular mountain bike trail in in Leitch's Wood	Route is stopped up to the east of Peep's View resulting in an increase in journey length of over 500m.	Significant adverse impacts to the amenity to users of the path to the west which is located underneath the route option. Users on the eastern section of the path are not expected to have their amenity impacted, however the users will not be able to utilise the full Moray Monster Trail.	Major Adverse	PC1	**Major Adverse**
The following Forestry Commission Recreational Paths are located within the study area and it was predicted that there would be a negligible impact to users of the paths as a result of the option: FC12, FC13, FC15, FC33, FC39, FC85, FC86, FC87, FC88, FC89, FC92 and FC95.					

Table 1.6 Lhanbryde to East of Fochabers – South Option: NMU Assessment

Path Description	Assessment of changes of journey length	Impacts to Amenity	Pre-Mitigation Impact	Mitigation	Residual Effect
Scotland's Great Trails					
The Speyside Way (including Core Path CP-SW03-03) - Long distance NMU route from Spey Bay to Ballindalloch	Minor journey length increase is predicted resulting from the Ordiquish Road realignment	Users of the Speyside Way would be required to navigate an overbridge, resulting in a negative amenity impact. Impacts will be limited to a small section of the path at Ordiquish and impacts to the overall amenity of the long-distance path are not predicted to be significant.	Minor Adverse	N/A	Minor Adverse
Core Paths					
CP-EG52-02 - Path connecting Lhanbryde Cemetery to Loch na Bo	No predicted change in journey length.	Users are required to traverse an overbridge leading to a decrease in amenity of the path with moderate adverse impacts predicted from the crossing of the option and the change to its setting resulting woodland removal. Some amenity impacts are offset by beneficial impacts resulting from reduced traffic flows on the existing A96.	Moderate Adverse	N/A	**Moderate Adverse**
CP-FB17-01 - Route connecting Castle Hill to Slorach's Wood	Route is stopped up within Castle Hill Wood and Slorach's Wood resulting in an increase in journey length of over 500m.	Users of the path are predicted to experience significant amenity changes as a result of the route option resulting in NMUs potentially reorganising their habits to utilise other woodland trails in the area.	Major Adverse	PC1	**Major Adverse**
CP-FB21-06 & CP-FB21-08 - routes following the eastern bank of the River Findhorn	No predicted change in journey length.	Users of the path would experience an adverse amenity impact as a result of the option. Impacts are predicted to occur from the proximity of the option to the path, users of which are currently afforded extensive views across the River Spey floodplain and Area of Great Landscape Value.	Major Adverse	N/A	**Major Adverse**
The following Core Paths are located within the study area and it was predicted that there would be less than a 250m increase to journey lengths with journey patterns generally maintained, or that users would be unlikely to be deterred from using the path, an overall minor adverse effect: CP-EG52-03, CP-EG53-00, and CP-FB21-07.					
The following Core Paths are located within the study area and it was predicted that there would be a negligible impact to users of the paths as a result of the option:					

Path Description	Assessment of changes of journey length	Impacts to Amenity	Pre-Mitigation Impact	Mitigation	Residual Effect
CP-EG56-02, CP-EG57-01, CP-EG57-02, CP-EG57-03, CP-EG57-04, CP-EG57-05, CP-EG57-06, CP-EG57-07, CP-EG57-08, CP-EG57-09, CP-EG57-10, CP-FB21-02, CP-FB21-04, CP-FB21-05, CP-FB22-00, CP-FB23-00 and CP-SW03-02,					
Public Rights of Way					
GM9 - woodland track running the length Slorach's Wood and Ordiequish Wood, north-south from the lane leading to Castlehill Farm in Fochabers	Route is stopped up to the west of the Fochabers Burn resulting in an increase in journey length of over 500m.	Significant adverse impacts to the amenity for users of the path are predicted to occur with a requirement to pass beneath a major structure on the Fochabers Burn. It is predicted that despite the long-distance nature of the path NMUs may be deterred from using the path as there are alternative paths available to NMUs in the area.	Major Adverse	PC1	**Major Adverse**
The following Public rights of Way are located within the study area and it was predicted that there would be a negligible impact to users of the paths as a result of the option: GM65 and GM133					
Aspirational Core Paths					
The following Aspirational Core Paths are located within the study area and it was predicted that there would be a negligible impact to users of the paths as a result of the option: ACP40					
The following Aspirational Core Paths are located within the study area and it was predicted that there would be minor beneficial impacts to users of the routes resulting from a reduction in traffic flows along the existing A96: ACP4 and ACP25					
Existing Local Routes					
ELR94 - route connecting the existing A96 to Lochnabo Wood	Minor journey length changes (<250m) are predicted as a result of the realignment of the path at the Elgin Kart Raceway	Users are predicted to experience a noticeable decrease in amenity due to the proximity of the option and the associated changes brought about from traffic using the route leading to some users being dissuaded from using the route.	Moderate Adverse	PC1	**Moderate Adverse**
ELR98 - wide woodland path running approximately east-west through the southern section of Balnacoul Wood	Route is stopped up resulting in an increase in journey length of over 500m.	Users are predicted to experience a noticeable decrease in amenity due to the proximity of the option and the associated changes brought about from traffic using the road leading to some users being dissuaded from using the route.	Major Adverse	PC1	**Moderate Adverse**
ELR168 - woodland path in Slorach's Wood running parallel to Burn of Fochabers	Route is stopped up to the west of the Fochabers Burn resulting in an increase	Significant adverse impacts to the amenity for users of the path are predicted to occur with a requirement to pass beneath a major structure on the Fochabers Burn. It is predicted that NMUs	Major Adverse	PC1	**Moderate Adverse**

Path Description	Assessment of changes of journey length	Impacts to Amenity	Pre-Mitigation Impact	Mitigation	Residual Effect
	in journey length of over 500m.	may be deterred from using the path as there are alternative paths available to NMUs in the area.			
ELR186 - woodland path in Slorach's Wood connecting to the existing A96 and parallel to the Burn of Fochabers	Access to the NMU path would be stopped up as access is only afforded from the A96.	It is predicted that users will experience barely noticeable changes to the amenity of the route.	Moderate Adverse	PC1	**Moderate Adverse**
ELR192 - path following the western bank of the River Spey	No predicted change in journey length.	NMUs would experience negative adverse amenity impacts due to users being required to navigate under the River Spey crossing. Given the open nature of the river corridor and the extensive infrastructure required for the option NMUs are predicted to experience significant adverse impacts along a large stretch of the path.	Major Adverse	N/A	**Major Adverse**
ELR316 - short, connecting woodland path in the north of Slorach's Wood	No predicted change in journey length.	Users are predicted to experience a noticeable decrease in amenity due to the proximity of the option and Fochabers East junction and the associated changes brought about from traffic using the road leading to some users being dissuaded from using the route.	Moderate Adverse	N/A	**Moderate Adverse**
ELR329 - Looping path in Threapland Wood	No predicted change in journey length.	Users are predicted to experience a noticeable decrease in amenity due to the proximity of the option leading to some users (including vulnerable users) being dissuaded from using the route.	Moderate Adverse	N/A	**Moderate Adverse**
ELR440 - road (U22E), connecting to B9015 at its western extent	No predicted change in journey length.	Users of the path would experience significant adverse impacts to the amenity of the path with the option crossing the Spey Valley and the associated disturbance from vehicular traffic.	Moderate Adverse	N/A	**Moderate Adverse**
ELR466 - route following existing A96 at Mosstodloch	No predicted change in journey length.	Users of the NMU path are predicted to experience a significant reduction in traffic flows reductions along the existing A96.	Moderate Beneficial	N/A	**Moderate Beneficial**
ELR570 - route following existing A96 at Lhanbryde	No predicted change in journey length.	Users of the NMU path are predicted to experience a significant reduction in traffic flows reductions along the existing A96.	Moderate Beneficial	N/A	**Moderate Beneficial**
ELR576 - woodland route in Slorach's Wood connecting the	Route is stopped up to the south of the existing	It is predicted that there would be no noticeable change to the amenity of journeys undertaken by	Major Adverse	PC1	**Major Adverse**

Path Description	Assessment of changes of journey length	Impacts to Amenity	Pre-Mitigation Impact	Mitigation	Residual Effect
existing A96 to the Burn of Fochabers	A96 resulting in an increase in journey length of over 500m.	NMUs on this path as the option follows the alignment of the existing A96 to the east of the path			
ELR578 - route to the west of Sleepieshill Wood crossing the A96	No predicted change in journey length.	Users of the NMU path are predicted to experience a significant reduction in traffic flows reductions along the existing A96.	Moderate Beneficial	N/A	**Moderate Beneficial**
ELR592 - wide woodland path around the western edge of Balnacoul Wood	Route is stopped up in the south-west of Balnacoul Wood resulting in an increase in journey length of over 500m.	Users are predicted to experience a noticeable decrease in amenity due to the proximity of the option and the associated changes brought about from traffic using the road leading to some users being dissuaded from using the route.	Major Adverse	PC1	**Moderate Adverse**
ELR597 - overgrown path to the east of Loch Oire which routes south to the Aberdeen to Inverness Railway before turning north back through the woodland	Route is stopped up resulting in an increase in journey length of up to 250m.	Users are predicted to experience a noticeable decrease in amenity due to the proximity of the option and the associated changes to the woodland area within which the paths are located.	Moderate Adverse	PC1	**Moderate Adverse**
The following Existing Local Routes are located within the study area and it was predicted that there would be less than a 250m increase to journey lengths with journey patterns generally maintained, or that users would be unlikely to be deterred from using the path, an overall minor adverse effect: ELR169, ELR315, ELR329, ELR330, ELR454, ELR467 and ELR574					
The following Existing Local Paths are located within the study area and it was predicted that there would be a negligible impact to users of the paths as a result of the option: ELR95, ELR106, ELR107, ELR114, ELR116, ELR117, ELR118, ELR125, ELR145, ELR158, ELR161, ELR162, ELR164, ELR166, ELR167, ELR170, ELR171, ELR172, ELR176, ELR178, ELR179, ELR180, ELR184, ELR185, ELR267, ELR317, ELR322, ELR323, ELR324, ELR325, ELR326, ELR327, ELR328, ELR391, ELR392, ELR393, ELR396, ELR446, ELR453, ELR455, ELR572, ELR575, ELR584, ELR585 and ELR586.					
Moray Cycle Route					
Scenic Speyside - Looping path from Fochabers to Boat o'Brig and back via the Speyside Way.	No predicted change in journey length.	Users of the path would be required to navigate an overbridge on Dipple Road and Ordiquish Road resulting in a predicted adverse amenity impact. However, this affects only a small portion of the path. It is not predicted that users of the overall Moray Cycle Route would experience any significant amenity impacts.	Minor Adverse	N/A	Minor Adverse

Path Description	Assessment of changes of journey length	Impacts to Amenity	Pre-Mitigation Impact	Mitigation	Residual Effect
Forestry Commission Recreational Paths					
FC32 - circular mountain bike trail at the north end of Slorach's Wood (The Soup Dragon Moray Monster Trail)	Route is stopped up within Castle Hill Wood and Slorach's Wood resulting in an increase in journey length of over 500m.	Users of the Soup Dragon Moray Monster Trail are expected to experience a significant adverse amenity impact due to the option significantly altering the setting of the trail to such an extent that some users are predicted to reorganise their habits to make use of other trails in the area.	Major Adverse	PC1	**Major Adverse**
FC33 - mountain bike trail within in the eastern section of Slorach's Wood	No predicted change in journey length.	Users are predicted to experience a noticeable decrease in amenity due to the proximity of the option and the associated changes brought about from traffic using the road leading to some users being dissuaded from using the route.	Moderate Adverse	N/A	**Moderate Adverse**
FC92 - mountain bike trail within in the eastern section of Slorach's Wood	No predicted change in journey length.	Users of the path would be required to navigate under the Fochabers East junction. Users of the path to the northern section of the path are predicted to experience a significant adverse impact to their amenity resulting from disturbance caused by vehicular traffic and the felling of a large area of woodland through which the paths routes.	Moderate Adverse	N/A	**Moderate Adverse**
FC95 - route connecting Fochabers to Slorach's Wood	Route is stopped up within Slorach's Wood resulting in an increase in journey length of over 500m.	Users of the northern section of the path are predicted to experience a negative amenity impact resulting from the path being aligned alongside the option, however the majority of the path would not experience negative amenity impacts.	Major Adverse	PC1	**Moderate Adverse**
The following Forestry Commission Recreational Paths are located within the study area and it was predicted that there would be no change to journey lengths and that users would experience a barely noticeable change to the amenity of the paths: FC31 and FC73					
The following Forestry Commission Recreational Paths are located within the study area and it was predicted that there would be a negligible impact to users of the paths as a result of the option: FC11, FC15, FC34, FC37 and FC39					

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Appendix A12.3 - Community Land, Facilities and Outdoor Access Assessment Tables

A12.3 People and Communities – Community Land, Facilities and Outdoor Access Assessment Tables

The following tables set out the community land, facilities and outdoor access assessment. All receptors in Tables 1.1 – 1.6 have been identified as being of a high sensitivity.

Table 1.1 Hardmuir to Hillhead – North Option: Community Land, Facilities and Outdoor Access

Name	Land Take Effects	Access Effects	Amenity Effects	Pre-mitigation effect	Mitigation	Residual Effect
North Findhorn Green Corridor	Predicted loss of <10% of the open space on either side of the River Findhorn adjacent to the existing railway crossing.	Access to the River Findhorn would be largely unaffected with all vehicle and NMU routes retained and no significant increases to access predicted.	The woodland area is predicted to be impacted through the route option being aligned immediately to the south adversely affecting users of the woodland (including vulnerable users) with road traffic moved closer to the woodland thereby adversely the amenity of the site.	Moderate Adverse	N/A	**Moderate Adverse**
Sueno's Park	N/A	Access to Sueno's Park is predicted to be unaffected with the local road network and NMU routes all retained in the surrounding area.	A moderate beneficial effect is predicted to the amenity of Sueno's Park from a reduction in traffic flows on the A96 which bounds the area to the north.	Moderate Beneficial	N/A	**Moderate Beneficial**
Forres Enterprise Park Amenity Land	Predicted loss of <25% of open space at the northern edge of the Forres Enterprise Park.	It is predicted that effects to access would be minor adverse from Forres and Elgin via the existing A96, access from Kinloss would require a more significant diversion as a result of the stopping up of the U67E (which supports Aspirational Core Path 1).	Minor adverse effects are predicted for users of the amenity land with the Forres East junction immediately adjacent to the Enterprise Park. The presence of the existing A96 already affects the amenity of this open space.	Moderate Adverse	N/A	**Moderate Adverse**
The following area of community land, facilities and outdoor areas are located within the study area and it was predicted that there would be a Minor adverse effect to users of these facilities as a result of the option:						

Name	Land Take Effects	Access Effects	Amenity Effects	Pre-mitigation effect	Mitigation	Residual Effect
Hardmuir Wood, River Findhorn, the Walled Garden at Grange Hall and the designated Open Space Amenity Land to the East of Forres						
The following area of community land, facilities and outdoor areas are located within the study area and it was predicted that there would be a negligible effect to users of these facilities as a result of the option: Raffpark Wood (Brodie Wood), Darnaway Forest, Dyke Primary School, Anderson's Primary School, Kinloss Primary School, Alves Primary School and Forres Academy.						

Table 1.2 Hardmuir to Hillhead – South Option: Community Land, Facilities and Outdoor Access

Name	Land Take Effects	Access Effects	Amenity Effects	Pre-mitigation effects	Mitigation	Residual effects
River Findhorn	N/A	Access to the River Findhorn for vehicle travellers and NMUs along their current alignments would be retained, however there would be the requirement to navigate a new underbridge when accessing the river to the south of the route option.	The amenity of the River Findhorn as a recreational facility is predicted to be affected at the location of the crossing and associated changes from traffic using the road. It is predicted that there would also be noticeable changes to the amenity of a large stretch of the river corridor which is a popular recreational resource.	Moderate Adverse	N/A	**Moderate Adverse**
Limekilns Wood	Predicted Land-take of <25% from Limekilns Wood resulting in the severance of the woodland area with a small area of the wood left isolated to the north of the option.	Access to NMU routes in Limekilns Wood are predicted to be severed in two locations requiring diversion via the Forres South junction, increasing perceived safety risks and increasing journey length for NMUs. The diversion of Mundole Road via the Forres South junction would increase journey lengths for vehicle users.	It is predicted that there would be a significant loss of amenity to Limekilns Wood which could cause users to be dissuaded from visiting the area.	Major Adverse	PC1	**Major Adverse**
Loch of Blairs	N/A	Access to Loch of Blairs is predicted to be directly affected from the north and east requiring a diversion for both vehicle traffic and NMUs via the Forres South junction. The change in access is predicted to result in a major adverse impact to NMUs, and a minor adverse impact for vehicle travellers.	Loch of Blairs is located <500m south of the option and is well screened by the existing woodland. It is predicted that minor adverse impacts would occur to the amenity of the area.	Moderate Adverse	N/A	**Moderate Adverse**
Fairyhills Wood	Predicted land-take of <35% from Fairyhills Wood resulting in the	Access to NMU routes in Fairyhills Wood are predicted to be severed in several locations, with vehicle access severed due to the stopping up of the	It is predicted that there would be a significant reduction in amenity to the woodland area which could cause users to be dissuaded from visiting	Major Adverse	PC1	**Major Adverse**

Name	Land Take Effects	Access Effects	Amenity Effects	Pre-mitigation effects	Mitigation	Residual effects
	severance of the woodland area and the associated NMU routes.	U85E, requiring a diversion via Forres South junction. The change in access is predicted to result in major adverse impacts for NMUs on some routes, and minor adverse impacts for vehicle travellers.	the south-western part of the woodland area.			
Office Wood	Land-take from Office Wood amounting to <25% of the wood resulting in the severance of the woodland area and associated NMU routes.	Access to some NMU routes in Office Wood are predicted to be severed. Vehicle access is retained via the realigned C14E. The change in access is predicted to result in major adverse impacts for NMUs on some routes, and minor adverse impacts for vehicle travellers.	It is predicted that there would be a significant reduction in amenity to the woodland area which could cause users to be dissuaded from visiting the woodland.	Moderate Adverse	PC1	**Moderate Adverse**
Muiry Wood	N/A	Vehicle access to Muiry Wood is retained with the local roads remaining open. Access from the north (from the existing A96) would require a diversion through Forres Enterprise Park resulting in a journey change for vehicle travellers (minor adverse) and NMUs (moderate adverse to some NMU journeys). Access from the south and east require NMUs to navigate new grade separated crossings of the mainline.	A large area of Muiry Wood and the NMU routes in it would be unaffected as it is screened from the option, it is not predicted that users would be deterred from visiting. The eastern section of Muiry Wood is closer to the mainline, some adverse impacts to the amenity of the area are predicted to occur and it is predicted that users may be deterred from visiting this section of the woodland.	Moderate Adverse	N/A	**Moderate Adverse**
The following area of community land, facilities and outdoor areas are located within the study area and it was predicted that there would be a Minor adverse effect to users of these facilities as a result of the option: Hardmuir Wood and Cathay Nursing Home						

Name	Land Take Effects	Access Effects	Amenity Effects	Pre-mitigation effects	Mitigation	Residual effects
The following area of community land, facilities and outdoor areas are located within the study area and it was predicted that there would be a negligible impact to users of these facilities as a result of the option: Raffpark Wood (Brodie Wood), Darnaway Forest, Rafford Parish Church and Cemetery, Rafford War Memorial, Walled Garden at Grange Hall, Dyke Primary School, Pilmuir Primary School, Logie Primary School, Applegrove Primary School, Anderson's Primary School, Alves Primary School and Forres Academy.						

Table 1.3 Hillhead to Lhanbryde – North Option: Community Land, Facilities and Outdoor Access

Name	Land Take Effects	Access Effects	Amenity Effects	Pre-mitigation effects	Mitigation	Residual Effects
Alves Primary School	N/A	Access to Alves Primary School is retained along the current alignment. Minor adverse impacts to NMU journeys may occur from Carden Hill	It is predicted that there would be a significant reduction in traffic flows on the existing A96 resulting in a moderate beneficial impact for accessing the primary school from within the village with a particular benefit to vulnerable NMUs.	Moderate Beneficial	N/A	**Moderate Beneficial**
Alves War Memorial	N/A	Access to the war memorial is retained. Along the current alignment Minor adverse impacts to journeys by NMUs may occur from Carden Hill.	It is predicted that there would be a significant reduction in traffic flows on the existing A96 resulting in a moderate beneficial impact.	Moderate Beneficial	N/A	**Moderate Beneficial**
Lay-by at Carden Hill	It is predicted that there would be a total loss of lay-by and picnic area.	The loss of the lay-by at Carden Hill would result in a total loss of access to the picnic area.	The loss of the lay-by at Carden Hill would result in a total loss of amenity to the picnic area.	Major Adverse	N/A	**Major Adverse**
Carden Hill Wood	N/A	Access to Carden Hill would require NMUs to travel via the new Elgin West junction with slip roads and an overbridge requiring to be crossed. Access for vehicle travellers would be affected by the closure of the lay-by at Carden Hill, however the woodland can still be accessed from properties to the south-west of Carden Hill.	The woodland area overlooks the option and Elgin West junction. The majority of the NMU routes supported by the woodland are largely screened by the existing woodland. The presence of the option is predicted to result in moderate adverse impacts to the amenity of the area with some users likely to be dissuaded from using the woodland area.	Moderate Adverse	N/A	**Moderate Adverse**
Spynie Church	N/A	Access to the church would require navigating overbridges on the U47E and B9012 leading to minor adverse impact to NMUs from the west, access from the east is unaffected. Journey length changes for vehicle travellers are not predicted to be significant.	It is predicted that the church, would be adversely affected due to the proximity of the option which could result in noticeable changes to the amenity of the facility.	Moderate Adverse	N/A	**Moderate Adverse**

Name	Land Take Effects	Access Effects	Amenity Effects	Pre-mitigation effects	Mitigation	Residual Effects
Spynie Wood	Land-take from the southern tip of the woodland is not predicted to result in any significant adverse impacts.	Access to the woodland area would be affected through the realignment of the A941 which would increase journey times. However, there would be a requirement for NMUs and vehicle travellers to navigate through the Elgin North junction and its associated overbridge. The access for NMUs would also require crossing two slip roads, where, at present NMUs utilise a segregated shared use path alongside the road network.	Within Spynie Wood there would be a direct impact to users of NMU routes which are predicted to result in significant impacts to the amenity for users of the woodland area. The location of the option in close proximity to the woodland is predicted to result in a negative amenity impact	Moderate Adverse	N/A	**Moderate Adverse**
Former railway, Lesmurdie	The area of open space would be significantly affected though land-take (25 – 50% of the area) resulting in a moderate adverse impact.	Access for NMUs is retained, however the access does require a diversion of the former railway line and a crossing of the option.	Users of the open space would be required to navigate an overbridge to cross the mainline to continue along the dismantled railway. There is predicted to be a noticeable adverse impact to the existing views, air quality and noise levels as a result of the proposed mainline location which may dissuade users.	Major Adverse	N/A	**Major Adverse**
Kirkhill Wood	Predicted loss of <10% of land from the periphery of the woodland area is resulting in a Minor adverse impact.	Access for NMUs and vehicle travellers is retained via an overbridge from Kirkhill.	The option passes along the northern edge of Kirkhill Wood with some felling required. It is not predicted that users would be deterred from making trips, however it is predicted that some users may be dissuaded from visiting the area of open space.	**Moderate Adverse**	**N/A**	**Moderate Adverse**
The following area of community land, facilities and outdoor areas are located within the study area and it was predicted that there would be a Minor adverse effect to users of these facilities as a result of the option: **Alves Church, Alves Community Hall, Quarrelwood, Spynie Church Hall and Nursery and St Andrews Church and Kirkhill Cemetery.**						

Name	Land Take Effects	Access Effects	Amenity Effects	Pre-mitigation effects	Mitigation	Residual Effects
The following area of community land, facilities and outdoor areas are located within the study area and it was predicted that there would be a negligible impact to users of these facilities as a result of the option: **Alves Wood, Mausoleum at York Tower, Woodland at Knock of Alves, Findrassie Wood, St Andrews School, Lhanbryde Cemetery, Lhanbryde Primary School, Lhanbryde Post Office, Lochnabo Wood, Bishopmill Primary School Catchment, Seafield Primary School Catchment, Forres Academy, Elgin Academy and Milne's High School.**						

Table 1.4 Hillhead to Lhanbryde – South Option: Community Land, Facilities and Outdoor Access

Name	Land Take Impacts	Access Impacts	Amenity Impacts	Pre-mitigation impact	Mitigation	Residual Impacts
Alves Wood	Land-take would amount to less than 10% of the woodland area, however the woodland loss would be adjacent to the existing A96 and is not predicted to result in a significant change to the existing baseline.	Access Alves Wood would be severed in three locations for NMUs requiring a diversion and increased journey length for NMUs. Furthermore, access to the woodland from the existing A96 would require navigation of either an overbridge or underbridge on the local road network.	Predicted minor adverse impacts to the amenity of Alves Wood as the woodland is already severed by the existing A96. NMU routes within Alves Wood would be more adversely affected with the mainline moving further south, however it is predicted that this would not significantly alter the patterns of NMU use.	Moderate Adverse	PC1.	**Moderate Adverse**
Alves Church	N/A	Access to the church from Alves and Forres is predicted to be unaffected by the proposed mainline. Access to the north would require the navigation of an overbridge on the U101E (ELR565) resulting in a minor effect to users.	It is predicted that minor adverse impacts to the amenity of Alves Church would occur as some woodland provides screening between the church and the option. However, with the route option being on a large embankment to the north some effects to the amenity of the facility are precited.	Moderate Adverse	N/A	**Moderate Adverse**
Alves Primary School	N/A	Access to Alves Primary School is predicted to be retained for vehicle travellers and NMUs along their current alignments.	Predicted significant reduction in traffic flows on the existing A96 resulting in a moderate beneficial impact for accessing the primary school from within the village with a benefit to vulnerable NMUs.	Moderate Beneficial	N/A	**Moderate Beneficial**
Alves War Memorial	N/A	Access to Alves War Memorial is not predicted to be significantly impacted with NMU routes and the local road network all retained.	It is predicted that there would be a significant reduction in traffic flows on the existing A96 resulting in a moderate beneficial impact.	Moderate Beneficial	N/A	**Moderate Beneficial**

Name	Land Take Impacts	Access Impacts	Amenity Impacts	Pre-mitigation impact	Mitigation	Residual Impacts
Coarse Fishing Area, Hardhillock	N/A	No significant changes to vehicle access are predicted. Journey length for NMUs would be significantly increased with the stopping up of ELR551 requiring diversions via the local road network.	A Major adverse effect is predicted with the area being bounded by both the Inverness to Aberdeen Railway and the route option. It is predicted that some users would be deterred from using the facility due to the significant effect upon the amenity of the site.	Major Adverse	PC1	**Major Adverse**
River Lossie	N/A	Access to the river for vehicle travellers is retained with the local road network remaining open. NMUs would be required to travel via the local road and path network with underbridges to access the river resulting in adverse effects to access.	The amenity of the River Lossie as a recreational facility would be affected at the location of the crossing resulting from traffic using the road. It is predicted that there would be changes to the amenity of a large stretch of the river corridor which is heavily utilised for recreational purposes.	Moderate Adverse	N/A	**Moderate Adverse**
Cloddach Quarry Restoration Area	The option would cross the restoration area by structure and embankment resulting in a loss of <10% of the area.	Access to the conservation area for vehicle travellers is retained. NMUs would be required to travel via the local road and path network with underbridges to access the restoration area.	The amenity of the conservation area as a recreational facility would be significantly affected at the location of the crossing with the amenity of the overall site being affected due to its open nature.	Major Adverse	N/A	**Major Adverse**
Moray Beekeepers Apiary	N/A	Access to the apiary for vehicle travellers is retained. NMUs would be required to travel via the local road and path network with underbridges to access the river.	The amenity of the apiary as a recreational facility would be significantly affected with it being located immediately adjacent to the route option.	Major Adverse	N/A	**Major Adverse**
Birkenhill Wood	Predicted land-take of less than 10% of the woodland area. Route option	Access to the woodland area for vehicle travellers is retained, however the informal parking area within the woodland would be lost to the option which may result in some	The amenity of Birkenhill Wood would be significantly affected due to the severance of the woodland by the option and the associated changes to amenity from traffic using	Major Adverse	PC1	**Major Adverse**

Name	Land Take Impacts	Access Impacts	Amenity Impacts	Pre-mitigation impact	Mitigation	Residual Impacts
	would sever the woodland.	users being dissuaded from accessing the woodland. NMUs would be required to travel via the local road network to the west (requiring the navigation of the Elgin South junction, or the Aspirational Core Path to the east.	the road. It is predicted that some users would be deterred from using the woodland area in the future.			
The following area of community land, facilities and outdoor areas are located within the study area and it was predicted that there would be a Minor adverse effect to users of these facilities as a result of the option: Alves Community Hall, Carden Hill Wood, Knock of Alves, Aldroughty Wood, Woodland at Miltonduff, Mayne Wood, Wood of Level, Mosstowie Primary School Catchment, Greenwards Primary School Catchment, Linkwood Primary School Catchment and Elgin High School Catchment.						
The following area of community land, facilities and outdoor areas are located within the study area and it was predicted that there would be a negligible impact to users of these facilities as a result of the option: Quarrelwood, Lhanbryde Primary School, Lhanbryde Post Office, Lochnabo Wood, Alves Primary School Catchment, West End Primary School Catchment, Bishopmill Primary School Catchment, New Elgin Primary School Catchment, Forres Academy, Elgin Academy and Milne's High School.						

Table 1.5 Lhanbryde to East of Fochabers – North Option: Community Land, Facilities and Outdoor Access

Name	Land Take Impacts	Access Impacts	Amenity Impacts	Pre-mitigation impact	Mitigation	Residual Impacts
Loch na Bo Wood	Land-take from Loch na Bo Wood would be limited to a small area north of the loch which is not predicted to result in any significant changes to the existing baseline.	Access to the woodland area would be retained for both vehicle and NMU travellers on its current alignment and access to the car park at the southern end of the loch is not affected.	The amenity of the area would be significantly affected with the presence of the mainline to the north of the loch predicted to result in some visitors being dissuaded from visiting the woodland and utilising other outdoor areas nearby.	Moderate Adverse	N/A	**Moderate Adverse**
Loch na Bo	N/A	Access to the woodland area would be retained for both vehicle and NMU travellers on its current alignment and access to the car park at the southern end of the loch is not affected.	The Loch is used by outdoor sporting clubs who utilise the waterbody. The amenity of the area is predicted to be significantly affected with the presence of the mainline to the north of the Loch resulting in some visitors being dissuaded from visiting the loch.	Moderate Adverse	N/A	**Moderate Adverse**
Threapland Wood	The option would sever the woodland area resulting in a predicted land-take of <10%.	Access to the woodland area would be retained for both vehicle and NMU travellers with an NMU underpass provided on ELR597.	The amenity of Threapland Wood would be significantly affected through the felling of a large area of woodland and the associated disruption from vehicles using the route option in a currently peaceful woodland area. The amenity of the woodland to the south of the railway which supports numerous community uses including Riding for the Disabled from Cranloch Riding Stables would also be affected.	Major Adverse	PC1	**Major Adverse**

Name	Land Take Impacts	Access Impacts	Amenity Impacts	Pre-mitigation impact	Mitigation	Residual Impacts
Balnacoul Wood	The option is predicted to result in <10% loss of the woodland which is utilised by the local community.	Access to Balnacoul Wood for NMUs and vehicle travellers would be maintained, however access from the east would require travelling through the Fochabers West junction. And access to the southern portion of the wood is significantly affected for NMUs through direct impacts to routes within and surrounding the wood which may dissuade some from visiting the area.	The option directly affects the centre of the woodland affecting the amenity of the woodland area through the felling of trees and disruption to the quiet woodland area from traffic utilising the route option during its operation. The redistribution of traffic from the existing A96 would however improve the amenity of Balnacoul Wood to the north of the existing A96.	Major Adverse	PC1	**Major Adverse**
Recreational Woodland, Adjacent to the River Spey at Fochabers	The option would sever the woodland and result in a predicted loss of 25 – 50% of the area which is utilised by the local community and supports a network of NMU routes.	Access to the area is retained with journeys from Mosstodloch requiring minor increases in journey length and the requirement to pass under the new Spey Crossing. Negligible impacts are predicted for vehicle access.	The woodland area is significantly impacted by the option passing through the middle of the woodland. It is predicted that adverse impacts would occur with some people choosing not to access the area.	Major Adverse	PC1	**Major Adverse**
Leitch's Wood	It is predicted that an adverse impact would result from the severance of the woodland area with c.30ha of woodland loss (amounting to <10% of the woodland area).	Access to NMU routes in Leitch's Wood would be severed in numerous locations requiring significant diversions and increased journey length for NMUs. Access would be severed to Slorach's Wood which is currently accessed via an NMU underpass removing the ability to move freely between the mountain bike trails. Vehicle access is retained along the current	Significant adverse impacts are predicted to occur to the amenity of the woodland area which could lead to recreational visitors being deterred from visiting the woodland area with other areas for outdoor recreation located nearby (such as Slorach's Wood south of the A96).	Major Adverse	PC1 -	**Major Adverse**

Name	Land Take Impacts	Access Impacts	Amenity Impacts	Pre-mitigation impact	Mitigation	Residual Impacts
		alignments.				
Slorach's Wood	Land-take would be restricted to an area immediately adjacent to the existing A96, it is predicted that there would be no significant change from the existing baseline scenario.	Access for vehicle travellers would be retained, access for NMUs from Fochabers would be retained however, access for NMUs who cross the existing A96 between Slorach's Wood and Leitch's Wood would be stopped up resulting in some significant diversions. The option through Leitch's Wood would also sever access for mountain bikers wishing to utilise the Moray Monster Trails on either side of the existing A96 which has been highlighted by Forestry Commission Scotland as a key NMU movement.	It is not predicted that any significant impacts to the amenity of the woodland would occur with only minor alterations to the earthworks adjacent to the existing A96 encroaching into a significant area of woodland.	Moderate Adverse	N/A	**Moderate Adverse**
The following area of community land, facilities and outdoor areas are located within the study area and it was predicted that there would be a Minor adverse effect to users of these facilities as a result of the option: River Spey and the woodland area to the east of the River Spey						
The following area of community land, facilities and outdoor areas are located within the study area and it was predicted that there would be a negligible impact to users of these facilities as a result of the option: Lhanbryde Playing Fields, Lhanbryde Playing Area, Lhanbryde Primary School, Loch Oire, Castlehill Wood, Mosstodloch War Memorial, Fochabers Sports Pavilion and Playing Field, St Mary's Church, Fochabers Scout Hall, The Public Institute, Bellie Parish Church Hall, Gordon Chapel, Milnes Primary School, Milne's High School, Fochabers Cricket Ground and Club, Fochabers Bowling Club, Fochabers Tennis Courts, Fochabers Medical Centre, Fochabers Police Station, Fochabers Fire Station, Wilson Memorial Fountain, Fochabers War Memorial, Gordon Castle Walled Garden, Lhanbryde Primary School Catchment and Mosstodloch Primary School Catchment.						

Table 1.6 Lhanbryde to East of Fochabers – South Option: Community Land, Facilities and Outdoor Access

Name	Land Take Impacts	Access Impacts	Amenity Impacts	Pre-mitigation impact	Mitigation	Residual Impacts
Loch na Bo	N/A	Access to the woodland area would be retained for both vehicle and NMU travellers on its current alignment and access to the car park at the southern end of the loch is not affected.	The Loch is used by outdoor sporting clubs who utilise the waterbody. The amenity of the area is predicted to be significantly affected with the presence of the mainline to the north of the Loch resulting in some visitors being dissuaded from visiting the Loch.	**Moderate Adverse**	**N/A**	**Moderate Adverse**
Loch na Bo Wood	Land-take from Loch na Bo Wood would be limited to a small area north of the loch which is not predicted to result in any significant changes to the existing baseline.	Access to the woodland area would be retained for both vehicle and NMU travellers with the private access to Loch na Bo retained on its current alignment and access to the car park at the southern end of the loch is not affected. NMUs would cross the mainline on either ELR94 or Core Path CP-EG52.	The woodland is used by NMUs utilising the circular route around the loch and a variety of other more informal routes for recreational purposes. The amenity of the area would be significantly affected with the presence of the mainline to the north of the loch predicted to result in some visitors being dissuaded from visiting the woodland and utilising other outdoors areas nearby.	**Moderate Adverse**	**N/A**	**Moderate Adverse**
Threapland Wood	The option would sever the woodland area resulting in a predicted land-take of <10%.	Access to the woodland area would be retained for both vehicle and NMU travellers with an NMU underpass provided on ELR597.	The amenity of Threapland Wood would be significantly affected through the felling of a large area of woodland and the associated disruption from vehicles using the route option in a currently peaceful woodland area. The amenity of the woodland to the south of the railway which supports numerous community uses including Riding for the Disabled from Cranloch Riding Stables would also be affected.	**Major Adverse**	**PC1**	**Major Adverse**
Dipple Cemetery	N/A	It is predicted that no significant changes to access would occur with the NMU and vehicle links to the woodland area retained on	It is predicted that there would be a significant adverse impact to Dipple Cemetery with the amenity of the facility significantly altered by the presence of	**Moderate Adverse**	**N/A**	**Moderate Adverse**

Name	Land Take Impacts	Access Impacts	Amenity Impacts	Pre-mitigation impact	Mitigation	Residual Impacts
		their current alignments. There would be a requirement to pass beneath a structure on the U19E to access the cemetery from the south.	the option to the south affecting the tranquillity of the existing setting.			
River Spey	N/A	Access to the River Spey is retained with no significant alterations to vehicle access. The requirement to navigate a new underbridge on Ordiquish Road is predicted to result in a minor adverse impact to journeys.	The amenity of the River Spey as a recreational facility would be significantly affected at the location of the crossing. It is predicted that there would be noticeable changes to the amenity of a large stretch of the river corridor which is heavily utilised for recreational purposes including angling and water sports.	**Moderate Adverse**	**N/A**	**Moderate Adverse**
Slorach's Wood	It is predicted that a minor adverse impact would result from the severance of the woodland with a predicted c.30ha (<10%) of woodland loss.	Access to Slorach's Wood would be severed in three locations requiring significant diversions and increased journey length for NMU users.	Significant adverse impacts are predicted to occur to the amenity of the woodland area which could lead to recreational visitors being deterred from visiting the woodland area with other areas for outdoor recreation located nearby (such as Whiteash Wood north of the A96).	**Major Adverse**	**PC1**	**Major Adverse**
The following area of community land, facilities and outdoor areas are located within the study area and it was predicted that there would be a Minor adverse effect to users of these facilities as a result of the option: Trochelhill Wood, Loch Oire and Balnacoul Wood						
The following area of community land, facilities and outdoor areas are located within the study area and it was predicted that there would be a negligible impact to users of these facilities as a result of the option: **Lhanbryde Playing Fields and Play Areas, Castlehill Wood, Fochabers Play Area, Leitch's Wood, Lhanbryde Primary School, Milne's High School and Milne's Primary School and Mosstodloch Primary.**						

Appendix A13.1 - Assessment Methodology

A13.1 Assessment Methodology

Introduction

Table 1.1 sets out the criteria which have been used to define the sensitivity of the key receptors (i.e. the individual farm holding) for the agricultural, forestry and sporting land use assessment.

Table 1.1 Sensitivity Criteria for Agricultural, Forestry and Sporting Interests[1]

Sensitivity	Description (one or more criteria)
High	Presence of prime agricultural land (Class 1 to Class 3.1) Small farm size (<130ha) Small equestrian holding (<5ha) High value commercial sporting activity (such as grouse beats or salmon fishing)
Medium	Presence of land with agricultural land capability of moderate quality (Class 3.2 to Class 4.2) Medium farm size (130ha to 230ha) Moderate value commercial sporting activity (such as pheasant shooting)
Low	Presence of land with agricultural land capability of low quality (Class 5.1 to Class 7) Large farm size (>230ha) Low value sporting activity (such as rough shooting)

Table 1.2 sets out criteria which have been used to inform the identification of the predicted magnitude of impact associated with land-take, severance of land, access and loss of key infrastructure.

Table 1.2 Magnitude of Impact for Agriculture, Forestry and Sporting Interests

Impact Magnitude	Description of Impact Characteristics (one or more criteria)
Major Adverse	Major change in the day to day management of the business, operation or activity, which may significantly affect the size or scale of the business or operation including: • Loss or high degree of severance of the land holding (>10%) • Access to agricultural, sporting and forestry land restricted • Direct loss of key infrastructure required for the operation of the business, enterprise or activity (e.g. buildings, stabling, access roads and tracks) • Significant disruption to driven shooting and high value fishing (e.g. salmon) and equestrian activities • Noticeable change to woodland over a wide area or an intensive change over a limited area
Moderate Adverse	Some change in the day to day management of the business, operation or activity, which may affect the size or scale of the business or operation including: • Loss or severance (5% – 10%) of the land associated with the land holding

[1] Where further information on the farm has been provided and is verifiable (e.g. land within the holding is registered with an Approved UK Organic Control Body) this has been used to further inform sensitivity

Impact Magnitude	Description of Impact Characteristics (one or more criteria)
	• Access to agricultural, sporting and forestry land compromised • Loss of or damage to infrastructure affecting land use • Disruption to walked up shooting and medium value fishing (e.g. trout) • Small changes to woodland over a wide area or noticeable changes over a limited area
Minor Adverse	Minor changes required to the business, operation or activity including: • Loss of <5% of the land associated with the land holding • Minimal change in access to agricultural, sporting and forestry land • Infrastructure loss/damage does not affect land use or sporting activity • Disruption to rough shooting and low value fishing (e.g. where no permit charged) • Minor changes to the woodland cover
Negligible	No or minimal change required to the business, operation or activity • The type and range of businesses and activities is unaffected • No or minimal loss of land associated with the land holding (<1%)

The overall significance of effect has been evaluated taking into account the sensitivity of the receptor and magnitude of potential impact, and informed by the matrix set out in Table 1.3. As the assessment included a wide range of considerations the final significance of effect was adjusted, in some instances, using professional judgement to reflect the specific characteristics of the affected enterprises and land holdings. For the purposes of this assessment, effects predicted to be Moderate or Major were considered to be significant.

Table 1.3 Significance of Effects Matrix for Agriculture, Sporting and Forestry Interests

	Impact Magnitude			
Sensitivity	**Major**	**Moderate**	**Minor**	**Negligible**
High	Major	Moderate / Major	Minor / Moderate	Minor
Medium	Moderate / Major	Moderate	Minor	Negligible / Minor
Low	Moderate	Minor / Moderate	Negligible / Minor	Negligible

Appendix A13.2 - Land Take Calculations

A13.2 Land-Take Calculations

All land-take figures are rounded up to the nearest half or whole number and are an approximate estimate of the land required for each option.

Land-take by Land Capability for Agriculture Classification

Table 1.1 Land Capability for Agriculture per LCA Class

	Land-take by LCA Class												
	Arable Agriculture			Mixed Agriculture		Improved Grassland			Rough Grazing			TOTAL	
Option	**2**	**3.1**	**3.2**	**4.1**	**4.2**	**5.2**	**5.3**	**6.1**	**6.2**	**6.3**	**7**	**LCA 2 & 3.1**	**All LCA**
Hardmuir to Hillhead North Option	79.0	13.5	41.5	0.0	4.5	0.0	3.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	92.5	141.5
Hardmuir to Hillhead South Option	37.5	21.0	66.5	20.0	15.5	10.5	0.5	0.0	4.0	0.0	0.0	58.5	175.5
Hillhead to Lhanbryde North Option	34.5	94.5	77.5	16.5	11.5	0.0	0.0	0.0	2.5	0.0	0.0	129.0	236.5
Hillhead to Lhanbryde South Option	5.5	35.5	106.0	36.0	8.0	5.5	4.5	0.0	4.5	0.0	0.0	41.0	205.0
Lhanbryde to East of Fochabers North Option	0.0	3.5	49.0	11.5	41.0	9.5	0.0	0.0	3.0	0.0	0.0	3.5	117.5
Lhanbryde to East of Fochabers South Option	6.5	0.0	39.5	16.0	23.5	11.5	2.0	0.0	14.5	0.0	0.0	6.5	113.5

Area of High Agricultural Value Land as a Percentage of Total Agricultural Land

Table 1.2 Area of High Agricultural Value Land

Option	Total agricultural land-take (ha)	Area of high value agricultural land (ha) (LCA 1, 2 & 3.1)	High value agricultural land as a percentage of total agricultural land (%)
Hardmuir to Hillhead North Option	121.0	92.5	76.5
Hardmuir to Hillhead South Option	166.5	58.5	35.5
Hillhead to Lhanbryde North Option	227.5	129.0	57.0
Hillhead to Lhanbryde South Option	193.5	41.0	21.5
Lhanbryde to East of Fochabers North Option	108.0	3.5	3.5
Lhanbryde to East of Fochabers South Option	108.5	6.5	6.5

Area of Woodland (National Forestry Inventory)

Table 1.3 National Forestry Inventory

	Total area (ha)
Option	**Woodland**
Hardmuir to Hillhead North Option	5.5
Hardmuir to Hillhead South Option	50.0
Hillhead to Lhanbryde North Option	21.5
Hillhead to Lhanbryde South Option	38.5
Lhanbryde to East of Fochabers North Option	54.0
Lhanbryde to East of Fochabers South Option	49.5
Total Woodland Area	**219.0**

Area of Footprint

Table 1.4 Option Footprint Area

Option	Total area (ha)
Hardmuir to Hillhead North Option	121.0
Hardmuir to Hillhead South Option	166.0
Hillhead to Lhanbryde North Option	227.5
Hillhead to Lhanbryde South Option	193.5
Lhanbryde to East of Fochabers North Option	108.0
Lhanbryde to East of Fochabers South Option	108.5
Total Footprint Area	**949.0**

Land-take by Holding

Table 1.5 Agricultural Land-take – Hardmuir to Hillhead (North Option)

MMS Farm ID	Holding (ha)	Footprint intersect (ha)	% Intersect of holding	Sensitivity
2	71.5	7.0	10.0	High
5	65.5	4.0	6.5	High
18	178.0	13.5	7.5	High
21	66.0	7.0	10.0	High
24	212.0	12.0	6.0	Medium
29	553.0	27.5	5.0	Medium
40	128.5	0.5	0.5	High
44	147.0	21.5	15	High
75	182.5	2.5	1.5	High
77	2059.5	15.5	1.0	Medium
87[1]	290.5	5.5	2.0	Medium
93	10.0	3.5	34.0	High
106	41.5	1.0	2.5	High
Total Agricultural Land Loss		**121.0**		

Table 1.6 Agricultural Land-take – Hardmuir to Hillhead (South Option)

	Holding (ha)	Footprint intersect (ha)	% Intersect of holding	Sensitivity
3	661.5	42.5	6.5	Low
18	178.0	23.0	13.0	High
24	212.0	2.0	1.0	Medium
29	553.0	10.5	2.0	Low
40	128.5	0.5	0.5	High
41	80.5	6.5	8.0	High
44	147.0	21.5	15.0	High
68	71.5	10.5	14.5	High
77	2059.5	18.5	1.0	Medium
79	91.0	9.5	10.5	High
87	290.5	5.5	2.0	Medium
89	152.5	15.0	10.0	Medium
106	41.5	1.0	2.5	High
Total Agricultural Land Loss		**166.5**		

[1] Land-take for MMS Farm ID 87 in relation to the Hardmuir to Hillhead North and South Options has been added to the land-take associated with the Hillhead to Lhanbryde North and South Options and is reported only for the Hillhead to Lhanbryde section.

Table 1.7 Agricultural Land-take – Hillhead to Lhanbryde (North Option)

MMS Farm ID	Holding (ha)	Footprint intersect (ha)	% Intersect of holding	Sensitivity
1	99.0	5.0	5.0	High
12	368.5	6.0	2.0	Low
22	172.0	2.5	1.5	Medium
33	180.0	1.5	1.0	Medium
35	69.0	9.5	13.5	High
45	798.5	19.0	2.5	Medium
55	3.0	0.5	15.5	High
56	202.5	14.0	7.0	High
58	535.5	10.0	2.0	Low
61	119.5	13.0	11.0	High
64	67.0	5.0	7.0	High
65	22.0	2.5	11.5	High
69	63.0	3.0	5.0	High
72	235.5	0.5	0.5	Medium
76	274.0	11.0	4.0	High
77	2059.5	24.0	1.5	Medium
78	302.0	7.5	2.5	Low
85	1404.5	42.5	3.5	Medium
86	30.0	0.5	1.5	High
87	290.5	8.0	3.0	Medium
90	63.5	0.5	0.5	High
91	122.5	13.0	10.5	High
94	68.0	8.0	12.0	High
98	96.5	7.0	7.5	High
105	148.0	3.5	2.5	High
108	36.0	2.0	5.0	High
112	85	8.0	9.5	High
Total Agricultural Land Loss		**227.5**		

Table 1.8 Agricultural Land-take – Hillhead to Lhanbryde (South Option)

MMS Farm ID	Holding (ha)	Footprint intersect (ha)	% Intersect of holding	Sensitivity
9	38.5	4.0	10.0	High
12	368.5	3.0	1.0	Low
13	89.0	5.5	6.5	High
15	10.5	2.5	21.5	High
16	40.5	8.0	19.5	High
17	25.5	1.5	6.0	High
22	172.0	5.5	3.0	Medium
31	414.5	6.0	1.5	Low
33	180.0	3.5	2.0	Medium
35	69.0	15.0	21.5	High
38	59.0	2.5	4.5	High
39	216.5	16.0	7.5	Medium
42	189.5	3.5	2.0	Medium
45	798.5	24.5	3.5	Medium
50	112.0	7.0	6.0	High
54	40.0	0.5	0.5	High
58	535.5	12.5	2.5	Low
69	63.0	5.0	8.0	High
72	235.5	6.5	3.0	Medium
77	2059.5	20.0	1.0	Medium
78	302.0	1.0	0.5	Low
86[2]	30.0	1.5	4.0	High
87	290.5	6.5	2.5	Medium
90	63.5	1.0	1.5	High
98	96.5	1.0	1.0	High
103	106.5	7.5	7.5	High
107	238.5	20.0	8.0	Medium
110	58.0	1.0	1.5	High
Total Agricultural Land Loss		**193.5**		

[2] Land-take for MMS Farm ID 86 in relation to the Hillhead to Lhanbryde North and South Options has been added to the land-take associated with the Lhanbryde to East of Fochabers North and South Options and is reported only for the Lhanbryde to East of Fochabers section.

Table 1.9 Agricultural Land-take – Lhanbryde to East of Fochabers (North Option)

MMS Farm ID	Holding (ha)	Footprint intersect (ha)	% Intersect of holding	Sensitivity
31	414.5	3.5	1.0	Low
33	180.0	15.5	8.0	Medium
46	20826.0	39.5	0.5	Low
49	50.5	5.0	10.0	High
59	212.0	5.5	3.0	Medium
63	215.5	5.5	2.0	Medium
67	74.0	16.5	22.0	High
86	30.0	3.5	10.0	High
99	77.5	10.0	13.0	High
101	133.0	3.5	3.0	Medium
Total Agricultural Land Loss		**108.0**		

Table 1.10 Agricultural Land-take – Lhanbryde to East of Fochabers (South Option)

MMS Farm ID	Holding (ha)	Footprint intersect (ha)	% Intersect of holding	Sensitivity
19	33.5	2.0	5.0	High
31	414.5	12.5	3.0	Low
33	180.0	25.5	14.0	Medium
46	20826.0	38.0	0.5	Low
59	212.0	5.5	3.0	Medium
63	215.5	5.5	2.0	Medium
67	74.0	3.0	4.0	High
73	117.5	3.0	2.0	High
86	30.0	3.5	10.0	High
99	77.5	10.0	13.0	High
Total Agricultural Land Loss		**108.5**		

It should be noted that there is a discrepancy between the area estimated for the Footprint Intersect Data and the area estimated for LCA Data. This can be accounted for on the basis that the footprint data excludes roads, tracks, buildings, yard areas, rivers, ponds and lakes. Whereas the LCA data includes such areas.

Appendix A15.1 - Visual Assessment Methodology

A15.1 Visual Assessment Methodology

Introduction

A visual impact assessment has been carried out to identify and assess visual effects predicted for each of the route options. This assessment informs the selection of the Preferred Option from a visual perspective. The focus of the visual assessment is on the effects of the options on high sensitivity visual receptors such as people in residential properties and people using publicly accessible routes, e.g. footpaths or recreational trails.

The visual assessment has been carried out as part of an overall Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment (LVIA), however the assessments have been presented in two chapters. This is because the two assessments may result in different recommendations for the Preferred Option and this approach aligns with that adopted for the Design Manual for Roads and Bridges (DMRB) Stage 2 assessment of the Scheme which includes the landscape topic within those identified under the grouping of 'Natural and Cultural Heritage' and the visual topic within those grouped under 'Communities and People'. Reference should be made to Chapter 17 (Landscape) for the landscape assessment.

Guidance

LVIA does not follow prescribed methods or criteria. The visual assessment has been carried out in accordance with current, relevant guidelines. These include the following:

- Landscape Institute and Institute of Environmental Management and Assessment (IEMA) (2013) Guidelines for Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment. 3rd ed. Abingdon, Routledge. This document is referred to as the GLVIA.
- Swanwick, C. and Land Use Consultants (2002) Landscape Character Assessment: Guidance for England and Scotland. Prepared on behalf of the Countryside Agency and Scottish Natural Heritage.
- DMRB, Volume 11, Section 3, Part 5, Landscape Effects. Guildford, Highways England.
- Transport Scotland (2014) Fitting Landscapes: securing more sustainable landscapes. Transport Scotland. The Scottish Government.

The methodology adopted closely follows the GLVIA with additional reference to DMRB Volume 11, Section 3, Part 5. GLVIA does not prescribe the approach for LVIA (as described within 1.20 of GLVIA). Consequently, this appendix provides further clarification regarding the method of the visual assessment, including the criteria applied to judge resource sensitivity and the magnitude and significance of visual effects. The visual assessment also follows the DMRB description of a Stage 2 LVIA in Volume 11, Section 3, Part 5, which is summarised as follows (p9/2):

> *'Undertake sufficient assessment to identify the landscape and visual factors and the effects upon them to be taken into account by the Design Organisation in developing and refining route options…'*

Consultation

Consultation regarding the LVIA has been undertaken with SNH, Moray Council and the Transport Scotland Landscape Advisor (carried out jointly for landscape and visual aspects). This consultation has been carried out through meetings in August and September 2017and in March 2018. The topics relevant to this visual assessment which were discussed during these meetings included the following:

- the scope and method of the DMRB Stage 2 LVIA (including the extent of the study area);
- landscape and visual design objectives;
- the visual baseline assessment, including grouping of visual receptors;
- assessment of the experience of the landscape and views within the Stage 2 LVIA; and
- the AGLVs and Moray Council plans to update these, as well as other landscape studies undertaken as part of the Local Development Plan.

Scope of the assessment

The scope of this assessment includes the permanent visual effects of the options. Temporary visual effects during construction have been scoped out as effects during this phase are predicted to be similar for each option and would therefore not contribute to an assessment of clear differences between the options.

The guidelines for LVIA provided by GLVIA and DMRB vary slightly in their detail and recommendations for different stages and aspects of LVIA given their different foci of subject and dates of publication (DMRB was published in 1993 and GLVIA was published in 2013). For the purposes of this assessment, it is appropriate that this methodology is based on the most up to date guidance, i.e. GLVIA, whilst taking appropriate reference from DMRB which provides specific guidance on the assessment of trunk road schemes.

To satisfy the requirements of DMRB Stage 2, the visual assessment has considered broad scale visual effects and takes account of the wide range of visual receptors including residents and those undertaking recreation. The assessment has used, representative viewpoints for each of these groups taking into account particularly sensitive residential receptors and users of key recreational routes. This is in contrast to the subsequent stage of assessment at Stage 3 which will involve more detailed assessment of visual effects on individual receptors.

Baseline data collection

Baseline landscape and visual assessments are undertaken in parallel, and are informed by a combination of desk and field based techniques.

Baseline desktop assessment

Preliminary identification, description and evaluation of the existing visual context of the study area involved a desk-based review and interrogation of the following information sources:

- Ordnance Survey 1:50,000 and 1:25,000 maps;

- aerial photographs provided by Cyient (BLOM) for Transport Scotland (2017);
- Moray Council dataset for Areas of Great Landscape Value (AGLV);
- MMS dataset for Scotland's Great Trails (SGT);
- Zone of Theoretical Visibility (ZTV) data, including MMS Land xml route elevation datasets, MMS route alignment CAD drawings and a Digital Terrain Model at 5m resolution provided by Cyient (BLOM) for Transport Scotland;
- Historic Environment Scotland (HES) dataset for the Inventory of Gardens and Designed Landscapes (GDL);
- the National Record of the Historic Environment (NRHE) available at https://canmore.org.uk/; and
- site data from MMS site visits and field assessment undertaken in 2017 and 2018.

Study Area and ZTV

The study area establishes the spatial parameters of the assessment and is used to identify potential visual effects from the options. More specifically, it provides a boundary to the assessment and identification of visual receptors. The study area for this assessment comprises an area within a 1km buffer around each option.

The definition of the study area has been informed by a working Zone of Theoretical Visibility (ZTV) model. The ZTV was prepared using a 'bare ground' digital terrain model as a 'worst-case' scenario, without taking into account surface screening features. As such, the ZTV model has been used as a tool for assessment and was supplemented by data collected on site that provided more site-specific information, such as where visibility would be affected by screening by woodland or buildings. The initial ZTV was produced to a distance of 10km to enable the landscape and visual assessments to focus in on the selection of an appropriate study area.

The ZTV has been prepared using a 'bare ground' digital terrain model (DTM) as a 'worst-case' scenario, i.e. it doesn't take into account surface screening features. As such, the ZTV model has been used as a tool for assessment and is supplemented by data collected on site that provides more site-specific information, such as where visibility would be affected by screening by woodland or buildings. The data used in the DTM model is Terrain 5 OS data which has a 5m grid spacing. The options are represented by the maximum height of vehicles located on the route option road surfaces, i.e. 4m high lorries. The height of a viewer (i.e. eye level) in the field has been taken as 1.6m.

Baseline field assessment

Field surveys have been undertaken during periods of clement weather from public roads, public rights of way (PRoW) and publicly accessible areas, including areas of public open space. Field surveys have been carried out on various days during all seasons in 2017 and 2018.

Site work has involved: a corroboration of the findings of the desktop review; collection of additional information on: groups of visual receptors; views from those receptors and localised screening; and site-based assessment of effects.

Visual Assessment Methodology

Visual impact assessment considers the sensitivity to change of visual receptors within the study area, and the predicted magnitude of visual change associated with the introduction of the options into the existing visual context.

Visual receptors

The visual receptors for the visual assessment are identified as residents, the public or community at large, visitors and pedestrians travelling through the area.

As mentioned in paragraph 1.5.4, to help identify visual receptors that may potentially view the Scheme, computer generated ZTVs were supplemented by site based visual survey which has considered the scale of the proposed development and the location of visual screens such as landform, vegetation and buildings.

The identification of visual receptors has been proportionate to the level of assessment, i.e. DMRB Stage 2. Visual receptors have generally been grouped with the aim of limiting the overall number of receptors considered in the baseline and assessment to a reasonable level. Visual receptors have generally been grouped based on the following approach:

- combining receptors of a similar type, e.g. residential receptors have been grouped together;
- grouping receptors within proximity to each other and with a similar view. It is accepted that no two views are the same in any case, however if, for example, a small group of three farmhouses may have a similar baseline view and would likely have a similar view of an option, they have been grouped together as one receptor; and
- a focus on high and medium sensitivity residential and recreational receptors throughout the study area. This is intended to focus the assessment to locations where likely significant effects would be identified. Receptors in vehicles along local routes have been considered in the assessment, however they have not been included as specific receptors in Appendix 15.2 as they would tend to be of lower sensitivity to the type of change proposed than pedestrian users of the same routes or residents of adjacent properties.

Visual sensitivity

People's overall visual sensitivity has been assessed by combining consideration of their visual susceptibility with the value or importance that they are likely to attribute (or not) to their available views. The sensitivity of visual receptors to changes associated with the proposed development has been judged as high, medium or low based on professional interpretation of a combination of parameters, as follows:

- the nature of receptors;
- the location and nature of the views;
- the direction and extent of the views;
- the activity of the receptors, expectations and the frequency and duration of views; and
- the value/importance attributed to their views.

Table 1.1 summarises the different levels of sensitivity of visual receptors that have been applied for this DMRB Stage 2 visual assessment. Visual receptors would not usually fit every criterion within just one category of sensitivity and, instead, have been judged based on fitting most appropriately with the criteria within one of the categories. Table 1.2 summarises the different levels of value that may be attributed to a view. To achieve an overall assessment of visual sensitivity of a receptor, the judgement on visual susceptibility has subsequently been combined with consideration of any identified value attributed to the view.

Table 1.1 Visual susceptibility criteria

Level of visual susceptibility	Indicators of susceptibility to visual change
High	People with a particular interest in the available view or with prolonged viewing opportunities, for example: residents for which a road scheme would have a strong influence on the intrinsic qualities of their visual amenity; and users of access routes and/or outdoor recreational facilities (including those on footpaths, cycle routes or rights of way and popular hills) from which viewers' attention are directed to the landscape and/or this is a key contributor to the experience of the landscape.
Medium	People with a general interest in their surroundings or with transient viewing opportunities, for example: local residents for which a road scheme would be seen, but unlikely to change the intrinsic qualities of their visual amenity; visitors to attractions and users of access routes and/or outdoor recreational facilities (including those on footpaths, cycle routes or rights of way) who have a general interest in the landscape surroundings or with transient viewing opportunities; open and dispersed view in which the proposed development would be likely to be seen as one of several key visual elements or features.
Low	People with a limited or passing interest in their surroundings, for example: local users whose attention is likely to be focused on work or activity rather than the landscape, for example using local access routes to travel to/from work or for exercise, and/or working within an industrial or commercial centre; or unfocussed or partially screened views experienced by receptors in which the road scheme would be likely to form a minor visual element or feature.

Table 1.2 Value criteria

Level of value	Indicators of value attributed to a view
High	Views experienced by receptors within areas of recognised scenic value, including those within proximity to areas designated for national, regional or local scenic value; or views experienced by receptors from important and valued features (including physical, cultural or historic attributes). Principal views from prominent buildings, 'beauty spots' or popular/ promoted viewpoints.
Medium	Views experienced by receptors within areas of some recognised value, including those within, near or en route to areas designated for regional or local scenic value; or views experienced by receptors from some important and valued features (including physical, cultural or historic attributes). The site may form a marginal part of view from prominent buildings, 'beauty spots' or popular viewpoints.
Low	Views experienced by receptors outwith areas of recognised value such as a designated landscape.

Magnitude of visual change criteria

Assessment of the magnitude of visual change has taken account of all of the following and professional judgement has been used to determine the relevance and appropriate weighting to be attributed to each:

- the degree of visual change that takes place (i.e. how different the available view would be);
- the geographical extent of the area from which the change would be seen;
- the likely duration of the visual change; and
- whether the visual change is likely to be reversible.

The degree of likely visual change has been assessed as High, Medium, Low or Negligible by reference to the criteria set out in Table 1.3. To achieve an overall assessment of magnitude of change, the judgement on degree of change may subsequently be modified by consideration of the extent, duration and reversibility of the visual change to reach a combined judgement on overall magnitude of visual change. If it is judged that the proposed development would not alter a view, No Change is stated.

Table 1.3 Degree of visual change criteria

Degree of change	Indicators of visual change
High	The visual changes associated with the proposed development will form a prominent element within the view, resulting in a fundamental change to the quality and character of the view
Medium	The visual changes associated with the proposed development will form a conspicuous element within the view, resulting in a considerable change to the quality and character of the view
Low	The visual changes associated with the proposed development will form an apparent, small element within the view, without affecting the overall quality and/or character of the view
Negligible	The visual changes associated with the proposed development will result in a barely perceptible change in the view

For some receptors the duration of the visual change may result in either an increase or decrease in the assessment of overall magnitude. The scope of this assessment only includes the permanent operational effects of the options and therefore categories have not been applied to the duration of effects.

Level and significance of visual effects

The overall level of visual effect has been categorised using a four-point scale: major; moderate; minor; and negligible. The level of effect has been assessed by combining all the considerations and criteria set out above. This is described by GLVIA as an 'overall profile' approach to combining judgements and requires that all the judgements against each of the identified criteria (i.e. susceptibility; value; degree of change; extent of change; duration of change; and reversibility of change) are utilised to allow an informed professional assessment of the overall level of effect. The relative weight attributed to each consideration is a matter of professional judgement and varies depending on the specific landscape or visual receptor being assessed.

Where possible, to do so with a reasonable level of professional objectivity, the effects of the options on visual receptors have been assessed as likely to be beneficial or adverse.

Visual effects have been categorised as 'significant' or 'not significant' based on the following categories:

- major or moderate levels of effect are considered to be significant; and
- minor or negligible levels of effect are considered to be not significant.

Mitigation

As part of the broader LVIA process, potential landscape and visual mitigation measures have been considered. Primary mitigation measures have been incorporated as part of the design development of the options, such as alterations to the horizontal and vertical alignment to limit landscape and visual effects. In addition, secondary mitigation measures have been considered during the assessment process where these can be certain (meeting the criteria in Section 8.3) and their potential to reduce significant adverse landscape and visual effects has been evaluated.

The level of detail available at DMRB Stage 2 means that secondary mitigation measures have been considered in general terms (as might be reasonably expected to be adopted as part of good practice). This also means that a precautionary approach has been taken during the LVIA regarding the ability of these measures to reduce adverse effects. Where, at this stage it has not been certain that effects could be mitigated, the residual level of effect is predicted to be the same as the pre-mitigation assessment. Further consideration will be given to the mitigation of predicted significant effects at Stage 3 if relevant.

Assumptions and Limitations

Due to the level of design detail available at DMRB Stage 2, a precautionary approach has been taken with regards to the sensitivity of visual receptors, with a worst-case scenario assumed in the assessment. This precautionary approach has also been taken when considering mitigation measures, as described above in Paragraph 15.2.5.

Following the approach recommended by ‘Fitting Landscapes: Securing More Sustainable Landscapes’, initial landscape design objectives were established for the Scheme in June 2017. Following consultation with SNH, Moray Council and the Transport Scotland landscape advisor and based on the findings of the DMRB Stage 2 LVIA baseline assessment, these were progressed in more detail. The landscape objectives were informed by identification of the sensitivities and opportunities offered by the baseline conditions and, in turn, informed the identification of primary and secondary mitigation measures during the Stage 2 LVIA. It is intended that these will be refined further during DMRB Stage 3, informed by more detailed LVIA and to input the ongoing design development.

The predicted visual effects of road lighting at the option junctions has been considered in general by the LVIA. Given the level of detail available at DMRB Stage 2, the lighting has only been described specifically where it has been judged to have a particular influence on the predicted visual effects (for example where this is the only element of the option that would be seen or where the

baseline conditions do not include lighting). Otherwise, the effects of junction lighting are included within the overall description of visual effects at junctions. The LVIA at this stage has not assessed the predicted effects of lights from vehicles travelling along the options although this will be considered at DMRB Stage 3.

Site surveys of private properties for the visual assessment involved locating the nearest available publicly accessible location to carry out a visual survey and an informed assumption of the view from the property was recorded. In line with guidance and industry recognised practice for a Stage 2 visual assessment, access to private properties was not requested as part of the visual assessment of effects. The data which have been gathered provide a robust basis upon which the assessment of visual effects of route options at this stage has been carried out.

Appendix A15.2 - Visual Receptors: Baseline Description and Assessment of Effects

A15.2 Description of the Baseline View and Effects on Visual Receptors

Hardmuir to Hillhead Options

Table 1.1 contains a description of the baseline view and potential visual effects on receptors located with the study area of the option to the north of Forres (see Figure 15.1, Volume 5).

Table 0 Predicted Visual Effects for Hardmuir to Hillhead North Option

Visual receptor		Description of the Baseline View and Predicted Effects (reflecting combined sensitivity and magnitude)		Predicted visual effect	Assumed secondary mitigation	Predicted residual visual effect
Ref.	Name					
J-N-1	Existing Local Routes: Muirend to A96, Route adjacent to A96 to Wester Hardmuir (Recreational)	**Baseline view:** These routes are located within a flat, arable field pattern which are framed by woodland blocks to the north and south. Views towards the site are filtered by intervening field boundary vegetation and farm buildings in the foreground. Existing A96 is in the view. **Predicted effect:** The option is unlikely to be visible due to woodland screening. However, it is acknowledged that the adjacent Inverness to Nairn scheme would require the removal of trees in proximity to this receptor which would open up views and visual effects identified in the A96 Dualling Inverness to Nairn (including Nairn Bypass) DMRB Stage 2 report have therefore been referenced and duplicated here.	Medium sensitivity receptor Low magnitude of change	Minor adverse	n/a	Minor adverse
J-N-2	Wester Hardmuir (Residential)	**Baseline view:** The site is located approximately 0.1km east of this receptor. Views from this receptor are relatively contained and are characterised by: boundary and road side vegetation which largely screens or fragments views towards medium scale arable fields which are framed by mixed woodland. The existing A96 borders the receptor and vehicles are highly visible. Electricity pylons and scattered residences are glimpsed within the view. **Predicted effect:** The option is unlikely to be visible due to: woodland screening; it would be in cutting; and the existing A96 forms part of the baseline view at close range. However, it is acknowledged that the adjacent Inverness to Nairn scheme would require the removal of trees in proximity to this receptor which would open up views and visual effects identified in the	Medium sensitivity receptor Medium magnitude of change	Moderate adverse	LV1, LV2, LV3, LV5, LV6	Moderate adverse

Visual receptor		Description of the Baseline View and Predicted Effects (reflecting combined sensitivity and magnitude)		Predicted visual effect	Assumed secondary mitigation	Predicted residual visual effect
Ref.	Name					
		A96 Dualling Inverness to Nairn (including Nairn Bypass) DMRB Stage 2 report[1] have therefore been referenced and duplicated here.				
J-N-3	Hardmuir of Boath, Hardmuir Croft (Residential)	**Baseline view:** The site is located approximately 0.3km north of these receptors. Views from these receptors are filtered and enclosed, and characterised by: small scale agricultural fields, which are framed by mixed woodland. Glimpses of vehicles on the A96 are possible near the site. **Predicted effect:** Close range views of the option through gaps in adjacent woodland which, otherwise, limits the view. The existing A96 is within the view, although at a further distance than the scheme, and woodland would limit change to the view.	High sensitivity receptor Low magnitude of change	Minor adverse	n/a	Minor adverse
J-N-4	Existing Local Route network: Hardmuir woodland paths (Recreational)	**Baseline view:** These routes are almost entirely enclosed by woodland, although there is potential for views towards the site through occasional gaps in woodland. Existing A96 within the view. **Predicted effect:** Close range views of the option from gaps in adjacent woodland which limits the view. However, the existing A96 is within the view. Small change to the view.	Medium sensitivity receptor Low magnitude of change	Minor adverse	n/a	Minor adverse
J-N-5	Easter Hardmuir properties (Residential)	**Baseline view:** The site is located approximately 0.3km south of these properties. Views from this receptor are relatively open and are characterised by: medium scale arable fields, which are framed by mixed woodland blocks; residential and farm buildings with associated boundary planting, which fragment views to the wider landscape. A96 traffic can also be seen at close range. **Predicted effect:** Close range views of the option at grade, however the existing A96 is visible at close range and the option would be directly adjacent.	Medium sensitivity receptor Low magnitude of change	Minor adverse	n/a	Minor adverse

[1] Transport Scotland (November 2016) A96 Dualling Inverness to Nairn (including Nairn Bypass) DMRB Stage 3 Scheme Assessment Report, Volume 1 – Main Report and Appendices

Visual receptor		Description of the Baseline View and Predicted Effects (reflecting combined sensitivity and magnitude)		Predicted visual effect	Assumed secondary mitigation	Predicted residual visual effect
Ref.	Name					
J-N-6	Heathfield (Residential)	**Baseline view:** The site is located approximately 0.1 km south of this receptor. Views to the east are open, although views to the north and north-east are restricted by evergreen woodland blocks and intervening vegetation. The existing A96 is located adjacent to the south and vehicles are highly visible. Electricity pylons and farm buildings are present in the view. **Predicted effect:** Close range views of the option. The existing A96 is visible at close range in the intervening view and the option would increase the amount of road infrastructure within the view, albeit with some filtering of the view by boundary vegetation.	Medium sensitivity receptor Medium magnitude of change	Moderate adverse	LV1, LV2, LV3, LV5, LV6	Moderate adverse
J-N-7	Existing Local Route network from Plyon Cottage to A96 (Recreational)	**Baseline view:** The route has generally open views over medium scale flat, arable and pastoral fields. Views to the site are framed by woodland blocks and distant views are afforded towards hills to the south. **Predicted effect:** Close range views of the option, however the existing A96 is visible at close range in the intervening view, limiting the change to the view.	Medium sensitivity receptor Low magnitude of change	Minor adverse	n/a	Minor adverse
J-N-8	Property south of Burn of Feddan (Hillview Cottage) (Residential)	**Baseline view:** The site is located 0.8km north of this receptor. Views are generally open from this receptor. The view to the north, in the direction of the site, is characterised by: a gently rising landform; large scale, mixed agricultural fields, which have limited field boundary vegetation; and blocks of mainly evergreen woodland which restrict some views to the north and north west. Vehicles on the existing A96 are glimpsed on the horizon to the north, near the site. Darnaway Castle Garden and Designed Landscape (GDL) is within the view, 0.8km to the south-east, however there are no designated landscapes within the view north towards the site. **Predicted effect:** Limited change to the view as the intervening landform filters the view. Possible glimpsed view of vehicles, as is the case with the existing A96.	High sensitivity receptor Low magnitude of change	Minor adverse	n/a	Minor adverse

Visual receptor		Description of the Baseline View and Predicted Effects (reflecting combined sensitivity and magnitude)		Predicted visual effect	Assumed secondary mitigation	Predicted residual visual effect
Ref.	Name					
J-N-9	Existing Local Route: Junction north of Hillview Cottage to A96 at Heathfield and Feddan (Recreational)	**Baseline view:** This route is surrounded by flat/gently undulating arable fields. Landform as well as field boundary vegetation and mixed woodland blocks in the landscape limit views towards the site. Brodie Castle GDL is glimpsed within the view to the north east, however the existing A96 is within the intervening landscape. **Predicted effect:** Limited change to the view as the intervening landform filters the view. Possible glimpsed view of vehicles, as is the case with the existing A96.	Medium sensitivity receptor Low magnitude of change	Minor adverse	n/a	Minor adverse
J-N-10	Feddan, Feddan Farm Cottage and Feddan Cottar House (Residential)	**Baseline view:** The site is located 0.1km north of these receptors. Views to the south and east are open, however views to the north and west are restricted by mainly evergreen woodland and a subtle rise in the landform. The existing A96 is located 0.1km to the north and vehicles are highly visible, albeit with some minor screening by trees located on the boundary of the property. Brodie Castle GDL is glimpsed within the view 0.7km to the north-east, however the existing A96 is visible within the intervening landscape. **Predicted effect:** Close range views of the option. Existing view of the A96 partially limits the change to the view, however the option would take a more easterly route and a proposed local access road overbridge would obstruct existing views to the east.	Medium sensitivity receptor High magnitude of change	Major adverse	LV1, LV2, LV3, LV5, LV6	**Major adverse**
J-N-11	Cotterton (includes Plyon Cottage and Cotteton Cottages) (Residential)	**Baseline view:** The site is located approximately 1.0km south of the receptors, however it is screened from view by intervening tree cover. The woodland cover to the south-east is within the boundary of the Brodie Castle GDL. **Predicted effect:** No change due to intervening tree cover screening views.	High sensitivity receptor No magnitude of change	No change	n/a	No change
J-N-12	Earlsmill (Residential)	**Baseline view:** The site is located within 0.5km to the north of this receptor. The view towards the site is characterised by: moderate-scale farmland which is bounded by mature tree cover and hedgerows; and a gently undulating landform. A portion of the woodland cover to the north is within the Brodie Castle GDL.	High sensitivity receptor	Minor adverse	n/a	Minor adverse

Visual receptor		Description of the Baseline View and Predicted Effects (reflecting combined sensitivity and magnitude)		Predicted visual effect	Assumed secondary mitigation	Predicted residual visual effect
Ref.	Name					
		Predicted effect: The option would be largely screened by intervening tree cover. There would be potential glimpsed views of the option, particularly during winter months when trees are not in leaf.	Low magnitude of change			
J-N-13	Blinkbonny (including Rowan Cottage) (Residential)	**Baseline view:** The site is located within 0.3km to the south of these houses. The view towards the site is characterised by: moderate-scale farmland which is bounded by mature tree cover and hedgerows; and a gently undulating landform. The properties are located directly adjacent to the existing A96 which is visible at close range. Brodie Castle GDL is located directly to the north, however this is in the opposite direction to the site and the existing A96 is within the intervening view Woodland within the Darnaway Castle GDL is visible 1.2km to the south. **Predicted effect:** Close range views of the option would be possible. Some sections of the option would be in cutting, some on embankment, and the option also includes an overbridge for a local access road in this area. The existing A96 comprises an existing part of the view, albeit in the opposite direction and the addition of the option would mean that roads would be visible in most directions from the receptor. Adjacent tree cover would limit change to the view to the south due to the option, however the option would form a fundamental part of the view.	High sensitivity receptor High magnitude of change	Major adverse	LV1, LV2, LV3, LV5, LV6, LV7	**Major adverse**
J-N-14	Brodie (including campsite) (Residential)	**Baseline view:** The site is located within 0.3km to the south of this small settlement. The view towards the site is characterised by: moderate-scale farmland which is bounded by mature tree cover; and a gently undulating landform. The properties are generally located directly adjacent to the existing A96 which is visible at close range. The woodland cover to the north is within the Brodie Castle GDL. **Predicted effect:** Close range views of the option would be possible. An overbridge for a local access road would also be visible to the south-west at this point. The option would form a fundamental part of the view. The existing A96 comprises part of the current view, albeit in the opposite direction and	High sensitivity receptor High magnitude of change	Major adverse	LV1, LV2, LV3, LV5, LV6, LV7	**Major adverse**

Visual receptor		Description of the Baseline View and Predicted Effects (reflecting combined sensitivity and magnitude)		Predicted visual effect	Assumed secondary mitigation	Predicted residual visual effect
Ref.	Name					
		the addition of the option would mean that roads would be visible in most directions from the receptor.				
J-N-15	Brodie Castle (Recreational)	**Baseline view:** This visitor attraction includes a castle at the centre of well-wooded grounds. The woodland cover limits views out to the surrounding landscape from ground level, although some ground level views out are possible to the south-east where tree clearance has occurred and there are more distant views from the castle upper storeys. This receptor is within the Brodie Castle GDL. **Predicted effect:** It is predicted that the option would be largely screened from view from within the grounds towards the option, however that the Forres West junction and associated lighting would be glimpsed as some tree clearance has occurred at the south-eastern extent of the Castle estate, particularly during winter months when trees are not in leaf. Glimpsed views to the south east would also be likely from the castle upper storeys.	High sensitivity receptor Low magnitude of change	Moderate adverse	LV1, LV2, LV3, LV5, LV6, LV7	**Moderate adverse**
J-N-16	Tearie Farm (Residential)	**Baseline view:** The site is located within 0.2km to the north of this receptor. The view towards the site is characterised by: open, large-scale arable farmland; a very gently undulating landform; and large belts of woodland. The existing A96 is glimpsed, approximately 0.5km to the north. The woodland cover to the north is within the Brodie Castle GDL. **Predicted effect:** Close range views of the option would be possible. The option comprises a junction (Forres West) also at this point. The existing A96 is within the view and the property has boundary screens (trees and farm buildings), however the option would form a fundamental part of the view.	Medium sensitivity receptor High magnitude of change	Major adverse	LV1, LV2, LV3, LV5, LV6, LV7	**Major adverse**
J-N-17	Longley (Residential)	**Baseline view:** The site is located within 0.2km to the south of this receptor. The receptor is in a reasonably open position and the view is characterised by: large-scale farmland which is bounded by mature trees and hedgerow; and a gently undulating landform. A railway line is located directly to the south, however it is low level and doesn't restrict views out. There is an existing view of the A96. The woodland cover to the south-east is within the Darnaway Castle GDL.	Medium sensitivity receptor High magnitude of change	Major adverse	LV1, LV2, LV3, LV5, LV6, LV7	**Moderate adverse**

Visual receptor		Description of the Baseline View and Predicted Effects (reflecting combined sensitivity and magnitude)		Predicted visual effect	Assumed secondary mitigation	Predicted residual visual effect
Ref.	Name					
		Predicted effect: Close range views of the option are predicted. The view of the existing A96 partially limits the change to the view, however the Forres West junction option would form a fundamental part of the view and at a higher elevation with associated lighting. Mitigation planting beside the proposed option could reduce the level of visual effect once established.				
J-N-18	Banarach and adjacent properties (Residential)	**Baseline view:** The site is located within 0.1km to the south of this receptor. The receptor is in a reasonably open position and the view is characterised by: large-scale farmland which is bounded by mature trees and hedgerow; and a gently undulating landform. **Predicted effect:** Close range views of the option are predicted. The option would form a fundamental part of the view particularly as it would be on embankment within the view.	High sensitivity receptor High magnitude of change	Major adverse	LV1, LV2, LV3, LV5, LV6, LV7	**Major adverse**
J-N-19	Grange-green (Residential)	**Baseline view:** The site is located within 0.6km to the south-east of this receptor. The receptor is in a reasonably open position and has open views across open, large-scale arable farmland. **Predicted effect:** The option would be directly visible to the south, 0.6km away. The option would comprise a considerable part of the view, however would be partially screened by the intervening landform and back-clothed by existing trees along the railway line.	High sensitivity receptor Medium magnitude of change	Moderate adverse	LV2, LV3, LV5, LV6	**Moderate adverse**
J-N-20	Local route – track beside Newton of Dalvey (Recreational)	**Baseline view:** This track is afforded open views across the surrounding rural landscape. Views north towards the site include vehicles on the existing A96. Considering value attributed to the view, to the west the wooded perimeter of Darnaway Castle GDL is visible 0.4 km away. **Predicted effect:** The receptor is likely to have a limited view of the option as vegetation and a gently undulating landform filter the view. The existing A96 is also glimpsed in the intervening view, limiting potential change to the view.	Medium sensitivity receptor Low magnitude of change	Minor adverse	n/a	Minor adverse
J-N-21	Newton of Dalvey Farmhouse	**Baseline view:** Some boundary vegetation surrounds this receptor, however it is in an open, rural position with views out to the surrounding landscape from ground level. Views out to the north include a view of vehicles on the existing A96. Views to the south are open and across large-scale, mixed	High sensitivity receptor	Negligible	n/a	Negligible

Visual receptor		Description of the Baseline View and Predicted Effects (reflecting combined sensitivity and magnitude)		Predicted visual effect	Assumed secondary mitigation	Predicted residual visual effect
Ref.	Name					
	(Residential)	agricultural fields. Woodland cover to the south-west and along the River Findhorn provides a backdrop to views. Other than the A96 to the north, there are no other notable elements of urban infrastructure within the view. Considering value attributed to the view, to the west the wooded perimeter of Darnaway Castle GDL is visible 0.4 km away. **Predicted effect:** The receptor is likely to have a limited view of the option as vegetation and a gently undulating landform filter the view. The existing A96 is also glimpsed in the intervening view.	Negligible magnitude of change			
J-N-22	Route between Dalvey House & Mains of Moy (includes link to Muirtown Wood) (Recreational)	**Baseline view:** This receptor directly crosses the site. Views out are characterised by: large-scale farmland which is bounded by mature trees and hedgerow; and a relatively flat landform. Culbin Forest is located to the north. There is no documented value attributed to the view nor is there a protected landscape within the view. **Predicted effect:** Close range views of the option would be possible. However, there are existing views of the A96 which would limit the change to the view.	Medium sensitivity receptor Low magnitude of change	Minor adverse	n/a	Minor adverse
J-N-23	Wester Moy (Residential)	**Baseline view:** The site is located approximately 1.0km south of the receptor. The view towards the site is characterised by: very open, large-scale arable farmland, flat landform, and despite the distance away, the openness of the view is such that views of the site are possible, albeit glimpsed. Long range views towards the hills in the south provide a backdrop to the view. Glimpsed views of the existing A96. **Predicted effect:** Long-range view of the option, which would form a small part of the view.	High sensitivity receptor Low magnitude of change	Minor adverse	n/a	Minor adverse
J-N-24	Core path - CP-FR10 (Recreational)	**Baseline view:** This path has a position beside the River Findhorn. The river is reasonably wide and open at this point, albeit with some scrub vegetation and tree cover beside its banks which limit views out. There is no documented value attributed to the view nor is there a clear view of a protected landscape (woodland at the eastern extent of Darnaway Castle is potentially glimpsed).	High sensitivity receptor	Negligible	n/a	Negligible

Visual receptor		Description of the Baseline View and Predicted Effects (reflecting combined sensitivity and magnitude)		Predicted visual effect	Assumed secondary mitigation	Predicted residual visual effect
Ref.	Name					
		Predicted effect: Possible glimpsed view of the option, however the existing A96 is in the intervening view and views would be glimpsed at most, particularly during winter months when tree are not in leaf.	Negligible magnitude of change			
J-N-25	Properties on Red Craig (Residential)	**Baseline view:** The primary orientation of these single storey properties is away from the site, which is 0.5km to the north. Views north are partially screened by intermittent tree and hedgerow, landform undulations and vegetation the existing A96. The wider view is of flat and open mixed agricultural fields. Tree cover is visible beside the River Findhorn to the west and the Riverview caravan park is visible located 0.2 km to the south-west. **Predicted effect:** No change due to intervening screening.	High sensitivity receptor No magnitude of change	No change	n/a	No change
J-N-26	Core path, CP-FR06 (National Cycle Route Network 1) (Recreational)	**Baseline view:** Open views across the surrounding flat, arable landscape are possible from this path which connects to Broom of Moy. The site is visible 0.8km to the south of this path. **Predicted effect:** The track is located approximately 0.6km north of the Scheme. The option would form a part of the view when looking south from the track, however it would be back-clothed by railway vegetation, limiting the change to the view.	Medium sensitivity receptor Low magnitude of change	Minor adverse	n/a	Minor adverse
J-N-27	Broom of Moy (Residential)	**Baseline view:** A group of properties (approximately 20) located 0.5km to the north of the site and directly adjacent to the River Findhorn. Views out in the direction of the site are possible from properties on the southern edge of Broom of Moy. Views are also across large-scale, open and flat arable fields. However, tree cover beside the River Findhorn limits views out directly south and east. **Predicted effect:** The option would be visible from the receptor 0.5km away (to the south, south-west). Both the distance from the Scheme and the screening afforded by vegetation adjacent to the River Findhorn limit a view of the option. The option would be visible and has the potential to form a small part of the view from properties on the southern edge of the settlement.	High sensitivity receptor Low magnitude of change	Minor adverse	n/a	Minor adverse

Visual receptor		Description of the Baseline View and Predicted Effects (reflecting combined sensitivity and magnitude)		Predicted visual effect	Assumed secondary mitigation	Predicted residual visual effect
Ref.	Name					
J-N-28	Core path, CP-FR09 (Recreational)	**Baseline view:** This track is located directly to the west of the River Findhorn. Tree cover and its low position beside the river limit views out. However, this track passes the site directly. **Predicted effect:** The path's low-lying position and the tree cover beside the river would limit most views of the option, however the option crosses the path beside the Findhorn and would be highly visible. An existing rail crossing is visible, directly to the south of the option. Close range views of the option would be possible and the option would form a considerable part of the view.	High sensitivity receptor Medium magnitude of change	Moderate adverse	LV1, LV2	**Moderate adverse**
J-N-29	Routes adjacent to the River Findhorn (Recreational)	**Baseline view:** These tracks are located directly adjacent to the River Findhorn. Tree cover and its low position beside the river limit views out to the site to locations at which there is a break in the vegetation. However, these routes pass the site directly. **Predicted effect:** The low-lying position of the routes and the tree cover beside the river would limit most views of the option, however the option crosses the River Findhorn and would be highly visible. In addition, an existing rail crossing is visible. Close range views of the option would be possible. The option would form a considerable part of the view.	High sensitivity receptor Medium magnitude of change	Moderate adverse	LV1, LV2	**Moderate adverse**
J-N-30	Greeshop House (Residential)	**Baseline view:** This receptor has reasonably dense mixed woodland within its grounds which limits views out. However, glimpsed views in the direction of the site are possible to the south and east. Views in this direction are open across medium-scale and flat arable farmland. **Predicted effect:** The receptor is surrounded by tree cover, however views of the option, which is proposed to be on embankment at this location, are assumed at close range (0.1km). The option would form a considerable part of the view to the south and east, particularly in winter months when adjacent trees are not in leaf.	High sensitivity receptor Medium magnitude of change	Moderate adverse	LV2, LV3, LV5, LV6	**Moderate adverse**
J-N-31	Track beside the Findhorn (Recreational)	**Baseline view:** This track is located directly to the east of the River Findhorn. Tree cover and its low position beside the river limit views out, and screen views towards the site. A line of pylons is located directly adjacent to the track.	High sensitivity receptor	Negligible	n/a	Negligible

Visual receptor		Description of the Baseline View and Predicted Effects (reflecting combined sensitivity and magnitude)		Predicted visual effect	Assumed secondary mitigation	Predicted residual visual effect
Ref.	Name					
		Predicted effect: At most a glimpsed views of the option during winter months when trees are not in leaf.	Negligible magnitude of change			
J-N-32	Monkland & Waterford Farm (Residential)	**Baseline view:** This receptor has some planting within its grounds which limits views out, as does the presence of some large-scale agricultural buildings. However, views in the direction of the site are possible. Views out are generally open across large-scale and flat arable farmland. Views to the west are screened by vegetation beside the River Findhorn. **Predicted effect:** The receptor would have close range views (0.2km distance) of the option, which is proposed to be on embankment at this location. A new local access road is also proposed between the receptor and the option. Some intervening vegetation would screen the option which is predicted to form a fundamental part of the view.	High sensitivity receptor High magnitude of change	Major adverse	LV2, LV3, LV5, LV6	**Major adverse**
J-N-33	Core path, CP-FR07 (also Waterford Road) (Recreational)	**Baseline view:** This track is located within open fields between Waterford Farm and the Benromach Distillery. The track passes the site directly. **Predicted effect:** The option crosses the path and would form a considerable part of the view at close range, however the path links to the existing A96 and the railway overbridge and has existing views of nearby industrial units.	Low sensitivity receptor Medium magnitude of change	Minor adverse	n/a	Minor adverse
J-N-34	Forres – northern edge (Residential)	**Baseline view:** Properties at the northern edge of Forres, such as those on Tyler Street, Victoria Road, Croft Road & Springfield, are in relative proximity to the site (0.4km). However, views of the site are largely screened by intervening buildings beside the existing A96 from these locations. It is also the case that there are limited views out from the remainder of Forres, however some more elevated locations, and in particular the upper storey of some residences, have views out to the north in the direction of the Moray Firth. There is no documented value attributed to the view nor is there a protected landscape within the view. **Predicted effect:** The option would be glimpsed from some more elevated properties within the northern extent of Forres, such as properties on North	High sensitivity receptor Low magnitude of change	Minor adverse	n/a	Minor adverse

Visual receptor		Description of the Baseline View and Predicted Effects (reflecting combined sensitivity and magnitude)		Predicted visual effect	Assumed secondary mitigation	Predicted residual visual effect
Ref.	Name					
		Road. However, views would mostly be from the upper storey of properties and intervening screening (tree cover and industry) would limit some views. The existing A96 is also likely to be visible in intervening views, further limiting the potential change to the view. Long range views from properties would not be disrupted as the option would be visible below the skyline to the north.				
J-N-35	Invererne and Gorsky Neuk (Residential)	**Baseline view:** This receptor has some planting within its grounds which limits views out partially, as does the presence of some large-scale agricultural buildings. However, views in the direction of the site are possible to the south and south east. Views out are open across large-scale and flat arable farmland. **Predicted effect:** The receptor would have mid-range views to the south (0.8km distance) of the option, which is proposed to be on embankment at this location. The option would form a considerable part of the view, however much of the option would be screened by intervening vegetation.	High sensitivity receptor Medium magnitude of change	Moderate adverse	LV2, LV3, LV5, LV6	**Moderate adverse**
J-N-36	Moray Coast Trail (also Core Path CP-FR1) (Recreational)	**Baseline view:** This trail follows the path of a local road which crosses the site. It is set within large-scale and open agricultural fields with distant views across Findhorn Bay to the north. The route crosses the existing A96, limiting is susceptibility to change here, i.e. the presence of road infrastructure within the existing view. **Predicted effect:** Close range views as the option crosses the route.	Medium sensitivity receptor High magnitude of change	Major adverse	LV2, LV3, LV5, LV6	**Major adverse**
J-N-37	Middlefield and Lingieston (Residential)	**Baseline view:** These properties have some planting within their grounds which limits views out partially, as does the presence of some large-scale agricultural buildings. However, views in the direction of the site are possible to the south, particularly from Lingieston which has more open views. Views out are open across large-scale and flat arable farmland. **Predicted effect:** The receptor would have close range views to the south (0.2km distance) of the option, which is proposed to be on embankment at this location. The option would form a fundamental part of the view.	High sensitivity receptor High magnitude of change	Major Adverse	LV2, LV3, LV5, LV6	**Major Adverse**

Visual receptor		Description of the Baseline View and Predicted Effects (reflecting combined sensitivity and magnitude)		Predicted visual effect	Assumed secondary mitigation	Predicted residual visual effect
Ref.	Name					
J-N-38	Path network, Darnaway Castle (Recreational)	**Baseline view:** This network on the boundary of and within the northern extent of the Darnaway Castle GDL. It comprises dense woodland and views out beyond the woodland are screened, however views from routes on the edge of the woodland are less restricted This receptor is located directly within the Darnaway GDL, which comprises dense woodland within all views. **Predicted effect:** The north option would be largely screened by intervening woodland, however routes on the northern extent of the estate, which are less screened by woodland would have small views of the option to the north.	High sensitivity receptor Low magnitude of change	Minor adverse	n/a	Minor adverse
J-N-39	Milton of Grange (Residential)	**Baseline view:** This property has some large-scale agricultural buildings within its grounds. However, views in the direction of the site are possible to the south. Views out are open across large-scale and flat arable farmland with limited field boundary vegetation cover. A line of pylons is visible close to the south of the receptor. **Predicted effect:** The receptor would have close range views to the south (0.2km distance) of the option, which is proposed to be on embankment at this location. Views of the adjacent railway and line of pylons would partially limit the change to the view, however the option would form a fundamental part of the view.	High sensitivity receptor Medium magnitude of change	Major adverse	LV2, LV3, LV5, LV6	**Moderate adverse**
J-N-40	Core path: Forres eastern edge (Recreational)	**Baseline view:** These routes are located on the eastern edge of Forres and have elevated views towards the site. Views towards the site include agricultural fields on slight north facing slopes which are interspersed with intervening boundary vegetation and woodland planting. These features partially screen views in this direction. Existing views of the A96. **Predicted effect:** The option would form part of the view from limited parts of the route however intervening landform undulations and visibility of the existing A96 and power lines would limit the visual change.	Medium sensitivity receptor Low magnitude of change	Minor adverse	n/a	Minor adverse
J-N-41	Cassieford Cottages (Residential)	**Baseline view:** These properties are located within 0.1km south of the site. This receptor has mature boundary vegetation and rising slopes which limit views out to the south. However, upper storey views in the direction of the site are possible to the south, particularly during winter months.	High sensitivity receptor	Major adverse	LV2, LV3, LV5, LV6	**Moderate adverse**

Visual receptor		Description of the Baseline View and Predicted Effects (reflecting combined sensitivity and magnitude)		Predicted visual effect	Assumed secondary mitigation	Predicted residual visual effect
Ref.	Name					
		Predicted effect: The receptor would have close range views to the south (0.1km distance) of the option, which is proposed to be on embankment at this location. The views would be partly obscured by boundary planting, however the option would form a fundamental part of the view, particularly during winter months. The inclusion of mitigation planting beside the scheme has the potential to reduce the visibility of the option. Mitigation planting would be appropriate given the existing tree cover on the boundary of the property, and this has the potential to limit change to the view once established.	High magnitude of change			
J-N-42	Cassieford and Springfield (Residential)	**Baseline view:** These properties have reasonably dense planting within the grounds which limits views out. However, glimpsed views in the direction of the site are possible 0.1km to the north, through gaps in the tree cover. Views in this direction are open across gently undulating farmland. **Predicted effect:** The screening afforded by vegetation surrounding the receptor would limit a view of the option, aside from winter months when trees are not in leaf. The option would form a considerable part of the view during winter months.	Medium sensitivity receptor Medium magnitude of change	Moderate adverse	LV2, LV3, LV5, LV6	**Moderate adverse**
J-N-43	Route between Forres and Whiteinch (CP-FR15 & B9011) (Recreational)	**Baseline view:** This receptor directly crosses site. Views out are open across large-scale and flat arable farmland with limited field boundary vegetation cover. A line of pylons is visible to the south. **Predicted effect:** Close range views of the option would be possible as the route crosses the Scheme. However, the route meets the existing A96, limiting the change to the view that a new road would give rise to.	Medium sensitivity receptor Low magnitude of change	Minor adverse	n/a	Minor adverse
J-N-44	Inch-demmie Villa and adjacent properties (Residential)	**Baseline view:** These properties are located 0.4km north of the site. This receptor is directly adjacent to woodland which limits views out to the north and east. Views to the south and west are more open and are across open, large-scale and flat arable farmland. **Predicted effect:** The receptor would have close range views to the south (0.4km distance) of the option, which is proposed to be on embankment at this location. Pylons are within the existing view towards the site and a rise in	High sensitivity receptor Medium magnitude of change	Moderate Adverse	LV2, LV3, LV5, LV6	**Moderate Adverse**

Visual receptor		Description of the Baseline View and Predicted Effects (reflecting combined sensitivity and magnitude)		Predicted visual effect	Assumed secondary mitigation	Predicted residual visual effect
Ref.	Name					
		the landform to the south would partially restrict views of the option. The option would form a considerable part of the view.				
J-N-45	Whiteinch (Residential)	**Baseline view:** The site is located approximately 1.0km south of the receptors, however it is screened from view by intervening tree cover, landform undulations and the railway line. **Predicted effect:** No change to the view due to intervening screening of the option.	High sensitivity receptor No magnitude of change	No change	n/a	No change
J-N-46	Tarras (Residential)	**Baseline view:** The site is located approximately 0.2km north of the receptors. These properties are located on a north facing slope and the view towards the site is characterised by: open, large-scale arable farmland; large belts of woodland to the south; a line of pylons; and the existing A96. Glimpsed long range views of the Moray Firth are possible. **Predicted effect:** The receptor has glimpsed existing views of the A96, however the Forres East junction in particular would form a fundamental part of the view.	Medium sensitivity receptor High magnitude of change	Major adverse	LV2, LV3, LV5, LV6	**Major adverse**
J-N-47	Grange Hall Cottages, Grange Hall (Residential)	**Baseline view:** The site is located approximately 0.4km south of these receptors. The view towards the site is largely screened due to extensive boundary vegetation and neighbouring woodland belts. However, gaps in tree cover potentially provide partial views of the site. Agricultural fields in this direction are small scale, flat and framed by woodland. Views to the north, west and east are all contained within a small visual envelope created by woodland. Features in the landscape include minor roads, neighbouring residential properties and historic landscape features. **Predicted effect:** Views are largely screened by tree cover within the estate and on the boundary of the property, however views through gaps in the tree cover are possible, particularly during winter months.	High sensitivity receptor Low magnitude of change	Minor adverse	n/a	Minor adverse

Visual receptor		Description of the Baseline View and Predicted Effects (reflecting combined sensitivity and magnitude)		Predicted visual effect	Assumed secondary mitigation	Predicted residual visual effect
Ref.	Name					
J-N-48	Route to south of Forres Business Park (Recreational)	**Baseline view:** This route directly crosses the site and is approximately 0.8km to the south. Views encompass gently undulating pastoral fields, interspersed with boundary vegetation, woodland blocks and scattered residences. **Predicted effect:** Close range views of the option, including the Forres East junction. The option would form a fundamental part of the view, however the existing A96 is visible which would limit the visual change and visibility from the south is limited by the convex hill landform.	Medium sensitivity receptor Low magnitude of change	Minor adverse	n/a	Minor adverse
J-N-49	Sheraton House, Chuillin, Hillhead Farm, Rafford Road Cottages, Leys of Hillhead (Residential)	**Baseline view:** The site is located 0.2km north and south of these receptors. The view towards the site is characterised by sloped landform which partially screens views in this direction. For some properties views towards the site are fragmented or partially screened by intervening woodland planting or extensive boundary vegetation. Features in the landscape include the existing A96, minor road networks, neighbouring residences and farm buildings, and electricity pylons. **Predicted effect:** Close range views of the option. The Forres East junction would be highly visible within the view. The option would form a fundamental part of the view, particularly the Forres East junction.	Medium sensitivity receptor High magnitude of change	Major adverse	LV2, LV3, LV5, LV6, LV7	**Major adverse**
J-N-50	Woodhead properties, Mains of Struthers & Mains of Struthers Cottages (Residential)	**Baseline view:** The site is located 0.6km south of these receptors. The view towards the site is characterised by gently rolling agricultural and pastoral fields interspersed with small woodland blocks and residential properties. Wooded hills can be seen in the distance. Views to the north and west are local due to boundary planting and woodland blocks. Views east are more extensive with large scale agricultural fields extending towards more undulating landform and woodland blocks on the horizon. Features in the landscape include minor road networks, the existing A96 and neighbouring residences and farm buildings. **Predicted effect:** Close range views of the option. The view would include the Forres East junction. The option would form a small part of the view due to screening by an intervening sloping landform.	Medium sensitivity receptor Low magnitude of change	Minor adverse	n/a	Minor adverse

Visual receptor		Description of the Baseline View and Predicted Effects (reflecting combined sensitivity and magnitude)		Predicted visual effect	Assumed secondary mitigation	Predicted residual visual effect
Ref.	Name					
J-N-51	Local route to the north of the existing A96 (Recreational)	**Baseline view:** This route is located in close proximity to the site.. Views south are towards a more elevated landscape and the existing A96. Views to the west comprise small scale pastoral fields framed by woodland belts. Eastern views are extensive, consisting of large scale agricultural fields which vary in landform. **Predicted effect:** The option would be visible at close range from this route. However, the option would form a small part of the view due to screening by an intervening sloping landform and the existing A96 is visible within the view, limiting the visual change.	Medium sensitivity receptor Low magnitude of change	Minor adverse	n/a	Minor adverse
J-N-52	Hillcrest, Scotsburn (Residential)	**Baseline view:** The site is located approximately 0.1km south of these receptors. Views to the south are extensive and comprise of agricultural fields which are large in scale and framed by woodland. Wooded hills to the south can also be seen. Views to the west are characterised by flat agricultural fields which are expansive and extent towards distant woodland blocks. Views east are more local, comprising of medium scale pastoral fields, framed by woodland belts. Features in the landscape include the existing A96 at close-range, minor road networks and neighbouring residences and farm properties. **Predicted effect:** Close range views of the option. The option would form a fundamental part of the view given its proximity and location on embankment at this point.	Medium sensitivity receptor High magnitude of change	Major adverse	n/a	**Major adverse**
J-N-53	Burgie Lodge, Burgie Lodge Cottages & Valley View (Residential)	**Baseline view:** The site is located approximately 0.2km north of this receptor. These properties are set in a relatively open, gently rolling, large-scale arable landscape. Mature tree and hedgerow planting on field boundaries and occasional blocks of woodland, limit views of the wider landscape. The view towards the site is in a northerly direction and includes a view of vehicles on the existing A96. **Predicted effect:** The option would be visible at close range to the north, particularly from Burgie Lodge. The option would form part of the view within an open landscape. The existing A96 is located within the existing view and this would increase the amount of road infrastructure within the view.	Medium sensitivity receptor High magnitude of change	Major adverse	LV2, LV3, LV5, LV6, LV7	**Major adverse**

Visual receptor		Description of the Baseline View and Predicted Effects (reflecting combined sensitivity and magnitude)		Predicted visual effect	Assumed secondary mitigation	Predicted residual visual effect
Ref.	Name					
J-N-54	Dalvey Cottages (Residential)	**Baseline view:** The site is located approximately 0.1km north of this receptor. This property is set in a relatively open, large-scale arable landscape. Mature tree and hedgerow planting on field boundaries and occasional blocks of woodland, limit views of the wider landscape, particularly to the south. The view towards the site is in a northerly direction and is partially restricted by boundary vegetation, however it is assumed to be open from upper storey windows. **Predicted effect:** Close range views of the option are predicted. The option would form a fundamental part of the view.	High sensitivity receptor High magnitude of change	Major adverse	LV1, LV2, LV3, LV5, LV6, LV7	**Major adverse**
J-N-55	Dalvey Smithy Cottages & Boathill (Residential)	**Baseline view:** The site is located approximately 0.1km north of this receptor. These properties are located next to the railway and in a relatively open, large-scale arable landscape. Mature tree and hedgerow planting on field boundaries and occasional blocks of woodland, limit views of the wider landscape, particularly to the south. The view towards the site is in a northerly direction and is partially restricted by boundary vegetation, however oblique views are likely. **Predicted effect:** Close range views of the option are predicted. The option would form a fundamental part of the view, especially due to being raised upon embankment, obstructing distant views to the north.	High sensitivity receptor High magnitude of change	Major adverse	LV1, LV2, LV3, LV5, LV6, LV7	**Major adverse**
J-N-56	East Lodge, Dalvey (Residential)	**Baseline view:** This receptor is largely surrounded by boundary vegetation, however a view to the south-east, towards the site is possible through a gap in the tree cover. The view is across an open, large-scale landscape. **Predicted effect:** Close range views of the option are predicted. The option would form a fundamental part of the view.	High sensitivity receptor High magnitude of change	Major adverse	LV1, LV2, LV3, LV5, LV6, LV7	**Major adverse**
J-N-57	South Lodge & Hillhead Cottages	**Baseline view:** The site is located directly to the south of these receptors.	Medium sensitivity receptor	Major adverse	LV2, LV3, LV5, LV6, LV7	**Major adverse**

Visual receptor		Description of the Baseline View and Predicted Effects (reflecting combined sensitivity and magnitude)		Predicted visual effect	Assumed secondary mitigation	Predicted residual visual effect
Ref.	Name					
	(Residential)	Views to the south are slightly elevated and generally encompass gently undulating pastoral fields, interspersed with boundary vegetation and woodland blocks. Features in the landscape include the existing A96, which is immediately visible and highly prominent in the view, minor road networks, neighbouring residents and farm buildings, electricity pylons and historic landscape features. **Predicted effect:** Close range views of the option. The existing A96 is within the view which would partially limit the change to the view due to the option, however the Forres East junction would form a fundamental part of the view, particularly the Forres East junction, especially due to its elevation, complexity of layout and large scale.	High magnitude of change			
J-N-58	Core Path CP-FR40, CP-FR39 and publicly accessible routes near to Nelson's Tower, Forres (Recreational)	**Baseline view:** These routes are located on Cluny Hill, which affords elevated views out. There is tree cover in the vicinity of the routes which limits views out, however particularly from the tower, there are views out across Forres to the north and the Moray Firth. The site is glimpsed within open areas of arable farmland and some blocks of tree cover. This receptor is located within the Forres GDL. **Predicted effect:** The option would be glimpsed from the footpaths at the peak of the hill which are afforded open views north towards the Moray Firth. Intervening screening (tree cover and industry) limits most views from the lower elevations of the hill. The existing A96 is also likely to be visible in intervening views, further limiting the potential change to the view. Long range views from properties would not be disrupted as the option would be visible below the skyline to the north. The scheme would be on embankment to the north, limiting the change to the view.	High sensitivity receptor Low magnitude of change	Minor adverse	n/a	Minor adverse
J-N-59	Woodside (Residential)	**Baseline view:** This property is located 0.2km south of the site. The property has surrounding tree cover, including an avenue of trees along the adjacent local road which is located on the northern edge of the Darnaway GDL. The view to the north is more open and is across an adjacent field with vehicles on the existing A96 are clearly visible.	High sensitivity receptor	Major adverse	N/A	**Major adverse**

Visual receptor		Description of the Baseline View and Predicted Effects (reflecting combined sensitivity and magnitude)		Predicted visual effect	Assumed secondary mitigation	Predicted residual visual effect
Ref.	Name					
		This receptor is located directly adjacent to the Darnaway GDL, which comprises policy trees and dense woodland within the view. **Predicted effect:** The option would be visible to the north and north-east, however views to the north-west and west would be screened by adjacent tree cover. The option would be on embankment to the north, including the junction, increasing its potential visibility. The Darnaway GDL is located directly to the south, however the option would not disrupt a direct view of the designation as it would be located in the opposite direction.	High magnitude of change			

Table 1.2 contains a description of the baseline view and potential visual effects on receptors located with the study area of the option to the south of Forres (see Figure 15.1, Volume 3).

Table 1.2 Predicted Visual Effects for Hardmuir to Hillhead South Option

Visual receptor		Description of the Baseline View and Predicted Effects (reflecting combined sensitivity and magnitude)		Predicted visual effect	Assumed secondary mitigation	Predicted residual visual effect
Ref.	Name					
J-S-1	Existing Local Routes: Muirend to A96, Route adjacent to A96 to Wester Hardmuir (Recreational)	**Baseline view:** These routes are located within a flat, arable field pattern which are framed by woodland blocks to the north and south. Views towards the site are filtered by intervening field boundary vegetation and farm buildings in the foreground. **Predicted effect:** The option is unlikely to be visible due to woodland screening and the existing A96 forms part of the baseline view at close range.	Medium sensitivity receptor Negligible magnitude of change	Negligible	n/a	Negligible
J-S-2	Wester Hardmuir (Residential)	**Baseline view:** The site is located approximately 0.1km east of this receptor. Views from this receptor are relatively contained and are characterised by: boundary and road side vegetation which largely screens or fragments views towards medium scale arable fields which are framed by mixed woodland. The existing A96 borders the receptor and vehicles are highly visible. Electricity pylons and scattered residences are glimpsed within the view. **Predicted effect:** However, it is acknowledged that the adjacent Inverness to Nairn scheme would require the removal of trees in proximity to this receptor which would open up views and visual effects identified in the A96 Dualling Inverness to Nairn (including Nairn Bypass) DMRB Stage 2 report have therefore been referenced and duplicated here.	Medium sensitivity receptor Medium magnitude of change	Moderate adverse	LV1, LV2, LV3, LV5, LV6	Moderate adverse
J-S-3	Hardmuir of Boath, Hardmuir Croft (Residential)	**Baseline view:** The site is located approximately 0.3km north of these receptors. Views from these receptors are filtered and enclosed, and characterised by: small scale agricultural fields, which are framed by mixed woodland. Glimpses of vehicles on the A96 are possible near the site. **Predicted effect:** Close range views of the option through gaps in adjacent woodland which, otherwise, limits the view. The existing A96 is within the	High sensitivity receptor Low magnitude of change	Minor adverse	n/a	Minor adverse

Visual receptor		Description of the Baseline View and Predicted Effects (reflecting combined sensitivity and magnitude)		Predicted visual effect	Assumed secondary mitigation	Predicted residual visual effect
Ref.	Name					
		view, although at a further distance than the scheme, and woodland would limit change to the view.				
J-S-4	Existing Local Route network: Hardmuir woodland paths (Recreational)	**Baseline view:** These routes are almost entirely enclosed by woodland, although there is potential for views towards the site through occasional gaps in woodland. **Predicted effect:** Close range views of the option from gaps in adjacent woodland which limits the view. However, the existing A96 is within the view. Small change to the view.	Medium sensitivity receptor Low magnitude of change	Minor adverse	n/a	Minor adverse
J-S-5	Easter Hardmuir properties, Druimuir (Residential)	**Baseline view:** The site is located approximately 0.3km south of these properties. Views from this receptor are relatively open and are characterised by: medium scale arable fields, which are framed by mainly evergreen woodland blocks; residential and farm buildings with associated boundary planting, which fragment views to the wider landscape. A96 traffic can also be seen at close range. **Predicted effect:** Close range views of the option, however the existing A96 is visible at close range and the option would be directly adjacent.	Medium sensitivity receptor Low magnitude of change	Minor adverse	n/a	Minor adverse
J-S-6	Heathfield (Residential)	**Baseline view:** The site is located approximately 0.1 km south of this receptor. Views to the east are open, although views to the north and north-east are restricted by evergreen woodland blocks and intervening vegetation. The existing A96 is located adjacent to the south and vehicles are highly visible. Electricity pylons and farm buildings are present in the view. **Predicted effect:** Close range views of the option. The existing A96 is visible at close range in the intervening view, partially limiting the change to the view.	Medium sensitivity receptor Medium magnitude of change	Moderate adverse	LV1, LV2, LV3, LV5, LV6	Moderate adverse
J-S-7	Exsting Local Route network from Pylon	**Baseline view:** The route has generally open views over medium scale flat, arable and pastoral fields. Views to the site are framed by woodland blocks and distant views are afforded towards hills to the south.	Medium sensitivity receptor	Minor adverse	n/a	Minor adverse

Visual receptor		Description of the Baseline View and Predicted Effects (reflecting combined sensitivity and magnitude)		Predicted visual effect	Assumed secondary mitigation	Predicted residual visual effect
Ref.	Name					
	Cottage to A96 (Recreational)	**Predicted effect:** Close range views of the option. The existing A96 is visible at close range in the intervening view and the option would increase the amount of road infrastructure within the view.	Low magnitude of change			
J-S-8	Property south of Burn of Feddan (Hillview Cottage) (Residential)	**Baseline view:** The site is located 0.6km north of this receptor. Views are generally open from this receptor. The view to the north, in the direction of the site, is characterised by: a gently rising landform; large scale, mixed agricultural fields, which have limited field boundary vegetation; and blocks of mainly evergreen woodland which restrict some views to the north and north west. Vehicles on the existing A96 are glimpsed on the horizon to the north, near the site. Darnaway Castle Garden and Designed Landscape (GDL) is within the view, 0.8km to the south-east, however there are no designated landscapes within the view north towards of the site. **Predicted effect:** Limited change to the view as the intervening landform filters the view. Possible glimpsed view of vehicles, as is the case with the existing A96.	High sensitivity receptor Low magnitude of change	Minor adverse	n/a	Minor adverse
J-S-9	Existing Local Route: Junction north of Hillview Cottage to A96 at Heathfield and Feddan (Recreational)	**Baseline view:** This route is surrounded by flat/gently undulating arable fields. Landform as well as field boundary vegetation and mixed woodland blocks in the landscape limit views towards the site. Brodie Castle GDL is glimpsed within the view to the north east, however the existing A96 is within the intervening landscape. **Predicted effect:** Limited change to the view as the intervening landform filters the view. Possible glimpsed view of vehicles, as is the case with the existing A96.	Medium sensitivity receptor Low magnitude of change	Minor adverse	n/a	Minor adverse
J-S-10	Feddan, Feddan Farm and Feddan Cottar House (Residential)	**Baseline view:** The site is located 0.1km north of these receptors. Views to the south and east are open, however views to the north and west are restricted by mainly evergreen woodland and a subtle rise in the landform. The existing A96 is located 0.1km to the north and vehicles are highly	Medium sensitivity receptor	Major adverse	LV1, LV2, LV3, LV5, LV6	**Major adverse**

Visual receptor		Description of the Baseline View and Predicted Effects (reflecting combined sensitivity and magnitude)		Predicted visual effect	Assumed secondary mitigation	Predicted residual visual effect
Ref.	Name					
		visible, albeit with some minor screening by trees located on the boundary of the property. Brodie Castle GDL is glimpsed within the view 0.7km to the north east, however the existing A96 is visible within the intervening landscape. **Predicted effect:** Close range views of the route option. Existing view of the A96 partially limits the change to the view, however the option would take a more easterly route and a proposed local access road overbridge would obstruct existing views to the east.	High magnitude of change			
J-S-11	Cotterton (includes Plyon Cottage and Cotteton Cottages) (Residential)	**Baseline view:** The site is located approximately 1.0km south of the receptors, however it is screened from view by intervening tree cover. The woodland cover to the south-east is within the boundary of the Brodie Castle GDL. **Predicted effect:** No change due to intervening tree cover screening views.	High sensitivity receptor No magnitude of change	No change	n/a	No change
J-S-12	Earlsmill (Residential)	**Baseline view:** The site is located within 0.5km to the north of this receptor. The view towards the site is characterised by: moderate-scale farmland which is bounded by mature tree cover and hedgerows; and a gently undulating landform. A portion of the woodland cover to the north is within the Brodie Castle GDL. **Predicted effect:** The option would be largely screened by intervening tree cover. There would be potential glimpsed views of the option, particularly during winter months when trees are not in leaf.	High sensitivity receptor Low magnitude of change	Minor adverse	n/a	Minor adverse
J-S-13	Blinkbonny (including Rowan Cottage) (Residential)	**Baseline view:** The site is located within 0.1km to the south of these houses. The view towards the site is characterised by: moderate-scale farmland which is bounded by mature tree cover and hedgerows; and a gently undulating landform. The properties are located directly adjacent to the existing A96 which is visible at close range.	High sensitivity receptor High magnitude of change	Major adverse	LV1, LV2, LV3, LV5, LV6	**Major adverse**

Visual receptor		Description of the Baseline View and Predicted Effects (reflecting combined sensitivity and magnitude)		Predicted visual effect	Assumed secondary mitigation	Predicted residual visual effect
Ref.	Name					
		A portion of the woodland cover to the north is within the boundary of the Brodie Castle GDL. **Predicted effect:** Close range, glimpsed views of the option would be possible. The option comprises an overbridge for a local access road also at this point. The existing A96 comprises an existing part of the view, albeit in the opposite direction and the addition of the option would mean that roads would be visible in most directions from the receptor. Adjacent tree cover would limit change to the view to the south due to the option, however the option would form a fundamental part of the view.				
J-S-14	Brodie (including campsite) (Residential)	**Baseline view:** The site is located within 0.3km to the south of this small settlement. The view towards the site is characterised by: moderate-scale farmland which is bounded by mature tree cover; and a gently undulating landform. The properties at located directly adjacent to the existing A96 which is visible at close range. There is no value attributed to the view, although the woodland cover directly to the north is within the Brodie Castle GDL. **Predicted effect:** Close range views of the option would be possible. An overbridge for a local access road would also be visible to the south-west at this point. The option would form a fundamental part of the view from many properties. The existing A96 comprises part of the current view, albeit in the opposite direction and the addition of the option would mean that roads would be visible in most directions from the receptor.	High sensitivity receptor High magnitude of change	Major adverse	LV1, LV2, LV3, LV5, LV6	**Major adverse**
J-S-15	Brodie Castle (Recreational)	**Baseline view:** This visitor attraction includes a house at the centre of well wooded grounds. The woodland cover limits views out to the surrounding landscape, enclosing visibility, however some ground level views out are possible to the south-east where tree clearance has occurred. This receptor comprises the Brodie Castle GDL. **Predicted effect:** It is predicted that the option would be largely screened from view from within the grounds towards the option, however the Forres West junction and associated lighting would potentially be glimpsed as some	High sensitivity receptor Low magnitude of change	Moderate adverse	LV1, LV2, LV3, LV5, LV6	Moderate adverse

Visual receptor		Description of the Baseline View and Predicted Effects (reflecting combined sensitivity and magnitude)		Predicted visual effect	Assumed secondary mitigation	Predicted residual visual effect
Ref.	Name					
		tree clearance has occurred at the south-eastern extent of the Castle estate, particularly during winter months when trees are not in leaf. Glimpsed views to the south east would also be likely from the castle upper storeys.				
J-S-16	Tearie Farm (Residential)	**Baseline view:** The site is located within 0.2km to the north of this receptor. The view towards the site is characterised by: open, large-scale arable farmland; a very gently undulating landform; and large belts of woodland, particularly to the north of the site, which partially restrict the openness of views here. The existing A96 is partially visible, approximately 0.5km south-west and a line of pylons pass across the view to the south. There is no value attributed to the view, although woodland cover to the north is within the Brodie Castle GDL. **Predicted effect:** Close range views of the option would be possible. The option comprises the Forres West junction also at this point. The existing A96 is within the view and the property has boundary screens (trees and farm buildings), however the option would form a fundamental part of the view.	Medium sensitivity receptor High magnitude of change	Major adverse	LV1, LV2, LV3, LV5, LV6, LV7	**Major adverse**
J-S-17	Longley (Residential)	**Baseline view:** The site is located within 0.2km to the south of this receptor. The receptor is in a reasonably open position and the view is characterised by: large-scale farmland which is bounded by mature trees and hedgerow; and a gently undulating landform. A railway line is located directly to the south, however it is low level and doesn't restrict views out. There is an existing view of the A96. **Predicted effect:** Close range views of the option would be possible. The option would form a fundamental part of the view, in particular the Forres West junction. Mitigation planting beside the proposed option could reduce the level of visual effect once established.	Medium sensitivity receptor High magnitude of change	Major adverse	LV1, LV2, LV3, LV5, LV6, LV7	**Moderate adverse**
J-S-18	Banarach and adjacent properties (Residential)	**Baseline view:** The site is located 0.7km to the south of this receptor. The receptor is in a reasonably open position and the view is characterised by: medium-scale farmland, gently undulating landform and mature trees and hedgerow which screen the site.	High sensitivity receptor	No change	n/a	No change

Visual receptor		Description of the Baseline View and Predicted Effects (reflecting combined sensitivity and magnitude)		Predicted visual effect	Assumed secondary mitigation	Predicted residual visual effect
Ref.	Name					
		Predicted effect: No change due to intervening tree cover screening views.	No magnitude of change			
J-S-19	Local route – track beside Newton Dalvey (Recreational)	**Baseline view:** This track is afforded open views across the surrounding rural landscape. Views to the south, in the direction of the site are open and across large scale mixed fields. Woodland cover to the south-west and along the River Findhorn provides a backdrop to views. There are no other notable elements of urban infrastructure within the view. Considering value attributed to the view, to the south-west the wooded perimeter of Darnaway Castle GDL is visible, located 0.4 km away. **Predicted effect:** The option directly crosses the route and it would form a considerable part of the view, including the overbridge.	Medium sensitivity receptor Medium magnitude of change	Moderate adverse	LV1, LV2, LV3, LV5, LV6, LV7	**Moderate adverse**
J-S-20	Newton of Dalvey Farmhouse (Residential)	**Baseline view:** Some boundary vegetation surrounds this receptor, however it is in an open, rural position with views out to the surrounding landscape from ground level. Views to the south, in the direction of the site are open and across large-scale, mixed agricultural fields. Woodland cover to the south-west and along the River Findhorn provides a backdrop to views. There are no other notable elements of urban infrastructure within the view. Considering value attributed to the view, to the south-west the wooded perimeter of Darnaway Castle GDL is visible, located 0.4 km away. **Predicted effect:** The proposed mainline would be in relative proximity (approx. 0.5 km) to the south and is on proposed embankment as it approaches the Findhorn bridge crossing, elevating it within the view. Intervening tree cover would limit the extent to which the option would be visible. The option would form a considerable part of the view from the receptor including to the overbridge and the bridge over the River Findhorn.	High sensitivity receptor Medium magnitude of change	Moderate adverse	LV1, LV2, LV3, LV5, LV6, LV7	**Moderate adverse**
J-S-21	Core path - CP-FR10 (Recreational)	**Baseline view:** This path has a position beside the River Findhorn and has a view south along the river corridor towards the site. The river is reasonably wide and open beside the path, albeit with some scrub vegetation and tree cover beside its banks.	High sensitivity receptor	Negligible	n/a	Negligible

Visual receptor		Description of the Baseline View and Predicted Effects (reflecting combined sensitivity and magnitude)		Predicted visual effect	Assumed secondary mitigation	Predicted residual visual effect
Ref.	Name					
		There is no documented value attributed to the view nor is there a clear view of a protected landscape (woodland at the eastern extent of Darnaway Castle is potentially glimpsed). **Predicted effect:** Possible glimpsed view of the option during winter months, however vegetation beside the river screens views out.	Negligible magnitude of change			
J-S-22	Riverview Park (Residential)	**Baseline view:** The primary orientation of the single storey chalets varies throughout the park. However, there are key views to the south and west across the site. Views out to the west are immediately screened by tree cover beside the River Findhorn and to the south a reasonable level of tree cover near Mundole provides a partial screen. To the east, in the most part the view is more open and is of flat and open mixed agricultural fields. **Predicted effect:** The option would be in relative proximity (approx. 0.4 km) to the south and would be on proposed embankment as it approaches the Findhorn bridge crossing, elevating it within the view. Intervening tree cover would partially limit the extent to which the option would be visible. However, the option would form a fundamental part of the view from some properties in a southerly and easterly direction.	High sensitivity receptor High magnitude of change	Major adverse	LV1, LV2, LV3, LV5, LV6	**Major adverse**
J-S-23	Mundole properties (includes Mundole Farm) (Residential)	**Baseline view:** This group of properties is surrounded by tree cover, however there are intermittent views out across the surrounding landscape. Where views are possible to the west, north and east, large scale mixed agricultural fields are visible. To the south, a rise in the landform and a large area of woodland screens any views. **Predicted effect:** The option would be located in relative proximity (approx. 0.2 km) to the south. Surrounding vegetation is predicted to partially restrict views of the option, however it is likely that it would form a fundamental part of the view	High sensitivity receptor Medium magnitude of change	Moderate adverse	LV1, LV2, LV3, LV5, LV6	**Moderate adverse**

Visual receptor		Description of the Baseline View and Predicted Effects (reflecting combined sensitivity and magnitude)		Predicted visual effect	Assumed secondary mitigation	Predicted residual visual effect
Ref.	Name					
J-S-24	Properties on Red Craig (Residential)	**Baseline view:** The primary orientation of these single storey properties is away from the site and into the road (Red Craig) itself. Any views out are partially screened by intermittent tree and hedgerow to the south of Red Craig. However, in the most part the view is of flat and open mixed agricultural fields. Tree cover is visible beside the River Findhorn to the west and the Riverview caravan park is visible located 0.2 km to the south-west. The site is located 0.7km south-west of these receptors and is largely screened by intervening vegetation. **Predicted effect:** The option would be located approximately 0.7km to the south-west and would be on embankment/bridge. Intervening screening features, such as tree cover, would limit the extent to which the option would be visible to a glimpse at most.	High sensitivity receptor Negligible magnitude of change	Negligible	n/a	Negligible
J-S-25	Local route – track through Limekilns Wood (Recreational)	**Baseline view:** This track is enclosed entirely by surrounding woodland, however passes directly across the site. **Predicted effect:** The route passes directly through the Scheme and the view of the option on embankment at proximity would form a considerable part of the view, albeit for only part of the option.	High sensitivity receptor Medium magnitude of change	Moderate adverse	LV1, LV2, LV5, LV6, LV7	**Moderate adverse**
J-S-26	Local route - U83E, Ferry Road (Recreational)	**Baseline view:** This route passes through both the site. Views out vary between being reasonably enclosed through woodland and open through agricultural fields. **Predicted effect:** The route passes directly through the Scheme and the view of the option on embankment at proximity would form a considerable part of the view, albeit for only part of the option. Wider views would be limited by surrounding woodland.	Medium sensitivity receptor Medium magnitude of change	Moderate adverse	LV1, LV2, LV5, LV6, LV7	**Moderate adverse**
J-S-27	Gean Cottages (Residential)	**Baseline view:** This receptor is located within the northern extent of Limekilns Wood and views out are largely screened by the surrounding woodland. However, a view from the frontage of the receptor is possible to the south along the existing minor road corridor towards the site.	High sensitivity receptor	Minor adverse	n/a	Minor adverse

Visual receptor		Description of the Baseline View and Predicted Effects (reflecting combined sensitivity and magnitude)		Predicted visual effect	Assumed secondary mitigation	Predicted residual visual effect
Ref.	Name					
		Predicted effect: A direct view is possible towards the Scheme, however depending on the level of tree cover retained following construction of the option, it is assumed that at most there would be glimpsed views of the option through the trees.	Low magnitude of change			
J-S-28	Sonnagreen properties (Sonnagreen, Whitley House, Connamara and Caleta House) (Residential)	**Baseline view:** This group of properties is largely screened to the north-west by a block of woodland and to the south-east by a localised rise in the landform. Views out are reasonably enclosed, however where views are possible, surrounding mixed agricultural fields are visible. Views to the south-west and south-east are screened by intervening woodland. **Predicted effect:** The option would be in relative proximity (approx. 0.5 km) to the south, however surrounding vegetation would limit views of the option such that it would at most form a glimpsed view at an oblique angle.	High sensitivity receptor Negligible magnitude of change	Negligible	n/a	Negligible
J-S-29	Properties at Whiterow (Residential)	**Baseline view:** Properties at Whiterow are enclosed by tree cover, particularly on the eastern boundary. To the west, the large agricultural buildings also restrict views. Views out are therefore restricted however a view in a south and south-westerly direction towards the site is possible through gaps in the surrounding screen elements, albeit 0.7km away. **Predicted effect:** There is a potential view of the option in a south or south-westerly direction, particularly due to the elevation of the junction and associated lighting, however this would be limited to a small extent of the view, particularly given the amount of surrounding screening.	High sensitivity receptor Low magnitude of change	Minor adverse	n/a	Minor adverse
J-S-30	Local route - U85E, Old Blairs Road (Recreational)	**Baseline view:** This route is enclosed entirely by surrounding woodland. However, its route crosses the site. **Predicted effect:** The route is enclosed by woodland, however it passes through the option and would have close range views. It is predicted that the option would form a considerable part of the view from the path, albeit for a short extent.	Medium sensitivity receptor Medium magnitude of change	Moderate adverse	LV1, LV2, LV5, LV6, LV7	**Moderate adverse**

Visual receptor		Description of the Baseline View and Predicted Effects (reflecting combined sensitivity and magnitude)		Predicted visual effect	Assumed secondary mitigation	Predicted residual visual effect
Ref.	Name					
J-S-31	Mannachie Lodge (Residential)	**Baseline view:** The site is located 0.2 km south-east of this receptor. Views from this receptor are largely enclosed. Views towards the site are characterised by deciduous woodland planting which allows glimpses of the site to the south east. The Dallas Dhu Distillery is also in view. **Predicted effect:** No change to the view due to screening by surrounding woodland.	High sensitivity receptor No magnitude of change	No change	n/a	No change
J-S-32	Moray cycle route: Forres Foray from Manachie Farm to Wardend Wood (Recreational)	**Baseline view:** This route crosses the site and follows the eastern edge of Office Wood. Views from other points of the route towards the site extend over small scale, undulating pastoral fields which are framed by mixed woodland. **Predicted effect:** Direct views of the amended local access road as part of the option, including overbridge upon embankment.	High sensitivity receptor Medium magnitude of change	Moderate adverse	LV1, LV2, LV5, LV6, LV7	**Moderate adverse**
J-S-33	Mannachie properties (Residential)	**Baseline view:** The site is located 0.5km south of these receptors. Views from this receptor are varied. Towards the site views are characterised by: Dhallas Dhu distillery buildings which lie at close range and which fragment views; and small scale, pastoral fields in the immediate view, which are framed by mature tree planting and deciduous woodland. Views to the south follow a downwards slope. **Predicted effect:** Possible glimpsed views to the south of the amended local access road overbridge and cleared woodland. The main option would be glimpsed at most due to screening by intervening buildings and vegetation.	High sensitivity receptor Low magnitude of change	Minor adverse	n/a	Minor adverse
J-S-34	Dava Way and Dallas Dhu picnic site (Recreational)	**Baseline view:** The Dava Way borders the Dallas Dhu Distillery and the picnic site is located at the southern extent of the distillery car park. There would be views of the site of the proposed overbridge at the eastern extent of Office Wood. From the Dava Way it is visually contained along some sections, whilst others offer elevated views of the surrounding lower-lying landscape. The site is at close range to this route, passing over small scale, undulating pastoral fields which are framed by mixed woodland.	High sensitivity receptor High magnitude of change	Major adverse	LV1, LV2, LV5, LV6, LV7	**Major adverse**

Visual receptor		Description of the Baseline View and Predicted Effects (reflecting combined sensitivity and magnitude)		Predicted visual effect	Assumed secondary mitigation	Predicted residual visual effect
Ref.	Name					
		Predicted effect: There would be views of the proposed overbridge from the picnic site, however the Dava Way passes directly through the Scheme and would have close range views. It is predicted that the option would form a fundamental element of the view from the path.				
J-S-35	Core Path CPFR20 - 01, 02, 03 (Recreational)	**Baseline view:** This route is adjacent to mixed woodland on its northern side, with some sections enclosed entirely by woodland. Views towards the site are from an elevated position and are over mixed arable and pastoral fields, divided by field boundary which restricts views in this direction. **Predicted effect:** The path would have partially restricted views to the south towards the option with much of the option screened by woodland.	Medium sensitivity receptor Low magnitude of change	Minor adverse	n/a	Minor adverse
J-S-36	Sanquhar Mains, Sanquhar Mains Cottages (Residential)	**Baseline view:** The site is located 0.2km south of these receptors. Views from the receptors are generally open in all directions aside from towards the south, where views are more restricted. The view is characterised by: flat landform; small scale, mixed arable and pastoral fields which are divided by hedgerows; and mixed woodland planting which frames the view of the nearby field pattern. **Predicted effect:** The properties would have open views to the south towards the option which would form a considerable part of the view at close range. However, views would be partially screened by vegetation along the Burn of Mossett. The inclusion of secondary mitigation measures within the option would partially integrate it into the existing view.	High sensitivity receptor Medium magnitude of change	Moderate adverse	LV1, LV2, LV3, LV5, LV6	**Moderate adverse**
J-S-37	Existing Local Route: Crossing B9010 (Recreational)	**Baseline view:** This route is almost entirely bordered by mixed woodland on its south-eastern side. Glimpses of the site are possible to the south west and east, over undulating, pastoral landform and through intervening vegetation. **Predicted effect:** Possible glimpsed view of the option to the south where gaps in vegetation allow.	Medium sensitivity receptor Negligible magnitude of change	Negligible	n/a	Negligible
J-S-38	Existing Local Route: Redhill Junction to	**Baseline view:** This route is located within medium scale, mixed arable and pastoral fields which are interspersed with mixed woodland. The site is visible	Medium sensitivity receptor	Moderate adverse	LV1, LV2, LV3, LV5, LV6	**Moderate adverse**

Visual receptor		Description of the Baseline View and Predicted Effects (reflecting combined sensitivity and magnitude)		Predicted visual effect	Assumed secondary mitigation	Predicted residual visual effect
Ref.	Name					
	Marcassie Farm (Recreational)	within a relatively flat landform, although planting beside the route limits views out to glimpses. **Predicted effect:** Open views to the north of the option which would form a considerable part of the view.	Medium magnitude of change			
J-S-39	Marcassie Farm properties (Residential)	**Baseline view:** The site is located 0.2km north of these receptors. The view from some of the properties are filtered by boundary vegetation. The view towards the site is characterised by: gently undulating landform; and small – medium scale mixed, arable and pastoral fields divided by intervening vegetation. Other than the presence of Grant Park and Cluny Hill, which can be seen in the distance, there is no documented value attributed to the view. The inclusion of secondary mitigation measures within the option would partially integrate it into the existing view and limit the visual change. **Predicted effect:** Open, close-range views to the north of the option which would form a fundamental part of the view, despite some minor filtering of views by boundary vegetation, especially where raised on embankment.	High sensitivity receptor High magnitude of change	Major adverse	LV1, LV2, LV3, LV5, LV6	**Major adverse**
J-S-40	Existing Local Route: Rafford to Cathay Nursing Home (Recreational)	**Baseline view:** This route directly crosses the site and is located within medium scale arable and pastoral fields which are framed by mixed woodland blocks. Distinctive mature roadside policy trees. **Predicted effect:** The route passes through the Scheme and would have close range views. It is predicted that the option would form a fundamental element of the view from the route.	Medium sensitivity receptor High magnitude of change	Major adverse	LV1, LV2, LV3, LV5, LV6	**Major adverse**
J-S-41	Wester Newforres properties (Residential)	**Baseline view:** The site is located 0.1km east of these properties. Views from these receptors extend to the wider landscape, with partial screening due to field boundary vegetation and mixed woodland. Towards the site, views are characterised by: flat, medium scale, mixed arable and pastoral fields; blocks of flat and undulating wooded landform, and scattered residences.	High sensitivity receptor High magnitude of change	Major adverse	LV1, LV2, LV3, LV5, LV6	**Major adverse**

Visual receptor		Description of the Baseline View and Predicted Effects (reflecting combined sensitivity and magnitude)		Predicted visual effect	Assumed secondary mitigation	Predicted residual visual effect
Ref.	Name					
		Predicted effect: Open, close-range views of the option which would form a fundamental part of the view, despite some minor filtering of views by boundary vegetation.				
J-S-42	Properties on Knock (west) (Residential)	**Baseline view:** The site is located 0.4km north of these receptors. The view from these receptors are enclosed to the south and east, and partially enclosed in other directions. The view north and west is characterised by: elevated and partially filtered views over a relatively flat landform; and small to medium scale mixed, arable and pastoral fields divided by intervening vegetation which contribute to fragmenting views in this direction. The B9010 and vehicles can be seen at close range. Other than the presence of Grant Park and Cluny Hill, which can be seen in the distance, there is no documented value attributed to the view. **Predicted effect:** The properties are orientated towards the Scheme and would have views of the option which would be partially screened by woodland to the west.	High sensitivity receptor Medium magnitude of change	Moderate adverse	LV1, LV2, LV3, LV5, LV6	**Moderate adverse**
J-S-43	Existing Local Route: Minor road junction between Knock and Temple stone to B9010 (Recreational)	**Baseline view:** This route is set within mixed arable and pastoral fields which gently slope towards the west. Road side planting creates filtered views towards the site which sits at close range. **Predicted effect:** Open views to the north and west of the option which would form a considerable part of the view, including an overbridge raised on embankments.	Medium sensitivity receptor Medium magnitude of change	Moderate adverse	LV1, LV2, LV3, LV5, LV6	**Moderate adverse**
J-S-44	Tarras, Tarras Cottages (Residential)	**Baseline view:** The site is located 0.9km to the south and east of these receptors. Views in these directions are immediately screened by woodland planting and sloped landform. Features include the existing A96, minor roads, neighbouring residences and electricity pylons **Predicted effect:** No change	High sensitivity receptor No magnitude of change	No change	n/a	No change

Visual receptor		Description of the Baseline View and Predicted Effects (reflecting combined sensitivity and magnitude)		Predicted visual effect	Assumed secondary mitigation	Predicted residual visual effect
Ref.	Name					
J-S-45	Moray cycle route: Forres Foray from St Leonards Road to Redhill (Recreational)	**Baseline view:** This route crosses the site directly and follows a minor road through mixed woodland, arable and pastoral fields, and a sloped landform. Views from other points of the route towards the site vary, with some elevated views above Wester Newforres but many views screened by woodland and landform undulations. **Predicted effect:** The route passes through the Scheme and would have close range views. It is predicted that the option would form a considerable element of the view from a short section of the route.	Medium sensitivity receptor Medium magnitude of change	Moderate adverse	LV1, LV2, LV3, LV5, LV6	**Moderate adverse**
J-S-46	Blervie, Mains of Blervie (Residential)	**Baseline view:** The site is located 0.3 km north-west of these receptors. Views from these receptors are relatively contained and are characterised by: boundary and road side vegetation which cause filtered views; gently undulating, medium scale, mixed arable and pastoral fields bordered by mixed woodland blocks. The B9010 and vehicles can be seen at close range. Other than the presence of Grant Park and Cluny Hill which can be seen in the distance, there is no documented value attributed to the view. **Predicted effect:** Despite some boundary screening and screening of parts of the route by woodland cover, the option would form a fundamental part of the view at close range, including the overbridge raised on embankment.	High sensitivity receptor High magnitude of change	Major adverse	LV1, LV2, LV3, LV5, LV6	**Major adverse**
J-S-47	Easter Newforres, Sycamore Cottage (Residential)	**Baseline view:** The site is located 0.3km south-east of these receptors. The view from these receptors is generally more restricted towards the west, and open in all other directions. Views towards the site are characterised by: mixed, medium scale, arable and pastoral fields, which are framed by mixed woodland blocks; and the gently sloping north west facing landform of Wester Newforres Wood. **Predicted effect:** The option would form a fundamental part of the view at close range, crossing open views. Its visibility would be increased due to its location on embankments and the presence of an overbridge.	High sensitivity receptor High magnitude of change	Major adverse	LV5, LV7	**Major adverse**

Visual receptor		Description of the Baseline View and Predicted Effects (reflecting combined sensitivity and magnitude)		Predicted visual effect	Assumed secondary mitigation	Predicted residual visual effect
Ref.	Name					
J-S-48	Grangehall Cottages, Grange Hall (Residential)	**Baseline view:** The site is located 1.0km to the south east of these receptors. The view towards the site is largely screened due to extensive boundary vegetation and neighbouring woodland belts. However, gaps in tree cover potentially provide framed views of the site. Agricultural fields in this direction are small scale, gently sloped and framed by woodland. Features in the landscape include minor roads, neighbouring residential properties and historic landscape features. **Predicted effect:** Medium range views towards the Forres East junction to the south-east. Views would largely be screened by tree cover on the boundary of the property, however views through gaps in the tree cover are possible, particularly during winter months when trees are not in leaf. The option would form a small part of the view.	High sensitivity receptor Low magnitude of change	Minor adverse	n/a	Minor adverse
J-S-49	Route to south of Forres Business Park (Recreational)	**Baseline view:** This route directly crosses the site and is approximately 0.5km to the north west. Views are generally open and encompass gently undulating pastoral fields, interspersed with boundary vegetation and woodland blocks and scattered residences. **Predicted effect:** Close range views of the option, including the Forres East junction. The option would form a considerable part of the view, its prominence increased due to its large extent and being raised on embankment.	Medium sensitivity receptor Medium magnitude of change	Moderate adverse	LV5, LV7	**Moderate adverse**
J-S-50	Templestones properties (west facing) (Residential)	**Baseline view:** The site is located 0.8km west and north of these receptors. Views from these receptors are generally filtered due to intervening screening features. Views towards the site are characterised by: medium scale arable fields divided by a combination of hedgerow planting, mixed woodland blocks and neighbouring residential boundary vegetation. Distant hills to the west are visible. **Predicted effect:** Views would likely be screened by intervening tree cover, however there may be glimpsed views during winter months when trees are not in leaf.	High sensitivity receptor Negligible magnitude of change	Negligible	n/a	Negligible

Visual receptor		Description of the Baseline View and Predicted Effects (reflecting combined sensitivity and magnitude)		Predicted visual effect	Assumed secondary mitigation	Predicted residual visual effect
Ref.	Name					
J-S-51	Sheraton House, Chuillin, Hillhead Farm, Rafford Road Cottages, Leys of Hillhead (Residential)	**Baseline view:** The site is located approximately 0.1km from these receptors. The views towards the site are characterised by sloping landform which partially screens views. For some properties, views towards the site are fragmented or partially screened by intervening woodland or extensive boundary vegetation. Features in the landscape include the existing A96, minor road networks, neighbouring residents and farm buildings, and electricity pylons. **Predicted effect:** Close range views of the option, including the Forres East junction. The existing A96 is within the view. The option would form a fundamental part of the view, particularly the Forres East junction.	High sensitivity receptor High magnitude of change	Major adverse	LV2, LV3, LV5, LV6, LV7	**Major adverse**
J-S-52	Wester Lawrenceton properties (Residential)	**Baseline view:** The site is located 0.8km north-west of this receptor. Views north from this receptor are extensive, although in other directions views are filtered due to screening features. Views towards the site are characterised by: boundary planting and mixed woodland creating framed views; and flat, arable fields that are scattered with residential and farm buildings. Findhorn Bay can be seen glimpsed to the north, however intervening vegetation screens much of this view. **Predicted effect:** Medium range views of the option which would form a considerable part of the view. The inclusion of secondary mitigation measures within the option could partially integrate it into the existing view.	High sensitivity receptor Medium magnitude of change	Moderate adverse	LV3, LV5	**Moderate adverse**
J-S-53	Woodhead properties, Mains of Struthers & Mains of Struthers Cottages (Residential)	**Baseline view:** The site is located between 0.1km to 0.6km south of these receptors. The view towards the site is characterised by gently rolling agricultural and pastoral fields interspersed with small woodland blocks and residential properties. Wooded hills can be seen in the distance. Views west are local due to boundary planting and woodland blocks and views east are more extensive with large scale agricultural fields extending towards more undulating landform and woodland blocks on the horizon. Features in the landscape include the existing A96 and neighbouring residences and farm buildings.	High sensitivity receptor Low magnitude of change	Minor adverse	n/a	Minor adverse

Visual receptor		Description of the Baseline View and Predicted Effects (reflecting combined sensitivity and magnitude)		Predicted visual effect	Assumed secondary mitigation	Predicted residual visual effect
Ref.	Name					
		Predicted effect: Close range views of the option. The view would include the Forres East junction. The option would form a small part of the view due to screening by an intervening sloping landform and the existing A96 is visible within the intervening view.				
J-S-54	Lochaber, Easter Lawrenceton & Easter Cottage (Residential)	**Baseline view:** The site is located 1.0km west of these receptors. Views out are largely restricted by adjacent woodland blocks, although views of the site are possible through boundary vegetation and intervening woodland. This view includes small to medium scale fields, bounded by tree and hedgerow cover. **Predicted effect:** Medium range views of the option which would form a considerable part of the view, despite some vegetation screening on the boundary of the properties. The inclusion of secondary mitigation measures within the option, particularly for the Forres East junction, would partially integrate it into the existing view.	High sensitivity receptor Medium magnitude of change	Moderate adverse	LV5, LV7	**Moderate adverse**
J-S-55	Local route to the north of the existing A96 (Recreational)	**Baseline view:** This route is located in close proximity to the site. Views to the west comprise small scale pastoral fields framed by woodland belts. Eastern views are extensive, consisting of large scale agricultural fields which vary in landform. **Predicted effect:** The option would be visible at close range from this route. However, the option would form a small part of the view due to screening by an intervening sloping landform and the existing A96 is visible within the view.	Medium sensitivity receptor Low magnitude of change	Minor adverse	n/a	Minor adverse
J-S-56	Hillcrest, Scotsburn (Residential)	**Baseline view:** The site is located approximately 0.1km south of these receptors. Views to the south are extensive and comprise of agricultural fields which are large in scale and framed by woodland. Wooded hills to the south can also be seen. Views to the west are characterised by flat agricultural fields which are expansive and extend towards distant woodland blocks. Views east are more local, comprising of medium scale pastoral fields, framed by woodland belts. Features in the landscape include the existing A96, minor road networks and neighbouring residences and farm properties.	Medium sensitivity receptor High magnitude of change	Major adverse	n/a	**Major adverse**

Visual receptor		Description of the Baseline View and Predicted Effects (reflecting combined sensitivity and magnitude)		Predicted visual effect	Assumed secondary mitigation	Predicted residual visual effect
Ref.	Name					
		Predicted effect: Close range views of the option. The option would form a fundamental part of the view due to screening by an intervening sloping landform and the existing A96 is visible within the view given its proximity and location on embankment at this point. Lighting at the Forres West junction would also potentially be visible to the west.				
J-S-57	Burgie Lodge, Burgie Lodge Cottages & Valley View (Residential)	**Baseline view:** The site is located approximately 0.3km north of these receptors. These properties are set in a relatively open, gently rolling, large-scale arable landscape. Mature tree and hedgerow planting on field boundaries and occasional blocks of woodland, limit views of the wider landscape. The view towards the site is in a northerly direction and includes a view of vehicles on the existing A96. **Predicted effect:** The option would be visible at close range to the north, particularly from Burgie Lodge. The option would form part of the view within an open landscape. The existing A96 is located within the existing view and this would increase the amount of road infrastructure within the view. The option would also be set at a lower elevation than the receptor, partially limiting its visual influence.	High sensitivity receptor High magnitude of change	Major adverse	LV2, LV3, LV5, LV6, LV7	**Major adverse**
J-S-58	Pindler's Croft (Residential)	**Baseline view:** The site is located approximately 0.3km north-west of this property. The view is reasonably expansive to the north, in the direction of the site from the elevated position of the property. Views take in the open, undulating agricultural landscape and include a long-range view of the Moray Firth. **Predicted effect:** The option would be visible at close range to the north-west. The option would form a fundamental part of the view within an open landscape.	High sensitivity receptor High magnitude of change	Major adverse	LV3, LV5	**Major adverse**
J-S-59	Dalvey Cottages (Residential)	**Baseline view:** The site is located approximately 0.5km south-west of this receptor.	High sensitivity receptor	No change	n/a	No change

Visual receptor		Description of the Baseline View and Predicted Effects (reflecting combined sensitivity and magnitude)		Predicted visual effect	Assumed secondary mitigation	Predicted residual visual effect
Ref.	Name					
		This property is set in a relatively open, large-scale arable landscape. Mature tree and hedgerow planting on field boundaries and occasional blocks of woodland, limit views of the wider landscape, particularly to the south. The view towards the option is in a southerly direction and is restricted by vegetation. **Predicted effect:** Views would likely be screened by intervening tree cover.	No magnitude of change			
J-S-60	South Lodge & Hillhead Cottages (Residential)	**Baseline view:** The site is located 0.5km to the east of these receptors. Views to the south are slightly elevated and generally encompass gently sloped pastoral fields, interspersed with boundary vegetation and woodland blocks. Scattered residences are nestled within the landscape and are in front of a wooded backdrop. Features in the landscape include the existing A96, which is immediately visible and highly prominent in the view, minor road networks, neighbouring residents and farm buildings, and electricity pylons. Historic landscape features linked to Grange Hall estate. **Predicted effect:** Medium range, oblique views of the option. The existing A96 is within the view which would limit the change to the view due to the option, as would roadside vegetation. The Forres East junction would be visible within the view. The option would form a considerable part of the view from Hillhead Cottages, particularly the Forres East junction.	High sensitivity receptor Medium magnitude of change	Moderate adverse	LV2, LV3, LV5, LV6, LV7	**Moderate adverse**
J-S-61	Woodside (Residential)	**Baseline view:** This property is located 0.1km south of the site. The property is partly surrounded by tree cover, including an avenue of trees along the adjacent local road which is located on the northern edge of the Darnaway GDL. The view to the north is more open and is across an adjacent field and the vehicles on the existing A96 are clearly visible. This receptor is located directly adjacent to the Darnaway GDL, which comprises dense woodland within the view. **Predicted effect:** The option would be directly visible at close-range to the north and north-east. The option would be on embankment here, increasing its potential visibility. The Darnaway GDL is located directly to the south and east and the option interface with the view of the designation.	High sensitivity receptor High magnitude of change	Major adverse	LV1, LV2, LV3, LV5, LV6, LV7	**Major adverse**

Visual receptor		Description of the Baseline View and Predicted Effects (reflecting combined sensitivity and magnitude)		Predicted visual effect	Assumed secondary mitigation	Predicted residual visual effect
Ref.	Name					
J-S-62	Path network, Darnaway Castle (Recreational)	**Baseline view:** This network is on the boundary of and within the northern extent of the Darnaway Castle GDL. It comprises dense woodland and views out beyond the woodland are screened, however views from routes on the edge of the woodland are less restricted This receptor is located directly within the Darnaway GDL, which comprises dense woodland within all views. **Predicted effect:** Surrounding woodland cover would partially restrict views of the option, however the option would be visible at close range as paths directly cross the option and more open views would be possible from routes on the edge of the estate.	High sensitivity receptor High magnitude of change	Major adverse	LV1, LV2, LV3, LV5, LV6, LV7	**Major adverse**

Hillhead to Lhanbryde Options

Table 1.3 contains a description of the baseline view and potential visual effects on receptors located with the study area of the option to the north of Elgin (see Figure 15.2, Volume 3).

Table 0 Predicted Visual Effects for Hillhead to Lhanbryde North Option

Visual receptor		Description of the Baseline View and Predicted Effects (reflecting combined sensitivity and magnitude)		Predicted visual effect	Assumed secondary mitigation	Predicted residual visual effect
Ref.	Name					
K-N-1	Burgie Lodge, Burgie Lodge Cottages & Valley View (Residential)	**Baseline view:** The site is located approximately 0.3km north of this receptor. These properties are set in a relatively open, gently rolling, large-scale arable landscape. Mature tree and hedgerow planting on field boundaries and occasional blocks of woodland, limit views of the wider landscape. The view towards the site is in a northerly direction and includes a view of vehicles on the existing A96. **Predicted effect:** The option would be visible at close range to the north. The option would form a considerable part of the view within an open landscape. However, the existing A96 is located within the existing view, limiting the change that the new option would give rise to. The option would also be set at a lower elevation than the receptor, further limiting its visual influence.	Medium sensitivity receptor Medium magnitude of change	Moderate adverse	LV1, LV2, LV3, LV5, LV6	**Moderate adverse**
K-N-2	Newton of Struthers (Residential)	**Baseline view:** The site is located approximately 0.9km south of these receptors. The view towards the site comprises of gently undulating agricultural fields and occasional blocks of woodland which partially contain views. Partial views to distant wooded hills are afforded. Features in the landscape include scattered residences and farm buildings and minor road networks. **Predicted effect:** Medium-range views of the option. Gentle landform undulations and occasional small blocks of woodland would limit a view of the option. The existing A96 would be glimpsed in the intervening landscape. The option would form a small part of the view.	High sensitivity receptor Low magnitude of change	Minor adverse	n/a	Minor adverse

Visual receptor		Description of the Baseline View and Predicted Effects (reflecting combined sensitivity and magnitude)		Predicted visual effect	Assumed secondary mitigation	Predicted residual visual effect
Ref.	Name					
K-N-3	Distillery Cottages (Residential)	**Baseline view:** The site is located approximately 0.2km to the north of these receptors. The view towards the site is fragmented by boundary vegetation and local due to small scale agricultural fields framed by woodland belts. Views to the wider landscape are partially screened by woodland belts and large distillery buildings. Features in the view include neighbouring properties and minor road networks. **Predicted effect:** Close range views of the option. The existing A96 is at close range within the view, however the option would be highly visible within the view, particularly where raised on embankment and due to the collective effects of the new local link road. The option would form a considerable part of the view.	Medium sensitivity receptor Medium magnitude of change	Moderate adverse	LV1, LV2, LV3, LV5, LV6	**Moderate adverse**
K-N-4	East Grange Cottages (S of Railway) (Residential)	**Baseline view:** The site is located approximately 1km to the south. Glimpses of the site are possible, between woodland blocks and undulations in landform. Whilst views to the south and east of these receptors are extensive, views north and west are screened due to intervening railway, woodland and boundary vegetation. Features in the landscape include minor roads and neighbouring residences and farm buildings. **Predicted effect:** Possible glimpsed views of the option, however given the distance from the Scheme and the screening by intervening minor landform undulations, the option is likely to be glimpsed at most.	High sensitivity receptor Negligible magnitude of change	Negligible	n/a	Negligible
K-N-5	Existing route: Western edge of Alves Wood to A96 (Recreational)	**Baseline view:** This route crosses the site. The route is partially enclosed by woodland, however as it emerges from the woodland it offers extensive views towards the site. Views include flat stretches of agricultural and pastoral fields, with views towards distant woodland belts and undulating landform. The existing A96 is also visible at the northern end of the route. **Predicted effect:** The option would be visible at close range from this route as the option would cross it directly. The option would comprise a considerable change to the view from this receptor.	Medium sensitivity receptor Medium magnitude of change	Moderate adverse	LV1, LV2, LV3, LV5, LV6	**Moderate adverse**

Visual receptor		Description of the Baseline View and Predicted Effects (reflecting combined sensitivity and magnitude)		Predicted visual effect	Assumed secondary mitigation	Predicted residual visual effect
Ref.	Name					
K-N-6	New Mill properties (Newmill, Grange View and New Mill Cottage) (Residential)	**Baseline view:** The site is located approximately 0.2km south of these receptors. The view towards the receptors include large scale arable fields, which are flat and framed by woodland. Due to partial boundary vegetation, views to the wider landscape are fragmented or screened in places. Features in the landscape include the existing A96, and neighbouring residences and farm buildings. **Predicted effect:** Close-range views of the option, however the existing A96 is visible in the intervening view which would limit the change to the view.	Medium sensitivity receptor Low magnitude of change	Minor adverse	n/a	Minor adverse
K-N-7	Brodieshill Cottages, Brodieshill properties (Residential)	**Baseline view:** The site is located approximately 0.2km to the north of these receptors. The view towards the site is slightly elevated and comprises large scale, open agricultural fields. Hedgerow and field boundary vegetation in the foreground creates an element of screening from this perspective. Distant views are possible from higher properties and these extend to Findhorn Bay. Features in the landscape include neighbouring residential and farm buildings and minor road networks. The existing A96 is visible to the north. **Predicted effect:** Close range views of the option. The option would form a considerable part of the view.	Medium sensitivity receptor Medium magnitude of change	Moderate adverse	LV1, LV2, LV3, LV5, LV6	**Moderate adverse**
K-N-8	Gateside properties (Residential)	**Baseline view:** The site is located approximately 0.5km south of these receptors. Views to the south are of an immediate rise in the landform which limits views in that direction. An immediate feature in the landscape is the existing A96, and residential and farm properties. **Predicted effect:** The option is likely to be mostly screened from view partially due to rising landform and due to option being in cutting with only a limited view possible to the south-west.	Medium sensitivity receptor Low magnitude of change	Minor adverse	n/a	Minor adverse
K-N-9	Aspirational Core Path 22 (beside existing A96)	**Baseline view:** This is an aspirational route which follows the path of the existing A96.	Low sensitivity receptor	Minor adverse	n/a	Minor adverse

Visual receptor		Description of the Baseline View and Predicted Effects (reflecting combined sensitivity and magnitude)		Predicted visual effect	Assumed secondary mitigation	Predicted residual visual effect
Ref.	Name					
	(Recreational)	The path is set on the existing A96 and therefore has close range views of it. The site is located 0.5 km south and has limited visibility due to undulating landform in that direction. **Predicted effect:** Views of the option are likely. However, the intervening landform would limit the view of the option. and where visible, the existing A96 would be located within the existing view, further limiting the change that the new option would give rise to.	Low magnitude of change			
K-N-10	Morayscairn properties (Morayscairn, Dorranview and Birchbrae) (Residential)	**Baseline view:** The site is located 0.2km south of these receptors. The view towards the site is across a relatively open, gently rolling, large-scale arable landscape. Mature tree and hedgerow planting on field boundaries and occasional blocks of woodland, limit views of the wider landscape. **Predicted effect:** Views of the option would be possible, adjacent to the south-west. However, the intervening landform and woodland cover would partially restrict the view of the option which is in cutting to the south and south-east. Where visible and at close proximity, for example from Birchbrae the scheme would form a fundamental part of the view.	High sensitivity receptor Medium magnitude of change	Major adverse	LV1, LV2, LV3, LV5, LV6	**Major adverse**
K-N-11	Existing local routes within Alves Wood (Recreational)	**Baseline view:** These local routes are largely within Alves Wood, however they emerge from its western extent and have more open views in this location. To the west of Alves Wood the path is set on a slight promontory within a large-scale arable landscape. The view towards the site is in a southerly direction. **Predicted effect:** Views of the option would be possible, approximately 0.3km to the south, as the path emerges from Alves Wood. However, the intervening landform would limit the view of the option. Where visible, the scheme would form part of the view within a large-scale, open landscape.	Medium sensitivity receptor Low magnitude of change	Minor adverse	n/a	Minor adverse
K-N-12	Asleisk (includes Fairview & Asleisk Castle Farm)	**Baseline view:** The site is located approximately 0.7km north of these receptors. These properties are set in a relatively open, gently rolling, large-scale arable landscape. Mature tree and hedgerow planting on field boundaries and occasional blocks of woodland, limit views of the wider landscape. The	High sensitivity receptor	Moderate adverse	LV2, LV4, LV5, LV6	**Moderate adverse**

Visual receptor		Description of the Baseline View and Predicted Effects (reflecting combined sensitivity and magnitude)		Predicted visual effect	Assumed secondary mitigation	Predicted residual visual effect
Ref.	Name					
	(Residential)	view towards the site is in a northerly direction and includes a view of vehicles on the existing A96. **Predicted effect:** The option would be partly screened by the intervening landform and would be in cutting to the north; however it would be visible approximately 0.7km to the north-west and would form a considerable part of the view.	Medium magnitude of change			
K-N-13	Rheeves properties (Rheeves, Cothall and Toreduff) (Residential)	**Baseline view:** The site is located approximately 0.3km north of these receptors. These properties are set on a slight south facing slope and the view to the north is across medium scale fields which are in front of the wooded backdrop of Alves Wood. Despite the proximity of the site, some receptors would experience screening by intervening landform and vegetation. **Predicted effect:** Views of the option are likely, approximately 0.3km to the north. The scheme would form a fundamental part of the view at close range, although some sections would be in cutting.	High sensitivity receptor Medium magnitude of change	Major adverse	LV2, LV4, LV5, LV6	**Major adverse**
K-N-14	Runmerry, Pitearn, Moorside (Residential)	**Baseline view:** The site is located 0.9km to the south of these receptors. For the properties beside the existing A96, views towards the site are screened by surrounding vegetation. Runmerry has more extensive views east, comprising agricultural and pastoral fields, intervening planting and scattered residences; the site is still screened from view. For all properties, views south are immediately screened by Alves Wood and vegetation along the railway line. Features in the landscape include the existing A96, minor roads, neighbouring residences and farm buildings, and passing trains along the railway track. **Predicted effect:** No change to the view as the option would be screened by intervening woodland.	High sensitivity receptor No magnitude of change	No change	n/a	No change
K-N-15	Route between Brodieshill & Cloves	**Baseline view:** The site is located approximately directly adjacent to the north of this receptor at its closest point.	Medium sensitivity receptor	Moderate adverse	LV2, LV4, LV5, LV6	**Moderate adverse**

Visual receptor		Description of the Baseline View and Predicted Effects (reflecting combined sensitivity and magnitude)		Predicted visual effect	Assumed secondary mitigation	Predicted residual visual effect
Ref.	Name					
	(Recreational)	The route passes through gently undulating pastoral fields, interspersed with boundary vegetation and woodland blocks. **Predicted effect:** The option would be visible at close range and would form a fundamental part of the view, particularly where raised on embankment.	Medium magnitude of change			
K-N-16	Church Cottages, Drayton House & Manse (Residential)	**Baseline view:** The site is located approximately 0.2km south of these receptors. The view towards the site is slightly elevated and is characterised by agricultural fields which slope away towards the south. Woodland blocks and residences can be seen nearby, but landform screens full views of these features. Views extend across undulations in landform which then rise to meet the wooded backdrop of Monaughty Wood. Features in the landscape include minor roads, residential and farm properties, and electricity pylons. **Predicted effect:** Close range views of the option, including a new overbridge for a local access road. The option would form a fundamental part of the view and would interrupt the view towards the hills to the south.	High sensitivity receptor High magnitude of change	Major adverse	LV2, LV4, LV5, LV6	**Major adverse**
K-N-17	Monaughty properties (Monaughty, Lachlanwells, Sweethillock and Sweethillock Cottages) (Residential)	**Baseline view:** The site is located approximately 0.2km north of these receptors. These properties are set on a slight south facing slope and sections of the site is screened by the intervening landform and woodland to the north. **Predicted effect:** Views of the option are likely, approximately 0.3km to the north. The option would form a fundamental part of the view at relative close range and would be visible on the skyline in a northerly direction.	High sensitivity receptor High magnitude of change	Major adverse	LV2, LV4, LV5, LV6	**Major adverse**
K-N-18	Alves (southern extent) (Residential)	**Baseline view:** Note that this receptor grouping excludes Carsewell Steading (K-N-76). Alves is located on a slight slope which faces north, away from the site. It is surrounded by open arable fields. The existing A96 is located on the southern boundary of the village and a line of pylons is located 0.1km south which is in the line of view of the site. The site is theoretically visible, however this would be from a limited number of receptors on the southern boundary of the village and	High sensitivity receptor	Minor adverse	n/a	Minor adverse

Visual receptor		Description of the Baseline View and Predicted Effects (reflecting combined sensitivity and magnitude)		Predicted visual effect	Assumed secondary mitigation	Predicted residual visual effect
Ref.	Name					
		intervening screening (including the existing A96 and boundary vegetation) would limit a view of the site. **Predicted effect:** Views of the option are possible, approximately 0.3km to the south-east, which would include a limited view of a proposed overbridge The majority of Alves is set down at a lower level than the existing A96 and would not experience direct views of the option due to the screening effect of vegetation on the boundary of the village and the intervening landform. Where visible, the option would form a small part of the view and a view of the existing A96 would limit the change due to the new option.	Low magnitude of change			
K-N-19	Station House, The Sidings and Cottages (Residential)	**Baseline view:** The site is located approximately 0.1km to the east of these receptors. The view comprises undulating fields, with intervening blocks of woodland. Some distant views are afforded to the south-east and the southern edge of Alves can be seen to the north east. There is an immediate steep road embankment to the east of some of these properties which screens all views in this direction. Beyond the boundary planting and railway line planting, views to the south are fragmented but extensive and include agricultural fields which gradually slope down in a southwards direction. Distant views to wooded hills can be seen in this direction, with scattered residences in the foreground. Views to the west are largely screened by boundary vegetation, but fragmented views are afforded in this direction of large scale agricultural and pastoral fields. Distance views over rolling landscape to the south west is also possible. Features include minor road networks, neighbouring residences, and electricity pylons **Predicted effect:** Close range views of the option, particularly from Station House and The Sidings. The option would form a fundamental part of the view, albeit with some intervening vegetation and landform screening.	High sensitivity receptor High magnitude of change	Major adverse	LV1, LV2, LV3, LV5, LV6	**Major adverse**
K-N-20	Route between Cloves & Alves (and through to Easter Cloves)	**Baseline view:** The routes directly cross the site. The route passes through gently undulating pastoral fields, interspersed with boundary vegetation and woodland blocks.	Medium sensitivity receptor	Moderate adverse	LV1, LV2, LV3, LV5, LV6	**Moderate adverse**

Visual receptor		Description of the Baseline View and Predicted Effects (reflecting combined sensitivity and magnitude)		Predicted visual effect	Assumed secondary mitigation	Predicted residual visual effect
Ref.	Name					
	(Recreational)	**Predicted effect:** The option would directly cross the route and would form a considerable part of the view, albeit considering that the existing A96 and/or a railway line are within the existing view which would partially limit visual change. would	Medium magnitude of change			
K-N-21	Inchstelly properties (Residential)	**Baseline view:** The site is located approximately 0.8km south of these receptors. The view towards the site is fragmented and largely screened by intervening vegetation and undulations in landform. Fields are large in scale and planting is patchy. Features in the landscape include neighbouring residences, farm buildings, minor road networks and electricity pylons. **Predicted effect:** Medium range views of the option (0.8km distance), including the Elgin West junction. However, considering the intervening screening by tree cover on the access road to the property and in the intervening landscape, the option would form a small part of the view.	High sensitivity receptor Low magnitude of change	Minor adverse	n/a	Minor adverse
K-N-22	Cragganmore, Carsehill properties (Residential)	**Baseline view:** The site is located 0.6km to the north-west of these receptors. Views from these receptors are generally open to the west and south, whilst views north and east are less so. The view towards the site is characterised by: boundary vegetation and woodland which causes filtered views; sloped arable and pastoral fields scattered with residences and farm buildings: and hills can be seen in the distance. **Predicted effect:** Close range views of the option. The option would be clearly seen in elevated views, when looking at an oblique angle to the south west, particularly from the highest receptors. Here it would be seen crossing the strath below, raised on embankment. The option would form a considerable part of the view within the strath below due to the elevated position of the receptor. The inclusion of secondary mitigation measures within the option could assist in integrating it into the existing view and limiting the visual change.	High sensitivity receptor Medium magnitude of change	Major adverse	LV1, LV2, LV3, LV5, LV6	**Major adverse**
K-N-23	Cloves (Cloves, Green Rig, Cloves Cottage, Daisy Brae,	**Baseline view:** The site is located approximately 0.5km north west of these receptors.	High sensitivity receptor	Moderate adverse	LV2, LV4, LV5, LV6	**Moderate adverse**

Visual receptor		Description of the Baseline View and Predicted Effects (reflecting combined sensitivity and magnitude)		Predicted visual effect	Assumed secondary mitigation	Predicted residual visual effect
Ref.	Name					
	Wester Wards and Easter Cloves) (Residential)	The view towards the site is characterised by: undulating, large scale arable fields; occasional small blocks of woodland; and scattered residences and farm buildings. The view in this direction, however, is largely screened by intervening landform and woodland. These properties are set on a slight south facing slope and the view to the wider landscape comprises medium scale fields which is bounded by wooded hills. Views to the east are more open. **Predicted effect:** Views of the option are likely, approximately 0.3km to the north-west. The scheme would form a fundamental part of the view at relative close range for properties in the west and east, although some would be screened by woodland block.	Medium magnitude of change			
K-N-24	Existing local route: Junction at Whitefield Croft Properties to Alves (Recreational)	**Baseline view:** This route crosses the site. It located in predominantly sloping, open, arable and pastoral fields which are framed by mixed woodland blocks, which cause views to vary in extents from other points of the route towards the site. The existing A96 is located at the very northern extent of the route. **Predicted effect:** The option directly crosses the route of the receptor, however it is noted that there are existing views of the A96 at the northern extent of the route. The option would give rise to a considerable change to the view from the southern extent of the route, which is located away from the existing A96.	Medium sensitivity receptor Medium magnitude of change	Moderate adverse	LV2, LV4, LV5, LV6	**Moderate adverse**
K-N-25	Easterwards Farm properties, Cairnstead (Residential)	**Baseline view:** The site is located 0.5km to the north of these receptors at its closest point. The view from here is generally open to the south, despite some screening by woodland directly to the north on Carden Hill and beside the railway line. **Predicted effect:** The option would be screened by woodland and the adjacent hillside.	High sensitivity receptor No magnitude of change	No change	n/a	No change
K-N-26	Property at Ardye House, on A96; Ben Wyvis	**Baseline view:** These receptors are located within 0.1km to the north and south of the site. Views to the north are extensive and elevated. They are characterised by the adjacent existing A96 and rolling fields of pasture, divided by belts and blocks of woodland. Some higher elevations can be seen in the distance, such as Tappoch Hill and beyond that, hills across the	High sensitivity receptor	Major adverse	LV1, LV2, LV3, LV5, LV6	**Major adverse**

Visual receptor		Description of the Baseline View and Predicted Effects (reflecting combined sensitivity and magnitude)		Predicted visual effect	Assumed secondary mitigation	Predicted residual visual effect
Ref.	Name					
	(Residential)	Moray Firth. Views to the south are characterised by medium scale pastoral fields, which gently slope upwards towards the wooded hills of Carden Hill and Knock of Alves. Features in the landscape include the existing A96 and associated traffic; minor road networks, scattered residences, farm buildings and electricity pylons. **Predicted effect:** Close range views of the option, including the Elgin West junction. The option would form a fundamental part of the view	High magnitude of change			
K-N-27	Moray cycle route: The Elgin Experience: from Findrassie wood to Garage cottage (Recreational)	**Baseline view:** This cycle route has elevated and open views towards the north which encompasses the site. Views encompass large scale agricultural fields interspersed with woodland belts and field boundary planting in the foreground which screens some views in the mid ground. Scattered residences and farm buildings are located throughout the landscape. **Predicted effect:** Close range views onto the option from the elevated position that this route affords. The option would form a fundamental part of the view.	High sensitivity receptor Medium magnitude of change	Major adverse	LV1, LV2, LV3, LV5, LV6	**Major adverse**
K-N-28	Newton Nursery and Cottage properties (Residential)	**Baseline view:** These receptors are located 0.6km north of the site. Views towards the site comprise gently undulating pastoral and agricultural fields which rise towards the higher elevations of Knock of Alves. Intervening woodland and boundary vegetation across the landscape limits views in places. Views east, north and west are all largely screened by woodland and boundary vegetation. Any views afforded northwards extend over rough pasture and vegetation, in front of a woodland backdrop. Features in the landscape include neighbouring residences and farm buildings, minor road networks and traffic along the existing A96 and B9013. Electricity pylons are also visible near. **Predicted effect:** The view to the south of the option would be largely screened by adjacent tree cover with limited views during winter months when trees are not in leaf.	High sensitivity receptor Low magnitude of change	Minor adverse	n/a	Minor adverse

Visual receptor		Description of the Baseline View and Predicted Effects (reflecting combined sensitivity and magnitude)		Predicted visual effect	Assumed secondary mitigation	Predicted residual visual effect
Ref.	Name					
K-N-29	Newton Cottage, Newton House and Woodlands Lodge (Residential)	**Baseline view:** The site is located approximately 0.2km south of this group of receptors. The view towards the site is partially screened by extensive boundary planting and intervening planting throughout the area. Outwith this, views include undulating mixed agricultural fields, with a woodland backdrop. Views towards the east and west include undulating fields, framed by hedgerows and boundary planting. Some farm buildings can be seen in the landscape also. Views north are largely screened by boundary planting but comprise of large fields leading up to residences which are located within their own boundary planting. Features in the landscape include neighbouring properties, minor roads, individual farm buildings and historic landscape features. **Predicted effect:** The view to the south of the option would be largely screened by adjacent tree cover. However, given the proximity of the option and the potential for winter views, the option has the potential to form a considerable part of the view. The inclusion of secondary mitigation measures within the option would partially integrate it into the existing view to the south and limit the visual change to a short extent of the route as it directly crosses the option.	High sensitivity receptor Medium magnitude of change	Moderate adverse	LV1, LV2, LV3, LV5, LV6	**Moderate adverse**
K-N-30	Lyneside (Residential)	**Baseline view:** The site is located 0.9 km north of this receptor. Views from this receptor are enclosed to the north and west and south, although open towards the east. **Predicted effect:** No change due to woodland screening.	High sensitivity receptor No magnitude of change	No change	n/a	No change
K-N-31	Routes within woodland network at Knock of Alves and York Tower (Recreational)	**Baseline view:** This woodland track is located at Knock of Alves and includes a vantage point at York Tower. There is a viewpoint at York Tower, which has views out to the south across the surrounding landscape. Views north are largely screened by woodland. **Predicted effect:** It is assumed that at most there would be glimpsed views out to the option where gaps in the surrounding vegetation allow.	High sensitivity receptor Negligible magnitude of change	Negligible	n/a	Negligible

Visual receptor		Description of the Baseline View and Predicted Effects (reflecting combined sensitivity and magnitude)		Predicted visual effect	Assumed secondary mitigation	Predicted residual visual effect
Ref.	Name					
K-N-32	Dykeside, Rosebrae, Pinewood Cottage, Leggat, Rosehaugh Cottages (Residential)	**Baseline view:** The site is located approximately 0.3km to the south of these receptors. Views to the south comprise a sloping landform up towards Quarrelwood Hill. Outwith immediate boundary planting, some tree planting between agricultural fields fragment views in this direction. Features in the landscape include minor roads networks, residences and farm buildings and electricity pylons. **Predicted effect:** Close range views of the option. The option would form a fundamental part of the view and would be slightly elevated above the receptor. The inclusion of secondary mitigation measures within the option would partially integrate it into the existing view.	High sensitivity receptor, High magnitude of change	Major adverse	LV1, LV2, LV5, LV6	**Major adverse**
K-N-33	Garage Cottage, Ardgilzean House & Toll Cottage (Residential)	**Baseline view:** The site is located approximately 0.1km north of these receptors. They are located within a managed parkland landscape, with mature trees located throughout the grounds and along avenues. The views towards the site are close range and partially fragmented due to boundary trees and vegetation along the adjacent road in the foreground. Features in the landscape are neighbouring residences and minor road networks connecting them. The existing A96 is visible to southern properties in this group. There are prominent historic designed landscape features. **Predicted effect:** Close range views of the option which would form a fundamental part of the view.	High sensitivity receptor, High magnitude of change	Major adverse	LV1, LV2, LV3, LV5, LV6	**Major adverse**
K-N-34	Knock, Woodside cottage, York House, Woodside Steading, Woodside House (Residential)	**Baseline view:** The site is located 0.4km to the north of these receptors. The view north is screened by intervening woodland. **Predicted effect:** No change to the view due to woodland screening.	High sensitivity receptor, No magnitude of change	No change	n/a	No change

Visual receptor		Description of the Baseline View and Predicted Effects (reflecting combined sensitivity and magnitude)		Predicted visual effect	Assumed secondary mitigation	Predicted residual visual effect
Ref.	Name					
K-N-35	Existing local route from Findrassie Wood to Waterton Bridge; National Cycle Network Route 1: Findrassie Wood to beyond Kintrae Bridge (Recreational)	**Baseline view:** These routes cross the site. They are located within large scale, arable fields on a slight north slope. Mixed woodland blocks, field boundary vegetation and residences with boundary planting are all present in the landscape, and filter views towards the site from much of the routes. There is no documented value attributed to the view nor is there a protected landscape within the view, especially where raised up on embankments. **Predicted effect:** Direct, close-range views of the option as it crosses the Scheme. The option would form a fundamental part of the view.	Medium sensitivity receptor High magnitude of change	Major adverse	LV1, LV2, LV5, LV6	**Major adverse**
K-N-36	Easter Kintrae Farm properties, Wester Kintrae (Residential)	**Baseline view:** The site is located 0.3km to the south of these receptors. The views from these receptors are generally open, despite boundary vegetation causing some filtered views. The view towards the site is characterised by: gently rolling, large scale arable fields with interspersed tree cover; mixed woodland planting located on rising elevations to the south; scattered farm and small settlements; and electricity pylons. **Predicted effect:** Close range views of the option which would form a fundamental part of the view.	High sensitivity receptor High magnitude of change	Major adverse	LV1, LV2, LV5, LV6	**Major adverse**
K-N-37	Sealladh, Quarrywood and Loanhead Farm properties (Residential)	**Baseline view:** The site is located 0.4km north-west of these receptors. Views from these receptors are enclosed to the east, west and south. To the north, in the direction of the site, the view is open, elevated and characterised by: rolling, large scale, arable and pastoral fields interspersed with mixed woodland blocks and field boundary planting; Electricity pylons are close range; and views are extensive and include distant hills. **Predicted effect:** Direct, close range views of the option which would form a considerable part of the view to the north.	High sensitivity receptor High magnitude of change	Major adverse	LV1, LV2, LV3, LV5, LV6	**Major adverse**
K-N-38	The Cottage - Duffus Road (Residential)	**Baseline view:** The site is located 0.5km north of these receptors. Views from these receptors are generally enclosed. The view towards the site is characterised by: boundary planting which creates filtered and restricted	High sensitivity receptor	Moderate adverse	LV1, LV2, LV3, LV5, LV6	**Moderate adverse**

Visual receptor		Description of the Baseline View and Predicted Effects (reflecting combined sensitivity and magnitude)		Predicted visual effect	Assumed secondary mitigation	Predicted residual visual effect
Ref.	Name					
		views; rolling, large scale, arable and pastoral fields interspersed with mixed woodland blocks and individual tree planting; and small settlements and individual properties are visible between networks of minor roads. **Predicted effect:** Direct, close range views of the option. However, some tree cover on the boundary of the property would limit the view of the option. The option would form a considerable part of the view to the north, particularly during winter months when boundary tree cover is not in full leaf.	Medium magnitude of change			
K-N-39	Westerton properties, Lower Mains, Midtown (Residential)	**Baseline view:** The site is located 0.1km to the north of this receptor. Views from these receptors are enclosed to the south and east. To the north and west, in the direction of the site, views are open, elevated and characterised by: large scale arable and pastoral fields with a gently rolling landform; mixed woodland blocks and intervening vegetation cause some screening of views beyond; and small settlements and individual properties are visible between networks of minor roads **Predicted effect:** Direct, close range views of the option which would form a fundamental part of the view to the north.	High sensitivity receptor High magnitude of change	Major adverse	LV1, LV2, LV5, LV6	**Major adverse**
K-N-40	Mains Farm Cottages, Maxwell Cottage, Mid Mains, Castle view, West Mains Cottages, West Mains, Waterton Farm properties, Waterton Farm Cottages (Residential)	**Baseline view:** The site is located 0.7 km south of these receptors. Views from these receptors are generally open. The views towards the site is characterised by: large scale, flat, arable and pastoral fields divided by low lying boundary vegetation; large drainage ditches and patches of wetland; small blocks of mixed woodland and individual tree planting; scattered residences and farm buildings; and views to higher, wooded, elevations. **Predicted effect:** Medium range views of the option which would form a considerable part of the view to the south. The inclusion of secondary mitigation measures within the option would partially integrate it into the existing view to the south and limit the visual change the view.	High sensitivity receptor Medium magnitude of change	Moderate adverse	LV1, LV2, LV5, LV6	**Moderate adverse**
K-N-41	Existing Local Route: Kintrae Bridge to Waterton	**Baseline view:** This route is located along a minor road within large, flat and expansive, arable fields. Individual tree planting, field boundary planting and mixed woodland planting are dispersed throughout. The site	Medium sensitivity receptor	Moderate adverse	n/a	**Moderate adverse**

Visual receptor		Description of the Baseline View and Predicted Effects (reflecting combined sensitivity and magnitude)		Predicted visual effect	Assumed secondary mitigation	Predicted residual visual effect
Ref.	Name					
	Bridge; Moray cycle route (Lossiemouth Loop): Waterton Bridge to junction at East Mains	would be visible at relatively close range, within open views with limited screening. **Predicted effect:** Medium range views of the option which would form a considerable part of the view.	Medium magnitude of change			
K-N-42	Findrassie Farm and Findrassie House (Residential)	**Baseline view:** The site is located 0.6km to the north of these receptors. Views from these receptors are enclosed to the east, south and west. To the north, in the direction of the site, views are characterised by: mixed woodland blocks and boundary planting which create framed views over large scale arable and pastoral fields with a gently rolling landform; and small settlements and individual properties are visible between distant woodland blocks. **Predicted effect:** The option would be visible despite some intervening screening features such as woodland blocks. The option would form a considerable part of the view. would	High sensitivity receptor Medium magnitude of change	Moderate adverse	LV1, LV2, LV3, LV5, LV6	**Moderate adverse**
K-N-43	Haycastle, Gilston, Gilston Cottage (Residential)	**Baseline view:** The site is located 0.4km south of these receptors. The view towards the site is characterised by: medium scale, flat, arable and pastoral fields; mixed woodland planting which screens distant views in this direction; some intervening and road side planting which causes filtered views; and scattered residences. **Predicted effect:** Close range views of the option which would form a fundamental part of the view, especially as it would be raised on embankment in this location.	High sensitivity receptor High magnitude of change	Major adverse	LV1, LV2, LV3, LV5, LV6	**Major adverse**
K-N-44	Lochside Cottage (Residential)	**Baseline view:** The site is located 0.1km south of these receptors. The view from these receptors are open to the north, west and east whilst views south towards the site are more enclosed due to boundary vegetation and an undulating landform. Views west towards the site are characterised by flat and open, arable and pastoral fields which are framed by blocks of mixed woodland planting at varying distances.	High sensitivity receptor High magnitude of change	Major adverse	LV1, LV2, LV3, LV5, LV6	**Major adverse**

Visual receptor		Description of the Baseline View and Predicted Effects (reflecting combined sensitivity and magnitude)		Predicted visual effect	Assumed secondary mitigation	Predicted residual visual effect
Ref.	Name					
		Predicted effect: Close range views of the option which would form a fundamental part of the view, especially as it would be raised on embankment in this location.				
K-N-45	Existing Local Route along drain path from woodland block to Moray cycle route (Lossiemouth Loop) (Recreational)	**Baseline view:** This route is located within flat, large scale, arable fields. Views towards the site are filtered due to residences and farm buildings within the view, and intervening vegetation. Views beyond are extensive, however, and reach distant wooded hills to the south. **Predicted effect:** The option would form a small part of the view given the distance from the Scheme and the partial screening by intervening woodland.	Medium sensitivity receptor Low magnitude of change	Minor adverse	n/a	Minor adverse
K-N-46	Moray cycle route: from Edge of Elgin to Findrassie Lodge; Existing Local Route: from Findrassie Lodge to East Mains and Pathway along drain (Recreational)	**Baseline view:** This route crosses the site. It is located within undulating arable and pastoral fields, scattered with residential and farm buildings. Woodland blocks are located at varying distances from this route, fragmenting views towards the site. **Predicted effect:** Close range views of the option which would form a fundamental part of the view.	High sensitivity receptor High magnitude of change	Major adverse	LV1, LV2, LV3, LV5, LV6	**Major adverse**
K-N-47	The Larches, Ahalan, Findrassie Lodge, Lochside Farm (Residential)	**Baseline view:** The site is located 0.2km north of these receptors. The view from these receptors are open east and north, and more restricted to the south and west. The view towards the site is characterised by: medium scale, arable, rolling landform and intervening vegetation which causes some screening; residential and farm buildings; and mixed woodland blocks. **Predicted effect:** Close range views of the option which would form a fundamental part of the view, especially as it would be raised on embankment in this location.	High sensitivity receptor High magnitude of change	Major adverse	LV1, LV2, LV3, LV5, LV6	**Major adverse**

Visual receptor		Description of the Baseline View and Predicted Effects (reflecting combined sensitivity and magnitude)		Predicted visual effect	Assumed secondary mitigation	Predicted residual visual effect
Ref.	Name					
K-N-48	Muir of Myreside Cottage, Myreside properties (Residential)	**Baseline view:** The site is located 0.4km north-east of these receptors. Views from these receptors are generally open, however mixed woodland planting to the west restricts distant views in that direction. The view towards the site is characterised by: large scale, open, rolling arable and pastoral fields; and mixed woodland planting which, with the landform undulations, restricts long range views in this direction. **Predicted effect:** Close range views of the option which would form a fundamental part of the view, particularly the Elgin North junction.	High sensitivity receptor High magnitude of change	Major adverse	LV1, LV2, LV3, LV5, LV6	**Major adverse**
K-N-49	Existing Local Route: From Spynie Hill to Myreside Cottage (Recreational)	**Baseline view:** This route crosses the site. It is located within medium scale arable and pastoral fields which are framed by mixed woodland. The landform is gently sloping south westwards, and with intervening boundary and woodland planting, views to the site from other points of the route are limited. **Predicted effect:** Close range views of the option which would form a fundamental part of the view, particularly the Elgin North junction.	Medium sensitivity receptor High magnitude of change	Major adverse	LV1, LV2, LV3, LV5, LV6	**Major adverse**
K-N-50	Marleon Field, North Eastern edge of Elgin (Residential)	**Baseline view:** The site is located approximately 0.4km north-east of these receptors. The views towards the site is well screened by extensive boundary and woodland planting around the edge of Elgin. However, views from the rear of properties at Marleon Field are possible. Views are characterised as: extensive, over gently rolling mixed agricultural landscape; with woodland blocks in the foreground. **Predicted effect:** Likely glimpsed views of the option from upper storey rear windows, however the view includes a line of pylons and the option mainline would be in partial cutting at this point. It is of note that there are no other likely views of the Scheme from Elgin.	High sensitivity receptor Medium magnitude of change	Moderate adverse	LV1, LV2, LV3, LV5, LV6	**Moderate adverse**
K-N-51	Dismantled railway from edge of Elgin to Pitgaveny Wood and Existing Local Route: from Muir of	**Baseline view:** These routes cross the site. They are located within flat and gently rolling, large scale fields which are framed by mixed woodland. Both landform and intervening vegetation cause screening from points of the routes towards the site. **Predicted effect:** Close range views of the option which would form a fundamental part of the view, especially where raised on embankment.	High sensitivity receptor High magnitude of change	Major adverse	LV1, LV2, LV3, LV5, LV6	**Major adverse**

Visual receptor		Description of the Baseline View and Predicted Effects (reflecting combined sensitivity and magnitude)		Predicted visual effect	Assumed secondary mitigation	Predicted residual visual effect
Ref.	Name					
	Linksfield to Spynie Cemetery (Recreational)					
K-N-52	Woodside cottage, Lower Spynie Cottage (Residential)	**Baseline view:** The site is located 0.5km south-west of these receptors. Views from these receptors are enclosed to the east and north, with more open views to the south and west. The view towards the site is elevated and characterised by: gently sloping, large scale, arable and pastoral fields which are framed by woodland blocks to the east and west; The north-eastern edge of Elgin and electricity pylons. **Predicted effect:** Medium range view of the option, which would form a considerable part of the view to the south. The inclusion of secondary mitigation measures within the option would partially integrate it into the existing view to the north and limit the visual change.	High sensitivity receptor Medium magnitude of change	Moderate adverse	LV1, LV2, LV3, LV5, LV6	Minor adverse
K-N-53	Muir of Linksfield, Pitgaveny properties (Residential)	**Baseline view:** The site is located approximately 0.2km to the south west of these receptors. The view to the south is relatively localised views which are enclosed by large undulations within pastoral landscape. Fields within view are large in scale and separated by hedgerows. Views west are more open and extensive, consisting of mixed, agricultural, undulating landform. Scattered residences are also visible in this direction, between blocks of woodland. Views north are similar, although views are not as extensive. Views east are limited by woodland and landform. Minor road networks, electricity pylons and surrounding settlements can be seen from these receptors. **Predicted effect:** Close range views of the option which would form a fundamental part of the view to the west, albeit with some screening by the intervening landform and tree cover.	High sensitivity receptor High magnitude of change	Major adverse	LV1, LV2, LV3, LV5, LV6	**Major adverse**
K-N-54	Bareflathills, Sunnybrae (Residential)	**Baseline view:** Site is located approximately 0.4km north east of these receptors. The views towards the sites are from an elevated position and are characterised by: flat open pastural and agricultural landscape framed by rough vegetation and sporadic woodland blocks. Farm buildings are also in view.	High sensitivity receptor	Moderate adverse	LV1, LV2, LV3, LV5, LV6	**Moderate adverse**

Visual receptor		Description of the Baseline View and Predicted Effects (reflecting combined sensitivity and magnitude)		Predicted visual effect	Assumed secondary mitigation	Predicted residual visual effect
Ref.	Name					
		Predicted effect: The option would be visible at close range, albeit it would be in partial cutting at this point and would be partially screened by intervening landform undulations and woodland.	Medium magnitude of change			
K-N-55	Wester Calcots (Residential)	**Baseline view:** This receptor is 0.4km north-east of the site. Views towards the site are characterised as flat and undulating, open and large-scale fields of pasture with woodland blocks and intervening vegetation. Southwards, views are towards low hills in nearby fields and views east and north comprise flat, agricultural landscape bordered by woodland. Scattered residences can be seen in the view, as well as minor road networks. **Predicted effect:** The option would be located on embankment at this point and would form a fundamental part of the view.	High sensitivity receptor High magnitude of change	Major adverse	LV1, LV2, LV3, LV5, LV6	**Major adverse**
K-N-56	Route from Kirkhill Cottages north & route from Kirkhill wood to Pitgaveny wood (Recreational)	**Baseline view:** These routes comes into close range with the site. Views are characterised as open, large scale agricultural fields, scattered with residential and farm buildings. Kirkhill Wood can be seen to the south, beyond more undulating landform. There are distinctive policy trees along Calcots Road. There is no documented value attributed to the view nor is there a clear view of a protected landscape. **Predicted effect:** The option would be located at the southern extent of the route and close-range views would be experienced by receptors, giving rise to a fundamental change to the view..	Medium sensitivity receptor High magnitude of change	Major adverse	LV1, LV2, LV3, LV5, LV6	**Major adverse**
K-N-57	National Cycle Route 1 - A96 to Elgin edge (Recreational)	**Baseline view:** This cycle route runs alongside the River Lossie and existing A96, over flat pastoral landscape, scattered with rough vegetation and woodland borders. Electricity pylons are located overhead. It is possible that glimpses of the site would be visible through extensive riverside planting. There is no documented value attributed to the view nor is there a clear view of a protected landscape. **Predicted effect:** Possible glimpsed view of the option.	Medium sensitivity receptor Negligible magnitude of change	Negligible	n/a	Negligible

Visual receptor		Description of the Baseline View and Predicted Effects (reflecting combined sensitivity and magnitude)		Predicted visual effect	Assumed secondary mitigation	Predicted residual visual effect
Ref.	Name					
K-N-58	Barmuckity Farm Cottages and Moss of Barmuckity (Residential)	**Baseline view:** The site is located approximately 0.6km east of these receptors. The view towards the site is characterised by open, flat pasture; woodland and vegetation boundaries around fields and along the adjacent railway track. Towards the south, landform steadily rises, creating localised views in this direction. Views to the west are similarly flat and open, with additional vegetation in the foreground restricting views for some residences. Views north are fragmented by boundary vegetation, however they extend towards a woodland horizon over flat and variable landform. Electricity pylons extend overhead and the railway, existing A96 and its traffic can be seen at close range. Scattered residences are also in view. **Predicted effect:** The option, and in particular the Elgin East junction, would comprise an additional infrastructure feature to the existing view of the A96 and line of pylons.	High sensitivity receptor Medium magnitude of change	Moderate adverse	LV1, LV2, LV3, LV5, LV6	**Moderate adverse**
K-N-59	The Bungalow, Kirkhill, Kirkhill Cottages (Residential)	**Baseline view:** These receptors are located 0.2km east from the site. Views towards the site are fragmented by boundary vegetation, however views that are possible extend over undulating, agricultural fields. Woodland belts and wooded knolls present in the foreground restrict distant views, although linear bunds in the landscape provides some screening of views as well. The wider landscape consists of woodland belts and riverside planting along the winding River Lossie which is close to the properties. Wide open fields sit within these woodland borders. **Predicted effect:** The option would be near to the west and would be located on embankment at this point. The option would form a fundamental part of the view.	High sensitivity receptor High magnitude of change	Major adverse	LV1, LV2, LV3, LV5, LV6	**Major adverse**
K-N-60	Route network along River Lossie (Recreational)	**Baseline view:** This route crosses the site. It is located within pastoral, small scale fields which are bordered by river side planting. Views north and west encompass larger scale agricultural fields, screened considerably by riverside planting and field boundary planting. Kirkhill wood provides a wooded backdrop to this view. There is no documented value attributed to the view nor is there a clear view of a protected landscape.	High sensitivity receptor	Major adverse	LV1, LV2, LV3, LV5, LV6	**Major adverse**

Visual receptor		Description of the Baseline View and Predicted Effects (reflecting combined sensitivity and magnitude)		Predicted visual effect	Assumed secondary mitigation	Predicted residual visual effect
Ref.	Name					
		Predicted effect: Close range view of the option which would form a fundamental part of the view.	High magnitude of change			
K-N-61	Looped route from A96 (through Barmuckity) (Recreational)	**Baseline view:** This road crosses the site. Views are characterised by a wide agricultural landscape upon gentle south west facing slope. Views are restricted in a northerly direction because of this. Woodland belts can be seen on the horizon, as well as electricity pylons in the foreground. Existing views of a railway line and the A96. There is no documented value attributed to the view nor is there a clear view of a protected landscape. **Predicted effect:** Close range view of the option which would form part of the view. However, the view of existing infrastructure (A96 and railway line) limits the change to the view.	Medium sensitivity receptor Low magnitude of change	Minor adverse	n/a	Minor adverse
K-N-62	Foresterseat (Residential)	**Baseline view:** The site is located 0.8km south-west from this receptor. Glimpses of the site are possible from this receptor, but large sections cannot be seen from this location due to intervening vegetation. To the west and south, towards the site, woodland planting is located at close proximity, creating relatively local views. Distant hills can be seen towards the south, between gaps in the woodland belts. Views to the wider landscape comprise expansive, large scale, flat, arable fields which are framed by mixed woodland. **Predicted effect:** The option is likely to be mostly screened by tree cover along the River Lossie, which is located between the receptor and the option. However, winter views are possible, during which the option may form a small part of the wider view.	High sensitivity receptor Low magnitude of change	Minor adverse	n/a	Minor adverse
K-N-63	Greens of Coxton, Ferndale, Roslyn Cottage & Tower View Croft (Residential)	**Baseline view:** The site is located approximately 0.6km north-east of these receptors. The view towards the receptor is characterised as: open, gently undulating pastoral fields scattered with individual residences, farm cottages and sporadic vegetation. Woodland can be seen in the foreground along field boundaries. To the north, undulating landform screens distant views, whilst to the west and east, views are more open, flat and include residences and woodland	High sensitivity receptor Medium magnitude of change	Moderate adverse	LV1, LV2, LV3, LV5, LV6	**Moderate adverse**

Visual receptor		Description of the Baseline View and Predicted Effects (reflecting combined sensitivity and magnitude)		Predicted visual effect	Assumed secondary mitigation	Predicted residual visual effect
Ref.	Name					
		which separates fields of rough pasture. Variable landform and woodland limit views towards the south. Features in the landscape include residences, farm buildings, and minor roads. **Predicted effect:** The option would form a considerable part of the view, however it would be partially screened by intervening landform undulations and woodland.				
K-N-64	Route from A96 to Bridge of Calcots (Recreational)	**Baseline view:** The route meets the site at its very southern extent. It is located within flat, agricultural, large scale fields which are bordered by woodland planting. Individual residences can be seen within these fields, and views outwith woodland borders are screened. Distant views to southern hills can be seen through gaps in woodland. The route interfaces with the existing A96. There is no documented value attributed to the view nor is there a clear view of a protected landscape. **Predicted effect:** Close range view of the option which would form part of the view. However, the view of existing infrastructure (A96, B9013 and railway line) limits the change to the view.	Medium sensitivity receptor Low magnitude of change	Minor adverse	n/a	Minor adverse
K-N-65	Wester Coxton (Residential)	**Baseline view:** This receptor is located 0.7km to the south of the site. Views towards the site comprise of woodland blocks within slightly undulating landscape. Long range views are possible over open pastoral fields although large sections of the site are screened. At an elevated position, distant views east, west and south are restricted due to woodland planting and undulating landform. Views towards neighbouring settlements and individual residences are possible. Glimpses of vehicles/trains towards the north are also possible at a distance. **Predicted effect:** Views of the option would be possible, however, given the presence of intervening screening, views would be limited to a small extent.	High sensitivity receptor Low magnitude of change	Minor adverse	n/a	Minor adverse

Visual receptor		Description of the Baseline View and Predicted Effects (reflecting combined sensitivity and magnitude)		Predicted visual effect	Assumed secondary mitigation	Predicted residual visual effect
Ref.	Name					
K-N-66	Sheriffston, Kilcluan House (Residential)	**Baseline view:** These receptors are located 0.4 km to the east and north-east of the site. Views towards the site are extensive over rolling landform towards distant hills. A railway line partially screens views of the site to the south. Distant views to the west and east are restricted by woodland and vegetation which borders open, agricultural fields. The wider landscape also contains scattered residences, minor road networks, the existing A96 and electricity pylons. **Predicted effect:** The option would be approximately 0.4km to the west and south-west and would be on embankment at this point. Boundary planting around the properties would limit views of the option, however views would be likely through gaps in the vegetation. A railway line embankment would partially screen views of the option directly to the south.	High sensitivity receptor Medium magnitude of change	Moderate adverse	LV1, LV2, LV3, LV5, LV6	**Moderate adverse**
K-N-67	Doohill to railway (Recreational)	**Baseline view:** This route crosses the site. Part of the route is encompassed by woodland but outwith this screening, views are extensive over flat pastoral landscape in a westerly direction. The railway bunding to the north creates restricted views, but woodland and electricity pylons can be seen beyond it. There is no documented value attributed to the view nor is there a clear view of a protected landscape. **Predicted effect:** Close range view of the option which would form part of the view. However, the view of existing infrastructure (A96 and railway line) limits the change to the view.	Medium sensitivity receptor Low magnitude of change	Minor adverse	n/a	Minor adverse
K-N-68	Lilac Cottage, Mains of Coxton and Doohill (Residential)	**Baseline view:** The site is located approximately 0.2km north of these receptors. They sit on the southern edge of a woodland area, largely screening views north, east and west. The view towards the site may be restricted due to woodland around these properties. Coxton tower is more encompassed by woodland than Lilac Cottage and Doohill. **Predicted effect:** The option would be largely screened by intervening woodland cover, however narrow views, particularly during winter months would be possible.	High sensitivity receptor Low magnitude of change	Minor adverse	n/a	Minor adverse

Visual receptor		Description of the Baseline View and Predicted Effects (reflecting combined sensitivity and magnitude)		Predicted visual effect	Assumed secondary mitigation	Predicted residual visual effect
Ref.	Name					
K-N-69	South Darkland, Darkland properties (Residential)	**Baseline view:** These properties are located up to 1.1km north east of the site. Views towards the site are characterised by open, flat agricultural land, although views in this direction are limited by neighbouring residences and woodland belts. Boundary planting surrounding properties fragment some views to the wider landscape. Minor road networks, neighbouring properties and farm buildings are all visible in the landscape. South Darkland sits at a slight elevation with extensive views south west wards which includes the existing A96 and electricity pylons. **Predicted effect:** The view to the south is restricted by landform. Possible glimpsed views of the option to the west, however the option would form a small part of the view at most.	High sensitivity receptor Low magnitude of change	Minor adverse	n/a	Minor adverse
K-N-70	Green Acres, Country Cottage (Residential)	**Baseline view:** The site is located 0.2km south of these receptors. The views towards the site are screened completely by the railway embankment and bridge. Views are afforded westwards over gently undulating fields, vegetation and scattered residences. Views north are largely screened by boundary vegetation and road side vegetation along the existing A96. Some road infrastructure and traffic can be seen. Eastwards, views are retained within a visual envelope created by undulating pastoral fields. Features in the landscape include electricity pylons, associated A96 traffic and infrastructure, neighbouring properties and farm buildings. **Predicted effect:** The railway embankment to the south would screen most of the option from view. However, a view of the option 1.0 km west of the receptor is likely and the option would form a small part of the view.	Medium sensitivity receptor Low magnitude of change	Minor adverse	n/a	Minor adverse
K-N-71	Easter Coxton (Residential)	**Baseline view:** The site is located 0.1km south of this receptor. Views towards the site are characterised by: boundary planting, woodland blocks and undulating pastoral fields. Views to the north are screened by the railway line embankment and boundary vegetation. Views west are linear in nature and extend over flat	High sensitivity receptor	Major adverse	LV1, LV2, LV3, LV5, LV6	**Major adverse**

Visual receptor		Description of the Baseline View and Predicted Effects (reflecting combined sensitivity and magnitude)		Predicted visual effect	Assumed secondary mitigation	Predicted residual visual effect
Ref.	Name					
		pasture towards distant hills. Views south and east are more restricted primarily due to woodland planting blocks in the foreground. Features in the landscape include electricity pylons, the railway line, neighbouring properties and farm buildings, and minor roads. **Predicted effect:** Close range view of the option which would form a fundamental part of the view, although a large part will be in cutting.	High magnitude of change			
K-N-72	Crossroads at B9103 to railway (Recreational)	**Baseline view:** This route crosses the site. Roadside planting along most of this route screens views to the west and south. Views north and east comprise of undulating agricultural landform, scattered with residences and glimpses of Lhanbryde. Crooked Wood can be seen in the distance as well as electricity pylons which cross the landscape. There is no documented value attributed to the view nor is there a clear view of a protected landscape. **Predicted effect:** Close range view of the option. However, the view of existing infrastructure (A96 and railway line) would limit the change to the view.	Medium sensitivity receptor Low magnitude of change	Minor adverse	n/a	Minor adverse
K-N-73	Scotsburn (Residential)	**Baseline view:** The site is located 0.8km north of this receptor. Views towards the site include relatively open and flat landscape with belts of woodland which partially restrict views. Additionally, these properties are largely surrounded by boundary planting. The raised landform to the east restricts views in this direction. The landscape is otherwise relatively flat and open to the north and west, however a belt of woodland to the south screens distant views. Electricity pylons are located near these properties, as well as major and minor roads. Glimpses of vehicles are possible through road boundary planting. **Predicted effect:** The option is likely to form, at most, a negligible part of the view to the north. The intervening landscape undulations are likely to screen most of the option from view.	High sensitivity receptor Negligible magnitude of change	Negligible	n/a	Negligible

Visual receptor		Description of the Baseline View and Predicted Effects (reflecting combined sensitivity and magnitude)		Predicted visual effect	Assumed secondary mitigation	Predicted residual visual effect
Ref.	Name					
K-N-74	Lhanbryde (Residential)	**Baseline view:** Lhanbryde is located approximately 0.1km north of the site. Views towards the site comprise of: the existing A96, boundary and road and railway-side vegetation; and a mix of pastoral fields and woodland blocks beyond. This settlement is located within a gently undulating landform. There are wooded hills to the north and a mixed agricultural landscape to the east, south and west. Patches of woodland and undulations in the immediate vicinity restrict views from some properties. The existing A96 and railway lines run along southern perimeter of Lhanbryde and the surrounding landscape is scattered with individual properties and farm buildings. Electricity pylons can also be seen to the southwest. **Predicted effect:** The option passes approximately 0.1km south of Lhanbryde. In the most part, receptors within the settlement have their views out to the south screened by buildings and vegetation. However, a small group of properties on the very southern edge are likely to have close range views of the option. The option is likely to form a small part of the view given that the existing A96 passes in the foreground of the view.	High sensitivity receptor Low magnitude of change	Minor adverse	n/a	Minor adverse
K-N-75	Glenesk Cottage, Greenfields (Residential)	**Baseline view:** The site is located approximately 0.2km north of these receptors. The view towards the site is characterised by: gently rising landform to the east; mixed agricultural fields separated by vegetation and woodland planting; and Lhanbryde and individual residences scattered throughout the landscape. Features in the landscape include residences of Lhanbryde, individual properties in the landscape, existing A96 traffic and views of passing trains on the railway line are possible as well. **Predicted effect:** Glimpsed views of the option due to intervening screening.	High sensitivity receptor Low magnitude of change	Minor adverse	n/a	Minor adverse
K-N-76	Carsewell Steading (south of Alves) (Residential)	**Baseline view:** The site is located approximately 0.5km to the south-east of these receptors. Views from properties within the steading are mainly inward facing, with limited views to the south due to the low-lying positions of the buildings and the rising, convex landform to the south. Where outward views are visible,	High sensitivity receptor	Minor adverse	LV1, LV2, LV3, LV5, LV6	**Minor adverse**

Visual receptor		Description of the Baseline View and Predicted Effects (reflecting combined sensitivity and magnitude)		Predicted visual effect	Assumed secondary mitigation	Predicted residual visual effect
Ref.	Name					
		these mainly include sloped, agricultural fields with some woodland. A line of pylons passes across the view to the south. **Predicted effect:** Views towards the option would be from the rear of properties at the southern extent of the grouping. The option would be largely screened from here, looking south, by the existing buildings and trees next to the railway line. Nonetheless, there may be glimpsed views to the south east, at the edge of views, of the embankment and overbridge..	Low magnitude of change			

Table 1.4 contains a description of the baseline view and potential visual effects on receptors located with the study area of the option to the south of Elgin (see Figure 15.2, Volume 3).

Table 1.4 Predicted Visual Effects for Hillhead to Lhanbryde South Option

Visual receptor		Description of the Baseline View and Predicted Effects (reflecting combined sensitivity and magnitude)		Predicted visual effect	Assumed secondary mitigation	Predicted residual visual effect
Ref.	Name					
K-S-1	Burgie Lodge, Burgie Lodge Cottages and Valley View (Residential)	**Baseline view:** The site is located approximately 0.3km north of this receptor. These properties are set in a relatively open, gently rolling, large-scale arable landscape. Mature tree and hedgerow planting on field boundaries and occasional blocks of woodland, limit views of the wider landscape. The view towards the site is in a northerly direction and includes a view of vehicles on the existing A96. **Predicted effect:** The option would be visible at close range to the north. The option would form a considerable part of the view within an open landscape. However, the existing A96 is located within the existing view, limiting the change that the new option would give rise to. The option would also be set at a lower elevation than the receptor, further limiting its visual influence.	Medium sensitivity receptor Medium magnitude of change	Moderate adverse	LV1, LV2, LV3, LV5, LV6	**Moderate adverse**
K-S-2	Newton of Struthers (Residential)	**Baseline view:** The site is located approximately 0.9km south of these receptors. The view towards the site comprises of gently undulating agricultural fields and occasional blocks of woodland which partially contain views. Partial views to distant wooded hills are afforded. Features in the landscape include scattered residences and farm buildings and minor road networks. **Predicted effect:** Medium-range views of the option. Gentle landform undulations and occasional small blocks of woodland would limit a view of the option. The existing A96 would be glimpsed in the intervening landscape. The option would form a small part of the view.	High sensitivity receptor Low magnitude of change	Minor adverse	n/a	Minor adverse
K-S-3	Distillery Cottages (Residential)	**Baseline view:** The site is located approximately 0.2km to the north of these receptors. The view towards the site is fragmented by boundary vegetation and local due to small scale agricultural fields framed by woodland belts.	Medium sensitivity receptor	Moderate adverse	LV1, LV2, LV3, LV5, LV6	**Moderate adverse**

Visual receptor		Description of the Baseline View and Predicted Effects (reflecting combined sensitivity and magnitude)		Predicted visual effect	Assumed secondary mitigation	Predicted residual visual effect
Ref.	Name					
		Views to the wider landscape are screened by woodland belts and large distillery buildings. Features in the view include neighbouring properties and minor road networks. **Predicted effect:** Close range views of the option. The existing A96 is at close range within the view, however the option would be highly visible within the view, particularly where raised on embankment and due to the collective effects of the new local link road. The option would form a considerable part of the view.	Medium magnitude of change			
K-S-4	East Grange Cottages (S of Railway) (Residential)	**Baseline view:** The site is located approximately 1km to the south of these receptors. Glimpses of the site are possible over extensive, flat agricultural fields; and woodland blocks which screen sections of the site. Views north and west are screened due to intervening railway, woodland and boundary vegetation. Features in the landscape include minor roads and neighbouring residences and farm buildings. **Predicted effect:** Possible views of the option, however given the distance from the Scheme and the screening by intervening minor landform undulations, the option is likely to be glimpsed at most.	High sensitivity receptor Negligible magnitude of change	Negligible	n/a	Negligible
K-S-5	Existing route: Western edge of Alves Wood to A96 (Recreational)	**Baseline view:** This route crosses the site. This route is partially enclosed by woodland, however as it emerges from the woodland it offers extensive views to towards the site. Views include flat stretches of agricultural and pastoral fields, with views towards distant woodland belts and undulating landform. The existing A96 is also visible at the northern end of the route **Predicted effect:** The option would be visible at close range from this route as the option would cross it directly. The option would comprise a considerable change to the view from this receptor.	Medium sensitivity receptor Medium magnitude of change	Moderate adverse	LV1, LV2, LV3, LV5, LV6	**Moderate adverse**

Visual receptor		Description of the Baseline View and Predicted Effects (reflecting combined sensitivity and magnitude)		Predicted visual effect	Assumed secondary mitigation	Predicted residual visual effect
Ref.	Name					
K-S-6	New Mill properties (Newmill, Grange View and New Mill Cottage) (Residential)	**Baseline view:** The site is located approximately 0.2km south of these receptors. The view towards the receptors include large scale arable fields, which are flat and framed by woodland. Due to partial boundary vegetation, views to the wider landscape are fragmented or screened in places. Features in the landscape include the existing A96, and neighbouring residences and farm buildings. **Predicted effect:** Close-range range views of the option, however the existing A96 is visible in the intervening view, which would limit the change to the view.	Medium sensitivity receptor Low magnitude of change	Minor adverse	n/a	Minor adverse
K-S-7	Brodieshill Cottages, Brodieshill properties (Residential)	**Baseline view:** The site is located approximately 0.4km to the north of these receptors. The view towards the site is slightly elevated and comprises large scale, open agricultural fields. Hedgerow and field boundary vegetation in the foreground creates an element of screening from this perspective. Distant views are possible from higher properties and these extend to Findhorn Bay. Views west and south are screened by woodland and landform, whilst views to the east are extensive over large and gently undulating agricultural fields. Features in the landscape include neighbouring residential and farm buildings and minor road networks. **Predicted effect:** Close range views of the option. Close range views of the option. The option would form a considerable part of the view.	Medium sensitivity receptor Medium magnitude of change	Moderate adverse	n/a	**Moderate adverse**
K-S-8	Gateside properties (Residential)	**Baseline view:** The site is located approximately 0.1km south of these receptors. Views to the south are of an immediate rise in the landform which limits views in that direction. An immediate feature in the landscape is the existing A96, and residential and farm properties. **Predicted effect:** The option would be visible at close-range and would be on embankment at this point. The existing A96 is visible in the intervening landscape, limiting the incongruity of the option, but this would nonetheless	Medium sensitivity receptor Medium magnitude of change	Moderate adverse	LV1, LV2, LV3, LV5, LV6	Minor adverse

Visual receptor		Description of the Baseline View and Predicted Effects (reflecting combined sensitivity and magnitude)		Predicted visual effect	Assumed secondary mitigation	Predicted residual visual effect
Ref.	Name					
		add to the collective effects of the option and its embankment slopes. The inclusion of secondary mitigation measures has the potential to reduce the level of effect on the receptors.				
K-S-9	Aspirational Core Path 22 (beside existing A96) (Recreational)	**Baseline view:** This is an aspirational route which follows the path of the existing A96. The path is set on the existing A96 and therefore has close range views of it. The site is located in close proximity, 0.1 km south of the existing A96. **Predicted effect:** Views of the option are likely, approximately 0.1km to the south. The option would form part of the view within an open landscape. However, the existing A96 is located within the existing view, limiting the change that the new option would give rise to.	Low sensitivity receptor Low magnitude of change	Minor adverse	n/a	Minor adverse
K-S-10	Morayscairn properties (Morayscairn, Dorranview and Birchbrae) (Residential)	**Baseline view:** The site is located approximately 0.4km north-west of these receptors. These properties are set on a slight north facing slope and the view to the north is across a relatively open, gently rolling, large-scale arable landscape. Mature tree and hedgerow planting on field boundaries and occasional blocks of woodland, limit views of the wider landscape. The view towards the site is in a northerly direction and includes a view of vehicles on the existing A96. **Predicted effect:** The option would be visible, approximately 0.4km to the north-west. The scheme would form part of the view within an open landscape. However, the existing A96 is located within the existing view, limiting the change that the new option would give rise to. The option would also be set at a lower elevation than the receptor, further limiting its visual influence, as would the screening effect of Alves Wood to the east. The inclusion of secondary mitigation measures has the potential to reduce the level of effect on the receptor while protecting longer range views to the north.	High sensitivity receptor Medium magnitude of change	Moderate adverse	LV1, LV2, LV3, LV5, LV6	Minor adverse
K-S-11	Existing local routes within Alves Wood	**Baseline view:** These local routes are largely within Alves Wood, however they emerge from its western extent and have more open views in this location.	Medium sensitivity receptor	Moderate adverse	LV1, LV2, LV3, LV5, LV6	Minor adverse

Visual receptor		Description of the Baseline View and Predicted Effects (reflecting combined sensitivity and magnitude)		Predicted visual effect	Assumed secondary mitigation	Predicted residual visual effect
Ref.	Name					
	(Recreational)	To the west of Alves Wood the path is set on a slight promontory within a large-scale arable landscape. The view towards the site is in a northerly direction and the existing A96 is also within view. **Predicted effect:** The option would be visible, approximately 0.3km to the north. The scheme would form part of the view within an open landscape to the west of Alves Wood. With the wood itself, some existing views would be opened up and visibility increased. The routes would also cross the option in addition to the existing A96, resulting in collective effects, albeit that the existing A96 would diminish the incongruity of the option. The inclusion of secondary mitigation measures has the potential to reduce the level of effect on the receptor while protecting longer range views to the north.	Medium magnitude of change			
K-S-12	Earnside House, Farm and Cottages, Ordies (Residential)	**Baseline view:** The site is located approximately 0.6km to the south of these properties. The view towards the site is extensive, although fragmented due to boundary planting. Agricultural fields are large scale with blocks of woodland screening sections of the site. The land becomes more undulating with distance. Views south from Earnside House are from a slightly elevated viewpoint and extend across agricultural fields towards a wooded backdrop. Views east and west are extensive and consist of large expanses of agricultural fields, with intervening woodland blocks and vegetation which restrict views. Individual residences can be seen within the wider landscape also. Features in the view include minor roads, passing trains, and residential and farm buildings. **Predicted effect:** At most, glimpsed views of the option due to screening by intervening woodland.	High sensitivity receptor Negligible magnitude of change	Negligible	n/a	Negligible
K-S-13	Rheeves properties (Residential)	**Baseline view:** The site is located approximately 1.0km from these residences. Views towards the site comprise a mix of undulating agricultural fields, and it is entirely screened due to an immediate rise in landform to the north.	High sensitivity receptor	No change	n/a	No change

Visual receptor		Description of the Baseline View and Predicted Effects (reflecting combined sensitivity and magnitude)		Predicted visual effect	Assumed secondary mitigation	Predicted residual visual effect
Ref.	Name					
		Features within the landscape include minor road networks, residences and farm buildings and electricity pylons. **Predicted effect:** No change to the view as the option would be screened by intervening woodland.	No magnitude of change			
K-S-14	Runmerry, Pitearn, Moorside (Residential)	**Baseline view:** The site is located approximately 0.1km south of these receptors. The view towards the site is fragmented due to extensive boundary vegetation and intervening woodland and field boundary planting. For all properties, views towards the site are screened by Alves Wood or vegetation along the railway line. Runmerry has more extensive views east, covering agricultural fields, intervening planting and scattered residences. Features in the landscape include the existing A96, minor roads, neighbouring residences and farm buildings, and passing trains along the railway track. **Predicted effect:** No change to the view as the option would be screened by intervening woodland.	High sensitivity receptor No magnitude of change	No change	n/a	No change
K-S-15	Route between Brodieshill & Cloves (Recreational)	**Baseline view:** The site is located approximately 0.3km north of this receptor at it its closest point. The route passes through gently undulating pastoral fields, interspersed with boundary vegetation and woodland blocks. **Predicted effect:** The option would be visible within close range at its eastern extent, however it would be screened from most of its length from this route by the landform and/or because of being in cutting. The option would form a small part of the view.	Medium sensitivity receptor Low magnitude of change	Minor adverse	n/a	Minor adverse
K-S-16	Church Cottages, Drayton House & Manse (Residential)	**Baseline view:** The site is located approximately 0.2km north of these receptors. The view towards the site is characterised by agricultural fields, close proximity woodland blocks and intervening vegetation which screens some views. Residences can also be seen nearby. Views west and east are characterised by gently undulating agricultural fields which are interspersed with woodland blocks and houses. Views south are elevated and extend towards southern wooded slopes.	High sensitivity receptor	Moderate adverse	LV2, LV4, LV5, LV6	Minor adverse

Visual receptor		Description of the Baseline View and Predicted Effects (reflecting combined sensitivity and magnitude)		Predicted visual effect	Assumed secondary mitigation	Predicted residual visual effect
Ref.	Name					
		Features in the landscape include minor roads, residential and farm properties, and electricity pylons. **Predicted effect:** Potential close-range views of the option (0.2km distance). Intervening screening features would limit the view of the option, including tree cover on the boundary of the property. However, there would be glimpsed, close-range, views of the proposed option through gaps in the tree cover. There is sufficient opportunity to mitigate the view of the option to the north.	Medium magnitude of change			
K-S-17	Monaughty properties (Monaughty, Lachlanwells, Sweethillock and Sweethillock Cottages) (Residential)	**Baseline view:** The site is located approximately 0.6km north of these receptors and is largely screened by the intervening landform and woodland. **Predicted effect:** The option would be largely screened by the intervening landform and by Alves Wood with some glimpsed views to the north possible.	High sensitivity receptor Low magnitude of change	Minor adverse	n/a	Minor adverse
K-S-18	Alves (Residential)	**Baseline view:** This receptor is located approximately 0.5km north of the site. Views towards the site consist of a rise in landform beyond the existing A96, which screens views in this direction. In addition, boundary planting and road side planting adds to this screening. Views east and west are screened by extensive planting around the settlement, but glimpses of rolling agricultural landscape are visible to a few west-facing properties. Features in the landscape include the existing A96, neighbouring properties and farm buildings and minor road networks. **Predicted effect:** No change to the view.	High sensitivity receptor No magnitude of change	No change	n/a	No change
K-S-19	Station House, The Sidings and Cottages	**Baseline view:** The site is located approximately 0.1km to the south of these receptors. The view comprises undulating fields, with intervening blocks of woodland. Beyond the boundary planting and railway line	High sensitivity receptor	Moderate adverse	n/a	Minor adverse

Visual receptor		Description of the Baseline View and Predicted Effects (reflecting combined sensitivity and magnitude)		Predicted visual effect	Assumed secondary mitigation	Predicted residual visual effect
Ref.	Name					
	(Residential)	planting, views towards the site to the south are fragmented but include agricultural fields which gradually slope down in a southwards direction. Distant views to wooded hills can be seen in this direction, beyond residences in the foreground. Features include minor road networks, neighbouring residences, and electricity pylons. **Predicted effect:** The option would be in close proximity, however views towards it would be limited due to it being in cut through this section and filtering of views by intervening tree cover beside the railway line. Mitigation measures could further reduce visibility of the option.	Low magnitude of change			
K-S-20	Route between Cloves & Alves (and through to Easter Cloves) (Recreational)	**Baseline view:** The route directly crosses the site. The route passes through gently undulating pastoral fields, interspersed with boundary vegetation and woodland blocks. **Predicted effect:** The option would directly cross the route and would form part of the view, however the existing A96 and a railway line are within the view, limiting the visual change. In addition, the option would be in cutting through this section and the overbridge at existing grade, further limiting the visual change.	Medium sensitivity receptor Low magnitude of change	Minor adverse	n/a	Minor adverse
K-S-21	Cragganmore, Carsehill properties (Residential)	**Baseline view:** The site is located 0.1km to the south of these receptors. Views from these receptors are generally open to the west and south, whilst views north and east are less so. The view towards the site is characterised by: boundary vegetation and woodland which causes filtered views; flat arable and pastoral fields scattered with residences and farm buildings: and hills can be seen in the distance. **Predicted effect:** Views south of the option would be limited due to it being located lower down the slope in cutting than the receptors and the screening effect of the intervening railway line. Nonetheless, it would be more clearly seen near the railway bridge, where it would form a considerable part of the view, especially when looking along its length from the east.	High sensitivity receptor Medium magnitude of change	Moderate adverse	LV1, LV2, LV3, LV5, LV6	**Moderate adverse**

Visual receptor		Description of the Baseline View and Predicted Effects (reflecting combined sensitivity and magnitude)		Predicted visual effect	Assumed secondary mitigation	Predicted residual visual effect
Ref.	Name					
K-S-22	Cloves (Cloves, Green Rig, Cloves Cottage, Daisy Brae, Wester Wards and Easter Cloves) (Residential)	**Baseline view:** The site is located 0.3km north of these receptors. These properties are set on a slight south facing slope and the view to the north is across medium scale, undulating fields which are bound by woodland. Neighbouring residences and associated boundary vegetation restrict distant views, although views to the east are more open. **Predicted effect:** Views of the option, including north cut slope, approximately 0.3km to the north. Despite being in partial cutting, the scheme would form a fundamental part of the view at relative close range, located on a slope which would face towards the properties.	High sensitivity receptor High magnitude of change	Major adverse	LV2, LV4, LV5, LV6	**Major adverse**
K-S-23	Existing local route: Junction at Whitefield Croft Properties to Alves (Recreational)	**Baseline view:** This route crosses the site. It is located in predominantly flat, open, arable and pastoral fields which are framed by mixed woodland blocks, which cause views to vary in extents along the route towards the site. **Predicted effect:** The option directly crosses the route of the receptor, however it would be largely screened by the intervening landform and it is noted that there are existing views of the A96 at the northern extent of the route.	Medium sensitivity receptor Low magnitude of change	Minor adverse	n/a	Minor adverse
K-S-24	Easter Wards Farm, Sunnyside & properties, Cairnstead (Residential)	**Baseline view:** The site is located directly to the south of these receptors. The view from here is generally open, despite some screening by railway lineside vegetation to the north. **Predicted effect:** Close range view of the option which would form a fundamental part of the view. This would include the main carriageway to the south, the access road to the north and an overbridge to the west.	High sensitivity receptor High magnitude of change	Major adverse	LV1, LV2, LV3, LV5, LV6	**Major adverse**
K-S-25	New Alves Farm properties (Residential)	**Baseline view:** The site is located 0.9km north of these receptors. Views from these receptors are generally open, and the view towards the site is characterised by: elevated and gently undulating landform which comprises of medium scale pastoral and arable fields divided by low lying field boundary vegetation; blocks of mixed woodland planting in the foreground and background providing a wooded backdrop; and scattered residences and farm buildings.	High sensitivity receptor Low magnitude of change	Minor adverse	n/a	Minor adverse

Visual receptor		Description of the Baseline View and Predicted Effects (reflecting combined sensitivity and magnitude)		Predicted visual effect	Assumed secondary mitigation	Predicted residual visual effect
Ref.	Name					
		Predicted effect: The option would be visible to the north at the base of a shallow valley and at a medium range. However, tree cover on the boundary of the property and in the intervening landscape (specifically to the north-east) would limit the visual change.				
K-S-26	Routes to north west of Mosstowie (Recreational)	**Baseline view:** The routes are approximately 0.6 to the south of the site. The route passes through gently undulating pastoral fields, interspersed with boundary vegetation and woodland blocks. **Predicted effect:** The option would be visible to the north, however this route is located on an existing local road and tree cover immediately adjacent to the Scheme would limit the change to the view.	Medium sensitivity receptor Low magnitude of change	Minor adverse	n/a	Minor adverse
K-S-27	Carden and Ardgye properties (Residential)	**Baseline view:** The site is located approximately 0.9km south of these receptors. The view towards the site is characterised by a gently rising north facing slope of pastoral fields towards wooded slopes, divided by woodland and field boundary vegetation. Boundary and road side vegetation along the existing A96 fragment and screen the site from view, although glimpses are possible to the south west. Features in the landscape are residences and farm buildings, the existing A96, minor road networks and electricity pylons. **Predicted effect:** No change to the view due to intervening landform undulations.	Medium sensitivity receptor No magnitude of change	No change	n/a	No change
K-S-28	New Alves, Suilven, Swansree & The Greens (Residential)	**Baseline view:** The site is located approximately 0.8km north of this receptor. The properties are in a slightly elevated position above the site and views towards the south comprise: gently undulating medium scale fields with a backdrop of wooded hills (Carden Hill). **Predicted effect:** Medium-range range views of the option. The option would form a considerable part of the view. However, tree cover on the boundary of the properties and in the intervening landscape would limit the visual change.	High sensitivity receptor Low magnitude of change	Minor adverse	n/a	Minor adverse

Visual receptor		Description of the Baseline View and Predicted Effects (reflecting combined sensitivity and magnitude)		Predicted visual effect	Assumed secondary mitigation	Predicted residual visual effect
Ref.	Name					
K-S-29	Redhill, Hardhillock (Residential)	**Baseline view:** The site is located 0.8km to the north of these receptors. Views from these receptors are generally open. The view towards the site is characterised by: flat, large scale, arable and pastoral fields which are framed by a mixed woodland backdrop; and scattered individual residences. **Predicted effect:** The option would form a considerable part of the view to the north, especially due to being on embankment. However, tree cover on the boundary of the property and in the intervening landscape would limit the visual change.	High sensitivity receptor Low magnitude of change	Minor adverse	n/a	Minor adverse
K-S-30	Existing Local route: Redhill to Railway line (Recreational)	**Baseline view:** This route crosses the site and has varying views from other points of the route towards the site. Some of the route is enclosed by mixed woodland and some is located within open, flat, arable and pastoral fields. **Predicted effect:** Much of the Scheme would be screened from view by surrounding woodland. However, the option would directly cross the route.	Medium sensitivity receptor Medium magnitude of change	Moderate Adverse	LV1, LV2, LV3, LV5, LV6, LV7	**Moderate Adverse**
K-S-31	Lyneside (Residential)	**Baseline view:** The site is located 0.1km south of this receptor. Views from this receptor are enclosed to the north and west, although open towards the east and partially open to the south. The view towards the site is characterised by: intervening vegetation which causes filtered views over open and large scale arable and pastoral fields; neighbouring residences with associated boundary planting; and the railway line which runs along this receptors' southern border. **Predicted effect:** The option would be visible directly to the south and would form a fundamental part of the view, particularly during winter months when trees are not in leaf and because the option would be raised on embankment.	High sensitivity receptor High magnitude of change	Major adverse	LV1, LV2, LV3, LV5, LV6, LV7	**Major adverse**
K-S-32	Burnside Farm (Residential)	**Baseline view:** The site is located 0.1km north of this receptor. Views from this receptor are generally enclosed. The view towards the site is characterised by small scale, pastoral fields which are framed by mixed woodland which restricts views out, including to the site.	High sensitivity receptor	Major adverse	LV1, LV2, LV3, LV5, LV6, LV7	**Major adverse**

Visual receptor		Description of the Baseline View and Predicted Effects (reflecting combined sensitivity and magnitude)		Predicted visual effect	Assumed secondary mitigation	Predicted residual visual effect
Ref.	Name					
		Predicted effect: Close range views of the option which would form a fundamental part of the view, especially due to being raised on embankment.	High magnitude of change			
K-S-33	Routes within woodland network at Knock of Alves and York Tower (Recreational)	**Baseline view:** This woodland track is located at Knock of Alves and includes a vantage point at York Tower. It is almost entirely enclosed by woodland, but with key views afforded to the south towards the site, over woodland and mixed arable and pastoral fields. There is a viewpoint at York Tower (both outside the tower at its base and inside) which offers elevated and distant views out to the south, across the surrounding landscape. Views north are typically screened by the landform and/or woodland. The view from York Tower is attributed a noted level of value as it is a locally recognised viewing position. **Predicted effect:** The routes within the woodland have their views screened, however from the vantage point beside York Tower there would be open views across the landscape, giving rise to a fundamental change in visual amenity.	High sensitivity receptor High magnitude of change	Major adverse	LV1, LV2, LV3, LV5, LV6, LV7	**Major adverse**
K-S-34	Knock, Woodside cottage, York House, Woodside Steading, Woodside House (Residential)	**Baseline view:** The site is located 0.4km to the south of these receptors. The view from these receptors vary. For all receptors, to the south, in the direction of the site, the view is open, elevated and characterised by: undulating arable and pastoral fields interspersed with rough vegetation; scattered residences connected by minor road networks; the railway line and adjacent planting which adds an element of screening in this direction. **Predicted effect:** Views of the option would be from the elevated position of these properties typically facing south, albeit with some screening by intervening woodland.	High sensitivity receptor Medium magnitude of change	Moderate adverse	LV1, LV2, LV3, LV5, LV6, LV7	**Moderate adverse**
K-S-35	Moray cycle route 'Elgin Experience': from Lower Whitefield to	**Baseline view:** This route crosses the site. The route is orientated in the north to south direction and is located within flat, arable and pastoral fields. The route becomes more enclosed within Quarrelwood, and vegetation beside the road restricts views from other points of the route towards the site in some places also.	High sensitivity receptor	Moderate adverse	LV1, LV2, LV3, LV5, LV6, LV7	**Moderate adverse**

Visual receptor		Description of the Baseline View and Predicted Effects (reflecting combined sensitivity and magnitude)		Predicted visual effect	Assumed secondary mitigation	Predicted residual visual effect
Ref.	Name					
	Knock at Quarrelwood (Recreational)	**Predicted effect:** Direct close-range views of the option which would give rise to a considerable change near the crossing as it would be on embankment at this point.	Medium magnitude of change			
K-S-36	Summerfield, Allardyce, Whinnyknowe, Whitefield Croft, properties between Viewhill, Viewhill Cottage, Ivy Cottage and Broomlands (Residential)	**Baseline view:** The site is located 0.7km north of these receptors. Views out are varied due to boundary vegetation, undulating landform and intervening vegetation which create filtered views. The view towards the site is additionally characterised by: mixed woodland blocks and belts located amongst arable and pastoral fields; and neighbouring residences connected by minor road networks. **Predicted effect:** Despite some screening by intervening woodland, the option would form a fundamental part of the view at medium range, albeit with some screening by intervening tree cover and minor landform undulations. The inclusion of secondary mitigation measures has the potential to limit change to the view.	High sensitivity receptor Medium magnitude of change	Major adverse	LV1, LV2, LV3, LV5, LV6, LV7	**Moderate adverse**
K-S-37	Lochinver Croft, Lochinver Lodge, Moorside, Oakview, Lochinver Cottages (Residential)	**Baseline view:** The site is located 0.3km to the east of these receptors. Views out are generally confined to the north, east and west; and views to the south are more open. Towards the site the view is characterised by: flat, pastoral and arable fields which are medium in scale; mixed woodland; neighbouring residences and associated boundary vegetation. **Predicted effect:** Despite some screening by intervening woodland, the option would form a fundamental part of the view at close range.	High sensitivity receptor High magnitude of change	Major adverse	LV1, LV2, LV3, LV5, LV6, LV7	**Major adverse**
K-S-38	Muiryhall, Ballantine Circle (Residential)	**Baseline view:** The site is located 1km to the east of these receptors. The view from these receptors are enclosed to the north and south west, and more open to the east. To the north east, in the direction of the site, the view is open and is characterised by: flat, arable and pastoral fields; mixed woodland blocks and belts which fragment and frame views; and residential properties connected by minor roads. **Predicted effect:** Surrounding woodland cover would screen much of the option, however it would be glimpsed at long-distance to the east.	High sensitivity receptor Low magnitude of change	Minor adverse	n/a	Minor adverse

Visual receptor		Description of the Baseline View and Predicted Effects (reflecting combined sensitivity and magnitude)		Predicted visual effect	Assumed secondary mitigation	Predicted residual visual effect
Ref.	Name					
K-S-39	Lochinver Cottages, Inverlochty Cottage, Inverlochty property (Residential)	**Baseline view:** The site is located 0.1km south of these properties. Views from these receptors vary due to undulations to the south and mixed woodland to the north. The view to the south, towards the site is characterised by: rolling, large scale arable fields, blocks of mixed woodland planting; and distant views to southern hills. **Predicted effect:** Close range views of the option, including the Elgin West junction and Elgin link road, which would comprise a fundamental part of the view.	High sensitivity receptor High magnitude of change	Major adverse	LV1, LV2, LV3, LV5, LV6, LV7	**Major adverse**
K-S-40	Dunroamin, Caulrayne (Residential)	**Baseline view:** The site is located 0.1km north and east of these receptors. Views out are generally open and extensive. The view towards the site is characterised by: minor roads and simple, open, large scale, arable fields with views to mixed wooded and wetland associated with the Black Burn and River Lossie. **Predicted effect:** Close range views of the option, including a local access road overbridge, which would comprise a fundamental part of the view.	High sensitivity receptor High magnitude of change	Major adverse	LV2, LV3, LV5, LV6	**Major adverse**
K-S-41	Existing local route network: Pittendriech Bridge to Milton Duff; Wester Pittendreich to Wester Manbeen Cottages; Wester Pittendreich Cottages to Whitefield Croft (Recreational)	**Baseline view:** These routes cross the site. They pass through flat and gently undulating, arable and pastoral fields. Mixed woodland creates a variety of enclosed and more open views from the routes towards the site. **Predicted effect:** Direct, close-range views of the option which would form a fundamental part of views along these routes.	Medium sensitivity receptor High magnitude of change	Major adverse	LV2, LV3, LV5, LV6.	**Major adverse**

Visual receptor		Description of the Baseline View and Predicted Effects (reflecting combined sensitivity and magnitude)		Predicted visual effect	Assumed secondary mitigation	Predicted residual visual effect
Ref.	Name					
K-S-42	Aldroughty properties (Residential)	**Baseline view:** These properties are located on a south facing slope with views to the north screened by Quarrelwood Hill. Views to the south are more open across the River Lossie and associated shallow valley floor. **Predicted effect:** Direct, close-range view of the option which would form a fundamental part of the view.	High sensitivity receptor High magnitude of change	Major adverse	LV1, LV2, LV3, LV5, LV6	**Major adverse**
K-S-43	Bruceland. The Bield and Scroggiemill House (Residential)	**Baseline view:** These properties are in an elevated position within an open, shallow valley floor beside the River Lossie. Views further north are screened by Quarrelwood Hill and to the south by tree cover. **Predicted effect:** Direct, close-range view of the option link road which would form a fundamental part of the view, although in cutting along sections.	High sensitivity receptor High magnitude of change	Major adverse	LV1, LV2, LV3, LV5, LV6	**Major adverse**
K-S-44	Access routes in and around River Lossie and Aldroughty Wood (Recreational)	**Baseline view:** These routes are mostly located on a south facing slope with views to the north screened by Quarrelwood Hill. Views to the south are more open across the River Lossie and associated shallow valley floor. The view out towards the site is from the southern edge of Aldroughty Wood. Views from routes within the wood itself are enclosed. **Predicted effect:** Direct, close-range view of the option link road which would form a fundamental part of the view.	High sensitivity receptor High magnitude of change	Major adverse	LV1, LV2, LV3, LV5, LV6	**Major adverse**
K-S-45	Wester-Manbeen Cottages on Pluscarden Road (Residential)	**Baseline view:** The site is located 0.2km north and east of these receptors. The view from these receptors are enclosed to the east, and generally more open in other directions. The view towards the site is characterised by: mixed woodland and large farm buildings which screen large sections of the site; flat, pastoral fields with views towards wooded hills in the distance; and the B9010 which is located at close range. **Predicted effect:** Direct, close-range view of the option to the north which would be on embankment and form a fundamental part of the view, albeit intervening farm buildings and tree cover would partially screen part of the option from view.	High sensitivity receptor Medium magnitude of change	Major adverse	LV1, LV2, LV5	**Major adverse**

Visual receptor		Description of the Baseline View and Predicted Effects (reflecting combined sensitivity and magnitude)		Predicted visual effect	Assumed secondary mitigation	Predicted residual visual effect
Ref.	Name					
K-S-46	Wester Pittendreich properties, Easter Pittendreich cottages and properties, Pittendreich House, Allarburn, Sunningdale, Saint Marys properties (Residential)	**Baseline view:** The site is located 0.2km south-west of these receptors. The views towards the site vary due to differing extents of residence boundary planting and intervening vegetation. Towards the south, in the direction of the site, views become more open. The view is further characterised by: flat arable and pastoral fields interspersed with intervening vegetation which causes filtered views; neighbouring residences and minor road networks. **Predicted effect:** Despite some screening by intervening tree cover, there would be direct, close-range view of the option which would form a fundamental part of the view, particularly from the properties at the southern extent of the grouping of receptors (i.e. Wester Pittendreich) and due to the option being raised on embankment.	High sensitivity receptor High magnitude of change	Major adverse	LV1, LV2, LV5	**Major adverse**
K-S-47	Rose Cottage, Grives House, Glebe Cottage, The Grange properties, Byrna, Dykeside (Residential)	**Baseline view:** The site is located 0.7km to the north east of these receptors. Views out from these receptors are generally enclosed. The view towards the site is characterised by: flat, medium scale arable and pastoral fields; boundary planting, field boundary trees and mixed woodland belts which fragment and screen views; and distant hills. **Predicted effect:** The option would be clearly visible from some of the properties, particularly due to it being raised up on embankment in contrast to the flat and low-lying landform. Woodland and trees would filter some views whilst the option would cut across other wide, open expanses visible. Due to the human modified character of the landscape and existing lines of trees, there would be scope to mitigate effects with tree planting on the embankment slopes..	High sensitivity receptor Medium magnitude of change	Moderate adverse	LV1, LV2, LV3, LV5, LV6	Minor adverse
K-S-48	Local routes around water bodies (Recreational)	**Baseline view:** These routes cross the site. They are located around water bodies, within flat arable fields and wetland. Views from the routes towards the site are framed by mixed woodland which screens views to the east and west in particular.	Medium sensitivity receptor High magnitude of change	Major adverse	LV1, LV2, LV5	**Major adverse**

Visual receptor		Description of the Baseline View and Predicted Effects (reflecting combined sensitivity and magnitude)		Predicted visual effect	Assumed secondary mitigation	Predicted residual visual effect
Ref.	Name					
		Predicted effect: Despite some screening by adjacent tree cover, there would be direct, close-range views of the option which would form a fundamental part of the view.				
K-S-49	Mossend (Residential)	**Baseline view:** The site is located 0.5km south of these receptors. Views from these receptors are enclosed to the north, east and west but open to the south, in the direction of the site. The view is characterised by large scale, flat and rolling fields and wetland; mixed woodland to the east and some intervening vegetation which contributes to screening sections of the site. **Predicted effect:** Open view to the south of the option which would form a fundamental part of the view, especially due to being raised on embankment.	High sensitivity receptor High magnitude of change	Major adverse	LV1, LV2, LV3, LV5, LV6	**Major adverse**
K-S-50	Kirkside, Dykeside Cottages (Residential)	**Baseline view:** The site is located approximately 0.3km to the north of these properties. Views from these receptors are varied. To the east and south, views are enclosed whilst to the west views are more extensive. To the north, in the direction of the site, the view is characterised by: flat or slightly undulating landform which allows extensive views; pastoral and arable fields and wetland; mixed woodland blocks which screen the site's eastern extents; and scattered residential and farm buildings. **Predicted effect:** Open view to the north of the option which would form a fundamental part of the view. Given the human modified character of the landscape and existing lines of trees, there would be scope to mitigate some effects with tree planting on embankment slopes.	High sensitivity receptor High magnitude of change	Major adverse	LV1, LV2, LV3, LV5, LV6	**Moderate adverse**
K-S-51	The Kennels (Residential)	**Baseline view:** The site is located 0.3km to the north of this receptor. Views from this receptor are enclosed to the east, and more extensive to the south and west. To the north, in the direction of the site, the view is characterised by: gentle undulations in landform and intervening vegetation which restricts views; mixed fields and rough grassland; mixed wooded ridges in the foreground and distance.	High sensitivity receptor Low magnitude of change	Minor adverse	n/a	Minor adverse

Visual receptor		Description of the Baseline View and Predicted Effects (reflecting combined sensitivity and magnitude)		Predicted visual effect	Assumed secondary mitigation	Predicted residual visual effect
Ref.	Name					
		Predicted effect: Possible glimpsed views of the amended local access road to the north of the receptor, however views would largely be screened by intervening woodland cover.				
K-S-52	Existing local routes: End of track leading to Burnside of Birnie to Moray cycle route 'Elgin Experience'; Duffus Hillock to Wood of Level (Recreational)	**Baseline view:** These routes cross the site. They are located within flat and undulating, arable fields and border mixed woodland blocks. Views along the routes towards the site therefore vary between being enclosed and open. **Predicted effect:** Direct, close-range view of the option which would form a considerable part of the view, albeit for a short duration due to surrounding screening.	High sensitivity receptor Medium magnitude of change	Moderate adverse	LV1, LV2, LV3, LV5, LV6	**Moderate adverse**
K-S-53	Glassgreen properties (Residential)	**Baseline view:** The site is located 0.8 km to the south of these receptors. Views from these receptors are generally enclosed. The views towards the site are elevated but filtered and are characterised by: boundary vegetation and mixed woodland planting which restricts views; extensive, flat, arable fields; minor road networks; and hills in the distance. **Predicted effect:** Views screened by intervening landform undulations, however glimpsed views of the option would be possible.	High sensitivity receptor Negligible magnitude of change	Negligible	n/a	Negligible
K-S-54	Birkenhill Wood properties, including the Neuk, Mingulay (Residential)	**Baseline view:** The site is located 0.2km south of these receptors. Views from these receptors are enclosed to the north, east and south but open towards the west. The view towards the site is characterised by: mixed woodland which frames medium scale arable and pastoral fields; and gently rolling landform with some rough intervening vegetation which divides fields and creates further screening. **Predicted effect:** Direct view of the option, including the Elgin South junction, to the south and south-west, albeit with some screening of the route by intervening woodland to the south-east.	High sensitivity receptor High magnitude of change	Major adverse	LV1, LV2, LV3, LV5, LV6	**Major adverse**

Visual receptor		Description of the Baseline View and Predicted Effects (reflecting combined sensitivity and magnitude)		Predicted visual effect	Assumed secondary mitigation	Predicted residual visual effect
Ref.	Name					
K-S-55	Brackairlie, Blossombank, Burnside of Birnie (Residential)	**Baseline view:** The site is located 0.1km north of these receptors. Views from these receptors are enclosed to the south and east and more open to the west and north. The view towards the site is characterised by: flat, arable and pastoral fields which are open and allow extensive views; low lying field boundary vegetation which fragment some views; eastern, mixed woodland blocks which screen views in this direction; and individual residences dispersed in clusters throughout the landscape. **Predicted effect:** Direct, close-range view of the option, including the Elgin South junction, which would form a fundamental part of the view.	High sensitivity receptor High magnitude of change	Major adverse	LV1, LV2, LV3, LV5, LV6	**Major adverse**
K-S-56	Existing local route: Brackairlie to Glassgreen; Core path CP-EG05: Edge of Elgin to junction (Recreational)	**Baseline view:** These routes cross the site and both are orientated in a north-southerly direction and with woodland bordering much of their extents. Filtered views from other points of the route towards the site are framed by mixed woodland blocks and over flat landform. **Predicted effect:** Direct, close-range view of the option which would form a considerable part of the view. However, this is a well-used main road with views of vehicles at present.	Medium sensitivity receptor Medium magnitude of change	Moderate adverse	LV1, LV2, LV3, LV5, LV6	**Moderate adverse**
K-S-57	Viewbank, Benriach Cottages (Residential)	**Baseline view:** The site is located 0.7km north of these receptors. The view is open to the north-east and enclosed by intervening mixed woodland in all other directions. The view towards the site is further filtered by boundary vegetation, however possible views are characterised by: undulating, large scale, arable fields which restrict views; blocks of mixed woodland; and scattered residences. **Predicted effect:** No change due to intervening landform and woodland screening.	High sensitivity receptor No magnitude of change	No change	n/a	No change
K-S-58	Birkenhill Woodland path network (Recreational)	**Baseline view:** These routes are almost entirely enclosed by woodland, although some cross the site. **Predicted effect:** Direct, close-range view of the option which would form a considerable part of the view within an enclosed setting.	Medium sensitivity receptor	Moderate adverse	LV1, LV2, LV3, LV5, LV6	**Moderate adverse**

Visual receptor		Description of the Baseline View and Predicted Effects (reflecting combined sensitivity and magnitude)		Predicted visual effect	Assumed secondary mitigation	Predicted residual visual effect
Ref.	Name					
			Medium magnitude of change			
K-S-59	Taranaki (Residential)	**Baseline view:** The site is located 0.4km north of this receptor. Views from this receptor are open to the south and east, although enclosed to the north and west. The view towards the site is characterised by: large scale, pastoral fields divided by boundary vegetation and tree planting; mixed woodland blocks and gently undulating landform which screen large sections of the site. **Predicted effect:** The option would be largely screened from this receptor although there may be narrow or filtered views from this property looking along the local access road to the north west.	High sensitivity receptor Low magnitude of change	Minor adverse	n/a	Minor adverse
K-S-60	Aspirational Core path: Birkenhill Wood to Longmorn and Riach Farm (Recreational)	**Baseline view:** This route crosses the site, and is located within large scale, arable and pastoral fields, and follows the eastern border of Birkenhill Wood. Views along the route towards the site vary due to boundary planting and undulations in landform. **Predicted effect:** Direct, close-range view of the option which would form a fundamental part of the view, although partly in cutting.	High sensitivity receptor High magnitude of change	Major adverse	LV1, LV2, LV3, LV5, LV6	**Major adverse**
K-S-61	Glenview, Longmorn & Riach House (Residential)	**Baseline view:** The site is located 0.6km north of this receptor. The view from these properties are moderately open. Views towards the site are characterised by: pastoral, gently undulating landform; and mixed woodland belts which frame and screen large sections of the site. **Predicted effect:** Views of the option within open locations through gaps in woodland. The option is in cutting for some its extent within the view here, however it has the potential to form a considerable part of the view.	High sensitivity receptor Medium magnitude of change	Moderate adverse	n/a	**Moderate adverse**
K-S-62	Riach Cottage, Floral View (Residential)	**Baseline view:** The site is located 0.7km north of this receptor. Views from these receptors are generally open with occasional screening by intervening features, and characterised by: large scale, arable and pastoral landform; neighbouring residences; blocks of mixed woodland; and flat and	High sensitivity receptor	Minor adverse	n/a	Minor adverse

Visual receptor		Description of the Baseline View and Predicted Effects (reflecting combined sensitivity and magnitude)		Predicted visual effect	Assumed secondary mitigation	Predicted residual visual effect
Ref.	Name					
		undulating landform which contributes to screening towards the site in places. **Predicted effect:** Limited views of the option due to boundary planting and intervening landform undulations and patches of woodland, although there would be views of the option to the east of Birkenhill Wood from Floral Cottage and to the north west from Riach Cottage.	Low magnitude of change			
K-S-63	Fairfield House (Residential)	**Baseline view:** The site is located 0.2km south of this receptor. The view from this receptor is generally enclosed however there is an open, elevated and framed view towards the site to the south. The view is characterised by: rolling arable and pastoral fields interspersed with mixed woodland belts which screen sections of the site. **Predicted effect:** Close range elevated and open views of the option, which would be raised on embankment, with views framed by surrounding woodland.	High sensitivity receptor High magnitude of change	Major adverse	LV1, LV2, LV3, LV5, LV6	**Major adverse**
K-S-64	Hollowood (Residential)	**Baseline view:** This group of receptors are located approximately 0.8 north of the site. Views in this direction comprise of mixed woodland and pastoral landscape. Boundary vegetation in addition to woodland and variable landform in the wider landscape creates framed views towards the site. Features in the landscape include scattered residences, farm buildings and minor roads connecting them. To the east, electricity pylons can be seen in the far distance. **Predicted effect:** Possible views of small extents of the option, however in the most part the option would be screened from view by the intervening woodland cover and landform undulations.	High sensitivity receptor Low magnitude of change	Minor adverse	n/a	Minor adverse
K-S-65	Troves (Residential)	**Baseline view:** This group of receptors are located approximately 0.5km north of the site. The western properties have limited boundary planting yet distant views are also restricted in this direction due to woodlands. Views to the east are limited due to woodland screening, but southern views are elevated and distant over open and simple pastoral landscape with some blocks of woodland.	High sensitivity receptor	Major adverse	LV1, LV2, LV3, LV5, LV6	**Major adverse**

Visual receptor		Description of the Baseline View and Predicted Effects (reflecting combined sensitivity and magnitude)		Predicted visual effect	Assumed secondary mitigation	Predicted residual visual effect
Ref.	Name					
		Views to neighbouring settlements, individual residences and farm buildings are possible (especially from the upper storeys of some properties) although these are sparse, and minor roads are also visible. **Predicted effect:** Open views towards the option at close range, although limited along some sections by woodland and the option being in partial cutting.	High magnitude of change			
K-S-66	Greens of Coxton, Ferndale, Roslyn Cottage & Tower View Croft (Residential)	**Baseline view:** The site is located approximately 0.9km south of these receptors. The view towards the receptor is characterised as: open, flat pastoral fields scattered with individual residences, farm cottages and patchy vegetation. Woodland can be seen in the foreground along field boundaries. Features in the landscape include residences, farm buildings, and minor roads. **Predicted effect:** Views from these properties would be limited by intervening vegetation and minor landform undulations, however small extents of the option would potentially be visible.	High sensitivity receptor Low magnitude of change	Minor adverse	n/a	Minor adverse
K-S-67	Wester Coxton (Residential)	**Baseline view:** This property is located 0.2 km to the north of the site. Views towards the site comprise woodland blocks within slightly undulating landscape. The receptor is in an elevated position, however distant views east, west and south are restricted due to woodland and undulating landform. Northwards, long range views are possible over open pastoral fields. **Predicted effect:** The option would be located at close range and would form a considerable part of the view, however adjacent tree cover would limit views.	High sensitivity receptor Medium magnitude of change	Moderate adverse	n/a	**Moderate adverse**
K-S-68	Troves routes (Recreational)	**Baseline view:** The minor road from Troves eastwards has open views to the south and partial views to the north, which become more screened as it approaches the T-junction. This is due to the woodland in this area. The site directly crosses this route.	Medium sensitivity receptor	Minor adverse	n/a	Minor adverse

Visual receptor		Description of the Baseline View and Predicted Effects (reflecting combined sensitivity and magnitude)		Predicted visual effect	Assumed secondary mitigation	Predicted residual visual effect
Ref.	Name					
		The route experiences open views over flat and undulating, arable fields. There is a prevalence of road side planting along much of the route which fragments views to the north west and south east. The sloped landform also adds to this screening effect, enclosing some views. **Predicted effect:** Tree cover beside the route would limit views of the option along this route.	Low magnitude of change			
K-S-69	Doohill to railway line (Recreational)	**Baseline view:** This route crosses the site. Part of the route is encompassed by woodland, however out with this screening, views are extensive over flat pastoral landscape in a westerly direction. The railway bunding to the north creates restricted views in that direction, however woodland and electricity pylons can be seen beyond it. There is no documented value attributed to the view nor is there a clear view of a protected landscape. **Predicted effect:** Close range view of the option, including from elevated vantage point upon overbridge looking down main carriageway. The route interfaces with the existing A96, and it is on an existing 'B' road which is well used by vehicles.	Medium sensitivity receptor Low magnitude of change	Minor adverse	n/a	Minor adverse
K-S-70	Lilac Cottage, Mains of Coxton and Doohill (Residential)	**Baseline view:** The site is located approximately 0.2 km south of these receptors. They are located on the southern edge of a woodland area, screening views north, east and west. The view towards the site is likely to be restricted due to immediately adjacent woodland. The surrounding landscape comprises undulating pastoral, fields that are framed by woodland belts, which in turn result in close range views. **Predicted effect:** The option would be largely screened by intervening woodland cover and landform undulations, however narrow views, particularly during winter months would be possible and the option would form a considerable part of the view at close range to the south east, especially where raised on embankment. The inclusion of secondary mitigation measures within the option would partially integrate it into the existing view and limit the visual change.	High sensitivity receptor Medium magnitude of change	Major adverse	n/a	**Moderate adverse**

Visual receptor		Description of the Baseline View and Predicted Effects (reflecting combined sensitivity and magnitude)		Predicted visual effect	Assumed secondary mitigation	Predicted residual visual effect
Ref.	Name					
K-S-71	Errol, Easter Cotts, Main of Cotts (Residential)	**Baseline view:** These receptors are located 0.9km south from the site. Views north are reasonably open with some scattered belts of woodland. Southwards, views are limited by a north facing slope. Features in the landscape are scattered residences, farm sheds, minor roads and landform knolls and ridges. The eastern properties in this grouping are assumed to have views towards electricity pylons. **Predicted effect:** Possible glimpsed views of the option, however intervening woodland would largely screen the option.	High sensitivity receptor Negligible magnitude of change	Negligible	n/a	Negligible
K-S-72	South Darkland, Darkland properties (Residential)	**Baseline view:** These properties are located 0.8km north of the site. Views towards the site are partially restricted by a variable landform and woodland patches. Boundary vegetation surrounding the properties fragment some views to the wider landscape. Views to the west and east are over agricultural fields, neighbouring residences and woodland belts which prevent distant views. Minor road networks, neighbouring properties and farm buildings are all visible in the landscape. South Darkland is slightly elevated with extensive views south west wards which includes the existing A96 and electricity pylons. **Predicted effect:** Possible glimpsed views of the option, however intervening woodland would largely screen the option.	High sensitivity receptor Negligible magnitude of change	Negligible	n/a	Negligible
K-S-73	Green Acres, Country Cottage (Residential)	**Baseline view:** The site is located 0.2km north-east and east of these receptors. The views towards the majority of the site are screened by the railway embankment and bridge. However, the northernmost part of the site, which ties in with the existing A96, is visible at close-range. Views north are largely screened by boundary vegetation and road side vegetation along the existing A96. Some road infrastructure and traffic can be seen. Eastwards, views are across undulating pastoral fields. Features in the landscape include electricity pylons, associated A96 traffic and infrastructure, neighbouring properties and farm buildings.	High sensitivity receptor Medium magnitude of change	Moderate adverse	LV1, LV2, LV3, LV5, LV6	**Moderate adverse**

Visual receptor		Description of the Baseline View and Predicted Effects (reflecting combined sensitivity and magnitude)		Predicted visual effect	Assumed secondary mitigation	Predicted residual visual effect
Ref.	Name					
		Predicted effect: The railway embankment to the south would screen most of the option from view. However, there would be a view of the amended local access road directly adjacent to the east of the receptor and this would form a considerable part of the view.				
K-S-74	Easter Coxton (Residential)	**Baseline view:** The site is located approximately 0.2 km south and east of this receptor. Views towards the site are characterised by: boundary planting, woodland blocks and undulating pastoral fields. Views west are linear in nature and extend over flat pasture towards distant hills. Views south and east are more restricted primarily due to woodland planting blocks in the foreground. Features in the landscape include electricity pylons, the railway line, neighbouring properties and farm buildings, and minor roads. **Predicted effect:** Close range view of the option which would form a fundamental part of the view to both the east and south.	High sensitivity receptor High magnitude of change	Major adverse	LV1, LV2, LV3, LV5, LV6	**Major adverse**
K-S-75	Crossroads at B9103 to railway (Recreational)	**Baseline view:** The site crosses this route. Roadside planting along most of this route screens views to the west and south. Views north and east comprise of undulating agricultural landform, dispersed residences and glimpses of Lhanbryde. The existing A96 is visible to the north. There is no documented value attributed to the view nor is there a clear view of a protected landscape. **Predicted effect:** Close range view of the option, including the Elgin East junction and link roads, which would form a fundamental part of the view.	Medium sensitivity receptor High magnitude of change	Major adverse	LV1, LV2, LV3, LV5, LV6	**Major adverse**
K-S-76	Scotsburn (Residential)	**Baseline view:** The site is located 0.8 km north of this receptor. Views towards the site include a relatively open and flat landscape with belts of woodland which partially restrict views. Additionally, these properties are largely surrounded by boundary planting. The raised landform to the east restricts views in that direction. The landscape is otherwise relatively flat and open to the north and west, however a belt of woodland to the south screens distant views.	High sensitivity receptor Low magnitude of change	Minor adverse	n/a	Minor adverse

Visual receptor		Description of the Baseline View and Predicted Effects (reflecting combined sensitivity and magnitude)		Predicted visual effect	Assumed secondary mitigation	Predicted residual visual effect
Ref.	Name					
		Electricity pylons are located near these properties, as well as major and minor roads. Glimpses of vehicles are possible through road boundary planting. **Predicted effect:** The option is likely to form, at most, a small part of the view to the north. The intervening landscape undulations are likely to screen much of the option from view.				
K-S-77	Lhanbryde (Residential)	**Baseline view:** Lhanbryde is located 0.1 km north of the site. Views towards the site comprise of: the existing A96, boundary and road and railway-side vegetation; and a mix of pastoral fields and woodland blocks beyond. This settlement is located within a gently undulating landform. There are wooded hills to the north and a mixed agricultural landscape to the east, south and west. Patches of woodland and undulations in the immediate vicinity restrict views from some properties. The existing A96 and railway lines run along the southern perimeter of Lhanbryde and the surrounding landscape is scattered with individual properties and farm buildings. Electricity pylons can also be seen to the southwest. **Predicted effect:** The option passes approximately 0.1km south and west of Lhanbryde. In the most part, receptors within the settlement have their views out screened by buildings and vegetation. However, a small group of properties on the very southern edge are likely to have close range views of the option, including the Elgin East junction. The option is likely to form a relatively small part of the view given that the existing A96 passes in the foreground of the view.	High sensitivity receptor Low magnitude of change	Minor adverse	n/a	Minor adverse
K-S-78	Glenesk Cottage, Greenfields (Residential)	**Baseline view:** The site is located approximately 0.2km north of these receptors. The view towards the site is characterised by: gently rising landform to the east; mixed agricultural fields separated by vegetation and woodland planting; and Lhanbryde and individual residences scattered throughout the landscape. Views to the west and east are screened by woodland and landform. There are some extended views south towards higher ground, and views north	High sensitivity receptor Low magnitude of change	Minor adverse	n/a	Minor adverse

Visual receptor		Description of the Baseline View and Predicted Effects (reflecting combined sensitivity and magnitude)		Predicted visual effect	Assumed secondary mitigation	Predicted residual visual effect
Ref.	Name					
		reach the southern extents of Lhanbryde and the distant woodland backdrop. Features in the landscape include residences of Lhanbryde, individual properties in the landscape, existing A96 traffic and views of passing trains on the railway line are possible as well. **Predicted effect: Predicted effect:** Glimpsed views of the option due to intervening screening.				
K-S-79	Carsewell Steading (south of Alves) (Residential)	**Baseline view:** The site is located approximately 0.8km to the south-east of these receptors. The view comprises sloped fields, with blocks of woodland. Views to the south are fragmented but include agricultural fields which gradually slope up and down in a southwards direction. Distant views to wooded hills can be seen in this direction, with clusters of residences in the foreground. A line of pylons passes across the intervening view to the south. **Predicted effect:** The view of the option would be largely restricted by the intervening railway line and road and railway-side trees. Its visibility would also be reduced by being largely in cutting to the south of this receptor and would be from the rear of properties at the southern extent of the grouping.	High sensitivity receptor Low magnitude of change	Minor adverse	n/a	Minor adverse
K-S-80	Riverside Caravan Park, Elgin	**Baseline view:** This private caravan park is located in lower ground close between the existing A96 and Quarrelwood Hill to the north and the River Lossie to the south. Views to the south are more open across the River Lossie and associated shallow valley floor. **Predicted effect:** Direct, close-range view of the option link road which would form a fundamental part of the view.	High sensitivity receptor High magnitude of change	Major adverse	LV1, LV2, LV3, LV5, LV6	**Major adverse**

Lhanbryde to East of Fochabers Options

Table 1.5 contains a description of the baseline view and potential visual effects on receptors located with the study area of the option to the north of Fochabers (see Figure 15.3, Volume 3).

Table 1.5 Predicted Visual Effects for Lhanbryde to East of Fochabers North Option

Visual receptor		Description of the Baseline View and Predicted Effects (reflecting combined sensitivity and magnitude)		Predicted visual effect	Assumed secondary mitigation	Predicted residual visual effect
Ref.	Name					
L-N-1	Scotsburn (Residential)	**Baseline view:** The site is located 0.8km north of this receptor. Views towards the site include a relatively open and flat landscape with belts of woodland which partially restrict views. Additionally, these properties are largely surrounded by boundary planting. The raised landform to the east restricts views in that direction. The landscape is otherwise relatively flat and open to the north and west, however a belt of woodland to the south screens distant views. Electricity pylons are located near these properties, as well as major and minor roads. Glimpses of vehicles are possible through road boundary vegetation. **Predicted effect:** The option is likely to form, at most, a negligible part of the view to the north. The intervening landscape undulations are likely to screen most of the option from view.	High sensitivity receptor Negligible magnitude of change	Negligible	n/a	Negligible
L-N-2	Lhanbryde (Residential)	**Baseline view:** Lhanbryde is located approximately 0.1km north of the site. Views towards the site comprise of: the existing A96, boundary and road and railway-side vegetation; and a mix of pastoral fields and woodland blocks beyond. This settlement is located within a gently undulating landform. There are wooded hills to the north and a mixed agricultural landscape to the east, south and west. Patches of woodland and undulations in the immediate vicinity restrict views from some properties. The existing A96 and railway lines run along the southern perimeter of Lhanbryde and the surrounding landscape is scattered with individual properties and farm buildings. Electricity pylons can also be seen to the southwest.	High sensitivity receptor Low magnitude of change	Minor adverse	n/a	Minor adverse

Visual receptor		Description of the Baseline View and Predicted Effects (reflecting combined sensitivity and magnitude)		Predicted visual effect	Assumed secondary mitigation	Predicted residual visual effect
Ref.	Name					
		Predicted effect: The option would be 0.1km south of Lhanbryde. In the most part, receptors within the settlement have their views out to the south screened by buildings and vegetation. However, a small group of properties on the very southern edge are likely to have close range views of the option. The option is likely to form a relatively minor part of the view, particularly given that the existing railway and A96 passes in the foreground.				
L-N-3	Glenesk Cottage, Greenfields (Residential)	**Baseline view:** The site is located approximately 0.2km north of these receptors. The view towards the site is characterised by: gently rising landform to the east; mixed agricultural fields separated by vegetation and woodland planting; and Lhanbryde and individual residences scattered throughout the landscape. Features in the landscape include residences of Lhanbryde, individual properties in the landscape, existing A96 traffic and views of passing trains on the railway line . **Predicted effect:** Close range views to the north of the option. This includes a local access road and overbridge, although the main carriageway will be in cutting and seen in the direction of the existing railway line and A96.	Medium sensitivity receptor Medium magnitude of change	Moderate adverse	LV1, LV2, LV3, LV4, LV5, LV6	**Moderate adverse**
L-N-4	Routes around Loch na Bo (Recreational)	**Baseline view:** These tracks are enclosed entirely by surrounding woodland. The core path CPEG53 is located around Loch Na Bo. The site is 0.1km the north of these tracks and Loch na Bo. There is no documented value attributed to the view nor is there a clear view of a protected landscape. **Predicted effect:** These secluded routes generally pass through dense woodland cover. The option would pass near the northern extent of the Loch, and the routes, and would comprise a small part to the view from the very northern extent of the loch, through gaps in trees, however road would be in cutting at this point.	High sensitivity receptor Low magnitude of change	Minor adverse	n/a	Minor adverse
L-N-5	Woodend, Muiryhall Cottage, Parklands properties	**Baseline view:** Views towards the site are from an elevated position over undulating, residential and pastoral landscape. Landform along with vegetation in the foreground create restricted views in this direction.	High sensitivity receptor	Negligible	n/a	Negligible

Visual receptor		Description of the Baseline View and Predicted Effects (reflecting combined sensitivity and magnitude)		Predicted visual effect	Assumed secondary mitigation	Predicted residual visual effect
Ref.	Name					
	(Residential)	Views to the wider landscape are all relatively local due to undulating landform, woodland backdrops and vegetation in the foreground. Glimpses of distant views towards higher ground to the south are afforded, however. Features in the landscape include residences and the northern edge of Lhanbryde, farm buildings and minor roads. **Predicted effect:** Possible glimpsed views of the option from properties, however views are likely to be very limited.	Negligible magnitude of change			
L-N-6	Greystokes and The Pines (Residential)	**Baseline view:** Views to the east and south are screened by Sleepieshill Wood and Threapland Wood. Views west extend towards Lhanbryde, through field boundary vegetation which creates intermittent distant views. **Predicted effect:** The option would pass at close range to these receptors. The option would be partially screened by intervening landform and vegetation, however there would be a clear view south-west and the option would form a fundamental part of the view.	High sensitivity receptor High magnitude of change	Major adverse	LV1, LV2, LV3, LV4, LV5, LV6	**Major adverse**
L-N-7	CPEG52 from Loch Na Bo to Hawthorn Cottage (Recreational)	**Baseline view:** This route crosses the site. Views from the route are either partially or fully restricted by surrounding woodland (Threapland Wood) and policy trees. Beyond the existing A96 views are open over flat and gently undulating arable land. Lhanbryde is visible to the west, and views feature a woodland backdrop to the north and east. **Predicted effect:** The option directly crosses this route and close-range views would be experienced by receptors. The option would form a fundamental part of the view.	High sensitivity receptor High magnitude of change	Major adverse	LV1, LV2, LV3, LV4, LV5, LV6	**Major adverse**
L-N-8	Muiryhall, Corriegarth, Belimmy (Residential)	**Baseline view:** These receptors are located on the western edge of Sleepieshill wood, approximately 0.9km north of the site. Views towards the site are elevated over pastoral fields, although they are limited due to woodland and the landform to the south and east. Framed distant views are possible south west between the edge of Lhanbryde and Threapland Wood. The existing A96 and associated traffic would likely be visible from these properties (Muiryhall in particular). There is also potential for the railway to be seen towards the south west.	High sensitivity receptor Low magnitude of change	Minor adverse	n/a	Minor adverse

Visual receptor		Description of the Baseline View and Predicted Effects (reflecting combined sensitivity and magnitude)		Predicted visual effect	Assumed secondary mitigation	Predicted residual visual effect
Ref.	Name					
		There is no documented value attributed to the view nor is there a protected landscape within the view (Loch Oire is near but screened well by woodland). **Predicted effect:** These receptors are located approximately 0.9km away from the option, however given that they have relatively open views south-west, there is the potential for a limited view of the option. The option has the potential to form a small element within the wider view.				
L-N-9	Looped route - North Threapland Wood (Recreational)	**Baseline view:** This route is entirely enclosed by Threapland Wood, on undulating landform. The site directly crosses two sections of this track. There is no documented value attributed to the view nor is there a clear view of a protected landscape. **Predicted effect:** This route crosses the line of the option in two locations. As the route crosses the option, it would form a considerable part of the view, albeit for a short duration as the path is largely contained within woodland cover.	Medium sensitivity receptor Medium magnitude of change	Moderate adverse	LV1, LV2, LV3, LV4, LV5, LV6	**Moderate adverse**
L-N-10	Blackburn properties (Residential)	**Baseline view:** The site is located 0.9km north-east of these receptors. The view towards the site is characterised by: undulating and pastoral landscape between large scale woodland blocks. Features in the landscape include the railway track running to the north of the properties, with distant views to Mosstodloch to the north east. **Predicted effect:** A woodland block adjacent to the properties would limit views of the option, however a glimpsed view is possible to the north, north-east. The option would form a small part of the view.	High sensitivity receptor Low magnitude of change	Minor adverse	n/a	Minor adverse
L-N-11	Aspirational core path from edge of Threapland wood to Blackdam Wood (Recreational)	**Baseline view:** This path has localised views southwards towards arable fields, framed by surrounding woodland. Distant views south and north are further restricted by the undulating landform in the foreground. As the path passes through woodland, views out are screened. Views towards the site are open from parts of the route. **Predicted effect:** The site is generally within woodland, however intermittent gaps in the woodland cover allow short range views. The option would potentially be visible for short durations, where gaps in the	Medium sensitivity receptor Low magnitude of change	Minor adverse	n/a	Minor adverse

Visual receptor		Description of the Baseline View and Predicted Effects (reflecting combined sensitivity and magnitude)		Predicted visual effect	Assumed secondary mitigation	Predicted residual visual effect
Ref.	Name					
		vegetation allow. The option would be in cutting where potentially visible, limiting the extent to which it may be seen				
L-N-12	Wester Marchfield and March Cottage (Residential)	**Baseline view:** These receptors are located approximately 0.1km north of the site. Views towards the site are unrestricted over gently rolling pasture with a woodland backdrop. Features in the landscape are minor road networks between scattered residences, and traffic on the existing A96 in the distance. **Predicted effect:** The mainline component of the option would be in cutting here, however it would be near and would likely form a fundamental part of the view.	High sensitivity receptor High magnitude of change	Major adverse	LV1, LV2, LV3, LV4, LV5, LV6	**Major adverse**
L-N-13	The Pines, Mayfield Cottage, Sonas, Meadowside (Residential)	**Baseline view:** The site is located approximately 0.1km south. The view towards the site is characterised by open and flat pasture framed by woodland to the west, north (and to the east for the northern properties in this group). Views south are more extensive, over more undulating landform. The site in the distance is screened by intervening woodland and landform. Features visible in the landscape include scattered residences to the north and west, the existing A96 and associated traffic, as well as minor roads. **Predicted effect:** The mainline component of the option would be in cutting here, however it would be near this receptor and would likely form a fundamental part of the view, especially when looking along the line of the option in cutting from the east.	High sensitivity receptor High magnitude of change	Major adverse	LV1, LV2, LV3, LV4, LV5, LV6	**Major adverse**
L-N-14	Easter Bauds & Wester Bauds (Residential)	**Baseline view:** The site is located approximately 0.3km north of these receptors. The view towards the site is characterised by: flat, pasture with woodland blocks which act as a backdrop. The presence of woodland blocks creates varying views out towards the wider landscape. Towards the east and west, local views are limited in the midground by woodland. Other features in the wider landscape include scattered residences and minor roads with associated traffic. Views of A96 traffic to the north are also possible.	High sensitivity receptor High magnitude of change	Major adverse	LV1, LV2, LV3, LV4, LV5, LV6	**Major adverse**

Visual receptor		Description of the Baseline View and Predicted Effects (reflecting combined sensitivity and magnitude)		Predicted visual effect	Assumed secondary mitigation	Predicted residual visual effect
Ref.	Name					
		Predicted effect: The option would be visible at close range approximately 0.3km north of the receptor. Despite being in partial cutting though this location, the option would form a fundamental part of the view.				
L-N-15	Kennieshillock, Castlehill (Residential)	**Baseline view:** The site is located south of these receptors which are on elevated, south facing slopes of varying distance away. The views include pastoral fields, woodland blocks and scattered residences. Pasture surround the properties and medium to long range views are screened by woodlands that border these fields, to the north, east and west. Views over fields and scattered residences to the south vary in distance due to woodland blocks in the foreground. Features within the view include the existing A96, minor roads, residences and farm sheds. **Predicted effect: Predicted effect:** Sections of the option would be visible to the south of these receptors, increased by the relative elevation of the receptors. However, the existing A96 is visible within the view directly adjacent to the south, limiting the change to the view.	High sensitivity receptor Low magnitude of change	Minor adverse	n/a	Minor adverse
L-N-16	Ivy Cottage & Mains of Blackdam (Residential)	**Baseline view:** This receptor is located 0.3km north from the site. Views towards the site comprise a gently rolling landscape of rough pasture. The wider landscape includes extensive woodland and views north and west are screened by woodland and the rolling landform. Views south and east are more extensive. Longer range views are possible in an easterly direction and consist of generally flat, agricultural land with sporadic woodland planting. The A96 is near, as are other residences and farm sheds. The edge of Mosstodloch is also likely to be visible to the east along the A96. **Predicted effect:** Close range views of the option which would form a fundamental part of the view.	High sensitivity receptor High magnitude of change	Major adverse	LV1, LV2, LV3, LV4, LV5, LV6	**Major adverse**
L-N-17	Castlehill Woodland Tracks (Recreational)	**Baseline view:** The site is located 0.5 km south of these routes. The views towards the site are partially screened by extensive woodland surrounding the routes. Views are characterised as: extensive, over gently rolling mixed agricultural landscape; or with woodland blocks in the foreground.	Medium sensitivity receptor	Minor adverse	n/a	Minor adverse

Visual receptor		Description of the Baseline View and Predicted Effects (reflecting combined sensitivity and magnitude)		Predicted visual effect	Assumed secondary mitigation	Predicted residual visual effect
Ref.	Name					
		Minor roads, neighbouring properties, farm buildings and electricity pylons are all features visible within the landscape. **Predicted effect:** The option would be visible approximately 0.5km to the south. The option would form a small part of the view, particularly given there is a view of the existing A96.	Low magnitude of change			
L-N-18	Cowford residences (Residential)	**Baseline view:** This receptor is located 0.4 km north of the site. The view south towards the site comprises some boundary vegetation surrounding the property and flat pastoral fields framed by woodland blocks. The existing A96 is visible in the foreground view to the north. Woodland blocks to the north and south limit the extent of local views. The westward views are more extensive and include individual properties, whilst the east is screened by woodland and Mosstodloch properties. **Predicted effect:** The option would be visible to the south and would form a considerable part of the view, albeit with some views to the south screened by Balnacoul Wood.	High sensitivity receptor Medium magnitude of change	Moderate adverse	LV1, LV2, LV3, LV4, LV5, LV6	**Moderate adverse**
L-N-19	Mosstodloch (Residential)	**Baseline view:** The site is located 0.5km south of Mosstodloch. The view towards the site includes the existing A96 within a pastural and wooded landscape with some screening vegetation in the foreground. Features in the landscape include road infrastructure elements, residential properties and farm buildings. **Predicted effect:** Woodland to the south screens the majority of Mosstodloch from views of the option. A possible narrow view to the south-west of the option would be possible from a small number of properties on the western edge of Mosstodloch. The existing A96 is within the view which would limit visual change. The option is likely to form a small part of the view.	High sensitivity receptor Low magnitude of change	Minor adverse	n/a	Minor adverse
L-N-20	Forestry Houses, Crofts of Dipple (Residential)	**Baseline view:** The site is located 0.2km north east of these receptors. Views are relatively enclosed in all directions except north where views extend towards distant wooded hills. The view towards the site is characterised by: medium scale, flat arable fields divided by mixed woodland belts; minor and main roads including the existing A96 and associated vehicles.	High sensitivity receptor	Major adverse	LV1, LV2, LV3, LV4, LV5, LV6	**Major adverse**

Visual receptor		Description of the Baseline View and Predicted Effects (reflecting combined sensitivity and magnitude)		Predicted visual effect	Assumed secondary mitigation	Predicted residual visual effect
Ref.	Name					
		Predicted effect: The view of the option would be partly restricted by adjacent woodland however oblique views of the Fochabers West junction would be possible at close range and it would form a fundamental part of the view, especially where elevated above surrounding ground levels.	High magnitude of change			
L-N-21	The Old School, Balnacoul properties, the Bungalow (Residential)	**Baseline view:** The site is located 0.1km south of these receptors. Views out towards the site are relatively enclosed. Views are characterised by: the existing A96 and vehicles which are at close range; the southern edge of Mosstodloch; and medium scale, flat arable fields interspersed with mixed woodland blocks. Coul Brae is a distinctive wooded hill to the east. **Predicted effect:** The view of the option would be partially screened by adjacent woodland, however views of the Fochabers West junction would occur at close range and it would form a fundamental part of the view.	High sensitivity receptor High magnitude of change	Major adverse	LV1, LV2, LV3, LV4, LV5, LV6	**Major adverse**
L-N-22	Newbiggin Cottages, Dipple properties (Residential)	**Baseline view:** The site is located 0.9km north of these receptors. The view from these receptors are open to the south and east, and more enclosed to the north and west. Views towards the site are characterised by: medium to large scale, arable and pastoral fields; flat landform framed by deciduous woodland belts; and mixed wooded hills to the east. **Predicted effect:** Open views towards the option as it crosses the River Spey to the north-east. Intervening landform undulations and woodland screening and the large scale of the landscape here would limit the visual change to the view.	High sensitivity receptor Low magnitude of change	Minor adverse	n/a	Minor adverse
L-N-23	Draft core path from Mosstodloch to Forestry Houses (Recreational)	**Baseline view:** This route crosses the site and the existing A96. Views from this route towards the site are generally restricted, although at its southern extent they are open and extensive over arable fields to the east. **Predicted effect:** Direct close-range views of the option, however views are strongly influenced by the existing A96 in close proximity to the option, limiting the visual change.	Medium sensitivity receptor Low magnitude of change	Minor adverse	n/a	Minor adverse

Visual receptor		Description of the Baseline View and Predicted Effects (reflecting combined sensitivity and magnitude)		Predicted visual effect	Assumed secondary mitigation	Predicted residual visual effect
Ref.	Name					
L-N-24	Sweetholme Cottage (Residential)	**Baseline view:** The site is located 0.5km north of this receptor. Views from this receptor are open to the east and south and enclosed in all other directions. The view towards the site is characterised by: small to medium scale, flat, arable and pastoral fields; mixed woodland planting which frame the immediate landscape and provide a backdrop to the view; and glimpses of the existing A96 and vehicles, and the western extent of Fochabers. The wooded hills within Gordon Castle GDL are visible 1km to the north east. **Predicted effect:** Open views towards the option as it crosses the River Spey to the north-east. However, much of the option would be screened by adjacent woodland and views are orientated to the south-east, away from the option.	High sensitivity receptor Low magnitude of change	Minor adverse	n/a	Minor adverse
L-N-25	Moray cycle route: Scenic Speyside from Fochabers to Dipple (Recreational)	**Baseline view:** This route crosses the site. Views from the route towards the site vary, from being within enclosed woodland to having open views over arable fields, the flood plain and the River Spey. There are views to Gordon Castle GDL from this route at various points. **Predicted effect:** Direct close-range views of the option which would form a considerable part of the view. However, the option would be visible for a short extent of the route and would be seen in context with existing bridge crossings.	High sensitivity receptor Medium magnitude of change	Moderate adverse	n/a	**Moderate adverse**
L-N-26	Inchberry Road properties (Residential)	**Baseline view:** The site is located 0.1km south of these receptors. The views from these receptors are generally enclosed in all directions, except for to the south where they are elevated and open. Views towards the site are characterised by: boundary vegetation which creates some filtered views; large scale arable and pastoral fields which are flat and divided by field boundary vegetation and belts of mixed woodland. The River Spey forms the key feature of the view, as well as wooded slopes to the east that form the strath backdrop. There are views to Gordon Castle GDL. **Predicted effect:** Direct, close-range view to the option as it approaches and crosses the River Spey. Views are orientated in the direction of the route option which would interrupt distant views along the strath.	High sensitivity receptor High magnitude of change	Major adverse	LV1, LV5	**Major adverse**

Visual receptor		Description of the Baseline View and Predicted Effects (reflecting combined sensitivity and magnitude)		Predicted visual effect	Assumed secondary mitigation	Predicted residual visual effect
Ref.	Name					
L-N-27	Scotland's Great Trails: Speyside Way from Fochabers to Bellewood (Recreational)	**Baseline view:** This route crosses the site. It follows the B9104 and borders Gordon Castle GDL from Fochabers to Bellie Wood. Views from other points of the route towards the site are generally enclosed by buildings and woodland planting. This route borders the Gordon Castle GDL. **Predicted effect:** Direct close-range views of the option which would cross over the top of the route and form a considerable part of the view, albeit for a short duration of the route. Vehicles are visible on the existing B9104 and A96 roads, limiting the visual change.	High sensitivity receptor Low magnitude of change	Minor adverse	n/a	Minor adverse
L-N-28	Properties in the West and North of Fochabers (Residential)	**Baseline view:** The site is located 0.1km north of these receptors. The views from these receptors are generally enclosed and filtered due to boundary vegetation and neighbouring buildings. The views from these receptors are characterised by: Gordon Castle GDL at close range; the existing A96 and associated vehicles; small to medium scale fields which are undulating and have a mixed woodland planting backdrop. There are views to the Gordon Castle GDL which is located 0.1km to the north-east. **Predicted effect:** The option is likely to be screened from view by existing screening on the northern extent of Fochabers, i.e. stone walls and tree cover. However, glimpsed views from upper storey windows may be possible.	High sensitivity receptor Low magnitude of change	Minor adverse	n/a	Minor adverse
L-N-29	Existing Local Route network through Gordon Castle Estate: Deer Park to A96, Gordon Castle Farm to Gordon Castle, The Lake path (Recreational)	**Baseline view:** This route comes into proximity to the site and is located within the Gordon Castle GDL. Views vary in enclosure within the parkland. To the north, views are open over arable, flat fields which are framed by mixed woodland. The route is within Gordon Castle GDL. **Predicted effect:** Views towards the Fochabers East junction at the south-eastern extent of the Gordon Castle estate. Much of the option would be located adjacent to the existing A96, limiting the visual change, however the landform embankments would be visible in the south east.	High sensitivity receptor Medium magnitude of change	Moderate adverse	LV1, LV2, LV3, LV5, LV6, LV7	**Moderate adverse**

Visual receptor		Description of the Baseline View and Predicted Effects (reflecting combined sensitivity and magnitude)		Predicted visual effect	Assumed secondary mitigation	Predicted residual visual effect
Ref.	Name					
L-N-30	Core Path loop CP-FB14-01, 02; CP-FB16-01 (Recreational)	**Baseline view:** This route crosses the site, with variable views towards the site. It travels through large arable fields and parkland in Gordon Castle GDL and enclosed woodland tracks through Knowe of Tarryreach. It also crosses the existing A96. The route is partially within Gordon Castle GDL. **Predicted effect:** Direct close-range views of the option.	High sensitivity receptor High magnitude of change	Major adverse	LV1, LV3, LV5	**Major adverse**
L-N-31	Burnside Caravan Park (Residential)	**Baseline view:** The site is located approximately 0.5km east of these receptors. The views from these receptors are generally enclosed and towards the site views are characterised by: west facing, sloping landform and dense, mature, mixed woodland. Glimpses of existing A96 traffic are possible, and surrounding paths are likely to have views of the site, whether that be filtered views or glimpses. **Predicted effect:** No change – views are likely to be screened by the intervening landform and woodland cover.	High sensitivity receptor No magnitude of change	No change	n/a	No change
L-N-32	Laundry Cottages (Residential)	**Baseline view:** The site is located 0.7km south of these receptors. The view from these receptors are generally enclosed and are characterised by: historic parkland; boundary vegetation which fragments views; flat, small to medium scale pastoral and arable fields; mixed woodland planting sections of the site; neighbouring residences; the existing A96 and associated traffic; and the edge of Fochabers with distant hills as a backdrop. These properties are located within Gordon Castle GDL. **Predicted effect:** Views towards the Fochabers East junction at the south-eastern extent of the Gordon Castle estate. Much of the option would be located adjacent to the existing A96, limiting the visual change, however the extent which is directly to the south would require extensive changes to the landform which would be visible.	High sensitivity receptor Medium magnitude of change	Major adverse	LV1, LV2, LV3, LV5, LV6, LV7	**Major adverse**
L-N-33	Core Path: A98 to roundabout (Recreational)	**Baseline view:** This receptor is located adjacent to the B9104 and the Gordon Castle GDL. Views towards the site are varied but mostly enclosed by housing and woodland, until the eastern extents where the site is located at close range. Direct views of the Gordon Castle GDL.	High sensitivity receptor	Minor adverse	n/a	Minor adverse

Visual receptor		Description of the Baseline View and Predicted Effects (reflecting combined sensitivity and magnitude)		Predicted visual effect	Assumed secondary mitigation	Predicted residual visual effect
Ref.	Name					
		Predicted effect: Direct close-range views of the option. However, this route is located on a well-used road and has views of the existing A96 at close range, limiting the potential visual change.	Low magnitude of change			
L-N-34	National Forest Recreational Route network and associated woodland routes (Recreational)	**Baseline view:** Some of these tracks cross the site and have largely enclosed views due to being located within Leitch's/Whiteash Hill Woodland. Viewpoints such as Peeps view are located along these tracks and have elevated and extensive west facing views over Fochabers and the western section of the site. Views of the Gordon Castle GDL. **Predicted effect:** Direct close-range views of the option.	High sensitivity receptor High magnitude of change	Major adverse	LV1, LV5	**Major adverse**
L-N-35	Gordon Castle Farm Properties (Residential)	**Baseline view:** The site is located 0.5km south west of these receptors. The view from these receptors is enclosed to the north and east, although elevated and open to the south and south west, in the direction of the site. The view in this direction is characterised by: open, flat, arable fields; blocks of mixed woodland which screen sections of the view; the existing A96 and associated traffic; the edge of Fochabers and distant hills to the south west. These receptors are located within the Gordon Castle GDL. **Predicted effect:** Views towards the Fochabers East junction at the south-eastern extent of the Gordon Castle estate. Much of the option would be located adjacent to the existing A96, partially limiting the visual change, however the extent which is directly to the south would require extensive changes to the landform which would be visible.	High sensitivity receptor High magnitude of change	Major adverse	LV1, LV2, LV3, LV5, LV6, LV7	**Major adverse**
L-N-36	Routes within Slorach's Wood (Recreational)	**Baseline view:** These routes are located within Slorach's Wood, 0.5km to the west of the site. Views are enclosed within the woodland and the site is not visible. **Predicted effect:** The option would not be visible from these routes.	High sensitivity receptor No magnitude of change	No change	n/a	No change

Visual receptor		Description of the Baseline View and Predicted Effects (reflecting combined sensitivity and magnitude)		Predicted visual effect	Assumed secondary mitigation	Predicted residual visual effect
Ref.	Name					
L-N-37	Hampshire House and neighbouring property (Residential)	**Baseline view:** The site is located 0.6km south of these receptors. The view from these receptors are open towards the west and south west and enclosed in other directions. The view is characterised by: historic parkland, open, flat, small to medium scale, arable fields which are framed by mixed woodland planting which screens sections of the site; the existing A96 and associated traffic; and the edge of Fochabers and wooded hills as a backdrop. These receptors are located within Gordon Castle GDL. **Predicted effect:** Direct medium-range views of the option which would be in proximity to the existing A96, limiting the change to the view. It is assumed that the portion of the option located to the south, and associated earthworks, would be screened from view, limiting the change to the view that would occur.	High sensitivity receptor Low magnitude of change	Moderate adverse	LV1, LV2, LV3, LV5, LV6, LV7	**Moderate adverse**
L-N-38	Residential receptors at the eastern extent of Fochabers (includes the High Street & Beech Walk) (Residential)	**Baseline view:** Views are well contained by the built form within the majority of Fochabers, however a view to the south-east along the High Street from residential properties in the vicinity of the very eastern extent of the High Street is of the wooded backdrop at Hill of Fochabers and Leitch's Wood. This receptor grouping also includes pedestrians with direct views along the High Street. These receptors are either located within the southern extent of Gordon Castle GDL or are directly adjacent to its boundary. **Predicted effect:** The loss of much of the wooded backdrop due to the earthworks and landform changes at the eastern extent of the option would cause a considerable change to a framed view in a south-easterly direction.	High sensitivity receptor Medium magnitude of change	Major adverse	LV1, LV3, LV5	**Major adverse**
L-N-39	Gordon Castle Gate Lodges (Residential)	**Baseline view:** Views are restricted in most directions by surrounding mature tree cover. However, a view south-west is possible towards the B9104 and towards the existing drive to the castle. These receptors are located within the Gordon Castle GDL.	High sensitivity receptor High magnitude of change	Major adverse	LV1, LV3, LV5	**Moderate adverse**

Visual receptor		Description of the Baseline View and Predicted Effects (reflecting combined sensitivity and magnitude)		Predicted visual effect	Assumed secondary mitigation	Predicted residual visual effect
Ref.	Name					
		Predicted effect: The loss of much of the woodland cover immediately adjacent due to the earthworks would cause a fundamental change to the view.				
L-N-40	Properties at western extent of Fochabers, beside the Spey (Residential)	**Baseline view:** Views are restricted in most directions by surrounding mature tree cover. However, there are some views north-west towards the River Spey and to the opposite side of the strath. **Predicted effect:** The bridge crossing over the River Spey would be visible in the medium distance, elevated up above these receptors. The option would be prominent and higher than existing bridges, however it would be within a view of existing structures, partially limiting the change to the view.	High sensitivity receptor Medium magnitude of change	Moderate adverse	LV1, LV3, LV5	**Moderate adverse**

Table 1.6 contains a description of the baseline view and potential visual effects on receptors located with the study area of the option to the south of Fochabers (see Figure 15.3, Volume 3).

Table 1.6 Predicted Visual Effects for Lhanbryde to Fochabers South Option

Visual receptor		Description of the Baseline View and Predicted Effects (reflecting combined sensitivity and magnitude)		Predicted visual effect	Assumed secondary mitigation	Predicted residual visual effect
Ref.	Name					
L-S-1	Scotsburn (Residential)	**Baseline view:** The site is located 0.8km north of this receptor. Views towards the site includes a relatively open and flat landscape with belts of woodland which partially restrict views. Additionally, these properties are largely surrounded by boundary planting. The raised landform to the east restricts views in that direction. The landscape is otherwise relatively flat and open to the north and west, however a belt of woodland to the south screens distant views. Electricity pylons site near these properties, as well as major and minor roads. Glimpses of vehicles are possible through road boundary planting. **Predicted effect:** The option is likely to form, at most, a negligible part of the view to the north. The intervening landscape undulations are likely to screen most of the option from view.	High sensitivity receptor Negligible magnitude of change	Negligible	**n/a**	Negligible
L-S-2	Lhanbryde (Residential)	**Baseline view:** Lhanbryde is located approximately 0.1km north of the site. Views towards the site comprise of: the existing A96, boundary and road side planting; and a mix of pastoral fields and woodland blocks beyond. This settlement is located within a gently undulating landform. There are wooded hills to north and mixed agricultural landscape to the east, south and west. Patches of woodland and undulations in the immediate vicinity restrict views from some properties. The existing A96 and railway lines run along southern perimeter of Lhanbryde and the surrounding landscape is scattered with individual properties and farm buildings. Electricity pylons can also be seen to the southwest. **Predicted effect:** The option would be 0.1km south of Lhanbryde. In the most part, receptors within the settlement have their views out to the south screened by buildings and vegetation. However, a small group of	High sensitivity receptor Low magnitude of change	Minor adverse	n/a	Minor adverse

Visual receptor		Description of the Baseline View and Predicted Effects (reflecting combined sensitivity and magnitude)		Predicted visual effect	Assumed secondary mitigation	Predicted residual visual effect
Ref.	Name					
		properties on the very southern edge are likely to have close range views of the option. The option is likely to form a small part of the view, particularly given that the existing A96 passes in the foreground of the view.				
L-S-3	Glenesk Cottage, Greenfields (Residential)	**Baseline view:** The site is located approximately 0.2km north of these receptors. The view towards the site is characterised by: gently rising landform to the east; mixed agricultural fields separated by vegetation and woodland planting; and Lhanbryde and individual residences scattered throughout the landscape. Features in the landscape include residences of Lhanbryde, individual properties in the landscape, existing A96 traffic and views of passing trains on the railway line. **Predicted effect:** Close range views to the north of the option, including a local access road overbridge.	Medium sensitivity receptor Medium magnitude of change	Moderate adverse	LV1, LV2, LV3, LV4, LV5, LV6	**Moderate adverse**
L-S-4	Routes around Loch na Bo (Recreational)	**Baseline view:** These tracks are enclosed entirely by surrounding woodland. The core path CPEG53 is located around Loch Na Bo. The site is 0.1 km to the north of these tracks and Loch na Bo. There is no documented value attributed to the view nor is there a clear view of a protected landscape. **Predicted effect:** These secluded routes generally pass through dense woodland cover. The option would pass near the northern extent of the Loch, and the routes, and would comprise a small part to the view from the very northern extent of the loch, through gaps in trees, however road would be in cutting at this point.	High sensitivity receptor Low magnitude of change	Minor adverse	n/a	Minor adverse
L-S-5	Greystokes and The Pines (Residential)	**Baseline view:** Views to the east and south are screened by Sleepieshill Wood and Threapland Wood. Views west extend towards Lhanbryde, through field boundary vegetation which creates intermittent distant views. **Predicted effect:** The option would pass at close range to these receptors. The option would be partially screened by intervening landform and	High sensitivity receptor High magnitude of change	Major adverse	LV1, LV2, LV3, LV4, LV5, LV6	**Major adverse**

Visual receptor		Description of the Baseline View and Predicted Effects (reflecting combined sensitivity and magnitude)		Predicted visual effect	Assumed secondary mitigation	Predicted residual visual effect
Ref.	Name					
		vegetation, however there would be a clear view south-west and the option would form a fundamental part of the view.				
L-S-6	CPEG52 from Loch Na Bo to Hawthorn Cottage (Recreational)	**Baseline view:** This route crosses the site. Views from the route are either partially or fully restricted by surrounding woodland (Threapland Wood). Beyond the existing A96 views are open over flat and gently undulating arable landform. Lhanbryde is visible to the west, and views feature a woodland backdrop to the north and east. **Predicted effect:** The option directly crosses this route and close-range views would be experienced by receptors. The option would form a fundamental part of the view.	High sensitivity receptor High magnitude of change	Major adverse	LV1, LV2, LV3, LV4, LV5, LV6	**Major adverse**
L-S-7	Muiryhall, Corriegarth, Belimmy (Residential)	**Baseline view:** These receptors are located on the western edge of Sleepieshill Wood, approximately 0.9km north of the site. Views towards the site are elevated over pastoral fields, although they are close range due to woodland planting and landform to the south and east. Framed distant views are possible south west between the edge of Lhanbryde and Threapland Wood. The existing A96 and associated traffic would likely be visible from these properties (Muiryhall in particular). There is also potential for the railway to be seen towards the south west. There is no documented value attributed to the view nor is there a protected landscape within the view (Loch Oire is near but screened well by woodland). **Predicted effect:** These receptors are located approximately 0.9km away from the option, however given that they have relatively open views south-west, there is the potential for a limited view of the option. The option has the potential to form a small extent of the wider view.	High sensitivity receptor Low magnitude of change	Minor adverse	n/a	Minor adverse
L-S-8	Looped route - North Threapland Wood	**Baseline view:** This route is entirely enclosed by Threapland Wood, on undulating landform. The site directly crosses two sections of this track.	Medium sensitivity receptor	Moderate adverse	LV1, LV2, LV3, LV4, LV5, LV6	**Moderate adverse**

Visual receptor		Description of the Baseline View and Predicted Effects (reflecting combined sensitivity and magnitude)		Predicted visual effect	Assumed secondary mitigation	Predicted residual visual effect
Ref.	Name					
	(Recreational)	There is no documented value attributed to the view nor is there a clear view of a protected landscape. **Predicted effect:** This route crosses the line of the option directly. As the route crosses the option, it would form a fundamental part of the view, albeit for a short duration as the path is largely contained within woodland cover.	Medium magnitude of change			
L-S-9	Blackburn properties (Residential)	**Baseline view:** The site is located 0.9km north-east of these receptors. The view towards the site is characterised by: undulating and pastoral landscape between large scale woodland blocks. Features in the landscape include the railway track running directly in front of the properties, with views to Mosstodloch to the north east. **Predicted effect:** The Scheme is approximately 1.2km north of the receptor. A woodland block adjacent to the properties would limit views of the option, however a glimpsed view is possible to the north, north-east. The option would form a small part of the view.	High sensitivity receptor Low magnitude of change	Minor adverse	n/a	Minor adverse
L-S-10	Aspirational core path from edge of Threapland wood to Blackdam Wood (Recreational)	**Baseline view:** This path has localised views southwards towards arable fields and views are framed by surrounding woodland. Distant views south and north are further restricted by undulating landform in the foreground. As the path passes through woodland, views out are screened completely. Views towards the site are open from parts of the route. **Predicted effect:** This site is generally within woodland, however intermittent gaps in the woodland cover allow short range views out to the south. The option would potentially be visible for short durations, where gaps in the vegetation allow. The option would potentially be in cutting where potentially visible, limiting the extent to which it may be seen	Medium sensitivity receptor Low magnitude of change	Minor adverse	n/a	Minor adverse
L-S-11	Wester Marchfield and March Cottage (Residential)	**Baseline view:** These receptors are located approximately 0.1km north of the site. Views towards the site are unrestricted over gently rolling pasture with a woodland backdrop. Features in the landscape are minor road networks between scattered residences, and traffic from the existing A96 is also possible.	High sensitivity receptor	Major adverse	LV1, LV2, LV3, LV4, LV5, LV6	**Major adverse**

Visual receptor		Description of the Baseline View and Predicted Effects (reflecting combined sensitivity and magnitude)		Predicted visual effect	Assumed secondary mitigation	Predicted residual visual effect
Ref.	Name					
		Predicted effect: The mainline component of the option would be in cutting here, however it would be near and would likely form a fundamental part of the view.	High magnitude of change			
L-S-12	The Pines, Mayfield Cottage, Sonas, Meadowside (Residential)	**Baseline view:** The is located 0.1km south of these receptors. The view towards the site is extensive, over an undulating landform. Features visible in the landscape include scattered residences to the north and west, the existing A96 and its associated traffic, as well as minor roads. **Predicted effect:** The mainline component of the option would be in cutting here, however it would be near this receptor and would likely form a fundamental part of the view.	High sensitivity receptor High magnitude of change	Major adverse	LV1, LV2, LV3, LV4, LV5, LV6	**Major adverse**
L-S-13	Easter Bauds & Wester Bauds (Residential)	**Baseline view:** The site is located approximately 0.3km north of these receptors. The view towards the sites is characterised by: flat, pasture with woodland blocks which act as a backdrop. The presence of woodland blocks creates varying views out towards the wider landscape. Towards the east and west, local views are created by woodland. Other features in the wider landscape include scattered residences and minor roads with associated traffic. Views of A96 traffic to the north is also possible. **Predicted effect:** The option would be visible at close range directly to the north of the receptor. Despite being in partial cutting though this location, the Fochabers West junction would form a fundamental part of the view.	High sensitivity receptor High magnitude of change	Major adverse	LV1, LV2, LV3, LV4, LV5, LV6	**Major adverse**
L-S-14	Kennieshillock, Castlehill (Residential)	**Baseline view:** The site is located 0.8km south of these receptors. Views towards the site include pastoral fields, woodland blocks, and scattered residences. Features within the view include the existing A96, minor roads, residences and farm sheds	High sensitivity receptor Low magnitude of change	Minor adverse	n/a	Minor adverse

Visual receptor		Description of the Baseline View and Predicted Effects (reflecting combined sensitivity and magnitude)		Predicted visual effect	Assumed secondary mitigation	Predicted residual visual effect
Ref.	Name					
		Predicted effect: Sections of the option would be visible to the south of these receptors due to screening by intervening woodland. However, the existing A96 is visible within the view directly adjacent to the south, limiting the change to the view.				
L-S-15	Ivy Cottage & Mains of Blackdam (Residential)	**Baseline view:** This receptor is located directly to the north of the site. Views towards the site comprise of gently rolling landscape of rough pasture. The wider landscape includes extensive woodland cover and views north and west are screened by woodland and the rolling landform. Views south and east are more extensive. Longer range views are possible in an easterly direction and consist of generally flat, agricultural landscape with sporadic woodland planting. The A96 is near, as are other residences and farm sheds. The edge of Mosstodloch is also likely to be visible to the east along the A96. **Predicted effect:** Close range views of the option which would form a fundamental part of the view, particularly the Fochabers West junction and link road to the existing A96.	High sensitivity receptor High magnitude of change	Major adverse	LV1, LV2, LV3, LV4, LV5, LV6	**Major adverse**
L-S-16	Castlehill Woodland Tracks (Recreational)	**Baseline view:** The site is located 0.3 km south-west of these routes. The views towards the sites are partially screened by extensive boundary and woodland planting around the routes. Views west north and south are partially screened by boundary vegetation and planting at the town edge. Views generally are extensive and include gently undulating, mixed agricultural fields with woodland planting. Minor roads, neighbouring properties, farm buildings and electricity pylons are all features visible within the landscape. **Predicted effect:** option would give rise to a negligible change to the view, particularly given there is a view of the existing A96.	Medium sensitivity receptor Negligible magnitude of change	Negligible	n/a	Negligible
L-S-17	Cairnend, Troclehill and Millhill properties	**Baseline view:** Some boundary vegetation limits views out from these properties. However, they are located near the site and there are some open views of it within Balnacoul Wood.	High sensitivity receptor	Moderate adverse	LV1, LV5	**Moderate adverse**

Visual receptor		Description of the Baseline View and Predicted Effects (reflecting combined sensitivity and magnitude)		Predicted visual effect	Assumed secondary mitigation	Predicted residual visual effect
Ref.	Name					
	(Residential)	Further to the east, there are views across mixed farmland which falls towards the River Spey, beyond which woodland on the higher ground near Ordiequish is visible. In terms of value, there is a potential glimpsed view of the Speyside Area of Great Landscape Value (AGLV) approximately 2km to the south-east. **Predicted effect:** Close range views of the option which would form a considerable part of the view at close range, however woodland would screen much of the route which would be partly in cutting.	Medium magnitude of change			
L-S-18	Cowford residences (Residential)	**Baseline view:** This receptor is located 0.9 km east of the site. The view towards the site comprises: boundary vegetation surrounding the properties and flat pastoral fields framed by woodland blocks. The existing A96 is nearby. Woodland blocks to the north and south limit local views. The westward views are more extensive and comprise individual properties, whilst the east is screened by woodland and Mosstodloch properties. **Predicted effect:** The option, particularly the Fochabers West junction, would be visible on embankment to the south-west and would form a considerable part of the view. The distance from the site and some intervening woodland screening, particularly at Balnacoul Wood, partially limit the change to the view.	High sensitivity receptor Medium magnitude of change	Moderate adverse	n/a	**Moderate adverse**
L-S-19	Westerton properties (Hillhead, Dougella, Westerton, Easterton Cottage, Burnside of Dipple and Burnside of Dipple Cottages)	**Baseline view:** There is some vegetation along the boundary of these properties. However, they are set within a very open agricultural landscape with views north towards the site. Views of the eastern extents of the site, near Ordiequish Hill, are also possible. A line of pylons passes across the view and isolated farms are visible. Otherwise, there is minimal urban form within the view. In terms of value, there is a partial view of the Speyside AGLV approximately 2km to the south-east and near the site. **Predicted effect:** Medium range views of the option which would form a fundamental part of the view to the north. The option would be elevated	High sensitivity receptor High magnitude of change	Major adverse	LV1, LV5	**Major adverse**

Visual receptor		Description of the Baseline View and Predicted Effects (reflecting combined sensitivity and magnitude)		Predicted visual effect	Assumed secondary mitigation	Predicted residual visual effect
Ref.	Name					
	(Residential)	above the surrounding landscape and would be highly visible within views to the north, along Strathspey.				
L-S-20	Forestry Houses, Crofts of Dipple (Residential)	**Baseline view:** The site is located 0.4km south of these receptors. The view towards the site is characterised by: medium scale, flat arable fields divided by mixed woodland belts; and minor roads and the existing A96 and vehicles. **Predicted effect:** Possible glimpsed view to the south, however intervening woodland and landform undulations would screen much of the option.	High sensitivity receptor Negligible magnitude of change	Negligible	n/a	Negligible
L-S-21	Newbiggin Cottages, Dipple properties (Residential)	**Baseline view:** The site is located 0.5 km south of these receptors. The view from these receptors are open to the south and east, and more enclosed to the north and west. Views are characterised by: medium to large scale, arable and pastoral fields; flat landform framed by deciduous woodland belts; and mixed wooded hills to the east. The Speyside AGLV can be seen to the south east. **Predicted effect:** Close range views of the option to the south and south east which would form a fundamental part of the view in these directions looking along Strathspey.	High sensitivity receptor High magnitude of change	Major adverse	LV1, LV5	**Major adverse**
L-S-22	Scenic Speyside Cycle Route (Recreational)	**Baseline view:** This cycle route is set within a very open agricultural landscape and directly crosses the site. Views of the eastern extents of the site, as it rises onto Ordiequish Hill, are also possible. However, it is noted that hedgerows beside the receptor partially limit views at ground level. In terms of value, there is a partial view of the Speyside AGLV approximately 2km to the south-east and near the site. **Predicted effect:** Close range views of the option which would cross above.	High sensitivity receptor High magnitude of change	Major adverse	LV1, LV5	**Major adverse**

Visual receptor		Description of the Baseline View and Predicted Effects (reflecting combined sensitivity and magnitude)		Predicted visual effect	Assumed secondary mitigation	Predicted residual visual effect
Ref.	Name					
L-S-23	Upper Ordiequish properties, including Rose Cottage (Residential)	**Baseline view:** Properties are set on a north-west facing slope of Ordiequish with views orientated in a north westerly direction along Strathspey. Views to the east are more restricted due to the steeply rising landform and woodland cover. Views to the north and south along the local access road are also restricted by adjacent vegetation cover and the properties themselves. In terms of value, there is a partial view of the Speyside AGLV approximately 0.1km to the west. **Predicted effect:** The option would be relatively close to the receptors (0.5 km north, north-west). The option would be particularly visible in views across Strathspey to the north-west. The option would form a fundamental part of the view within a very open landscape and the earthworks to the east of the Spey would alter the existing backdrop of the view.	High sensitivity receptor High magnitude of change	Major adverse	LV1, LV2, LV3, LV5, LV6	**Major adverse**
L-S-24	Core Path CP-FB21 (eastern bank of the Spey) and an existing local route (western bank of Spey) (Recreational)	**Baseline view:** In the most part, this circular path is enclosed by woodland, and despite its proximity to the site, views out are very limited. However, its western extent is located beside the River Spey and open views are possible towards site. It is also noted that access to this path varies depending on weather conditions and river levels (standing water can present access issues). The southern extent of the path falls within the Speyside AGLV. **Predicted effect:** Close range views of the option, with the bridge at a higher elevation than these receptors.	High sensitivity receptor High magnitude of change	Major adverse	LV1, LV2, LV3, LV5, LV6	**Major adverse**
L-S-25	Speyside Way (also Core Path CP-SW03) (Recreational)	**Baseline view:** The Speyside Way is set on the west/north-west facing hill and follows the path of a local road in this area. It is reasonably well enclosed by vegetation and occasional farms and cottages. When gaps in the vegetation allow, the framed views include open farmland which slopes down to the River Spey and the site. There is a partial view of the Speyside AGLV of which the path partially follows the boundary. **Predicted effect:** The option would directly cross under the Speyside Way. The option would also be particularly visible in views across the	High sensitivity receptor High magnitude of change	Major adverse	LV1, LV2, LV3, LV5, LV6	**Major adverse**

Visual receptor		Description of the Baseline View and Predicted Effects (reflecting combined sensitivity and magnitude)		Predicted visual effect	Assumed secondary mitigation	Predicted residual visual effect
Ref.	Name					
		Speyside strath to the west. The option would form a fundamental part of the view and the earthworks to the east would alter the existing backdrop of views.				
L-S-26	Ordiquish properties (Residential)	**Baseline view:** Properties are set on a north facing slope of Ordiequish with views from the properties orientated in a northerly direction, along the Speyside strath. Views to the east are more restricted due to the steeply rising landform and woodland cover. The view includes open farmland which slopes down to the River Spey. A line of pylons passes across the view; however, other than isolated properties and a view towards Fochabers, there is reasonably limited built form within the view of the site. There is a partial view of the very northern extent of the Speyside AGLV approximately 0.1km to the west and near the site. **Predicted effect:** The option would cross in front of views from these receptors looking down Strathspey to the north. The option would form a fundamental part of the view, albeit partially in cutting.	High sensitivity receptor High magnitude of change	Major adverse	LV1, LV2, LV3, LV5, LV6	**Major adverse**
L-S-27	Castle Hill properties (including Katelda) (Residential)	**Baseline view:** Properties are set on a west facing slope of Ordiequish with views orientated generally in a westerly direction, towards the Speyside strath. Views out are partially restricted by some surrounding vegetation, with views to the east further restricted due to the steeply rising landform and woodland cover. The view includes open farmland which slopes down to the River Spey. There is a partial view of the very northern extent of the Speyside AGLV approximately 0.1km to the west and near the site **Predicted effect:** There would be possible oblique views of the option approximately 1.5km to the west, within the Dipple area. However, it is assumed that the orientation of properties is such that the scheme would comprise at most a small part of the view.	High sensitivity receptor Low magnitude of change	Minor adverse	LV1, LV2, LV3, LV5, LV6	Minor adverse
L-S-28	Core Path CP-FB17 (also a National Forest	**Baseline view:** This path follows a broadly north-south orientation through woodland in the Ordiequish and Castle Hill areas. The woodland encloses the path and limits views out to occasional locations at which there are open gaps in vegetation. Nonetheless, the path directly crosses the	High sensitivity receptor	Major adverse	LV1, LV2, LV3, LV5, LV6	**Major adverse**

Visual receptor		Description of the Baseline View and Predicted Effects (reflecting combined sensitivity and magnitude)		Predicted visual effect	Assumed secondary mitigation	Predicted residual visual effect
Ref.	Name					
	Recreation Route) (Recreational)	eastern extents of the site and therefore has direct views of it, albeit for a limited extent. **Predicted effect:** The option would cross this receptor. The path is enclosed by woodland and therefore the change to the visual amenity experienced by users of the path would be limited to a reasonably short extent. It would, however, result in a fundamental change to visual amenity.	High magnitude of change			
L-S-29	Fochabers (southern extent, including Castle Hill Farm) (Residential)	**Baseline view:** Views of the site are reasonably well screened by the intervening landform undulations and tree cover. Views pass from the urban elements of the settlement edge over agricultural fields towards a wooded backdrop. The Speyside AGLV is located approximately 0.5km to the south-west and near the site, although it is unlikely that properties are afforded a view of this. **Predicted effect:** Views of the option are likely to be heavily screened by intervening vegetation. However, a view of a limited extent of the option and its cutting slopes would be possible directly to the south and would form a considerable part of the view.	High sensitivity receptor Medium magnitude of change	Moderate adverse	n/a	**Moderate adverse**
L-S-30	Burnside Caravan Park (Residential)	**Baseline view:** The site is located approximately 0.5km to the south east of these receptors. The views from these are generally enclosed and characterised by: west facing, sloping landform and mixed woodland. Glimpses of existing A96 traffic are possible, and surrounding paths are likely to have views of the site, whether that be filtered views or glimpses. There is no documented value attributed to the view nor is there a protected landscape within the view **Predicted effect:** No change – views are likely to be screened by the intervening landform and woodland cover.	High sensitivity receptor No magnitude of change	No change	n/a	No change
L-S-31	Core Path: A98 to round about (Recreational)	**Baseline view:** This route is located adjacent to the A98 and partly within the Gordon Castle GDL. Views towards the site are varied but mostly	High sensitivity receptor	No change	n/a	No change

Visual receptor		Description of the Baseline View and Predicted Effects (reflecting combined sensitivity and magnitude)		Predicted visual effect	Assumed secondary mitigation	Predicted residual visual effect
Ref.	Name					
		enclosed by woodland planting, until the eastern extents where the site is located at close range. Views of the Gordon Castle GDL. **Predicted effect:** No change to the view due to screening by intervening landscape elements.	No magnitude of change			
L-S-32	National Forest Recreational Route network and associated woodland routes (Recreational)	**Baseline view:** Some of these tracks cross the site and have largely enclosed views due to being located within Leitch's/ Whiteash Hill Wood. Viewpoints such as Peeps view are located along these tracks and have elevated and extensive west facing views over Fochabers and the western section of the site. **Predicted effect:** No change to the view due to screening by the intervening landform and woodland.	High sensitivity receptor No magnitude of change	No change	n/a	No change
L-S-33	Routes within Slorach's Wood (Recreational)	**Baseline view:** This path follows a broadly north-south orientation through woodland in the Slorach's Wood area. The woodland encloses the path and limits views out to occasional locations at which there are open gaps in vegetation. Nonetheless, the routes directly cross the eastern extents of the site and therefore will have direct views of it, albeit for a limited extent. **Predicted effect:** The option would directly cross the path, located high above the underlying landform. The routes are enclosed by woodland and therefore the change to the visual amenity experienced by users of the path would be limited in extent. Nonetheless, the option would result in a fundamental change to visual amenity.	High sensitivity receptor High magnitude of change	Major adverse	LV1, LV5	**Major adverse**

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Appendix A16.1 - Gazetteer

A16.1 Gazetteer

Introduction

The Gazetteer (Table 1.1 below) provides details of heritage assets identified within 500m of the options.

The information has been collated from a variety of sources, primarily the Historic Environment Scotland (HES) databases of designated sites and the Moray Council Sites and Monuments Record (SMR), both supplemented by the National Record of the Historic Environment. This Gazetteer should be used to provide additional information regarding the type and nature of an asset and should be viewed in conjunction with Figures 16.1, 16.2 and 16.3 (Cultural Heritage Sites) (Volume 3) which show the locations of these sites.

A total of 194 sites were identified following the methodology outlined in Section 16.2 of Chapter 16 (Cultural Heritage).

Gazetteer

Table 1.1 Gazetteer of Heritage Assets

Asset ID	Figure Number	Site Name	Type	Category	X	Y	REF / SMR	Designation/ Category	Sensitivity	Description
MMS001	**16.3b**	Gordon Castle (Bog Of Gight)	Garden and Designed Landscape	Historic Landscape	336055	860229	GDL00198	Garden and Designed Landscape	High	A late 18th and early 19th century designed landscape of parkland, policy woodlands, avenues and walks, with formal gardens, quarry garden and large walled kitchen garden and areas of 20th century commercial forestry plantations. Long associations with the Gordon family and good survival of records make the designed landscape of Gordon Castle of outstanding historical interest. It is a fine example of the work of the 18th century designer, Thomas White Snr. who modified the strictly formal layout associated with 'Old Castle Gordon', introducing a more spacious landscape park of shelter planting, drives and parks. The formal gardens established on the former site of Bog of Gight village are of outstanding interest as a works of art. Unusual and old specimen trees, including the largest Western Hemlock in Scotland, provide some horticultural interest. While the landscape is the setting for the Grade A listed Castle and a number of Grade B listed architectural features, the park itself is screened on three sides and extensive woodlands make a distinctive scenic contribution to the surrounding area. Lochside and woodland habitats and close proximity to the coast and the Spey estuary SSSI gives the landscape high nature conservation value.
MMS002	**16.1a, 16.1c**	Brodie Castle	Garden and Designed Landscape	Historic Landscape	297907	857676	GDL00072	Garden and Designed Landscape	High	A rare example of a relatively intact early 18th-century formal design. The Brodie family has been associated with the castle for more than 700 years and the gardens boast a famous daffodil collection. The formal character of the early 18th century designed landscape remains evident through surviving features such as parkland, tree avenues and walled garden, framed by enclosing woodland dating from the mid-19th-century, with shrubberies and gardens dating from the early 20th century.
MMS003	**16.1a, 16.1c**	Darnaway Castle	Garden and Designed Landscape	Historic Landscape	299576	855156	GDL00133	Garden and Designed Landscape	High	Late 18th and early 19th century parkland and associated trees, avenues, clumps, woodland and forest form a structural backcloth to later additions of an arboretum and woodland walks. Late 19th and early 20th century formal terraced, Dutch and walled gardens adjacent to Darnaway Castle. This early 19th century castle replaced an earlier baronial castle set in royal hunting forest. It is of high historical interest having long associations with the Earls of Moray with good survival of records. The landscape park, with its trees and clumps, avenues and woodland, enclosed on all sides by forest, makes a distinctive contribution to surrounding scenery, framing views to and from the castle and provide an impressive setting for the category A listed building. The undisturbed woodland and riverside habitats of Darnaway promote high nature conservation value.
MMS004	**16.1b**	Greshop Farm,enclosures 300-400m SW of	Cropmarks - enclosures, possibly huts, ring ditch, barrows and souterrains	Archaeological Remains	302051	858310	SM4020	Scheduled Monument	High	A series of cropmarks within a wider area of dense prehistoric occupation evidence including enclosures, barrows, ring ditches etc.

Asset ID	Figure Number	Site Name	Type	Category	X	Y	REF / SMR	Designation/ Category	Sensitivity	Description
MMS005	**16.1b**	Sueno's Stone	Symbol stone	Archaeological Remains	304651	859534	SM90292	Scheduled Monument	High	The monument comprises a cross-slab dating to the late 1st millennium AD. Sueno's Stone is the tallest and most complex piece of early medieval sculpture in Scotland. It is composed of grey sandstone and measures about 7m high, 1.2m wide and c.40cm thick. The W face bears a relief carving of a ring-headed cross, the shaft of which is filled with interlace spiral knotwork. Below the cross are two facing bearded figures, both with smaller attendants behind. The sides of the slab are intricately carved, most notably on the upper half of the S side, where a number of small male figures occupy a vine scroll. The E face of the slab is divided into four unequal panels which can be interpreted as a heroic narrative reading from top to bottom. The top panel depicts a number of horsemen, possibly a leader and his guard arriving for battle. The great central panel is divided into three sections. The top section depicts a scene of battle with the combatants fighting on foot. The middle section shows a besieged stronghold, to the left of which a number of headless corpses are depicted. This scene can be interpreted as an account of the fate of the defeated defenders of the besieged stronghold. The bottom section of the great central panel depicts a group of horsemen fleeing from a group of infantry. The lower two panels of the E face appears to show the final defeat of the defending army. The first depicts piles of headless corpses and severed heads, and the bottom panel shows the dispersal of the defeated army. The monument is of national importance because of its contribution to our understanding of early medieval sculpture, religion, military techniques and material culture, and the potential of the area surrounding the stone to increase our understanding still further through archaeological excavation.
MMS006	**16.d**	Altyre House,inscribed stone	Inscribed stone	Archaeological Remains	303915	855373	SM1222	Scheduled Monument	High	Sculptured stone brought to Altyre from the Laich of Moray, possibly College of Roseisle, in 1820. It has a cross on the front, still partially preserved, but only the vertical beam remains on the back. There is an ogham inscription on a slightly recessed flat area of undressed left side, meaning unknown.
MMS007	**16.2c, 16.2f, 16.3a, 16.3c**	Bogton, stone circle 250m NW of	Stone circle	Archaeological Remains	327439	860761	SM1215	Scheduled Monument	High	There are only two upright stones, about 1.7m high and c. 20m apart. The rest of the stones of the circle were removed in 1810, but sub-surface remains of the circle and associated features are likely to survive. The area measures 40m in diameter, to include the surviving stones, the area once occupied by the complete circle, and an area around and between the stones in which features associated with the construction and use of the monument are likely to survive.
MMS008	**16.1b**	Forres	Conservation Area	Historic Building	304080	858997	CA187	Conservation Area	Medium	Forres Conservation Area.
MMS009	**16.3b, 16.3d**	Fochabers	Conservation Area	Historic Building	334587	858766	CA192	Conservation Area	Medium	Fochabers Conservation Area.
MMS010	**16.3b, 16.3d**	Fochabers, 77 High Street	House	Historic Building	334465	858807	LB1545	B Listed Building	Medium	Early 19th century. Single storey and attic, 3-bay house. Coursed rubble, tooled ashlar dressings. Centre door with moulded cornice; pair later 19th century canted dormers; 12-pane glazing in ground floor, 2- and 4-pane in dormers. Coped end stacks; slate roof. Predicted impact assessed as part of the Fochabers urban area.
MMS011	**16.3b, 16.3d**	Fochabers, 79 High Street, Bank Of Scotland	Bank	Historic Building	334453	858815	LB1546	B Listed Building	Medium	Probably William Henderson, circa 1860. 2-storey, 3-bay bank. Tooled ashlar frontage, harled flanks, polished ashlar dressings. Predicted impact assessed as part of the Fochabers urban area.
MMS012	**16.3b, 16.3d**	Fochabers, 81 High Street	House	Historic Building	334440	858824	LB1547	C Listed Building	Low	c.1800. 2-storey, 3-bay house. Rendered and lined as ashlar, contrasting painted ashlar margins. Centre door; mainly 4-pane glazing. Single end stack; slate roof. Predicted impact assessed as part of the Fochabers urban area.
MMS013	**16.3b, 16.3d**	Fochabers, 83 High Street, Monair	House	Historic Building	334428	858829	LB1548	C Listed Building	Low	c.1800. 2-storey, 3-bay house. Rendered, contrasting painted ashlar margins. Centre door; 2-pane glazing. Renewed coped end stacks; slate roof. Predicted impact assessed as part of the Fochabers urban area.

Asset ID	Figure Number	Site Name	Type	Category	X	Y	REF / SMR	Designation/ Category	Sensitivity	Description
MMS014	**16.3b**	Fochabers, Gordon Episcopal Chapel And Parsonage	Church	Historic Building	334595	858887	LB1549	A Listed Building	High	Archibald Sipson, 1832-4; additions and alterations, Alexander Ross, 1874. 2-tier Gothic church, combining Parsonage (former school) in ground floor and chapel in 1st floor. Orientated N-S with S entrance gable to Castle Street. Tooled ashlar entrance gable, harled flanks, tooled and polished ashlar dressings. Austere S gable with round-headed entrance (simple nookshafts and moulded reveals) in centre and triple light pointed-headed window above linked by cill course and continuous hoodmould; flanking square clasping buttresses with blind slits and terminating as octagonal gablet detailed pinnacles with stiff-leaf finials. Projecting 2-storey stair wing at W (1874). Triple light window in 1st floor at N gable with (1874) rose window above. Slate roofs. Entrance to Gordon Chapel House in W elevation; varied glazing to windows; single storey wing at NE with pienided roof.
MMS015	**16.3b, 16.3d**	Fochabers, Castle Street, Gordon Castle Park, Wall	Wall	Historic Building	334313	858911	LB1550	B Listed Building	Medium	Late 18th century, length of high rubble wall with rubble cope, abutting Castle Street continuously between angle with West Street and Gordon Chapel. Pedestrian doorway with ashlar lintel close to Gordon Chapel, opens into park. Predicted impact assessed as part of the Fochabers urban area.
MMS016	**16.3b, 16.3d**	Fochabers, Wilson Memorial, Fountain	Fountain	Historic Building	334253	858951	LB1551	C Listed Building	Low	Dated 1893. Hexagonal fountain on stepped base. Red and grey polished granite. Facetted tapering canopy supported by 6 polished granite shafts with cusped heads. Decorative cast-iron finial. Predicted impact assessed as part of the Fochabers urban area.
MMS017	**16.3b, 16.3d**	Fochabers, 4 Duke Street, St Margaret's	House	Historic Building	334589	858853	LB1552	B Listed Building	Medium	Probably 1838, and probably William Robertson, architect, incorporating earlier core. 2-storey, 4-bay W facing house. Modern harl, tooled ashlar dressings. Predicted impact assessed as part of the Fochabers urban area.
MMS018	**16.3b, 16.3d**	Fochabers, 3-5 Duke Street	House	Historic Building	334562	858857	LB1553	B Listed Building	Medium	Later 18th century. 2-storey, 3-bay E facing house with single storey, 3-bay wing projecting at N gable and further 2-storey wing projecting at rear (possibly 2 builds, completed by 1825) forming L-plan. Mainly whitewashed harl with ashlar margins (painted to street); some rear rubble walling remains without harl. Predicted impact assessed as part of the Fochabers urban area.
MMS019	**16.3b, 16.3d**	Fochabers, 9, 11 East Street	House	Historic Building	334759	858607	LB1554	C Listed Building	Low	1870-80. Pair W facing, single storey and attic, 2-bay cottages. Mixed rubble, tooled ashlar dressings. Predicted impact assessed as part of the Fochabers urban area.
MMS021	**16.3b, 16.3d**	Fochabers, 13, 15 East Street	House	Historic Building	334753	858598	LB1555	B Listed Building	Medium	1870-80. Pair S facing (to Westmorland Street) single storey and attic, 2-bay cottages. Mixed rubble, tooled ashlar dressings. Predicted impact assessed as part of the Fochabers urban area.
MMS023	**16.3b, 16.3d**	Fochabers, 2, 4, 6 East Street	House	Historic Building	334805	858735	LB1556	C Listed Building	Low	c.1860. E facing terrace of 3 2-storey gabled houses, each of single wide bay, with door and 3-light window at ground, 2-lights at 1st floor. Random rubble laid in courses, long and short ashlar dressings. Predicted impact assessed as part of the Fochabers urban area.
MMS026	**16.3b, 16.3d**	Fochabers, 4-6 George Street	House	Historic Building	334459	858745	LB1557	C Listed Building	Low	Early 19th century, single storey and attic, pair E facing cottages of 2 and 3 bays now single dwelling. Harl pointed rubble, contrasting painted tooled ashlar margins. Alternate door-window frontage; single window to Spey Street gable; 3 substantial later pienided dormers; 4-pane glazing. Coped end and ridge stacks; Banffshire slate roof. Predicted impact assessed as part of the Fochabers urban area.
MMS027	**16.3b, 16.3d**	Fochabers, 8 George Street	House	Historic Building	334454	858738	LB1558	B Listed Building	Medium	Dated 1777 and 1933. Single storey cottage of 3 bays. Harled, contrasting painted chamfered ashlar margins. Centre door with datestone and worn initials above; 4-pane glazing. Coped end stacks; slate roof. Predicted impact assessed as part of the Fochabers urban area.
MMS028	**16.3b, 16.3d**	Fochabers, Gordon Street, General	House	Historic Building	334483	858873	LB1559	B Listed Building	Medium	1800-20. 2-storey, 2-bay house. Harled, tooled ashlar margins. Predicted impact assessed as part of the Fochabers urban area.
MMS029	**16.3b, 16.3d**	Fochabers, High Street, Milne's High School	School	Historic Building	334874	858467	LB1560	A Listed Building	High	1845-6. Thomas MacKenzie. Neo-Tudor, 2-storey square school with principal elevation to N and mirrored return elevations E and W. Tooled ashlar, polished ashlar sandstone dressings. Predicted impact assessed as part of the Fochabers urban area.

Asset ID	Figure Number	Site Name	Type	Category	X	Y	REF / SMR	Designation/ Category	Sensitivity	Description
MMS030	**16.3b, 16.3d**	Fochabers, 7, 17 High Street	House	Historic Building	334776	858619	LB1561	C Listed Building	Low	1870-80. Pair single storey and attic, 2-bay cottages with long elevation to High Street. Mixed rubble, tooled ashlar dressings. Predicted impact assessed as part of the Fochabers urban area.
MMS032	**16.3b, 16.3d**	Fochabers, 23 High Street	House	Historic Building	334722	858656	LB1562	C Listed Building	Low	c.1800. 2-storey, 2-bay house and shop. Harled, contrasting painted margins. Enlarged ground floor window with multi-pane glazing; 12-pane glazing in 1st floor windows. End stacks; concrete tile roof. Predicted impact assessed as part of the Fochabers urban area.
MMS033	**16.3b, 16.3d**	Fochabers, 25 High Street	House	Historic Building	334716	858660	LB1563	C Listed Building	Low	c.1800. 2-storey, slightly irregular 3-bay house. Harled, contrasting painted ashlar margins. Near centre door; 4-pane glazing. End stacks; slate roof. Predicted impact assessed as part of the Fochabers urban area.
MMS035	**16.3b, 16.3d**	Fochabers, 29, 31 High Street	House	Historic Building	334707	858663	LB1564	C Listed Building	Low	Later 19th century. 2-storey, 4-bay dwelling. Mixed rubble, tooled ashlar sandstone dressings. Off-centre corniced entrance; blocked door between 2 windows; 4-pane glazing; deep bandcourse between ground and 1st floors. Renewed end stacks; slate roof. Predicted impact assessed as part of the Fochabers urban area.
MMS037	**16.3b, 16.3d**	Fochabers, 41, 43 High Street	House	Historic Building	334665	858680	LB1565	C Listed Building	Low	Early 19th century with later 19th century raising to 2 storeys and dormerless attic; 5 bays with entrances in bays 2 and 4. Rubble, contrasting later 19th century tooled ashlar margins. Predicted impact assessed as part of the Fochabers urban area.
MMS038	**16.3b, 16.3d**	Fochabers, 69 High Street	House	Historic Building	334569	858747	LB1566	B Listed Building	Medium	Late 18th century. 2-storey, 3-bay house with alterations at ground floor and with further bay at W (right) with segmental-headed pend entrance. Heavily pointed rubble, contrasting painted ashlar margins. Additional door right off-centre entrance converted from former side entrance, now window; mainly 2-pane glazing. Renewed ridge and end stacks; slate roof. Predicted impact assessed as part of the Fochabers urban area.
MMS039	**16.3b, 16.3d**	Fochabers, 38-40 High Street	House	Historic Building	334688	858698	LB1567	C Listed Building	Low	Mid-later 19th century. 2-storey and attic, irregular 4-bay house and shop. Tooled mixed rubble, tooled ashlar dressings. Predicted impact assessed as part of the Fochabers urban area.
MMS040	**16.3b, 16.3d**	Fochabers, 42 High Street, Grant Arms Hotel	House	Historic Building	334683	858711	LB1568	C Listed Building	Low	Later 19th century. 2-storey, 3-bay hotel with return elevation to Westmorland Street. Rubble, tooled ashlar dressings. Centre corniced door; regular fenestration; 2 canted dormers; deep bandcourse between ground and 1st floors; 2- and 4-pane glazing. Coped end stacks; slate roofs. Decorative cast-iron rainwater goods. Predicted impact assessed as part of the Fochabers urban area.
MMS041	**16.3b, 16.3d**	Fochabers, 46 High Street	House	Historic Building	334648	858723	LB1569	C Listed Building	Low	Early 19th century. 2-storey, 3-bay house with later shop window slapped in left bay. Mixed random rubble, tooled ashlar dressings. Centre door; 2-pane glazing. Coped end stacks; slate roof. Predicted impact assessed as part of the Fochabers urban area.
MMS043	**16.3b, 16.3d**	Fochabers, 50, 50a, 52 High Street	House	Historic Building	334640	858742	LB1570	B Listed Building	Medium	James Duncan, architect, Turriff, dated 1878. 2-storey and attic, irregular 4-bay bank, dwelling and shop. Tooled ashlar frontage with polished ashlar dressings, harled flanks. Predicted impact assessed as part of the Fochabers urban area.
MMS044	**16.3b, 16.3d**	Fochabers, 54 High Street	House	Historic Building	334625	858740	LB1571	C Listed Building	Low	c.1830. 2-storey, 3-bay house containing 2 dwellings. Mixed square rubble, tooled sandstone ashlar dressings; rendered doorway margins, random rubble flanks. Predicted impact assessed as part of the Fochabers urban area.
MMS046	**16.3b, 16.3d**	Fochabers, 56 High Street	House	Historic Building	334608	858749	LB1572	C Listed Building	Low	Mid 19th century. 2-storey, 3-bay house. Harled frontage with self coloured painted ashlar margins; random rubble flank. Centre door; regular fenestration; 4-pane glazing. Coped end stacks; slate roof. Predicted impact assessed as part of the Fochabers urban area.

Asset ID	Figure Number	Site Name	Type	Category	X	Y	REF / SMR	Designation/ Category	Sensitivity	Description
MMS047	**16.3b, 16.3d**	Fochabers, 58 High Street	House	Historic Building	334598	858751	LB1573	B Listed Building	Medium	c.1800. 2-storey, 4-bay house (formerly 2 x 2-bay dwellings). Mixed random rubble, contrasting painted ashlar margins. Off-centre entrance; former entrance blocked, now window; 2- and 4-pane glazing. Coped renewed end stacks; slate roof. Predicted impact assessed as part of the Fochabers urban area.
MMS048	**16.3b, 16.3d**	Fochabers, 70 High Street, Fulton House	House	Historic Building	334460	858838	LB1574	C Listed Building	Low	Dated 1823. 2-storey, 3-bay house with additional bay in ground floor. Mixed squared rubble of varying colours, contrasting tooled sandstone dressings, some margins painted. Predicted impact assessed as part of the Fochabers urban area.
MMS049	**16.3b, 16.3d**	Fochabers, 78-80 High Street, Gordon Arms Hotel	Hotel	Historic Building	334433	858869	LB1575	B Listed Building	Medium	c.1800 with subsequent additions and alterations. 2-storey L-plan range fronting High Street and West Street, with rubble walled single storey and loft range backing onto Gordon Street. Main building colour washed harl with contrasting painted ashlar margins. Predicted impact assessed as part of the Fochabers urban area.
MMS050	**16.3b, 16.3d**	Fochabers, 15 Maxwell Street	House	Historic Building	334722	858722	LB1576	B Listed Building	Medium	Early 19th century. N facing single storey, 3-bay cottage. Whitewashed harled frontage with contrasting painted tooled ashlar margins; harl pointed rubble flanks; centre door; 12-pane glazing. End stacks; graded Banffshire slate roof. Predicted impact assessed as part of the Fochabers urban area.
MMS051	**16.3b, 16.3d**	Fochabers, 2, 4, 6 Maxwell Street	House	Historic Building	334790	858711	LB1577	C Listed Building	Low	c.1860. S facing terrace of 3 2-storey gabled houses, each of single wide bay, with door and 3-light window at ground, 2-lights at 1st floor. Random rubble laid in courses, long and short ashlar dressings. Predicted impact assessed as part of the Fochabers urban area.
MMS054	**16.3b, 16.3d**	Fochabers, 32 Maxwell Street	House	Historic Building	334625	858797	LB1578	C Listed Building	Low	Early 19th century. S facing single storey, 3-bay cottage. Mixed random rubble frontage, harl pointed flanks, tooled ashlar dressings. Centre door; 2-pane glazing. Coped end stacks; graded Banffshire slate roof. Predicted impact assessed as part of the Fochabers urban area.
MMS055	**16.3b, 16.3d**	Fochabers, 38 Maxwell Street	House	Historic Building	334594	858822	LB1579	C Listed Building	Low	1830-40. 2-storey, 3-bay S facing house. Harled, contrasting painted ashlar dressings. Simple corniced and pilastered doorpiece to centre entrance; 4-pane glazing; diminutive attic window. Coped panelled end stacks; slate roof. Single storey wing to rear. Predicted impact assessed as part of the Fochabers urban area.
MMS056	**16.3b, 16.3d**	Fochabers, Old Manse	Manse	Historic Building	334496	858425	LB1580	B Listed Building	Medium	1822-3, probably William Robertson, Elgin. S facing house, 2 storeys and attic over raised basement, 3 bays. Harled, tooled ashlar margins, polished ashlar dressings. Predicted impact assessed as part of the Fochabers urban area.
MMS058	**16.3b, 16.3d**	Fochabers, 22 South Street, St Mary's Roman Catholic Chapel and Presbytery (Institution Road)	Church	Historic Building	334659	858613	LB1581	B Listed Building	Medium	J Gillespie Graham, 1826-8, after design by Bishop James Kyle. Chancel addition, circa 1905. Rectangular, Gothic building orientated N-S with S gabled entrance front. Tooled ashlar frontage, mixed rubble flanks, tooled and polished ashlar dressings. Predicted impact assessed as part of the Fochabers urban area.
MMS059	**16.3b, 16.3d**	Fochabers, 42 South Street, South View	House	Historic Building	334547	858663	LB1582	B Listed Building	Medium	c.1830, with slightly later porch and later dormers. 2-storey and attic, 3-bay house. Mixed rubble frontage, red sandstone rubble flanks, tooled and polished sandstone ashlar dressings. Predicted impact assessed as part of the Fochabers urban area.
MMS060	**16.3b, 16.3d**	Fochabers, 46 South Street, Kirkville	House	Historic Building	334518	858675	LB1583	B Listed Building	Medium	c.1800. 2-storey, 3-bay S facing house with return gable and rear wing to Charlotte Street. Harled, tooled and polished ashlar dressings and margins. Predicted impact assessed as part of the Fochabers urban area.

Asset ID	Figure Number	Site Name	Type	Category	X	Y	REF / SMR	Designation/ Category	Sensitivity	Description
MMS061	**16.3b**	Gordon Castle, East Lodge	Lodge	Historic Building	334822	858744	LB1584	A Listed Building	High	Probably Archibald Simpson, 1826-30. 2-storey octagonal gate lodge with stair projection at rear and single storey projecting wing at NW. Finely tooled ashlar throughout. Boldly projecting pedimented porch to round-headed entrance at S, later double-leaf panelled doors. Projecting single storey bay at NE (facing driveway) with eaves band and shallow gabled roof. Long ground-floor corniced windows; small 1st floor fenestration; lying-pane glazing; blind windows in rear wing. Renewed (in brick) rear wallhead stack; shallow piended slate roofs with deep bracketted eaves. Rubble wall screens garden from road to W of house.
MMS062	**16.3b, 16.3d**	Fochabers, 2 The Square	House	Historic Building	334573	858773	LB1585	B Listed Building	Medium	c.1800. 2-storey and attic, W facing 3-bay house. Harled, rubble gable to High Street, contrasting painted ashlar margins with later 19th century re-tooling. Predicted impact assessed as part of the Fochabers urban area.
MMS063	**16.3b, 16.3d**	Fochabers, 8-10 The Square	House	Historic Building	334579	858807	LB1586	B Listed Building	Medium	Early 19th century. 2-storey and attic, S facing 3-bay house. Harled, tooled ashlar margins. Later 19th century canted dormers in outer bays; 4-pane glazing. Coped end stacks; slate roof. Predicted impact assessed as part of the Fochabers urban area.
MMS064	**16.3b, 16.3d**	Fochabers, 12 The Square	House	Historic Building	334562	858813	LB1587	B Listed Building	Medium	Late 18th century. S facing 2-storey and attic house, 3 bays. Tooled, squared rubble frontage and return gable to Duke Street, tooled ashlar margins. Predicted impact assessed as part of the Fochabers urban area.
MMS065	**16.3b, 16.3d**	Fochabers, 1 Duke Street & 14 The Square	House	Historic Building	334545	858825	LB1588	C Listed Building	Low	Late 18th century. 2-storey, 4-bay dwelling and shop; shop entrance in return gable to Duke Street. Mixed rubble, painted tooled ashlar and renewed rendered margins. Predicted impact assessed as part of the Fochabers urban area.
MMS067	**16.3b, 16.3d**	Fochabers, 18 The Square	House	Historic Building	334535	858831	LB1589	B Listed Building	Medium	c.1800. 2-storey, symmetrical 3-bay S facing house. Harled, contrasting painted tooled ashlar dressings. Predicted impact assessed as part of the Fochabers urban area.
MMS068	**16.3b, 16.3d**	Fochabers, 20 The Square	House	Historic Building	334512	858831	LB1590	C Listed Building	Low	c.1800. E facing 2-storey, 3-bay house with single storey, 2-bay wing at N gable. Harl pointed mixed rubble, tooled ashlar dressings. Predicted impact assessed as part of the Fochabers urban area.
MMS069	**16.3b, 16.3d**	Fochabers, 22 The Square, Hadlow House	House	Historic Building	334505	858822	LB1591	C Listed Building	Low	Later 19th century (possibly incorporating earlier core). 2-storey and attic 3-bay house with slightly later addition at N gable forming continuous 4-bay frontage. Tooled rubble, tooled ashlar dressings. Predicted impact assessed as part of the Fochabers urban area.
MMS070	**16.3b, 16.3d**	Fochabers, War Memorial	War memorial	Historic Building	334266	858979	LB1592	B Listed Building	Medium	A Marshall Mackenzie, 1922. Simple fluted Roman Doric column with moulded capital and stylised flame finial, on square plinth supported by circular shallow stepped base. Polished and tooled ashlar. Bronze plaques affixed to plinth inscribed with names of fallen of 1914-19 and 1939-45 wars. Predicted impact assessed as part of the Fochabers urban area.
MMS071	**16.3b, 16.3d**	Fochabers, West Street, Garden Wall Fronting Ben Aliskay	Wall	Historic Building	334444	858939	LB1593	B Listed Building	Medium	Late 18th century. Length of high rubble wall with rubble cope abutting West Street continuously to angle with Castle Street. Predicted impact assessed as part of the Fochabers urban area.
MMS072	**16.3b, 16.3d**	Fochabers, 26 Westmorland Street	House	Historic Building	334610	858632	LB1594	B Listed Building	Medium	Later 18th century with 19 century alterations. 2-storey and dormerless attic, 3-bay E facing house. Harled, retooled ashlar margins. Centre door; regular fenestration; 4-pane glazing; diminutive attic window in each gable. Coped end stacks; slate roof. Predicted impact assessed as part of the Fochabers urban area.
MMS073	**16.3b, 16.3d**	Fochabers, 85 High Street	House	Historic Building	334412	858836	LB1598	C Listed Building	Low	c.1800. 2-storey and attic, 4-bay dwelling and shop. Harled, contrasting painted chamfered ashlar margins. Enlarged shop window; 2 doorways; regular 1st floor fenestration; 4-pane glazing; later 19th century pair canted dormers. Coped end stacks; slate roof. Predicted impact assessed as part of the Fochabers urban area.
MMS075	**16.3b, 16.3d**	Fochabers, 87, 89 High Street	House	Historic Building	334405	858840	LB1599	C Listed Building	Low	Later 18th century. 2-storey, N facing 3-bay house and shop. Dry dashed walling with contrasting painted chamfered ashlar margins. Predicted impact assessed as part of the Fochabers urban area.

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MMS076	**16.3b, 16.3d**	Fochabers, 18 High Street, The White Lodge	Manse	Historic Building	334808	858648	LB1600	B Listed Building	Medium	Alexander Tod, 1848-9, fronting earlier school of c.1830 probably designed by William Robertson. S facing 2-storey, 3-bay house with symmetrical frontage. White harled with considerable use of contrasting tooled ashlar margins and dressings. Predicted impact assessed as part of the Fochabers urban area.
MMS077	**16.3b, 16.3d**	Fochabers, High Street, Church	Church	Historic Building	334767	858686	LB1601	C Listed Building	Low	D and R MacMillan, Aberdeen, architects. 1900. Gothic; bullfaced rubble, tooled ashlar dressings. Predicted impact assessed as part of the Fochabers urban area.
MMS078	**16.3b, 16.3d**	Fochabers, 24 High Street	House	Historic Building	334741	858673	LB1602	B Listed Building	Medium	Circa 1870. 2-storey and attic, 3-bay S facing house. Mixed squared granite rubble, pink, grey and brown; contrasting tooled sandstone ashlar dressings, random rubble flanks and rear. Predicted impact assessed as part of the Fochabers urban area.
MMS079	**16.3b, 16.3d**	Fochabers, 36 High Street	House	Historic Building	334702	858692	LB1603	C Listed Building	Low	Later 19th century. 2-storey, symmetrical 3-bay house. Rubble, tooled ashlar dressings. Centre corniced door; bipartites in ground and 1st floor outer bays; mainly 2-pane glazing. Coped end stacks; slate roof. Predicted impact assessed as part of the Fochabers urban area.
MMS080	**16.3b, 16.3d**	Fochabers, 48 South Street, Broomailly	House	Historic Building	334510	858695	LB1610	B Listed Building	Medium	Dated 1819. S-facing 2-storey, 3-bay dwelling with gable and low 2-storey rear wing to Charlotte Street. Whitewashed, rendered and lined as ashlar, contrasting painted tooled ashlar margins. Regular fenestration; 2-pane glazing in upper sashes, single pane in lower. Coped end stacks; Welsh slate roof. Predicted impact assessed as part of the Fochabers urban area.
MMS081	**16.3b, 16.3d**	Fochabers, 54 South Street	House	Historic Building	334441	858719	LB1611	B Listed Building	Medium	Early 19th century. 2-storey S facing house of 3 bays on site sloping downhill at left (W). Mixed rubble, tooled sandstone ashlar dressings. Predicted impact assessed as part of the Fochabers urban area.
MMS082	**16.3b, 16.3d**	Fochabers, 56 South Street	House	Historic Building	334429	858724	LB1612	B Listed Building	Medium	c.1800. 2-storey, 3-bay house. Harled and whitewashed rubble with contrasting rendered reveals. Double-leaf panelled centre door; small 1st floor windows; 9- and 12-pane glazing. Single end stack at W; slate roof. Predicted impact assessed as part of the Fochabers urban area.
MMS083	**16.3b, 16.3d**	Fochabers, 1, 3 The Square	House	Historic Building	334562	858752	LB1613	B Listed Building	Medium	Late 18th century. W-facing 2-storey, 5-bay house and shop. Harl pointed rubble, harled gable to High Street, contrasting painted tooled ashlar margins. Predicted impact assessed as part of the Fochabers urban area.
MMS085	**16.3b, 16.3d**	Fochabers, 5 The Square	House	Historic Building	334548	858734	LB1614	C Listed Building	Low	Early 19th century. Single storey, irregular 5-bay frontage to dwelling. Harl pointed rubble, tooled ashlar dressings. Off-centre doorway; 2-pane glazing. Heightened ridge stack; slate roof. Predicted impact assessed as part of the Fochabers urban area.
MMS086	**16.3b, 16.3d**	Fochabers, 7 The Square, Town House	House	Historic Building	334526	858732	LB1615	B Listed Building	Medium	John Baxter, c.1790. N facing 2-storey, symmetrical 5-bay house with return gable to Charlotte Street. Mixed rubble, red sandstone rubble gables, tooled sandstone ashlar dressings and margins. Predicted impact assessed as part of the Fochabers urban area.
MMS087	**16.3b, 16.3d**	Fochabers, The Square, Bellie Parish Church	Church	Historic Building	334505	858743	LB1616	A Listed Building	High	John Baxter, 1795-8. N facing rectangular 5-bay classical church with pedimented giant Roman Doric tetrastyle portico and steeple. Polished and tooled ashlar sandstone throughout. Predicted impact assessed as part of the Fochabers urban area.
MMS088	**16.3b, 16.3d**	Fochabers, 11 The Square, Bellie Manse	House	Historic Building	334486	858756	LB1617	B Listed Building	Medium	John Baxter, 1788. N facing 2-storey, symmetrical 5-bay house with return gable to George Street. Mixed rubble, red sandstone rubble gables, tooled ashlar sandstone dressings and margins. Predicted impact assessed as part of the Fochabers urban area.
MMS089	**16.3b, 16.3d**	Fochabers, The Square, Fountain	Fountain	Historic Building	334521	858767	LB1618	B Listed Building	Medium	Dated 1878. Painted cast-iron fountain; central pedestal with shaped base decorated with acanthus leaves and 4 cherubs, each sitting on urn with water spout. Predicted impact assessed as part of the Fochabers urban area.
MMS090	**16.3b, 16.3d**	Fochabers, 15, 15a The Square	House	Historic Building	334484	858789	LB1619	B Listed Building	Medium	Late 18th century. E facing 3-storey house with return gable and entrance on High Street. Mixed rubble, tooled sandstone ashlar dressings. Predicted impact assessed as part of the Fochabers urban area.

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MMS092	**16.3b**	Gordon Castle, West Lodges	Lodges	Historic Building	334295	859081	LB1621	A Listed Building	High	John Baxter, 1791-2. Entrance arch, crenellated screen walls and flanking lodges with modern rear additions. Tooled ashlar, polished ashlar dressings; harled additions at rear. Tall central crenellated triumphal arch linked to flanking single storey, single bay lodges by screenwall; lodges linked to quadrants by continuation of screenwall. Single pedestrian entrance each side of main entrance and single window of each lodge, the latter set in shallow round-headed panel. REAR: square single bay, mirrored lodges project at rear, each with entrance facing drive-way and set-back crenelated elevation with additional entrance fronting modern rear additions. Original doors and windows set in shallow round-headed panels; 12-pane glazing. Rear coped wallhead stacks; shallow piended roofs masked by crenelated wallheads; slate roofs to modern additions.
MMS093	**16.3b**	Gordon Castle Farm, Cottage	Building, cottage	Historic Building	335360	859180	LB1624	B Listed Building	Medium	c.1840-50. Pair single storey and attic cottages, each of 2 SW facing bays with rear entrances. Harled, tooled ashlar margins. 2 bracketted corniced ground floor windows to each cottage, blind in return gables; 2 gabled wallhead dormers; lying-pane glazing. Eaves band returns across return gables as cill band. Coped centre ridge stack; slate roof with rear catslide and projecting eaves.
MMS094	**16.3b**	Gordon Castle, Walled Gardens	Walled Garden	Historic Building	334812	859105	LB1626	B Listed Building	Medium	1803-4. Large rectangular walled garden with later smaller walled area at W. High walls, at N of rubble faced with brick on S aspect, brick on both faces elsewhere. English garden bond brickwork. Segmental-headed entrance at NE closed by double wooden gates.
MMS095	**16.3b**	Gordon Castle, Garden House	House	Historic Building	334821	859195	LB1627	B Listed Building	High	1811. 2-storey, wide 3-bay house with later projecting gabled bay at rear. The house is flanked on both sides by the N wall of the walled garden, into which the S elevation projects slightly. Brick frontage, harled flanks at rear. Symmetrical S elevation with wide centre projecting canted bay with centre entrance and small windows in flanking facets; wider ground floor windows in outer bays; all 1st floor windows segmental-headed and close under eaves; outer windows are 3-light, the remainder of 2 lights, divided by thick moulded wooden mullions, and with multi-pane glazing. Pair coped ridge stacks; piended slate roof raised over 1st floor windows. REAR: slightly projecting rear centre bays, now fronted by later wing with entrance in re-entrant angle.
MMS096	**16.3b**	Gordon Castle, Lakeside House	House	Historic Building	334711	859197	LB1628	A Listed Building	High	Possibly John Paterson, architect, Edinburgh, 1800-01. 2-storey garden pavillion/tea house built to abut walled garden, the garden wall continuous with S elevation of house, against the ground floor of which was a former glazed vinery/conservatory, and into which the house opened. Substantial later lean-to 2-storey rear addition; later single storey lean-to wings flank house. House is (Banffshire) slate hung at 1st floor level replaced on S front by painted (?metal) material giving impression of tile-hanging. Harled and rendered additions and alterations. Present entrance in re-entrant angle at rear. Bowed French window forms centre entrance to 3-bay S garden front with flanking windows, one half blocked. 1st floor lit by wide centre bowed window with blind outer lights, aprons, fluted jambs and frieze with lozenge ornament, Venetian window lights W 1st floor elevation, 2 round-headed windows light E. Multi-pane glazing. Mutule cornice encircles building which has rear centre wallhead stack and flat roof.
MMS097	**16.3b**	Old Fochabers Market Cross	Market Cross	Historic Building	334781	859229	LB1629	C Listed Building	Low	Unknown date before 1769. Fine well-preserved ashlar Market Cross in form of Tuscan column, approx 12' high, with shallow square capital. Sited in grounds of Gordon Castle close to N wall of walled garden.

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MMS098	**16.3b**	Gordon Castle, Whitegate Lodge	Lodge	Historic Building	335825	858678	LB1631	B Listed Building	Medium	c.1850. Asymmetrical gabled L-plan 2-storey gate lodge formerly 2 dwellings. Mixed random rubble, tooled and polished sandstone dressings. Irregular S front (to road) with gabled porch at right (E) and tripartite window left (W); similar ground floor tripartite in W gable elevation (to driveway). All windows in ground floor with hoodmoulds and of 1, 2 or 3 lights; narrow single and 2-light 1st floor fenestration; multi-pane glazing. Coped ridge stack; slate roofs with projecting joisted eaves. OUTBUILDING: L-plan outbuilding, single storey and of same date, style and building materials as gate lodge.
MMS099	**16.1a**	Abbotshill Bridge	Bridge	Historic Building	299789	858415	LB2257	B Listed Building	Medium	c. 1830. Slightly hump-back twin arched rubble bridge. Rusticated ashlar segmental arch rings; shaped cutwater; Roughly tooled cope to parapet; splayed approaches; shallow end buttresses. Approximate span of each arch; 30'.
MMS100	**16.1a, 16.1c**	Barleymill, Muckle Burn, Bridge	Bridge	Historic Building	298709	857515	LB2258	B Listed Building	Medium	c.1830. Twin arched rubble bridge. Tooled rubble segmental arch rings repaired with concrete W side. Rounded cutwaters; tooled rubble abutments; low tooled ashlar cope to parapet with splayed approaches. Approximate span of each arch; 30'.
MMS102	**16.1a, 16.1c**	Brodie Castle, Station Lodge And Gate Piers	Lodge and Gatepiers	Historic Building	297842	857262	LB2262	C Listed Building	Low	c.1840, 2-storey, asymmetrical gabled gate lodge. Harled with tooled ashlar margins. SE 2-bay front to driveway with advanced gable fronted by projecting canted ground floor window and with lean-to porch in re-entrant angle with diagonal stepped buttressing. Gabled dormer breaks wallhead; 2 and 4-pane glazing. Battery of 3 diagonal coped ridge stacks, further rear coped wallhead stack; slate roof with projecting eaves. Lean-to additions at rear. GATEPIERS: pair of square rusticated ashlar gatepiers with stepped cope supporting tall urn finials. No gates survive.
MMS103	**16.1a, 16.1c**	Earlsmill Bridge	Bridge	Historic Building	296936	856075	LB2270	C Listed Building	Low	c.1830. Twin arched slightly hump-back bridge; tooled rubble segmental arch rings; shallow end buttresses; triangular cutwaters; tooled rubble parapet to cope; splayed approaches. Some cement rendering. Approximate span of each arch; 30'.
MMS104	**16.1a, 16.1c**	Earlsmill House and Gatepiers	House	Historic Building	297191	855850	LB2271	B Listed Building	Medium	1860-70, probably A and W Reid. 2-storey, regular 3-bay S facing house. Coursed tooled rubble, tooled ashlar dressings. Slightly advanced centre bay to house with projecting ground floor porch with round headed entrance and piended roof. 3-light windows in outer bays; wide angle pilasters. Canted window rises full height at E with blind fenestration in outer facets. 2-pane glazing; tall corniced shaped stacks; shallow pitched piended slate roof with some jerkin-headed gables and projecting eaves. GATEPIERS: pair square tooled ashlar gatepiers with shallow pyramidal caps. Pair simple cast-iron carriage gates.
MMS105	**16.1a, 16.1c**	Feddan	Farmhouse	Historic Building	296835	856494	LB2272	B Listed Building	Medium	Dated 1844. Single storey and attic, roughly cruciform E facing 3-bay house. Whitewashed rubble, tooled ashlar margins. Advanced and gabled centre bay with hoodmoulded, slightly recessed entrance and narrow window above. Bipartite left, tripartite with gabled dormer above to right. Some lattice-pane glazing survives; tall paired octagonal coped stacks (1 pair truncated); slate roof; decorative bargeboards.
MMS106	**16.1a**	Bridge Of Findhorn	Bridge	Historic Building	301183	858108	LB2273	B Listed Building	Medium	Blythe and Blythe, Engineers, 1938. Single span steel bridge. 3 segmental parallel cast-iron rings linked by latticed struts support concrete deck with cast-iron parapets. Ribbed concrete abutments flanked by giant pilaster buttresses terminating as concrete parapet with square end pier. Approximate span; 300'.
MMS107	**16.1a**	Dalvey House	House	Historic Building	300392	858661	LB2277	B Listed Building	Medium	Classical c.1810. Classical mansion with extensive addition. Peter Fulton, Forres, 1897. 2-storey over raised basement, 5-bay S facing house the centre 3 bays under open pediment, with 2-bay return elevations; 1897 extension continuous with W return gable and of similar height with symmetrical 5-bay W front forming overall L-plan mansion. Tooled ashlar throughout with tooled and polished ashlar dressings.

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MMS108	**16.1a**	Dalvey House, Dovecot	Dovecot	Historic Building	300351	858732	LB2278	B Listed Building	Medium	17th century. Tall square dovecot. Rubble ashlar dressings. Narrow entrance in centre of S elevation with chamfered jambs. Rat course encircles building with further course across E and W gables; crowsteps; 2 small swept dormer flightholes in S; later West Highland slate roof. Coat of arms re-set in W gable. INTERIOR: 889 stone nesting boxes.
MMS109	**16.1a**	Dalvey House, Muckle Burn, Estate Bridge	Bridge	Historic Building	300498	858558	LB2279	B Listed Building	Medium	Early 19th century with later 19th century alterations. Late 19th century, probably W L Carruthers, architect. Single storey, SE facing pair cottages. Harled. Slightly hump-back twin arched rubble bridge; tooled ashlar segmental arch rings springing from tooled ashlar abutments; Doorways in bays 2 and 5 under tall multi-pane glazed lights rising through wallhead as weatherboarded segmental-headed triangular cutwaters; 3 drainage vents each side and single blind oculus in centre spandrels. Later 19th century dormers. Flanking windows with multi-pane casements. Centre coped ridge stack; piended stone slate roof; red pottery apex crenellated cope; crenellated end piers rising from c. 1830 plinths. Deep lean-to loggias with piended slate roofs abut NE and SW Approximate span; 30' each arch. gables, each supported by sturdy wooden pilasters. Projecting wing at rear.
MMS110	**16.1a**	Dalvey House, Gardener's Cottage	Building, cottage	Historic Building	300527	858599	LB2280	C Listed Building	Low	1830-40. Single storey, S facing wide 3-bay cottage. Harled. Centre entrance; painted wooden architraves to windows; 6-pane glazing. 2 pair square coped ridge stacks; piended slate roof projecting at front to form shallow veranda supported at angles by rustic wooden columns, replaced at centre by 4 wooden poles.
MMS111	**16.1a**	Dalvey House, East Lodge	Lodge and Gatepiers	Historic Building	300603	858528	LB2281	C Listed Building	Low	Probably Peter Fulton, Forres, 1890-1900. Single storey and attic, L-plan lodge with entrance in re-entrant angle. Tooled rubble, ashlar dressings. Slightly recessed, moulded doorway with double-leaf panelled doors below shaped gable with coat of arms. Flanking bipartite (right) and in gable (left) with shaped hoodmould. Canted window with balustrade parapet fronts SE gable (to road). Round-headed window in gable; 6-pane glazing in upper lights of sash windows; moulded skews, shaped skewputts, apex finials; cluster 3 octagonal coped ridge stacks; slate roof. GATEPIERS: pair later 18th century channelled ashlar gate piers flanked by slightly smaller similar piers flanking pedestrian entrances; each pier with moulded cornice and ball finial supported by attenuated stem. Flanking late 19th century coped quadrant walls. No gates survive.
MMS112	**16.1a**	Dalvey Cottage	Cottage	Historic Building	300373	857980	LB2282	B Listed Building	Medium	Mid 19th century. Single storey over raised basement, originally U-plan house with symmetrical 3-bay S front, later infilled at rear. Harl pointed rubble, tooled and polished ashlar dressings. Centre entrance masked by porch with ashlar front, margins and pienced roof. Double-leaf plank door flanked by narrow side lights. Slightly advanced outer bays; 3-bay return elevations with later porch and entrance at W and single storey and attic service addition at NE. 2 and 12-pane glazing; corniced panelled ridge stacks; piended slate roofs. Trellises frame outer front windows.
MMS113	**16.1a, 16.1c**	Darnaway Castle, East Gate And Lodge	Lodge and Gatepiers	Historic Building	299413	856931	LB2287	A Listed Building	High	1868. 2-storey, gabled asymmetrical N facing (to driveway) lodge. Coursed tooled rubble, tooled ashlar dressings. Advanced and gabled centre 2-storey gabled porch with moulded basket arched recessed entrance, monogrammed plaque above and slightly jettied 1st floor; canted window to left of porch; bipartite and tripartites in ground and 1st floors, some with stone canopies. Lattice-pane glazing to porch lights; 3- and 6-pane casements elsewhere. Tall coped octagonal ridge and wallhead stacks in clusters of 3 and 2 respectively. Decorative bargeboards; slate roofs. GATEPIERS AND GATES: dated 1868; 4 square polished ashlar gatepiers, flanking carriage and outer pedestrian entrances. Each pier chamfered above square base; necked and corniced caps supporting carved stone Earl's coronet as finial. Ornate cast- and wrought-iron gates (Frs. Morton, Liverpool) 1 pair double and 2 singles (all similar size) with centre cartwheel design within decorative frame with gilded detailing.

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MMS114	**16.1a, 16.1c**	Tearie Farmhouse	Farmhouse	Historic Building	298805	856925	LB2293	C Listed Building	Low	c.1800. 2-storey, slightly irregular 3-bay S facing house with 2 later parallel rear wings forming U-plan. Harled with ashlar margins. Near centre entrance masked by later gabled porch; single ground and 1st floor windows in return gables; 2-bay rear wings, 1 of 2 storeys, 1 of single storey and attic. Mainly 12-pane glazing; coped end stacks; slate roofs.
MMS116	**16.2b**	Newton House, Gatepiers and Walled Garden	Building	Historic Building	316288	863466	LB2327	B Listed Building	Medium	Dated 1793 and 1852. Additions and alterations with some internal remodelling, Thomas Mackenzie, 1852. Tall 2-storey and attic house over raised basement (3-storey, U-plan rear), 5-bays, S facing. Harled with tooled and polished ashlar margins and dressings. Plain late 18th century house with 1852 embellishments, particularly to upper storey. Advanced and gabled centre bay with 1852 porch approached by flight of steps oversailing raised basement; pilastered and corniced entrance with florid Jacobean detailing, lunette and banded obelisk finials; tall canted 1st floor window above. Plain chamfered margins to ground and 1st floor windows; carved and monogrammed pediments to 1852 dormers; corbelled angle bartizans with conical bellcast fishscale slated roofs; moulded corbel and string courses; decorative water spouts. Projecting wing set back at E with raised ground floor canted oriel with corbelled base decorated with masks and with corbelled stone roof. 2 rear wings project to form U-plan service court. Mainly 4-pane glazing. Crowstepped gables; end batteries of coped stacks with diamond flues; slate roofs. Small sun porch (c.1975) at W of house. GATEPIERS (MAIN ENTRANCE): pair plain square ashlar gatepiers with pulvinated string course, moulded cornice and ball finials. WALLED GARDEN: c. 1800 walled garden extends to N of house; coped rubble walls.
MMS118	**16.2b**	Newton (Alves), Toll Cottage	Building, cottage	Historic Building	316666	863095	LB2328	B Listed Building	Medium	1822, probably William Robertson. NE facing single storey, 3-bay cottage. Harled, contrasting painted tooled and polished ashlar margins and dressings. Centre entrance with simple Roman Doric columned doorpiece; flanking and gable windows, each with later cast cable moulded ogee 'eyebrow' hoodmould decoration painted in contrasting colours. 4-pane glazing in front windows, original 9-pane in gable fenestration. Centre pair ridge stacks with diamond flues; graded piended local slate roof.
MMS120	**16.2b**	Knock Of Alves, York Tower & Forteath Mausoleum	Tower, Mausoleum	Historic Building	316316	862968	LB2329	B Listed Building	Medium	TOWER: Possibly William Robertson, Elgin, dated 5th January, 1827. Gothic, 3-storey octagonal folly on hilltop site. Harl pointed rubble, tooled and polished ashlar dressings. Pointed-headed, hoodmoulded entrance in E face with worn masked stops to hoodmould and single order of nailhead decoration to moulded recessed doorway. Dated plaque above entrance which is flanked by blind cruciform arrow slits; similar slits to alternate faces in ground and 1st floors with long 'keyhole' slits in upper storey; round-headed windows in alternate faces in 1st floor and 2nd floors, in 2nd with mask decoration to cill corbels; pulvinated string course delineates each storey. Corbelled and crenelated wallhead with small stack masked by crenellation; flat roof with centre flagstaff. MAUSOLEUM: probably Thomas Mackenzie, architect, c.1850. Subterranean vault, revealed only at N by tooled rubble wall with block pedimented walled-up entrance, under square railed enclosure. Rectangular tomb in centre of enclosure on stepped base under shallow pyramidal shaped top with angle acroteria decorated with carved thistles. Inscribed polished granite tablets (3 each side and single tablet each end) set into side of tomb. Cast-iron spearhead railings.

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MMS121	**16.2a, 16.2d**	Alves Parish Church and Enclosing Wall	Church	Historic Building	312532	861494	LB2333	B Listed Building	Medium	1845, John Urquhart, architect, Forres, remodelled with extensive interior refitting and with rear wing, A and W Reid and Melvin, 1878 (church dated 1878). Rectangular church with N facing entrance gable and long 3-bay E and W elevatons. Harled, tooled and polished ashlar margins and dressings. Centre bay in N gable projecting as tower with round-headed entrance leading to recessed porch, louvred opening 2nd stage, square open balustraded bellcote with shaped angle finials above. Paired narrow bays flanking entrance delineated by shallow margined pilaster strips clasping angles and supporting simple entablature returning by 1 bay. 2 round-headed windows each side of porch, 2 in gable head, 3 similar windows to E and W elevations; large wheel window in centre of rear (S) gable. Lattice-pane glazing. Slate roof. 1878 single storey, 4-bay gabled room at rear; harl pointed rubble, tooled ashlar dressings; 12-pane glazing. Ridge stack; slate roof. ENCLOSING WALL: church enclosed by simple drystone rubble wall with entrance flanked by square gatepiers with shallow pyramidal caps; pair cast-iron gates.
MMS122	**16.2a, 16.2d**	Alves Primary School, Former Infant School With Enclosing Wall	School, Enclosing Wall	Historic Building	313290	862133	LB2334	B Listed Building	Medium	A and W Reid, 1873-4. Dated 1875. Single storey, gabled 5-bay school with regular S facing frontage. Tooled rubble, tooled ashlar dressings. Advanced and gabled centre bay with hoodmoulded doorway and datestone above; flanking windows with shouldered lintels; advanced outer bays with mullioned and transomed fenestration. 2 gabled bays at E; projecting canted wing in centre of W elevation with entrance. Multi-pane glazing. Decorative bargeboards; coped stacks; slate roofs. FORMER INFANT SCHOOL HALL: small single storey, regular 3-bay gabled school. Also tooled rubble with tooled ashlar dressings. Advanced and gabled centre porch with flanking bipartites; similar rear fenestration; multi-pane glazing. End stack; slate roof. School complex enclosed by rubble stone wall.
MMS123	**16.3b, 16.3d**	Meikle Dramlach Bridge	Bridge	Historic Building	337305	856963	LB4836	B Listed Building	Medium	Bridge that spans the burn on Old Military Road from Keith to Fochabers with a date stone, 1757, on the South-West side which is rather worn, the figure 5 is particularly faint. It is now a forestry track. It is a single span field rubble with a tooled rrubble arch ring. There is a turf deck. It has an approximate span of 14 feet and approximate height of 10 feet. The bridge in reasonable condition, the stonework semi-dressed and well mortared. A cairn blocking vehicular access states that the bridge was built by Caulfield 1767, and was restored 1989 by the Youth Employment Training Scheme. There was originally no parapet.
MMS124	**16.2e**	Pittendreich Dovecot	Dovecot	Historic Building	319567	861255	LB8439	A Listed Building	High	Probably 16th century, almost square dovecot; harled over rubble and clay mortar. Low centre door in S elevation, double checked for external and internal opening doors; blocked vent above. Double pitched roof of large flagstones supported by two stone arches with stone purlins 2 low ridge openings for bird access; apex stone ball finials.
MMS125	**16.2e**	Pittendreich Bridge	Bridge	Historic Building	319651	861623	LB8440	B Listed Building	Medium	c.1814. Single arched bridge; coursed rubble with ashlar dressings: chamfered and channelled voussoirs to shallow arch ring; rusticated ashlar shallow flanking buttresses; blind oculi in spandrels; short centre pilaster strip to parapet above band course. Ashlar parapet cope stones to splayed abutments.
MMS126	**16.1b, 16.1d**	Grange Hall, South Lodge	Lodge	Historic Building	306452	859948	LB8664	B Listed Building	Medium	Dated 1841. Single storey gabled gate lodge, with asymmetrical 3-bay W entrance front facing driveway and irregular 2-bay S frontage to road. Tooled rubble, tooled ashlar dressings, some harling at rear. Slightly advanced gabled porch in outer bay at NW; wide advanced bay at SW fronted by canted projecting window with panelled aprons and stone slab piended roof. Similar projecting canted window with jerkin-headed gable in S front with wide advanced gable at SE fronted by rectangular projecting window. Mullioned and transomed fenestration. Plate glass glazing (probably replacing original lattice-panes); deep base course. Decorative scrolled bargeboards with turned apex finials and pendants; coped ridge and wallhead stacks; slate roofs. Simplified detail to rear.

Asset ID	Figure Number	Site Name	Type	Category	X	Y	REF / SMR	Designation/ Category	Sensitivity	Description
MMS127	**16.1b, 16.1d**	Grange Hall, Walled Garden	Walled Garden	Historic Building	306626	860423	LB8686	A Listed Building	High	Early 19th century. Large rectangular walled garden. Harl pointed rubble walls, tooled ashlar copes. Long E and W walls. Small 2-storey bothy abuts E wall, W facing gable looking into garden. Rear lean-to boiler house at N where wall is slightly higher and topped with chimney cans serving mural flues. No glass houses survive.
MMS128	**16.1d**	Cathay House, Lodge	Lodge and Gatepiers	Historic Building	305862	857951	LB8688	B Listed Building	Medium	GATE LODGE: George Simpson, architect, 1887-8. Single storey lodge wirh S and E facing crowstepped gabled bays clasping centre drum tower porch. Bullfaced rubble, contrasting tooled and polished ashlar dressings. Recessed entrance in porch with shaped and moulded detailing to surrounds; double leaf panelled door; deep ashlar eaves band to tower with corbelled cornice and conical fish scale slated roof. Triangular canted window projects from centre of S facing gable; bipartite in centre of E gable; 2-pane glazing. Gable apex finials; slate roof with decorative red tile ridge. GATEPIERS: curved planned, with central entrance flanked by circular bullfaced rubble piers, each with facetted cornices decorated with ball ornamentation and facetted pyramidal caps. Piers linked to similar end piers by low coped bullfaced quadrants with cast-iron railings.
MMS134	**16.1d**	Dallas Dhu Distillery, 1-4 Dallas Dhu Cottages, Bonded Warehouses	Distillery Complex	Historic Building	303611	856672	LB8689	A Listed Building	High	1899. Distillery complex including office block, mash house, still house, kiln, malt barn. Harl pointed rubble, tooled ashlar dressings, some brick, some whitewashed exterior walling. Kiln with ogee slated roof and pagoda lovered apex vent. Tall red brick chimney, square on plan, with contrasting yellow brick quoins. Long 2-storey malt-barn with symmetrical 12-bay S elevation. BONDED WAREHOUSES: range of 5 bonded warehouses with continuous gable ends; mainly single storey, but E block of 2-storeys. DISTILLERY WORKER'S COTTAGES: 1899. 2 pairs 2-storey, 2-bay E facing houses. Brick walling at ground floor and dummy timber framing at 1st floor. Entrances in outer bays, Nos1 and 4 with gabled waether boarded porches; large segmental-headed ground floor front windows; large centre 2-window gabled dormers; varied glazing. Centre brick ridge stacks; jerkin-headed slate roofs with red pottery ridges.
MMS135	**16.1b**	Forres, River Findhorn, Findhorn Viaduct	Viaduct	Historic Building	302078	858684	LB8690	A Listed Building	High	Joseph Mitchell, dated 1858 for Inverness and Aberdeen Junction Railway. 3 x 150 foot wrought-iron box spans, total length 608.5 feet and 18 foot 6 inches from water to rail. At each end of the viaduct the side spans linked by arched plate girder. Masonry piers and pylons at each end with cast-iron plaque dated 1858.
MMS136	**16.1b**	Greshop House	House	Historic Building	302502	859096	LB8691	B Listed Building	Medium	Later 18th century with earlier 19th century projecting ground floor windows and loggia, possibly added by John Urquhart, builder, Forres. 2-storey and attic, 3-bay house with single storey, 2-bay wings at E and W gables. Harled, tooled and polished ashlar dressings and margins. Centre door flanked by earlier 19th century projecting rectangular ground floor bipartites with coped wallheads and square angle finials, linked by simple ashlar canopy supported by 4 slender pilasters. Continuous decorative anthemion patterned cast-iron balustade above porch and bay windows. 2 later small gabled dormers. Lying pane glazing elsewhere. Moulded copes to end panelled stacks. Slate roofs. REAR RANGE: earler 19th century long single storey, 8-bay rear range; harled, ashlar margins. 3-bay cottage incorporated in western portion, various entrances to service areas in eastern. End stack, slate roof.
MMS137	**16.1d**	Manachy, Manachy (Manachie) Lodge	Lodge, Gates and Gatepiers	Historic Building	303365	856575	LB8695	B Listed Building	Medium	GATES: probably c. 1900, ornate re-used wrought-iron pair carriage gates. GATEPIERS: c. 1950. Plain square harled gatepiers. Brought from Gordonstoun c. 1950.

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MMS138	**16.1b**	Springfield House	House, Gatepiers	Historic Building	304619	859805	LB8696	B Listed Building	Medium	Dated 1777. 2-storey and attic, 3-bay S facing house with various rear additions. Harled contrasting painted ashlar margins. Centre door masked by earlier 19th century square single storey porch with side entrance and front window; flanking tripartites (later enlargement); 2 piended dormers; gable fenestration includes small attic windows.Late 18th century drawing room wing abuts rear of house with W gable continuous with main dwelling and lit by 2 long windows with attic window above. Mid-later single storey, 3-bay wing set back at E. 4-and multi pane glazing. Moulded mid and later 18th century corniced copes to end and wallhead stacks; slate roofs; stone ridges. Front garden enclosed by low coped wall; entrance flanked by pair mid 19th century square ashlar gatepiers, with square reeded caps. Pair spearheaded cast-iron carriage gates.
MMS139	**16.1b**	Bogton	House	Historic Building	304309	859626	LB8698	B Listed Building	Medium	c. 1800. W facing 2-storey, 3-bay house. Whitewashed rubble, painted tooled ashlar margins. Centre door, small 1st floor windows; forestair at N gable to 1st floor entrance. Coped end stacks; slate roof.
MMS140	**16.1d**	Cathay House	House, Conservatory	Historic Building	305774	858027	LB8699	B Listed Building	Medium	George Simpson, architect, 1887-8. Large baronial villa with extensive conservatory and glasshouse range at W. HOUSE: asymmetrical 2-storey house with E entrance front. Bullfaced rubble, contrasting tooled and polished ashlar dressings. Projecting square porch with segmental-headed entrance and crenellated wallhead; ornate panelled double-leaf door. Porch fronts tower-like centre bay rising above ridge with corbelled wallhead and steeply pitched crowstepped "cap house" roof. At left of entrance shallow projecting bipartite with corniced blocking course, decorative gablet-headed 1st floor window; 1st floor oriel to right of centre. Asymmetrical 4-bay S garden front with (right) ground floor projecting bowed 3-light window with corniced and ball finialled wallhead. Near centre 1st floor canted oriel; 2-storey angle drum tower at SW with narrow ground and 1st floor windows, deep eaves course with ball ornamentation and bellcast fish-scale conical slate roof with cast iron apex weathervane. Square 3-storey tower rises above W elevation with corbnelled and crenellated upper storey with angle bartizans and circular stair turret at NE. E,W and S upper storey elevations pierced by 3 narrow windows. Various ornamentation such as shaped or broken pediments to 1st floor windows; 2-pane glazing. CONSERVATORY-GLASSHOUSE RANGE: at W of house substantial glazed conservatory with 4-bay frontage, domed glazed roof supporting raised and domed toplight. Conservatory linked to house by 6-bay glazed passage with pitched glazed roof and pedimented porch similar to that fronting principal block. Extensive lean-to glass house at W.
MMS141	**16.2b**	New Spynie, Spynie Parish Church And Enclosing Walls	Church	Historic Building	318255	864209	LB15568	B Listed Building	Medium	1735-6. Simple T-plan kirk with long S facing 4-bay elevation. Rubble, contrasting painted ashlar dressings, some re-used from former church. Substantial pointed-headed entrance at SW (left) with moulded re-used jambs; smaller square-headed doorway at SE (right) with deeply moulded re-used jambs placed upside-down (run-off stops pointing upwards; sited close to lintel instead of at base by kerb); small window above with deeply chamfered margins cutting through (obscure) dated cill. Small centre mural sundial dated 1740. Blocked centre Minister's door flanked by enlarged windows; later enlarged round-headed N gallery window; blocked T-wing door; 4- and multi-pane glazing. Bellcote at W gable apex dated 1723 (date of construction) and 1735 (date of removal to New Spynie); Michael Burgerhuys bell dated 1637. Slate roofs. ENCLOSED WALLS. Church enclosed by simple rubble wall. Entrance flanked by plain gatepiers.

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MMS142	**16.2b**	New Spynie, Quarrywood House	House and Garden Walls	Historic Building	318204	864183	LB15569	B Listed Building	Medium	William Robertson, 1840-41. Symmetrical 2-storey, 3-bay house. Modern harl, tooled and polished ashlar margins and dressings. Centre entrance with corniced ashlar doorpiece approached by 3 shallow steps. Long ground floor windows; regular 2-window E and W gable fenestration, some blind; ground floor window in W altered as glazed door; original margined 16-pane lying pane timber sash and case windows to ground floor; 1st floor windows replaced to match (1995). Margined coped end stacks; piended slate roof. c.1965 2-storey rear extension with flat roof and entrance masked by modern glazed porch. Single storey wing extended to form billiard room (1995). Piended glazed conservatory to W (1995). Mid-later 18th century rubble stone walls enclose house and garden with tooled ashlar or rubble copes. Pair mid 19th century low gatepiers flank entrance. Lean-to rubble laundry and outbuildings abut garden wall at rear of house.
MMS143	**16.2b**	Quarrywood, Dovecot	Dovecot	Historic Building	318106	864165	LB15570	B Listed Building	Medium	c.1600. Almost square, 17' x 16'3" (5.18 x 4.95m); harled rubble, ashlar margins and dressings. Blocked entrance to dovecot in centre of W gable with chamfered margins; single air vent in each gable; deep rat course at wallhead continuing across gables. Crowsteps; heavy stone slab roof supported on gable walls and by 2 masonry vaulted arches; central ridge cupola also constructed from stone slabs. Later dormer entrance (c. 1905); 2 metal bands strengthen walls.
MMS144	**16.2b**	Newton Nurseries, Barn	Barn	Historic Building	316218	863721	LB15571	C Listed Building	Low	Probably 1793. Single storey and loft rectangular barn. Harl pointed rubble, tooled rubble and tooled ashlar dressings. Long elevations E and W. N portion of barn of 3 bays, with centre opposing doors in each face right in W elevation). 3 loft openings. Slate roof; stone ridge, former apex ball finials missing. Forestair at N gable to loft door.
MMS145	**16.2b**	Rosebrae House	House, Former School	Historic Building	317222	864064	LB15573	B Listed Building	Medium	c.1830. S facing symmetrical 2-storey, 3-bay house. Harled, ashlar margins and dressings. Centre corniced entrance with flanking corniced and aproned windows; blocked cills to 1st floor windows; deep eaves band; small centre walled pediment. 2 ground and 1 centre window in E gable; centre ground floor window (now doorway) and 1st floor window in W gable; 12-pane glazing. Base course; shaped skewputts; coped end stacks; slate roof. Single storey rear wing and later external stair to later 1st floor doorway. Garden enclosed by roughly coped rubble wall.
MMS146	**16.2b**	Rosehaugh, Old House	House	Historic Building	316630	864383	LB15574	B Listed Building	Medium	Later 18th century. 2-storey, wide 3-bay house with regular S facing frontage. Harl pointed rubble, harled flanks, tooled ashlar margins. Centre door masked by later gabled porch with side entrance; 4-pane glazing in small windows. End stacks; slate roof.
MMS147	**16.2b**	Wester Kintrae Farmhouse	Farmhouse	Historic Building	317527	865047	LB15576	B Listed Building	Medium	Later 18th century. 2-storey, regular wide 3-bay S facing house with later single storey, 2-bay wing at W gable. Harled, self coloured painted ashlar margins. Centre door; small 1st floor windows; 4-pane glazing. Stumpy end stacks; slate roofs; stone ridges.
MMS148	**16.1d**	Blervie Mains	House	Historic Building	306234	857063	LB15582	A Listed Building	High	Dated 1776. S facing, 2-storey and dormerless attic, symmetrical 5-bay house. Pinned, squared rubble frontge, harl pointed rubble flanks, polished ashlar dressings and margins. Slightly advanced centre gabletted bay with rusticated centre doorpiece, small attic window and apex stack. Single ground, 1st floor and attic windows in E gable, paired ground and 1st floor within similar attic window in W gable; 12-pane glazing. Rusticated quoins; decorative lipped scroll skewputts, dated at SW and with nautilus shell carved on gable faces; moulded copes to ashlar end stacks; slate roofs. Later single storey, 3-bay rear wing.

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MMS149	**16.1b, 16.1d, 16.2a, 16.2d**	Burgie Lodge	Lodge	Historic Building	308856	859966	LB15587	B Listed Building	Medium	1830-40, possibly John Urquhart, architect and builder, Forres; later additions. 2-storey house over basement, regular 3-bay frontage. Whitewashed rubble, contrasting ashlar margins and dressings. Recessed centre bay in N front delineated by giant ashlar pilasters and shallow pedimented blocking course at wallhead with centre corniced doorway approached by flight of steps, single window above. Flanking raised ground floor rectangular projecting windows with corniced wallhead. Substantial 2-storey rear wing with enlarged E window; wing linked to early 20th century single storey over raised basement cottage at rear. Varied glazing. Ridge and wallhead coped stacks; piended slate roofs.
MMS150	**16.1d**	Marcassie	Farmhouse	Historic Building	305657	856609	LB15588	B Listed Building	Medium	Later 18th century. SE facing 2-storey, 3-bay house with later single storey, 3-bay wings at NE and SW gables. Harled, tooled ashlar margins, contrasting painted reveals. Centre door masked by later gabled porch. Centre door in SW wing now blocked as storey; 2- and 4-pane glazing. Later 18th century moulded copes to end panelled stacks on main house; slate roofs.
MMS151	**16.1d**	Rafford Parish Church	Church	Historic Building	306027	856377	LB15589	B Listed Building	Medium	Gothic. Harl pointed rubble, tooled and polished ashlar dressings. S gable fronted by 3-stage tower with entrance at base, each stage delineated by string course; recessed entrance with Perpendicular Gothic doorpiece flanked by ashlar dummy facetted lanterns with crocketted caps. Hoodmoulded pointed-headed traceried window above; louvred fenestration in upper stage, N, S and W faces of tower; ashlar balustraded wallhead with substantial corbelled and crocketted angle pinnacles. 3 large windows with Perpendicular tracery light to long W elevation, each window flanked by stepped buttress terminating at wallhead with substantial crocketted pinnacle. 3 (1907) similar windows light E elevation, buttressed only in outer bays. Large hoodmoulded and similarly traceried window in centre of N gable. Small (1907) hexagonal vestry at NE. Clear quarry glazing (1907) except for c. 1918 stained glass window at N. Apex across finial at N gable; slate roof.
MMS152	**16.2e**	Aldroughty House	House	Historic Building	318470	862344	LB15592	B Listed Building	Medium	Probably William Robertson, 1829. Single storey house over raised basement with 2-storey outer bays, S facing symmetrical 5-bay frontage. Tooled coursed rubble, polished ashlar dressings. Pedimented portico with dated tympanum supported by 2 fluted Greek Doric columns; moulded architraves to doorway with panelled door and rectangular fanlight. Corniced string course with blocking course links centre single storey 3 bays with slightly advanced 2-storey outer bays, each with aproned ground floor windows, similar fenestration in return E and W walls. Single storey, 2-bay rear wings in sympathy with main front, at NE by J Wittet, 1899 and dated 1930 at NW. Lying-pane glazing throughout, with modern plate glass in lower lights of front ground floor sashes. Coped paired ridge stacks and rear end stacks; piended and gabled slate roofs. Later centre dormer window.
MMS153	**16.2e**	Elgin, The Bield	House	Historic Building	319281	862653	LB15593	B Listed Building	Medium	James B Dunn, 1930-32. Scottish Renaissance details. Substantial 2-storey and attic house with N entrance front and S facing main elevation. Mixed bullfaced rubble, tooled ashlar dressings. Entrance at N in rear centre slightly projecting gabled bay with service entrance left (E) screened by round-arched balustraded service court and to right (W) built-in double garage with plank doors and long wrought thistle finialled iron hinges. 4-bay S front with set back 2-storey wing (garage with library above) at W and single storey and attic service range at E. Centre arcaded loggia framed by 2 round-headed arches supported by squat columns after manner of Elgin High Street 17th century merchant houses; pair of segmental-headed gabletted dormers break wallhead above. Advanced and gabled flanking bays with ground and 1st floor tripartites. Multi-pane sashes with plate glass lower lights in front windows. Most angles rounded and corbelled out at 1st floor height. Wallhead and ridge stacks; crowsteps; graded Banffshire slate roof; stone ridges.

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MMS154	**16.2b**	Findrassie House	House and Gatepiers	Historic Building	319523	865126	LB15594	B Listed Building	Medium	c.1790, on earlier site and possibly incorporating earlier fabric. Addition, William Robertson, 1826. 2-storey and attic, S facing 3-bay house and lower 2-storey wing set back at W gable. Squared tooled ashlar frontage, harled flanks, rear and wing, tooled and polished ashlar dressings and margins. Centre entrance approached by short flight of steps; corniced, lugged and moulded doorpiece with rectangular fanlight with 'Gothic' glazing; panelled door. Regular front fenestration with longer 1st floor windows and single 1st floor windows in E and W gables; originally the rear had symmetrical fenestration, the regularity marred by later alterations. 1826 wing with ground and single 1st floor windows and with large regular 2-bay window pattern in N elevation. 2 later piended dormers; mainly 12-pane glazing. Rusticated quoins in main house; moulded eaves cornice; tall end stacks with moulded copes; slate roofs with modern solar panels at ridge. GATEPIERS (NJ 196 648): c. 1790 pair square ashlar gatepiers with corniced square caps surmounted by ball finials. Pair cast-iron carriage gates.
MMS155	**16.2b**	Findrassie House, Dovecot	Dovecot	Historic Building	319322	865324	LB15595	B Listed Building	Medium	Dated 1631. Lectern dovecot; harl pointed rubble, ashlar dressings. Low centre door with chamfered margins in S elevation with small barred aperture above; rat course at rear returns short length along sides. Crowsteps; slate roof in poor condition.
MMS156	**16.1d**	Altyre Estate, East Lodge	Lodge	Historic Building	304084	855690	LB15597	B Listed Building	Medium	Lodge appears on 1st ed OS, 1870 unnamed. On 2nd ed OS of 1905 named as Wardend Lodge (present Manachie Lodge MMS137 was then called East Lodge).
MMS157	**16.3b, 16.3d**	Dipple, Old Parish Church And Burial Ground	Burial Ground	Historic Building	332836	857909	LB15639	C Listed Building	Low	Circular rubble walled burial ground dated 1732 and 1811, repaired 1869; entrance at E flanked by simple stone steps built into walling. 18th and 19th century tombstones; mural memorials dated 1794 and 1818 incorporated in fragments of former Dipple church walling.
MMS159	**16.3b, 16.3d**	Dipple House, Dairy, Laundry and Bothy	Building	Historic Building	332838	858325	LB15640	C Listed Building	Low	Early-mid 19th century. Long single storey E facing range of 5 irregular bays. White washed rubble. Off-centre entrance with laundry right (N) and bothy left (S). Small windows with varied glazing. Ridge stack; small ridge louvred vent to laundry; piended local slate roof with stone ridge. DAIRY: Probably early-mid 19th century. Square single storey and loft, single bay building sited in line with bothy range but separated by track. Off-centre entrance in E elevation. Small window and loft window in N, both shuttered. Piended local slate roof.
MMS160	**16.3b**	Mosstodloch, Cosy Corner	Building	Historic Building	332861	859918	LB15642	B Listed Building	Medium	Early 19th century. Single storey, N facing 3-bay cottage. Whitewashed rubble (probably clay and boulder). Centre door; 04-pane glazing. End stacks; corrugated-iron roof.
MMS161	**16.3b**	Fochabers Bridge, (Old Spey Bridge)	Bridge	Historic Building	333998	859457	LB15645	A Listed Building	High	Thomas Telford, 1801-6, George Burn, contractor; repairs after flood damage, 1831-2, Archibald Simpson; reconstruction of W arch, 1852. 3-span bridge consisting of 2 channelled ashlar arch rings (1801-6, 73', 95' wide) at W. Widened deck and modern metal balustrade. Tooled ashlar cutwaters; blind oculus in spandrel of masonry sections
MMS162	**16.3b**	Fochabers Bridge (Spey Bridge), (Old) Tollhouse	Building, Tollhouse	Historic Building	333984	859499	LB15646	B Listed Building	Medium	c.1830, style of Archibald Simpson, greatly enlarged c.1983. 1830 single storey toll house over raised basement with roadside entrance in 2-bay S elevation. Tooled ashlar with polished ashlar dressings over rubble raised basement. Modern portion in sympathetic style extends N; harled with simulated sandstone dressings. Projecting canted bay with 3 6-pane casement windows. Hoodmoulded doors and windows; multi-pane fenestration to modern extension. 2 coped ridge stacks; shallow piended slate roof.

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MMS163	**16.2c, 16.2f, 16.3a, 16.3c**	Coxton Tower	Tower House	Historic Building	326187	860751	LB15774	A Listed Building	High	Dated 1641 or 1644, but probably commenced in early 17th century. 4-storey tower house, each storey containing a single room. Harled rubble, ashlar dressings and margins. Centre entrance in S elevation to slightly sunken vaulted store. Off-centre entrance to 1st floor reached by later forestair with dated armorial panel above entrance; single small window to each floor in S front, small vents elsewhere. Round bartizans corbelled out at SE and NW angles with conical roofs, small windows and shot-holes square, open bartizan at SW angle with corbelled base and crenelated wallhead. Chamfered margins; iron window grills. Coped end and tall wallhead stacks; flush stone slab roof mounted on stone vault.
MMS164	**16.2c, 16.2f, 16.3a, 16.3c**	Coxton tower House	House	Historic Building	326176	860719	LB15775	C Listed Building	Low	A and W Reid, 1867. Single storey and attic, 3-bay house Harled, ashlar margins and dressings. Centre door in slightly advanced and gabled bay: round-headed entrance with blank shield above; bipartites in outer bays; 2 gabled wallhead dormers; lying-pane glazing survives in ground floor windows. Ball-finialled apices; end stacks with coped triple flues; slate roofs
MMS165	**16.2c, 16.3a**	Kirkhill Burial Ground (St Andrews, Old Parish Church)	Burial Ground	Historic Building	324918	862704	LB15777	C Listed Building	Low	Polygonal walled burial ground on early church site. Earlier 19th century rubble walls with tooled rounded cope. Pair square tooled ashlar gatepiers with deep cornices to caps; pair cast-iron spearhead carriage gates. 17th, 18th, 19th and subsequent tombstones. Square earlier 18th century rubble private burial enclosure with moulded ashlar jambs to doorpiece and moulded wallhead cornice.
MMS166	**16.2c, 16.2f, 16.3a, 16.3c**	Lhanbryde, Old Parish Church And Burial Ground	Church and burail ground	Historic Building	327153	861260	LB15778	B Listed Building	Medium	Square walled burial ground on hillside, site of earlier church. Coped rubble wall; entrances N and S, each with pair tooled ashlar gatepiers with late 19th century shaped caps. At S the burial ground is approached by wide flight of stone steps. 16th, 17th, 18th and subsequent tombstones. 2 square coped rubble walled burial enclosures.
MMS167	**16.2c, 16.2f, 16.3a, 16.3c**	Lhanbryde Burial Ground, Innes Enclosure	Burial Ground	Historic Building	327170	861260	LB15797	A Listed Building	High	Square rubble walled burial enclosure, probably incorporating fragments of earlier church; polished ashlar margins and moulded cope. Centre entrance in W face closed by spearhead cast-iron gate. Recessed pointed-headed mural tomb with effigy of medieval recumbent knight; 2 mural panels (probably re-set grave-slabs) dated 1580 and 1612.
MMS168	**16.2c, 16.2f, 16.3a, 16.3c**	Pittensair	House	Historic Building	328226	860686	LB15803	A Listed Building	High	James Ogilvie, master mason, dated 1735. N facing 2-storey, 3-bay house. Harled rubble, ashlar dressings. Later additions at E gable and S elevation. Centre door in N front masked by later gabled wooden porch. Moulded surround to doorway; also to all front windows, which have been widened in ground and 1st floor outer bays. Symmetrical rear fenestration; small ground window each side of centre door (blocked at W) and in centre 1st floor, all narrow with plain chamfered jambs. Single ground floor and long 1st floor window in W gable; 8- and 12-pane glazing. Oval oculus in W gable to light loft with 'James Olgilvie' carved above and 'Marjory Steuart' below. Moulded corniced copes to end stacks, with narrow pulvinated stringcourse below cornice and small ledge at inner face, with moulded underside. Shaped skewputts, that at NW dated; flat skews continuously moulded on underside and splayed at base to follow line of bellcast roof; graded Banffshire slate roof with stone ridge. Later single storey rubble extension at rear, masking rear centre entrance; single storey, 3-bay cottage (now gutted) at E gable; moulded architraves to centre door. End stacks and corrugated iron roofs to both.
MMS169	**16.2c, 16.3a**	Sheriffston	Building	Historic Building	325561	861838	LB15804	B Listed Building	Medium	Early 19th century with considerable mid 19th century additions and re-modelling (probably A and W Reid, architects), 2-storeys, gabled E facing double pile house. Harled, tooled ashlar margins and dressings. Projecting off-centre front gable with square single storey porch in re-entrant angle, side entrance flanked by angle, pilaster terminating with shaped finial on octagonal base. Shaped front projecting ground floor bay window, further rectangular projecting window in S elevation. Large transomed and mullioned ground floor fenestration; some 1st floor windows break wallhead under gabletted dormers; multi-pane glazing. Early 19th century end and ridge margined and coped stack; further batteries of tall shaped and corniced flues; slate roofs.

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MMS170	**16.2c, 16.2f, 16.3a, 16.3c**	Lhanbryde, 1, 3 St Andrew's Road	House	Historic Building	326988	861297	LB17439	C Listed Building	Low	Mid 19th century. Single storey and attic terrace on corner site. Rubble, tooled ashlar margins and dressings. No 1: (formerly 2 houses); W facing, 4 bays with off-centre entrance masked by later timber gabled porch with side entrance. Corniced doorway of former house now blocked as window. Canted angle, and single return bay. No 3: 3 bays with centre corniced door, S facing to main road. 2 piended dormers at W, 3 at S; mainly 6-pane in upper sashes, 12-pane to dormers. Deep eaves band; angle margins; coped end stacks; slate roof.
MMS172	**16.3b**	Crofts Of Dipple, Smithy	Building	Historic Building	332382	859026	LB19471	B Listed Building	Medium	Mid 19th century with later additions. Single storey rectangular-plan smithy with later timber sheds adjoining. Pink sandstone rubble with remnants of harling; slate lintel facings. SE (ENTRANCE) ELEVATION: 5-bay. Doorways in bays to outer left and centre; boarded doors, that to centre split. Blocked windows in bays flanking centre doorway; wider window in bay to outer right. NW (REAR) ELEVATION: obscured by adjoining pitched roof and lean-to timber sheds; larger shed to outer left with boarded timber walls and corruglated asbestos roof; smaller lean-to shed adjoining to right. Remaining window fixed small-pane with timber panel below. Grey slate piended roof; stone ridge coping; 3 tall brick slates. INTERIOR: 3 stone hearths; bellows remaining to hearth at SW wall; timber racks and peg-racks; timber workbenches, cupboards and shelves; earth floor.
MMS173	**16.2c**	Elgin, Pitcaveny Road, Lesmurdie House	House	Historic Building	322596	863662	LB30822	B Listed Building	Medium	William Kidner, 1881-1885, incorporating earlier house of c. 1830; extended and subdivided by Willets Architects, 2000-2007. Extensive Scottish Baronial house; principally single storey on raised basement built round central 5 stage tower with angle stair turret. Mainly bullfaced rubble; battered basecourse; ashlar dressings. Off-centre doorway (E elevation) under segmental-headed, crenellated arch, with mullioned and transomed side windows and fanlights. Mullioned and transomed 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5-light windows, that to left of front door bowed. Raised square slated cupola with pyramidal roof and weathervane to light billiard room off-set behind entrance. Balconied loggia to S elevation fronting earlier house; crowstepped gables. Slate roof, corniced stacks.
MMS174	**16.2c**	Elgin, Pitcaveny Road, Lesmurdie House, Dovecot	Dovecot	Historic Building	322527	863745	LB30823	C Listed Building	Low	Earlier 19th century. Hexagonal cote with pigeon accommodation in upper half. Coursed dressed rubble, tooled ashlar dressings. Bandcourse; eaves band and deep moulded rat course. Hexagonal pyramidal slate roof.
MMS175	**16.2e**	Elgin, Sheriffmill Road, River Lossie, Bridge Of Sheriffmills	Bridge	Historic Building	320139	862883	LB30884	B Listed Building	Medium	1803, partly rebuilt 1829. Double span bridge of coursed rubble with dressed stone segmental arch rings and cope. Blind oculi in spandrel; triangular cutwaters. Splayed parapets either end.
MMS176	**16.2e**	Elgin, West Road, Connet Hill	House	Historic Building	320298	862755	LB30917	B Listed Building	Medium	A Marshall Mackenzie, 1913. White harled 2-storey house, 5 asymmetrical bays to S elevation; entrance porch to E elevation with extended canopy supported by single Roman Doric pillar. Projecting bowed bay rising to 1st floor at SE, with shallow bowed piended roof; simple single bay to SW; piended roof, and balcony to 1st floor window. Central 3 bays bowed at ground floor with long window and 3 dormers above in mansard; pergola supported by 2 Roman Doric pillars. Large front windows; modern multi-pane glazing. Coped and harled ridge stacks; piended platformed slate roof.

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MMS177	**16.2e**	Elgin, Sheriffmill Road, Braelossie Hotel	Building	Historic Building	320357	862797	LB30918	B Listed Building	Medium	A and W Reid and Mackenzie, 1862-63. Scots Baronial; coursed rubble, tooled and polished ashlar dressings. Large asymmetrical 2-storey villa. West elevation: 3-storey tower in centre with pyramidal roof banded with contrasting slating and cast-iron finial, eaves course and pedimented dormers. To SW ashlar pilastered portico with some vermiculated rustication and round-headed keystones arches to W and S, now fitted with glazed doors. North elevation: 3 bays, eastern projecting and gabled with 5-sided ground floor bay window and turret in re-entrant angle. E elevation with projecting rectangular bay and turret. 2-and 4-pane sash windows throughout, pedimented to 1st floor with gablets breaking wallhead; crowstepped gables; corniced ashlar chimneys set diagonally at ridge and gables in pairs; one battery of 5; slate roof.
MMS178	**16.1b**	Forres, Nairn Road, Oak Cottage	Building, cottage	Historic Building	303101	858705	LB31725	C Listed Building	Low	Mid 19th century. Single storey and attic, 4-bay cottage; rubble-built. Central gabled porch with small window in gable head and apex finial. 3 piended dormers, straight skews, end and ridge stacks, slate roof.
MMS179	**16.1b**	Forres, 1-2 Nairn Road	Building	Historic Building	303112	858701	LB31726	C Listed Building	Low	2 earlier/mid 19th century cottages with mid 19th century wing (Greywalls Studio) facing Iowa Place. Modern fenestration but one gablet dormer and gablet loft entrance survive. Dovecot in S gable head; slate roof.
MMS180	**16.1b**	Forres, Pilmuir Road, 3, 4 Iowa Place	Building	Historic Building	303127	858715	LB31734	C Listed Building	Low	Mid 19th century, L-plan range of 6 cottages, single storey and attic, 2 and 3 bays. Rubble with tooled margins. Bowed corner to No 6 with IOWA PLACE inscribed on splay above window. 12-pane sashes. Piended or canted dormers break eaves. Asymmetrical fenestration with 4-pane sashes to rear. Slate roof.
MMS181	**16.1b**	Forres, Pilmuir Road, Westpark House, Outbuildings and Westpark Cottage	Building	Historic Building	303017	858653	LB31735	C Listed Building	Low	Mid 19th century. Single storey and garret, 3-bay entrance. Front with gabled porch, gabled rear wing with round-headed attic window, additional rear extensions. End and gable-head stacks, slate roof. Rubble-built stable block with slated roof and cobbled floor. Byre range, harled with painted margins and slate roof to E. WESTPARK COTTAGE: single storey, 2-bay range fronting road, harled with stone margins, and quoins, with moulded caps, rubble gable ends with apex diamond stacks. Later rear wing with mainly modern fenestration.
MMS183	**16.1b**	Forres, Tytler Street, Hamilton's Auction Mart	Building	Historic Building	303069	858821	LB31754	B Listed Building	Medium	A and W Reid, 1867. Long rectangular market hall with advanced 3-bay gabled entrance to street. Coursed rubble frontage with polished ashlar dressings rubble flanks. Paired round-headed entrances under hoodmould decorated with heads of cattle, sheep, and sheaf of corn with potato and turnip. Flanked by round-headed windows and 3 long similar windows above. Corbelled eaves course; overhanging eaves; slate roof with vent running length of hall. One pair decorative stacks survive. INTERIOR: gallery runs 3 sides of the building supported on iron columns; complex aisled hall type timber roof; gallery fascia decorated with stencil design incorporating farmyard beasts, fowls and sheaves of corn.
MMS184	**16.1b**	Forres, Waterford Road, Benromach Distillery, Malt Barn	Distillery, Malt Barn	Historic Building	303234	859328	LB31776	B Listed Building	Medium	c.1890. 3 storeys 12-bay whitewashed brick malt barn with regular fenestration, each bay defined by brick pilaster strips. Segmental headed windows; 12-pane sashes to gables; 6-pane with shuttering to lower portion long-elevations. West Highland slate roof. Modern sliding door to E gable.
MMS185	**16.3b, 16.3d**	Dipple House	House	Historic Building	332815	858383	LB46285	C Listed Building	Low	Possibly Alexander Todd, builder, Fochabers, earlier 19th century. 2-storey and attic, 3-bay house with 17th century core, and later additions and alterations. Harled with polished stone margins. Base course to principal elevation; projecting cills; strip quoins.
MMS186	**16.2e**	Bruceland I	Cropmark - timber house, souterrains	Archaeological Remains	319376	862331	NJ16SE0016	Regionally Significant SMR Site	Medium	Possible timber house and 2 souterrains showing as post circle and 2 dark arcs are visible on aerial photographs.
MMS187	**16.2a, 16.2d**	Cairn Of Kilbuyak	Motte	Archaeological Remains	309623	860334	NJ06SE0007	Regionally Significant SMR Site	Medium	Possible motte. The cairn of Kilbuyak would appear to refer to a large natural grass-covered mound, with flat oval-shaped top. Now no trace of foundations, the motte was formed from the scarped drumlin. An aerial photograph shows the faint trace of an oval enclosure in this position.

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MMS188	**16.2b**	Knock Of Alves	Fort	Archaeological Remains	316292	862952	NJ16SE0007	Regionally Significant SMR Site	Medium	Fort. Only surviving feature is an outwork consisting of a rampart with an internal quarry ditch which surrounds W, N and E flanks of hill. It is reduced to a terrace towards its east end, where it has also probably been eroded by the main access route to the York tower and mausoleum at the summit of the hill. A track and quarry truncate it in the west. All that survives of inner wall is a mutilated scarp, only traced with any degree of certainty in the north and west. There is no sign of stonework. There are two or three scrub and bracken covered scarps towards the west end of the fort, but these are too vague to identify positively as artificial. There is no trace of defence along the steep, boulder strewn and overgrown south slopes. A track leads from the summit westwards along the flank of the hill, truncates the rampart in the west, and follows the base of the rampart eastwards to a quarry about half way along.
MMS190	**16.2c, 16.3a**	Barmuckity	Cropmark - enclosure, ring ditches	Archaeological Remains	324594	862100	NJ26SW0047	Regionally Significant SMR Site	Medium	Enclosure and possible ring ditches visible as cropmarks. The enclosure shows as a thin line (possibly indicating a palisade) with two concentric arcs to south (possibly ditches). An area of rig and furrow showing as cropmarks lies to the NW.
MMS191	**16.3a, 16.3b, 16.3c, 16.3d**	Castle Hill	Embanked enclosure, possible fort	Archaeological Remains	331428	850586	NJ36SW0025	Regionally Significant SMR Site	Medium	Embanked enclosure defined by a low bank and shallow ditch. It was first recorded by a Forestry Commission harvester in 1991 as an embanked enclosure c. 40 metres in diameter, defined by a low bank and a shallow c. 1m wide ditch. Recorded as a possible henge site that was c.35m in diameter, with a shallow ditch over 2m wide and a bank c.75cm high and c. 2m wide. Survey was unable to record the site in any detail due to thick vegetation, however it was suggested that it was unlikely to be a Bronze-Age henge due to its size, shape and placement.
MMS192	**16.1a**	Banarach I	Cropmark - ring-ditch	Archaeological Remains	300061	858056	NJ05NW0049	Regionally Significant SMR Site	Medium	Ring ditch lying on flank of ridge.
MMS193	**16.1a, 16.1c**	Newton Of Dalvey, cropmark	Cropmark - timber hall	Archaeological Remains	300468	857599	NJ05NW0043	Regionally Significant SMR Site	Medium	Possible timber hall showing as a cropmark in a field of cereal crop.
MMS194	**16.1a, 16.1c**	Longley, cropmark	Cropmark - ring-ditch, puits, indeterminate features	Archaeological Remains	299247	857580	NH95NE0013	Regionally Significant SMR Site	Medium	Ring ditch, pits and other indeterminate cropmarks are visible on the aerial photos.
MMS195	**16.2c, 16.2f, 16.3a, 16.3c**	Pittensair	Cropmark - enclosure	Archaeological Remains	328311	860767	NJ26SE0033	Regionally Significant SMR Site	Medium	Cropmark of part of a rectangular enclosure with one curved corner showing. Eastern side would appear to have part of a double ditch.
MMS196	**16.1a**	Banarach II	Cropmark - ring-ditch	Archaeological Remains	299841	858242	NH95NE0017	Regionally Significant SMR Site	Medium	A ring ditch is visible in a field of cereal crop.
MMS197	**16.2e**	Aldroughty	Cropmark - ring-ditch, pits	Archaeological Remains	318700	862400	NJ16SE0010	Regionally Significant SMR Site	Medium	Ring ditch with possible gap on the west side and three small cropmarks (probably pits) in the interior.

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MMS198	**16.3b**	Gordon Castle, Fochabers	Castle, Mansion House and associated grounds	Archaeological Remains	335046	859473	NJ35NW0010	Regionally Significant SMR Site	Medium	Castle and Mansion House. There has been a stronghold on this site since the early 14th century at least. The castle was the seat of the Gordons. The construction of old Castle Gordon began sometime after 1479 by the Gordon Earls of Huntly, and was to become a moated Renaissance palace by c.1672. It is thought to have been a Z plan dominated by a flat roofed, 6 storeyed tower, the lower part which survived, along with a vaulted kitchen. The remnants of the tower were incorporated into the mansion designed by architect John Baxter at the behest of Alexander, 4th Duke of Gordon, built in 1769-83. He created an impressive building, which was 583ft long. After a fire, it was repaired by Archibald Simpson in 1827. It was used as an auxiliary hospital in WWI, then sold to the government, in lieu of death duties, in 1938. Used as a barracks in WWII, the castle was bought by Gordon Lennox descendants in 1953. It was in poor condition, and much of the structure had to be demolished. Now only the east wing and 6 storeyed tower remain, adapted into a castellated mansion by Schomberg Scott in 1961 - 1965. It is a substantial castellated Georgian structure with a symmetrical 2-story range, constructed of tooled ashlar with polished ashlar dressings.The castle lies outwith the Study Area, but the associated grounds considered Regionally significant are located within the Study Area.
MMS199	**16.1d**	Dallas Dhu Distillery	Distillery Complex, former Scheduled Area incl. the area containing the pond, the main water supply and the embankment and cutting sof the former railway line.	Archaeological Remains	303645	856479	NJ05NW0044	Regionally Significant SMR Site	Medium	Distillery complex including office block, mash house, still house, kiln and malt barn that is A listed. Covers the footprint of the former Scheduled Area, including an area containing a pond, used for supplying water in case of fire, and a strip of ground containing the main water supply and the embankment and cuttings of the former railway line.
MMS200	**16.2a, 16.2d**	Cloves	Cropmark - ring ditch	Archaeological Remains	313757	861154	NJ16SW0030	Regionally Significant SMR Site	Medium	Visible on aerial photographs is a ring ditch with gap and internal features.
MMS201	**16.2c, 16.2f, 16.3a, 16.3c**	Woodside	Cropmark - enclosure	Archaeological Remains	326894	861760	NJ26SE0028	Regionally Significant SMR Site	Medium	The crop mark of a circular enclosure was recorded by aerial reconnaissance in 1979.
MMS202	**16.2e**	Lochinver	Cropmark - ring ditches, enclosure, rig and furrow	Archaeological Remains	318093	861530	NJ16SE0011	Regionally Significant SMR Site	Medium	At least four ring-ditches are visible on a vertical aerial photograph. Three are in a fairly tight group, with one slightly overlying the SE side of another. There is a faint trace of a possible fifth to the south. To the north of them is the faint trace of part of a larger sub-circular enclosure with possible pits within it. The area is overlain with rig and furrow visible as crop marks.
MMS204	**16.2c, 16.2f, 16.3a, 16.3c**	Lhanbryde	Cropmark - enclosure	Archaeological Remains	327010	860866	NJ26SE0031	Regionally Significant SMR Site	Medium	The crop mark of an oval enclosure is visible in a field of cereal crop.

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MMS205	**16.1b, 16.1d**	Grange Hall	Country House and associated grounds	Archaeological Remains	306421	860488	NJ06SE0084	Regionally Significant SMR Site	Medium	Country house and associated grounds, built in 1805, and said to be designed by William Stark, with later additions.The House lies outiwth the Study Area, but associated grounds considered Regionally Significant lie within the Study Area. It is a 2 storeys and attic mansion over a rock faced raised basement, with 5 bays on the main front South elevation. It has a tooled ashlar frontage, with coursed rubble flanks and rear and polished ashlar dressings. There is a wide, slightly advanced and pedimented centre bay, delineated by paired giant pilasters with stylised foliate capitals. The estate was originally purchased by John Gordon Peterkin in c. 1800, and it was he who built the mansion house in 1805. His sister, who married Major Grant of Invererne taking the name Grant Peterkin, succeeded him. The estate remains in the Grant Peterkin family.
MMS208	**16.2b, 16.2e**	Knock Of Alves	Stone circle	Archaeological Remains	316208	862779	NJ16SE0008	Regionally Significant SMR Site	Medium	Stone circle: 6 rough boulders; alleged outlier to W probably fortuitous; 2 stones found by probing, indicating soil build-up of 0.5m.
MMS210	**16.1a, 16.1c**	Newton Of Dalvey, cropmark	Cropmark - enclosure, pits, ring-ditch	Archaeological Remains	300468	857796	NJ05NW0042	Regionally Significant SMR Site	Medium	Thin trace of elliptical-shaped large enclosure showing as a cropmark in a cereal crop. There are also pits and other indeterminate cropmarks both within and outside the enclosure. At least one ring-ditch and pits lie in the corner of the same field to the NE.
MMS212	**16.2b**	Midtown	Cropmark - unenclosed settlement, incl. ring ditches, circular enclosures and possible square barrow	Archaeological Remains	319831	865701	NJ16NE0046	Regionally Significant SMR Site	Medium	Unenclosed settlement visible as cropmarks. Includes ring ditches, circular enclosures and possible square barrow. Some circular cropmarks partly overlie others. Also circular cropmarks which may have been created by searchlight station points from World War I.
MMS213	**16.3a, 16.3c**	Larchfield	Enclosure	Archaeological Remains	329026	860942	NJ26SE0034	Regionally Significant SMR Site	Medium	Site of an enclosure, recorded by aerial photography in 1967 destroyed by gravel quarrying by 1976. Photographs show an enclosure surrounded by substantial ditch, with a possible inner ditch.
MMS214	**16.1b**	Waterford Road, Forres	Cropmark - enclosures, possible hut stances	Archaeological Remains	302859	859207	NJ05NW0033	Regionally Significant SMR Site	Medium	There are several circular enclosures with possible internal features showing as cropmarks, scattered over two fields. They may represent hut stances. One appears to be a double circular enclosure.
MMS215	**16.2b, 16.2c**	Myreside	Cropmark - unenclosed settlement, incl. ring ditches, circular enclosures and possible souterrains	Archaeological Remains	321634	865443	NJ26NW0040	Regionally Significant SMR Site	Medium	Unenclosed settlement; ring ditches, circular enclosures and probable souterrains visible. One of the circular enclosures shows a circular pitted internal feature. Also faint traces of rig and furrow showing as cropmarks. There are also a number of natural features.
MMS216	**16.2a, 16.2d**	Kilbuiack	Cropmark - enclosure	Archaeological Remains	309691	860802	NJ06SE0014	Regionally Significant SMR Site	Medium	An oval or sub-rectangular enclosure is visible as a crop mark on an aerial photograph taken in 1982.
MMS217	**16.2e**	Bruceland II	Cropmark - curvilinear ditch	Archaeological Remains	319237	862244	NJ16SE0017	Regionally Significant SMR Site	Medium	Curvilinear ditch with south side formed by the steepest edge of an escarpment is visible on aerial photographs.
MMS218	**16.1b**	Middlefield	Cropmark - ring-ditch	Archaeological Remains	303204	860115	NJ06SW0022	Regionally Significant SMR Site	Medium	Cropmark of a ring ditch.
MMS221	**16.2c, 16.2f, 16.3a, 16.3c**	Bogton	Cropmark - enclosures, possible round houses	Archaeological Remains	327175	860660	NJ26SE0032	Regionally Significant SMR Site	Medium	Several enclosures, both circular and oval, are visible as crop marks in a field of cereal crop. One of the enclosures contains a possible round house.

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MMS222	**16.1b, 16.1d, 16.2a, 16.2d**	Newmill	Cropmark - ring ditches, pits, souterrains	Archaeological Remains	308948	860587	NJ06SE0009	Regionally Significant SMR Site	Medium	Cropmarks of ring ditches, pits and possible souterrains are visible on aerial photographs.
MMS224	**16.2a, 16.2d**	East Grange Mill	Mill lade	Archaeological Remains	309520	683522	NJ06SE0012	Regionally Significant SMR Site	Medium	Farmstead and mill, depicted on the 1st and 2nd edition OS maps. The mill lies to the north, with a mill pond and lade extending to the south. The latter is on the edge of the Study Area.
MMS225	**16.1a, 16.1c**	Brodie Castle	Castle	Archaeological Remains	297971	857554	NH95NE0009	Regionally Significant SMR Site	Medium	Brodie Castle, a Z plan castle built c.1567 by Alexander Brodie, with considerable 19th century Scottish Baronial alterations and additions. The S tower is thought to be part of original keep. The first structure was a standard Z-plan tower house, having a rectangular block with square projecting towers at the SW and NE. The SW tower and main block now occupy the W half of the S front. Early in the 17th century, a W wing was added and in the 19th century a two-bayed E wing was built E of the main structure. A number of episodes of building and repair are present on the NE tower, indicating it may originally have formed part of an L-plan castle, which has subsequently been altered, most notably by the reworking of the wall heads along the tower and the W wing. As the stonework of the E wall of the NE tower continues along the line of the E wall of the adjoining hall without any clear change in build, it is likely that the 2 structures are contemporary. This implies that an L-plan castle was altered in the mid-16th century by the addition of the SW tower to form the Z-plan. The area considered Regionally significant by the SMR covers a different area from the DGL, stretching to Barleymill Bridge to the east.
MMS226	**16.2f, 16.3c**	Errol/Easter Cottages	Cropmark - ring ditches, enclosures, henge (?)	Archaeological Remains	326361	859701	NJ25NE0007	Regionally Significant SMR Site	Medium	Cropmarks of ring ditches. At least six ring ditches and circular enclosures and a large oval cropmark of hengiform type. Other dark blobs are visible in the same field.
MMS227	**16.1d**	Sanquhar Mains	Cropmark - enclosure	Archaeological Remains	303950	855979	NJ05NW0034	Regionally Significant SMR Site	Medium	Circular enclosure with possible internal features; two possible lines of ditches curve round it to the north.
MMS228	**16.2c, 16.2f, 16.3a, 16.3c**	Lhanbryde	Cropmark - mortuary enclosure, hut stances Findspots - lithics, pottery, coins, buckles, rings, beads, pins	Archaeological Remains	328066	861104	NJ26SE0064	Regionally Significant SMR Site	Medium	A possible mortuary enclosure visible as a crop mark on a vertical aerial photograph taken in 1976. There are other indeterminate cropmarks to the north, west and east. In the west of the field are a number of 'blobs' which could indicate site of possible hut-stances although none are distinct. There are also a number of geomorphic marks which confuse the area. Metal finds reported in 1998 include two plain rings, a decorated ring, a square buckle, decorated mount, strap ends, and large numbers of buttons across the field. Field walking has recovered flints (including 8 flint arrowheads, 5 flint scrapers, 12 flint flake scrapers); a stone axe; a saddle quern; a large amount of prehistoric and medieval pottery; iron slag; coins (various dates); buttons; glass beads; miscellaneous metal objects (iron, lead and bronze/brass); a possible Viking ring; a fine metal pin (possibly medieval); a fragment of jet bracelet; and a possible axe mould. The prehistoric finds have tended to be concentrated in the SW corner of the site (centred on c.NJ 2783 6101) with later dated finds being dispersed across the Eastern and Northern areas of the fields.
MMS229	**16.2c**	Burgh Of Spynie	Documentary record	Archaeological Remains	322917	865598	NJ26NW0032	Regionally Significant SMR Site	Medium	Site of Medieval village of Spynie. It was a seaport until c.1500 but changes in the coastline cut off the sea and left it on the edge of Spynie Loch. It appears to have died out about end of the 17th century.
MMS230	**16.3b**	Gordon Castle	Cropmark	Archaeological Remains	334660	859510	NJ35NW0013	Regionally Significant SMR Site	Medium	Various linear cropmarks.

Asset ID	Figure Number	Site Name	Type	Category	X	Y	REF / SMR	Designation/ Category	Sensitivity	Description
MMS231	**16.3b**	Gordon Castle Farm Steading with dwellings	Farmstead	Historic Building	335401	859167	LB1623	A Listed Building	High	Archibald Simpson, 1828-29. Substantial range forming hollow square and comprising both dwellings and farm buildings, most of the latter now gutted internally and converted to modern farm usage. Red harled with tooled ashlar margins and dressings. Regular wide SW facing front range with centre arched entrance. Tall ashlar segmental-headed archway with corniced and stepped blocking course. Flanking mirrored 2-storey dwellings, projecting front and back as single bay gables (canted to courtyard) linked to archway by set back single bay, in each of which is bracketted corniced entrance. Long ground floor fenestration, the front windows also with racketted cornices, the 1st floor fenestration lower, and some blind in inward facing bays. Single storey and loft, set back 6-bay outer ranges, with lunette fenestration above each window set in shallow round-headed recesses, at left all front fenestration is blind, at right the block has near centre gabled porch. Varied multi-pane glazing, some lying-pane. Squat coped and shaped ridge stacks; slate roofs with projecting jointed eaves. 2 further long single storey W ranges are sited parallel to main square, and linked at gabled frontage by square panelled ashlar gatepiers.
MMS232	**16.2c**	Spynie Palace	Castle, palace, tower	Historic Building / Archaeological Remains	323029	865867	SM90282	Scheduled Monument	High	The monument consists of the remains of the palace of the bishops of Moray. The bishopric was established c.1107, but little is known of its history until a century later when the church of the Holy Trinity at Spynie was chosen as the cathedral. In 1224, the cathedral was transferred to Elgin but Spynie continued to be the principal residence of the bishops until 1686. The earliest surviving parts of the palace date to the 14th century, and include a first-floor chapel and entrance gateway on the S and what may have been a hall range with tall traceried windows on the W. These would have enclosed two sides of a roughly rectangular area, protected by a rounded tower on the SW and defined on the N and E by the natural fall of the land down to the edge of Spynie Loch. In the 15th century, a large rectangular tower replaced the earlier corner-tower. This was begun by Bishop David Stewart (1461-77) and completed by his successor William Tulloch (1477-82). It is one of the largest tower-houses in Scotland and contained a first-floor hall below three floors of chambers and an additional attic storey. Other smaller chambers and latrine closets were built into the thickness of the E wall. To the N of the tower, the earlier hall range was demolished and replaced by a service range. Around 1500, a great hall was built on the N side of the site, with bakehouse and kitchens to the W of it. At about the same time, the old S entry was replaced by a new gate on the E, and rectangular towers were added to the NW and SE corners. During the time of Bishop Patrick Hepburn (1539-73) these and the principal tower were provided with wide-mouthed openings for cannon. In the middle ages, the palace would have been associated with the buildings of the toun of Spynie, which was made a free burgh of barony by James II in 1451. Most of the buildings probably lay S of the palace, but their remains have now been largely destroyed by ploughing; but remains of other structures, shell middens and a well survive along the foot of the sand cliff to the W of the palace. The scheduled area includes the remains of the palace, the well, and the middens and structures to the west.

Appendix A16.2 - Impact Assessments for Heritage Assets

A16.2 Impact Assessments for Heritage Assets

Introduction

Heritage assets within the study area of each option were identified as part of the compilation of the baseline for each option. Further details of each heritage asset assessed is included in the Gazetteer (Appendix 16.1). Each heritage asset was individually examined in relation to the design of the options, and a magnitude of predicted impact assigned following the criteria outlined in Table 16.2 of Chapter 16 (Cultural Heritage). The magnitude of predicted impact was guided by the desk-based information collated for each heritage asset and targeted site visits to better appreciate the setting of the monuments and potential impacts.

As discussed in Section 16.2 of Chapter 16, predicted effects of 'Moderate' or 'Major' significance are considered to be 'significant' and are therefore most likely to inform selection of a Preferred Option. The significance of effect on each individual site pre-mitigation is highlighted in the final column of each table below.

Tables 1.1 to 1.6 set out the findings of the prediction of effects on cultural heritage for all designated heritage assets within the option study areas.

Hardmuir to Hillhead

North Option

Table 1.1 Predicted Environmental Impacts on Heritage Assets in the Study Area

Heritage Asset	Sensitivity	Predicted Impact	Adverse / Beneficial	Magnitude	Effect
• Category B Listed Feddan Farmhouse (MMS105)	Medium	Potential setting impacts from the proximity of the option and associated infrastructure	Adverse	Major	Moderate
• Category C Listed Earlsmill Bridge (MMS103)	Low	Potential setting impacts from the proximity of the option and associated infrastructure	Adverse	Negligible	Neutral
• Category B Listed Earlsmill House (MMS104)	Medium	Potential setting impacts from the proximity of the option and associated infrastructure	Adverse	Negligible	Neutral
• Brodie Castle Garden and Designed Landscape (MMS002)	High	Potential setting impacts from the proximity of the option and associated infrastructure	Adverse	Minor	Minor
• Regionally Significant Brodie Castle Landscape (MMS225)	Medium	Potential setting impacts from the proximity of the option and associated infrastructure	None	No Change	Neutral
• Category C Listed Brodie Castle Station Lodge and Gatepiers (MMS102)	Low	Potential setting impacts from the proximity of the option and associated infrastructure	Adverse	Negligible	Neutral
• Category B Listed Barleymill Bridge (MMS100)	Medium	Potential setting impacts from the proximity of the option and associated infrastructure	Adverse	Negligible	Neutral
• Category C Listed Tearie Farmhouse (MMS114)	Low	Potential setting impacts from the proximity of the option and associated infrastructure	Adverse	Moderate	Minor
• Darnaway Castle Garden and Designed Landscape (MMS003)	High	Potential setting impacts from the proximity of the option and associated infrastructure	Adverse	Minor	Neutral
• Category A Listed Darnaway East Lodge, Gatepiers and Gates (MMS113)	High	Potential setting impacts from the proximity of the option and associated infrastructure	Adverse	Moderate	Moderate

Heritage Asset	Sensitivity	Predicted Impact	Adverse / Beneficial	Magnitude	Effect
• Regionally Significant archaeological sites at Longley (MMS194)	Medium	Direct impact. Permanent loss of aspects of asset.	Adverse	Moderate	Moderate
• Regionally Significant Newton of Dalvey Cropmark (MMS193)	Medium	Potential setting impacts from the proximity of the option and associated infrastructure	None	No Change	Neutral
• Regionally Significant Newton of Dalvey Cropmark (MMS210)	Medium	Potential setting impacts from the proximity of the option and associated infrastructure	None	No Change	Neutral
• Regionally Significant Banarach 1 Cropmark (MMS192)	Medium	Potential setting impacts from the proximity of the option and associated infrastructure	None	No Change	Neutral
• Regionally Significant Banarach II (MMS196)	Medium	Potential setting impacts from the proximity of the option and associated infrastructure	None	No Change	Neutral
• Category B Listed Abbotsmill Bridge (MMS099)	Medium	Potential setting impacts from the proximity of the option and associated infrastructure	None	No Change	Neutral
• Category B Listed Dalvey Cottage (MMS112)	Medium	Potential setting impacts from the proximity of the option and associated infrastructure	Adverse	Moderate	Moderate
• Category C Listed Dalvey House East Lodge and Gatepiers (MMS111)	Low	Potential setting impacts from the proximity of the option and associated infrastructure	Adverse	Moderate	Minor
• Category C Listed Dalvey House Gardener's Cottage (MMS110)	Low	Potential setting impacts from the proximity of the option and associated infrastructure	Adverse	Negligible	Neutral
• Category B Listed Dalvey House Bridge (MMS109) over the Muckle Burn	Medium	Potential setting impacts from the proximity of the option and associated infrastructure	Adverse	Negligible	Neutral
• Category B Listed Dalvey House (MMS107)	Medium	Potential setting impacts from the proximity of the option and associated infrastructure	Adverse	Moderate	Moderate
• Category B Listed Dalvey House Dovecot (MMS108)	Medium	Potential setting impacts from the proximity of the option and associated infrastructure	Adverse	Negligible	Neutral
• Category B Listed Findhorn Bridge (MMS106)	Medium	Potential setting impacts from the proximity of the option and associated infrastructure	Adverse	Negligible	Neutral

Heritage Asset	Sensitivity	Predicted Impact	Adverse / Beneficial	Magnitude	Effect
• Greshop Farm Scheduled Monument (MMS004)	High	Potential setting impacts from the proximity of the option and associated infrastructure	None	No Change	Neutral
• Category A Listed Findhorn Viaduct (MMS135)	High	Potential setting impacts from the proximity of the option and associated infrastructure	Adverse	Moderate	Moderate
• Category B Listed Greshop House (MMS136)	Medium	Potential setting impacts from the proximity of the option and associated infrastructure	Adverse	Major	Major
• Category B Listed Tytler Street Hamilton's Auction Mart (MMS183)	Medium	Potential setting impacts from the proximity of the option and associated infrastructure	None	No Change	Neutral
• Regionally Significant archaeological sites at Waterford Road (MMS214)	High	Direct impact. Permanent loss of aspects of asset.	Adverse	Major	Major
• Category C Listed Robertson Place, Westpark House Outbuildings and Westpark Cottage (MMS181)	Low	Potential setting impacts from the proximity of the option and associated infrastructure	None	No Change	Neutral
• Category C Listed Nairn Road, Oak Cottage (MMS178)	Low	Potential setting impacts from the proximity of the option and associated infrastructure	None	No Change	Neutral
• Category C Listed 1-2 Nairn Road, Forres (MMS179)	Low	Potential setting impacts from the proximity of the option and associated infrastructure	None	No Change	Neutral
• Category C Listed Pilmuir Road, 3, 4 Iowa Place (MMS180)	Low	Potential setting impacts from the proximity of the option and associated infrastructure	None	No Change	Neutral
• Category B Listed Benromach Distillery Maltbarn (MMS184)	Medium	Potential setting impacts from the proximity of the option and associated infrastructure	Adverse	Negligible	Neutral
• Regionally Significant Middlefield Cropmark (MMS218)	Medium	Potential setting impacts from the proximity of the option and associated infrastructure	None	No Change	Neutral
• Category B Listed Bogton house (MMS139)	Medium	Potential setting impacts from the proximity of the option and associated infrastructure	Adverse	Negligible	Neutral
• Forres Conservation Area (MMS008)	Medium	Potential setting impacts from the proximity of the option and associated infrastructure	None	No Change	Neutral

Heritage Asset	Sensitivity	Predicted Impact	Adverse / Beneficial	Magnitude	Effect
• Category B Listed Springfield House (MMS138)	Medium	Potential setting impacts from the proximity of the option and associated infrastructure	Adverse	Minor	Minor
• Sueno's Stone Scheduled Monument (MMS005)	High	Potential setting impacts from the proximity of the option and associated infrastructure	None	No Change	Neutral
• Regionally Significant Grange Hall Landscape (MMS205)	Medium	Potential setting impacts from the proximity of the option and associated infrastructure	None	No Change	Neutral
• Category C Listed Grange Hall Walled Garden (MMS127)	Low	Potential setting impacts from the proximity of the option and associated infrastructure	Adverse	Minor	Minor
• Category B Listed Grange Hall South Lodge (MMS126)	Medium	Potential setting impacts from the proximity of the option and associated infrastructure	Adverse	Moderate	Moderate
• Category B Listed Burgie Lodge (MMS149)	Medium	Potential setting impacts from the proximity of the option and associated infrastructure	Adverse	Minor	Minor

South Option

Table 1.2 Predicted Environmental Impacts on Heritage Assets in the Study Area

Heritage Asset	Sensitivity	Predicted Impact	Adverse / Beneficial	Magnitude	Effect
• Category B Listed Feddan Farmhouse (MMS105)	Medium	Potential setting impacts from the proximity of the option and associated infrastructure	Adverse	Major	Moderate
• Category C Listed Earlsmill Bridge (MMS103)	Low	Potential setting impacts from the proximity of the option and associated infrastructure	Adverse	Negligible	Neutral
• Category B Listed Earlsmill House (MMS104)	Medium	Potential setting impacts from the proximity of the option and associated infrastructure	Adverse	Negligible	Neutral
• Brodie Castle Garden and Designed Landscape (MMS002)	High	Potential setting impacts from the proximity of the option and associated infrastructure	Adverse	Minor	Minor
• Regionally Significant Brodie Castle Landscape (MMS225)	Medium	Potential setting impacts from the proximity of the option and associated infrastructure	None	No Change	Neutral
• Category C Listed Brodie Castle Station Lodge and Gatepiers (MMS102)	Low	Potential setting impacts from the proximity of the option and associated infrastructure	Adverse	Negligible	Neutral
• Category B Listed Barleymill Bridge (MMS100)	Medium	Potential setting impacts from the proximity of the option and associated infrastructure	Adverse	Negligible	Neutral
• Category C Listed Tearie Farmhouse (MMS114)	Low	Potential setting impacts from the proximity of the option and associated infrastructure	Adverse	Moderate	Minor
• Darnaway Castle Garden and Designed Landscape (MMS003)	High	Direct impact. Permanent loss of aspects of asset.	Adverse	Moderate	Moderate
• Category A Listed Darnaway East Lodge, Gatepiers and Gates (MMS113)	High	Potential setting impacts from the proximity of the option and associated infrastructure	Adverse	Negligible	Minor
• Regionally Significant Longley Cropmark (MMS194)	Medium	Potential setting impacts from the proximity of the option and associated infrastructure	None	No Change	Neutral

Heritage Asset	Sensitivity	Predicted Impact	Adverse / Beneficial	Magnitude	Effect
• Regionally Significant Newton of Dalvey Cropmark (MMS193)	Medium	Potential setting impacts from the proximity of the option and associated infrastructure	None	No Change	Neutral
• Regionally Significant Newton of Dalvey Cropmark (MMS210)	Medium	Potential setting impacts from the proximity of the option and associated infrastructure	None	No Change	Neutral
• Category B Listed Manachie Lodge Gatepiers (MMS137)	Medium	Potential setting impacts from the proximity of the option and associated infrastructure	Adverse	Negligible	Neutral
• Category A Listed Dallas Dhu Distillery (MMS134)	High	Potential setting impacts from the proximity of the option and associated infrastructure	Adverse	Minor	Minor
• Regionally Significant archaeological site at Dallas Dhu (MMS199)	Medium	Direct impact. Permanent loss of aspects of asset.	Adverse	Moderate	Moderate
• Altyre House Inscribed Stone Scheduled Monument (MMS006)	High	Potential setting impacts from the proximity of the option and associated infrastructure	None	No Change	Neutral
• Category B Listed Altyre House East Lodge (MMS156)	Medium	Potential setting impacts from the proximity of the option and associated infrastructure	None	No Change	Neutral
• Category B Listed Marcassie Farmhouse (MMS150)	Medium	Potential setting impacts from the proximity of the option and associated infrastructure	Adverse	Negligible	Neutral
• Category B Rafford Parish Church (MMS151)	Medium	Potential setting impacts from the proximity of the option and associated infrastructure	None	No Change	Neutral
• Category A Listed Mains of Blervie (MMS148)	High	Potential setting impacts from the proximity of the option and associated infrastructure	Adverse	Negligible	Minor
• Category B Listed Cathay House and Conservatory (MMS140)	Medium	Potential setting impacts from the proximity of the option and associated infrastructure	Adverse	Minor	Minor
• Category B Listed Cathay House Gate Lodge and Gatepiers (MMS128)	Medium	Potential setting impacts from the proximity of the option and associated infrastructure	Adverse	Negligible	Minor
• Category B Listed Burgie Lodge (MMS149)	Medium	Potential setting impacts from the proximity of the option and associated infrastructure	Adverse	Minor	Minor

Hillhead to Lhanbryde

North Option

Table 1.3 Predicted Environmental Impacts on Heritage Assets in the Study Area

Heritage Asset	Sensitivity	Predicted Impact	Adverse / Beneficial	Magnitude	Effect
• Regionally Significant Newmill Cropmark (MMS222)	Medium	Potential setting impacts from the proximity of the option and associated infrastructure	None	No Change	Neutral
• Regionally Significant Cairn of Kilbuyak Motte (MMS187)	Medium	Potential setting impacts from the proximity of the option and associated infrastructure	None	No Change	Neutral
• Regionally Significant Kilbuiack Cropmark (MMS216)	Medium	Possible setting impacts from the proximity of the option and associated infrastructure	None	No Change	Neutral
• Category B Listed Alves Parish Church (MMS121)	Medium	Potential setting impacts from the proximity of the option and associated infrastructure	Adverse	Minor	Minor
• Category B Listed Alves Parish School (MMS122)	Medium	Potential setting impacts from the proximity of the option and associated infrastructure	None	No Change	Neutral
• Regionally Significant Cloves Cropmark (MMS200)	Medium	Potential setting impacts from the proximity of the option and associated infrastructure	None	No Change	Neutral
• Regionally Significant Knock of Alves Hillfort (MMS208)	Medium	Potential setting impacts from the proximity of the option and associated infrastructure	None	No Change	Neutral
• Regionally Significant Knock of Alves Stone Circle (MMS188)	Medium	Potential setting impacts from the proximity of the option and associated infrastructure	None	No Change	Neutral
• Category B Listed Newton House Gatepiers and Walled Garden (MMS116)	Medium	Potential setting impacts from the proximity of the option and associated infrastructure	Adverse	Moderate	Moderate
• Category C Listed Newton Nurseries Barn (MMS144)	Low	Potential setting impacts from the proximity of the option and associated infrastructure	None	No Change	Neutral
• Category B Listed York Tower (MMS120)	Medium	Potential setting impacts from the proximity of the option and associated infrastructure	Adverse	Minor	Minor

Heritage Asset	Sensitivity	Predicted Impact	Adverse / Beneficial	Magnitude	Effect
• Category B Listed Newton Toll House (MMS118)	Medium	Potential setting impacts from the proximity of the option and associated infrastructure	Adverse	Minor	Minor
• Category B Listed Rosehaugh House (MMS146)	Medium	Potential setting impacts from the proximity of the option and associated infrastructure	None	No Change	Neutral
• Category B Listed Rosebrae House (MMS145)	Medium	Potential setting impacts from the proximity of the option and associated infrastructure	Adverse	Moderate	Moderate
• Category B Listed Wester Kintrae (MMS147)	Medium	Potential setting impacts from the proximity of the option and associated infrastructure	Adverse	Minor	Minor
• Category B Listed New Spynie Dovecot (MMS143)	Medium	Potential setting impacts from the proximity of the option and associated infrastructure	Adverse	Negligible	Neutral
• Category B Listed New Spynie Quarrywood Manse (MMS142)	Medium	Potential setting impacts from the proximity of the option and associated infrastructure	Adverse	Minor	Minor
• Category B Listed New Spynie Parish Church (MMS141)	Medium	Potential setting impacts from the proximity of the option and associated infrastructure	Adverse	Minor	Minor
• Category C Listed Findrassie Dovecot (MMS155)	Low	Potential setting impacts from the proximity of the option and associated infrastructure	Adverse	Negligible	Minor
• Category C Listed Findrassie House (MMS154)	Low	Potential setting impacts from the proximity of the option and associated infrastructure	None	No Change	Neutral
• Regionally Significant archaeological sites at Midtown (MMS212)	Medium	Direct impact. Permanent loss of aspects of asset.	Adverse	Major	Major
• Spynie Palace Scheduled Monument (MMS232)	High	Potential setting impacts from the proximity of the option and associated infrastructure	Adverse	Minor	Minor
• Regionally Significant archaeological sites at Myreside (MMS215)	Medium	Direct impact. Permanent loss of aspects of asset.	Adverse	Major	Major
• Regionally Significant Burgh of Spynie (MMS229)	Medium	Potential setting impacts from the proximity of the option and associated infrastructure	None	No Change	Neutral

Heritage Asset	Sensitivity	Predicted Impact	Adverse / Beneficial	Magnitude	Effect
• Category C Listed Lesmurdie House Dovecot (MMS174)	Low	Potential setting impacts from the proximity of the option and associated infrastructure	None	No Change	Neutral
• Category B Listed 1-17 Lesmurdie House (MMS173)	Medium	Potential setting impacts from the proximity of the option and associated infrastructure	None	No Change	Neutral
• Category C Listed Kirkhill Burial Ground (MMS165)	Low	Potential setting impacts from the proximity of the option and associated infrastructure	Adverse	Minor	Minor
• Regionally Significant Barmuckity Cropmark (MMS190)	Medium	Potential setting impacts from the proximity of the option and associated infrastructure	None	No Change	Neutral
• Category B Listed Sheriffston (MMS169)	Medium	Potential setting impacts from the proximity of the option and associated infrastructure	Adverse	Minor	Minor
• Category A Listed Coxton Tower (MMS163)	High	Potential setting impacts from the proximity of the option and associated infrastructure	Adverse	Moderate	Moderate
• Category C Listed Coxton Tower House (MMS164)	Low	Potential setting impacts from the proximity of the option and associated infrastructure	Adverse	Minor	Minor
• Regionally Significant archaeological sites at Lhanbryde (MMS204)	Medium	Direct impact. Permanent loss of aspects of asset.	Adverse	Major	Major
• Regionally Significant Bogton Cropmark (MMS221)	Medium	Potential setting impacts from the proximity of the option and associated infrastructure	None	No Change	Neutral
• Category C Listed 1, 3 St Andrews Road (MMS170)	Low	Potential setting impacts from the proximity of the option and associated infrastructure	None	No Change	Neutral
• Category B Listed Lhanbryde Burial Ground (MMS166)	Medium	Potential setting impacts from the proximity of the option and associated infrastructure	Adverse	Minor	Minor
• Category A Listed Lhanbryde Burial Ground Innes Enclosure (MMS167)	High	Potential setting impacts from the proximity of the option and associated infrastructure	Adverse	Negligible	Minor
• Bogton Stone Circle Scheduled Monument (MMS007)	High	Potential setting impacts from the proximity of the option and associated infrastructure	Adverse	Major	Major

South Option

Table 1.4 Predicted Environmental Impacts on Heritage Assets in the Study Area

Heritage Asset	Sensitivity	Predicted Impact	Adverse / Beneficial	Magnitude	Effect
• Regionally Significant Newmill Cropmark (MMS222)	Medium	Potential setting impacts from the proximity of the option and associated infrastructure	None	No Change	Neutral
• Regionally Significant Cairn of Kilbuyak Motte (MMS187)	Medium	Potential setting impacts from the proximity of the option and associated infrastructure	None	No Change	Neutral
• Regionally Significant East Grange Mill (MMS224)	Medium	Potential setting impacts from the proximity of the option and associated infrastructure	None	No Change	Neutral
• Regionally Significant archaeological sites at Kilbuiack/Newmill (MMS216)	Medium	Possible direct impact. Permanent loss of aspects of asset.	Adverse	Major	Moderate
• Category B Listed Alves Parish Church (MMS121)	Medium	Potential setting impacts from the proximity of the option and associated infrastructure	Adverse	Moderate	Moderate
• Category B Listed Alves Parish School (MMS122)	Medium	Potential setting impacts from the proximity of the option and associated infrastructure	None	No Change	Neutral
• Regionally Significant Cloves Cropmark (MMS200)	Medium	Potential setting impacts from the proximity of the option and associated infrastructure	None	No Change	Neutral
• Regionally Significant archaeological sites at Lochinver (MMS202)	Medium	Direct impact. Permanent loss of aspects of asset.	Adverse	Major	Major
• Category B Listed Aldroughty House (MMS152)	Medium	Potential setting impacts from the proximity of the option and associated infrastructure	Adverse	Major	Moderate
• Regionally Significant Aldroughty Cropmark (MMS197)	Medium	Potential setting impacts from the proximity of the option and associated infrastructure	None	No Change	Neutral
• Regionally Significant Bruceland II (MMS217)	Medium	Potential setting impacts from the proximity of the option and associated infrastructure	None	No Change	Neutral
• Regionally Significant Bruceland I (MMS186)	Medium	Potential setting impacts from the proximity of the option and associated infrastructure	None	No Change	Neutral

Heritage Asset	Sensitivity	Predicted Impact	Adverse / Beneficial	Magnitude	Effect
• Category B Listed The Bield (MMS153)	Medium	Potential setting impacts from the proximity of the option and associated infrastructure	Adverse	Moderate	Moderate
• Category B Listed Sheriffmills Bridge (MMS175)	Medium	Potential setting impacts from the proximity of the option and associated infrastructure	None	No Change	Neutral
• Category B Listed West Road, Connet Hill (MMS176)	Medium	Potential setting impacts from the proximity of the option and associated infrastructure	None	No Change	Neutral
• Category B Listed Braelossie Hotel (MMS177)	Medium	Potential setting impacts from the proximity of the option and associated infrastructure	None	No Change	Neutral
• Category A Listed Pittendreich Dovecot (MMS124)	High	Potential setting impacts from the proximity of the option and associated infrastructure	Adverse	Negligible	Minor
• Category B Listed Pittendreich Bridge (MMS125)	Medium	Potential setting impacts from the proximity of the option and associated infrastructure	None	No Change	Neutral
• Regionally Significant Errol/Easter Cottages Cropmark (MMS226)	Medium	Potential setting impacts from the proximity of the option and associated infrastructure	None	No Change	Neutral
• Category A Listed Coxton Tower (MMS163)	High	Potential setting impacts from the proximity of the option and associated infrastructure	Adverse	Major	Major
• Category C Listed Coxton Tower House (MMS164)	Low	Potential setting impacts from the proximity of the option and associated infrastructure	Adverse	Moderate	Minor
• Regionally Significant Woodside Cropmark (MMS201)	Medium	Potential setting impacts from the proximity of the option and associated infrastructure	None	No Change	Neutral
• Regionally Significant archaeological site at Lhanbryde (MMS204)	Medium	Direct impact. Permanent loss of aspects of asset.	Adverse	Major	Major
• Regionally Significant archaeological site at Bogton (MMS221)	Medium	Direct impact. Permanent loss of aspects of asset.	Adverse	Major	Moderate
• Category C Listed 1, 3 St Andrews Road (MMS170)	Low	Potential setting impacts from the proximity of the option and associated infrastructure	None	No Change	Neutral

Heritage Asset	Sensitivity	Predicted Impact	Adverse / Beneficial	Magnitude	Effect
• Category B Listed Lhanbryde Burial Ground (MMS166)	Medium	Potential setting impacts from the proximity of the option and associated infrastructure	Adverse	Minor	Minor
• Category A Listed Lhanbryde Burial Ground Innes Enclosure (MMS167)	High	Potential setting impacts from the proximity of the option and associated infrastructure	Adverse	Negligible	Minor
• Bogton Stone Circle Scheduled Monument (MMS007)	High	Potential setting impacts from the proximity of the option and associated infrastructure	Adverse	Major	Major

Lhanbryde to East of Fochabers

North Option

Table 1.5 Predicted Environmental Impacts on Heritage Assets in the Study Area

Heritage Asset	Sensitivity	Predicted Impact	Adverse / Beneficial	Magnitude	Effect
• Regionally Significant Lhanbryde Cropmark (MMS228)	Medium	Potential setting impacts from the proximity of the option and associated infrastructure	None	No Change	Neutral
• Category A Listed Pittensair House (MMS168)	High	Potential setting impacts from the proximity of the option and associated infrastructure	Adverse	Major	Major
• Regionally Significant Pittensair Cropmark (MMS195)	Medium	Potential setting impacts from the proximity of the option and associated infrastructure	None	No Change	Neutral
• Regionally Significant Larchfield Enclosure (MMS213)	Medium	Potential setting impacts from the proximity of the option and associated infrastructure	None	No Change	Neutral
• Category B Listed Dipple Smithy (MMS172)	Medium	Potential setting impacts from the proximity of the option and associated infrastructure	Adverse	Negligible	Neutral
• Category B Listed Mosstodloch Cosy Corner (MMS160)	Medium	Potential setting impacts from the proximity of the option and associated infrastructure	None	No Change	Neutral
• Category B Listed Spey Old Toll House (MMS162)	Medium	Potential setting impacts from the proximity of the option and associated infrastructure	Adverse	Negligible	Minor
• Category A Listed Spey Bridge (MMS161)	High	Potential setting impacts from the proximity of the option and associated infrastructure	Adverse	Negligible	Neutral
• Gordon Castle Garden and Designed Landscape (MMS001)	High	Direct impact. Permanent loss of aspects of asset.	Adverse	Major	Major
• Regionally Significant Gordon Castle Cropmark (MMS230)	Medium	Potential setting impacts from the proximity of the option and associated infrastructure	None	No Change	Neutral
• Category A Listed Gordon Castle Gardens Lakeside House (MMS096)	High	Potential setting impacts from the proximity of the option and associated infrastructure	None	No Change	Neutral

Heritage Asset	Sensitivity	Predicted Impact	Adverse / Beneficial	Magnitude	Effect
• Category C Listed Old Fochabers Market Cross (MMS097)	Low	Potential setting impacts from the proximity of the option and associated infrastructure	None	No Change	Neutral
• Category B Listed Gordon Castle Garden House (MMS095)	Medium	Potential setting impacts from the proximity of the option and associated infrastructure	None	No Change	Neutral
• Category B Listed Gordon Castle Large and Small Walled Gardens (MMS094)	Medium	Potential setting impacts from the proximity of the option and associated infrastructure	None	No Change	Neutral
• Regionally Significant Gordon Castle Landscape (MMS198)	Medium	Potential setting impacts from the proximity of the option and associated infrastructure	None	No Change	Neutral
• Category A Listed Gordon Castle Farm (MMS231)	High	Potential setting impacts from the proximity of the option and associated infrastructure	Adverse	Minor	Minor
• Category B Listed Gordon Castle Farm Cottages (MMS093)	Medium	Potential setting impacts from the proximity of the option and associated infrastructure	Adverse	Minor	Minor
• Category B Listed Gordon Castle Whitegate Lodge (MMS098)	Medium	Potential setting impacts from the proximity of the option and associated infrastructure	None	No Change	Neutral
• 63 sites located with Fochabers, including the Fochabers Conservation Area, but excluding those sites that border the option: • Gazetteer numbers MMS009 – MMS090 excluding MMS014 and MMS061 • A Listed, B Listed and C Listed Buildings within the Fochabers urban area. The majority of these sites are located within the Fochabers Conservation Area.	Low - High	Potential setting impacts from the proximity of the option and associated infrastructure	None	No Change	Neutral
• Category A Listed Gordon Castle West Lodge (MMS092)	High	Potential setting impacts from the proximity of the option and associated infrastructure	Adverse	Major	Major

Heritage Asset	Sensitivity	Predicted Impact	Adverse / Beneficial	Magnitude	Effect
• Category A Listed Gordon Chapel (MMS014)	High	Potential setting impacts from the proximity of the option and associated infrastructure	Adverse	Minor	Minor
• Category A Listed East Lodge and Garden Wall (MMS061)	High	Potential setting impacts from the proximity of the option and associated infrastructure	Adverse	Negligible	Minor
• Category C Listed Meikle Dramlach Bridge (MMS123)	Low	Potential setting impacts from the proximity of the option and associated infrastructure	Adverse	Negligible	Neutral

South Option

Table 1.6 Predicted Environmental Impacts on Heritage Assets in the Study Area

Heritage Asset	Sensitivity	Predicted Impact	Adverse / Beneficial	Magnitude	Effect
• Regionally Significant Lhanbryde Cropmark (MMS228)	Medium	Potential setting impacts from the proximity of the option and associated infrastructure	None	No Change	Neutral
• Category A Listed Pittensair House (MMS168)	High	Potential setting impacts from the proximity of the option and associated infrastructure	Adverse	Major	Major
• Regionally Significant Pittensair Cropmark (MMS195)	Medium	Potential setting impacts from the proximity of the option and associated infrastructure	None	No Change	Neutral
• Regionally Significant Larchfield Enclosure (MMS213)	Medium	Potential setting impacts from the proximity of the option and associated infrastructure	None	No Change	Neutral
• Regionally Significant Castle Hill (MMS191)	Medium	Potential setting impacts from the proximity of the option and associated infrastructure	None	No Change	Neutral
• Category C Listed Dipple Burial Ground (MMS157)	Low	Potential setting impacts from the proximity of the option and associated infrastructure	Adverse	Major	Moderate
• Category C Listed Dipple Farm Laundry, Servant's Bothy and Dairy (MMS159)	Low	Potential setting impacts from the proximity of the option and associated infrastructure	Adverse	Negligible	Minor
• Category C Listed Dipple House (MMS185)	Low	Potential setting impacts from the proximity of the option and associated infrastructure	Adverse	Negligible	Neutral
• Category B Listed Meikle Dramlach Bridge (MMS123)	Medium	Potential setting impacts from the proximity of the option and associated infrastructure	None	No Change	Neutral

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Appendix A17.1 - Landscape Assessment Methodology

A17.1 Landscape Assessment Methodology

Introduction

This Appendix presents the methodology for the Landscape Impact Assessment (LIA)[1] for the proposed A96 dualling (Hardmuir to Fochabers) as summarised in Section 17.2 of Chapter 17 (Landscape). LIA and Visual Impact Assessment (VIA) form separate parts of a Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment (LVIA) but they are linked and thus the methodology for the VIA set out in Appendix 15.1 (Visual Assessment Methodology) is also relevant.

The methodology follows the Guidelines for Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment (GLVIA) produced by the Landscape Institute and IEMA[2] in combination with the Design Manual for Roads and Bridges (DMRB) Volume 11, Section 3, Part 5, Landscape Effects. These do not, however, provide a prescriptive recipe for LIA[3] and thus this appendix provides additional clarification regarding the scope and methodology of the LIA. GLVIA explains that this is necessary because '*the level of detail provided should be that which is reasonably required to assess the likely significant effects. It should be appropriate and proportional to the scale and type of development and the type and significance of the landscape and visual effects likely to occur* '(3.16).

The scope of the LIA follows the requirements of Stage 2 described by DMRB (Volume 11, Section 3, Part 5), summarised as follows (p9/2):

'Undertake sufficient assessment to identify the landscape and visual factors and the effects upon them to be taken into account by the Design Organisation in developing and refining route options…'

The guidelines for LVIA provided by GLVIA and DMRB vary slightly in their detail and recommendations for different stages and aspects of LVIA, representing their different foci of subject and dates of publication. In response, the LIA has taken a precautionary approach and followed GLVIA where this provides more information and/or requires more detail and it has followed DMRB where this provides more information and/or requires more detail.

The sources of information, consultation, establishment of the study area for the LIA and mitigation are described in Section 17.2 of Chapter 17.

[1] 'Landscape assessment' is a general term often used for LIA. This has been used in Chapter 17 (Landscape) and Appendix 17.2, (Landscape Baseline and Effects) for the sake of brevity, but the full term LIA is used in this Appendix.
[2] The Landscape Institute and Institute of Environmental Management and Assessment (2013) Guidelines for Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment (GLVIA). 3rd ed. Abingdon, Routledge
[3] Described within 1.20 of GLVIA

Process of LIA

The LIA process included the following key stages:

- preliminary identification of aspects of the proposed development that may give rise to significant effects on the landscape resource;
- identification and assessment of the baseline landscape conditions, including the specific key characteristics of the landscape resource relevant to the Scheme;
- based on the characteristics above, assessment of the sensitivity of the key landscape receptors (including both value and susceptibility);
- development of landscape and visual design objectives[4] based on the assessment above and considering other environmental and technical aspects, to inform the design development of the proposal to relate to the key characteristics and sensitivities of the landscape resource;
- identification and incorporation of potential mitigation measures, including primary measures, standard construction and operational management practices, and secondary measures[5];
- assessment of the magnitude of predicted landscape change of the scheme after incorporating mitigation; and
- assessment of the predicted residual landscape effects (based on combining the assessment of sensitivity of receptors and magnitude of change) and an assessment of the significance of these effects.

The LIA followed a reflective and iterative process and thus parts of the sequence outlined above was repeated as effects were predicted, mitigation measures responding to the design objectives were considered, and then the effects re-assessed. The final assessment presented by the LIA was based on the final design proposed for each route option including all mitigation measures incorporated within the scope of the DMRB Stage 2 design development.

When judging landscape effects, GLVIA highlights (3.23) that '…*it is important that the basis of such judgements is transparent and understandable, so that the underlying assumptions and reasoning can be understood by others'.* For this LIA, the criteria for judgements of receptor sensitivity, magnitude of change and significance of effects are described within the following section, with the levels for these summarised in Tables 2.1, 2.2 and 2.3. Following GLVIA, the criteria were pre-defined to reflect the specific circumstances of the Scheme.

Landscape baseline

Landscape receptors for the study area baseline were established following GLVIA (3.21) to include '…*the constituent elements of the landscape, its specific aesthetic or perceptual qualities and the character of the landscape in different areas*'. As explained within Section 17.2.10 of Chapter 17, landscape receptors are aspects of the landscape resource that have the potential to be affected by the scheme, for example the nature of the landscape pattern, qualities of spatial enclosure, or the shape and scale of the landform. For this LIA, landscape receptors were grouped within LLCAs, as listed in Table 1.1 of Appendix 17.2 and shown on Figures 17.4 – 17.6 (in Volume 3). These were

[4] Following Transport Scotland (2014) Fitting Landscapes: Securing More Sustainable Landscapes.
[5] Following GLVIA (4.21), mitigation measures fall into three categories: primary measures incorporated within the design development of the proposal; standard construction and operational management practices for avoiding and reducing environmental effects; and secondary measures that should address any residual adverse effects remaining after primary measures and standard construction practices have been incorporated.

identified based on the key landscape characteristics of the study area and how these are experienced as well as the sensitivities of these to the Scheme.

The sensitivity of landscape receptors to change depends on both landscape value and susceptibility (as explained by GLVIA, 5.38 – 5.47). Recognised landscape value was determined with reference to statutory designations as well as published material, for example on popular walks or places to experience the distinct characteristics of the landscape. Following GLVIA, susceptibility of the landscape resource was judged according to its predicted ability to accommodate the changes likely to result from the Scheme without undue consequences for maintaining the baseline conditions.

Whilst a landscape receptor may have an inherent value, for example because of being within a Garden and Designed Landscape (GDL), susceptibility varies in relation to the type of landscape change. For this LIA, this meant that the susceptibility of some LLCAs (and sensitivity influenced by this factor) for one option was different to that for another option.

Although there is sometimes a link between landscape susceptibility and value, GLVIA warns (5.46) that '*there can be complex relationships between the value attached to landscape receptors and their susceptibility to change* …' This meant that some LLCAs with characteristics of low susceptibility to change could be of high value or vice versa.

Considering both landscape value and susceptibility, assessment of landscape sensitivity for this LIA included the following:

- landscape character, including scale, enclosure, openness, land cover and built structures, landform, pattern and texture, and tranquillity;
- landscape value, including local, regional or national landscape designations;
- distribution and type of receptors; and
- scope for mitigation.

Given the specific requirements of a DMRB Stage 2 LIA (described in 1.1.3 above), the value and susceptibility of the landscape receptors were reported together and with one measure of sensitivity[6].

Table 1.1 summarises the different levels of landscape sensitivity. It is highlighted that landscape receptors do not usually fit every criterion within single categories of sensitivity but, instead, are categorised based on fitting better or more of the criteria within one level compared to the others.

[6] These will be reported separately for the Stage 3 LIA

Table 1.1 Criteria for levels of landscape sensitivity

Level	Description
High	*Susceptibility* Key characteristics and features that are very sensitive to the siting of a new road scheme, such as simple or indistinct pattern, few existing built features or foci, sense of intimacy and shelter, or sense of tranquillity, and these contribute significantly to the distinctiveness of the LLCA and how this is experienced. *Value* The key characteristics that would be affected by the Scheme contribute significantly to the perceived value of the landscape at regional or national level. This is likely to be recognised by landscape designations, for example GDL.
Medium	*Susceptibility* Key characteristics and features that are sensitive to the siting of a new road scheme and/or with which this may relate, such as a landscape with a distinct pattern, prominent linear features, large scale built structures, a broad sense of enclosure and a landform to which the proposed development could fit. The characteristics of the landscape may contribute to the distinctiveness of the LLCA but are experienced mainly locally or when moving through the landscape. *Value* The key characteristics that would be affected by the Scheme contribute to the perceived value of the landscape at a regional or local level. This may be recognised by landscape designations, for example GDL or Area of Great Landscape Value (AGLV).
Low	*Susceptibility* Key characteristics and features which are not particularly sensitive to the siting of a new road scheme and/or with which this may relate. This may be easily accommodated subject to careful design. *Value* The key landscape characteristics that would be affected by the Scheme do not contribute to the perceived value of the landscape at a national or regional level. The landscape is valued mainly at a local level only and not designated or obviously recognised for its value.

Magnitude of change

The magnitude of landscape change, following GLVIA (5.48 and 6.38), were assessed for this LIA in terms of:

- the nature of the landscape change with specific reference to the key landscape characteristics and the experience of these;
- the scale or size of the change;
- the geographical extent of the area over which the change would be experienced;
- the duration of the change;
- whether the change would be adverse or beneficial; and
- the reversibility of the change.

Although the magnitude of some change can be quantified, for example in terms of distance and numbers, landscape effects are not usually directly proportional to numerical units (for example, a

structure at a further distance will not necessarily have less effect than one closer). This is because the magnitude of change is also dependent on qualitative aspects and thresholds of effect. Consequently, the magnitude of landscape change for this LIA was assessed based on '*whether the effect changes the key characteristics of the landscape, which are critical to its distinctive character*' and this depended on '*the degree of contrast or integration of any new features or changes… and the nature of the view of the proposed development…*' (5.49 and 6.39)

The predicted magnitude of landscape change for the route options was judged at four levels: high, medium, low; or negligible/none as summarised in Table 1.2.

Table 1.2 Criteria for levels of landscape magnitude of change

Level	Description
High	Fundamental change to the characteristics of the landscape resource.
Medium	Material and important change to the characteristics of the landscape resource.
Low	Detectable and notable change to the characteristics of the landscape resource.
Negligible/ no change	No change or detectable change in atypical circumstances (for example exceptional weather conditions) or not influencing the key characteristics of the landscape resource.

Significance of effects

Predicted significance of landscape effects for this LIA followed GLVIA which states (5.54) that '*significance can only be defined in relation to each development and its specific location. It is for each assessment to determine how the judgements about the landscape receptors and landscape effects should be combined to arrive at significance and to explain how the conclusions have been derived*'.

Significance of landscape effects is based on two factors: the sensitivity of the receptors and the predicted magnitude of change. Consequently, the assessment of significance of landscape effects for this LIA was based on combining all the different considerations and criteria for sensitivity and magnitude described above, referred to in GLVIA as an 'overall profile' approach. When making this combined judgement, a key requirement was to reflect the relative importance of all the different sensitivities and measures of magnitude of change and to not average these. This is because some sensitivities or effects may be much more influential on the significance of landscape effects compared with others (even if less numerous).

There are many scenarios by which different sensitivities (incorporating susceptibility and value) and magnitude of change can combine. Thus, the nature of the significance of effect on each landscape receptor is described in detail in Appendix 17.2 of the LIA. These effects were assessed on a four-point scale: major; moderate; minor; and negligible/none. Although this judgement reflects a complex range of factors, Table 1.3 summarises these levels to aid interpretation of the LIA findings.

Table 1.3 Criteria for levels of significance of landscape effects

Level	Description
Major	The proposed development becomes a key characteristic of the landscape and/or changes the intrinsic landscape character of the area. Fundamental change to the landscape resource or material, important or notable change to a sensitive or valued landscape.
Moderate	The proposed development affects the character of the landscape, but of a nature, scale or extent that does not change the intrinsic landscape character of the area. Fundamental, material or important change to the landscape resource or notable change to a sensitive or valued landscape.
Minor	The proposed development introduces new element(s) into the landscape, but does not affect the intrinsic landscape character of the area. Material, important or notable change to the landscape resource or barely perceptible change to a sensitive or valued landscape.
Negligible/ no change	Negligible or no change

In addition to the criteria described in Table 1.3 above, the assessment of landscape effects considered the contribution of the affected key landscape characteristics to the distinctive qualities of the LLCA or wider landscape resource and how this is perceived and experienced (for example changing the perception of an enclosed landscape to an open landscape).

As described in Section 17.2.15 of Chapter 17, all landscape effects of Moderate and Major are considered significant.

Assumptions

The scope of this LIA was limited to the specific requirements of a LIA at DMRB Stage 2 as described in 1.1.3. This LIA also follows a standard approach described in Chapter 8 (Introduction and Approach to Environmental Assessment). Taking this approach, the baseline conditions for the LIA were taken as those that currently exist. The LIA has also considered the likely baseline in 2030 (forecast scheme opening year) where this could affect the assessment findings. Chapter 8 indicates the types of changes this assessment included, such as future development sites and forest management.

Landscape effects were assessed with regards to whether they would be adverse or beneficial. Following GLVIA (5.37), this related to the degree by which the Scheme would fit with existing character and its contribution to the landscape through good design as follows:

- adverse - the development diminishes the quality or value of the landscape characteristics and/or appears incompatible with the baseline conditions; and
- beneficial - the development complements or reinforces the quality or value of the landscape characteristics and/or appears compatible with the baseline conditions.
- Although GLVIA recommends (3.22) that effects are distinguished by whether they are direct or indirect, this judgement was considered unnecessary for a DMRB Stage 2 LIA.[7]

Further assumptions and limitations for the LIA are described in Section 17.2 of Chapter 17.

[7] This will be assessed for the DMRB Stage 3 LIA

Appendix A17.2 - Landscape Baseline and Effects

A17.2 Landscape Baseline and Effects

Introduction

This document forms an appendix to the Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment (LVIA) reported within Chapter 17 (Landscape) of the Design Manual for Roads and Bridges (DMRB) Stage 2 Scheme Assessment Report, Part 3 (Environmental Assessment).

The LVIA involved identification of Local Landscape Character Areas (LLCA) as landscape receptors. For each of these LLCAs, assessment was carried out of:

- the key characteristics and qualities;
- the sensitivity to the options;
- the magnitude of landscape effects of the options;
- the significance of landscape effects of the options; and
- the significance of residual landscape effects of the options after mitigation has been incorporated.

A list of the LLCAs is included in Table 1.1 and a map of the LLCAs is included on Figures 17.4 – 17.6 (Volume 5).

The findings of the landscape assessment are summarised within three tables set out within this Appendix:

- Table 3.1 – Landscape Baseline and Predicted Landscape Effects for Hardmuir to Hillhead Options;
- Table 3.2 – Landscape Baseline and Predicted Landscape Effects for Hillhead to Lhanbryde Options; and
- Table 3.3 – Landscape Baseline and Predicted Landscape Effects for Lhanbryde to East of Fochabers Options.

The landscape assessment tables refer to landscape and visual mitigation measures. These have been grouped into seven broad categories: LV1 – LV7, described within Section 17.5 of Chapter 17 (Landscape).

All the landscape mitigation measures are based on the Scheme as currently proposed and thus these may need to be adjusted during DMRB Stage 3 following further design development.

Within the broad categories of mitigation LV1 – LV7, some more specific mitigation measures are identified in Table 2.1 for particular locations along the Scheme. Reference is made in Table 2.1 to the LLCAs in which these specific mitigation measures would apply and thus have influenced the assessment of residual landscape effects (reported in Tables 3.1, 4.1 and 5.1).

Table 1.1 List of LLCAs within the study area

LLCA		LLCA	
1	Massive hills side slopes and foot slopes	23	Intimate patchwork of woodland, agriculture and settlement upon undulating slopes
2	Enclosed agricultural strath	24	Extensive, dense woodland containing some open spaces and historic features
3	Miltonduff open basin with mixed landscape pattern and edged by adjacent hills	25	River Findhorn corridor and gorge
4	Elgin town margins with infrastructure and mixed wooded and open surroundings	26	Flat, open and exposed landscape with simple pattern, occasional foci and offering panoramic views
5	Steep, variable sloped small hills with woodland	27	Forres industrial and infrastructure fringe
6	Brown Muir northern slopes	28	Patchwork of agriculture and woodland adjacent to the extensive backdrop of Culbin Forest
7	Rural, undulating slopes with a mix of open ground and woodland	29	Elevated and rolling slopes with distant views to the north
8	Woodlands and open spaces enclosed by surrounding trees	30	Hardmuir mixed farmland, woodland and infrastructure upon a rolling landform
9	Undulating, irregular landform with patchwork of woodland and farmland and an intimate landscape scale	31	Brodie and Darnaway estate landscapes including prominent historic features and some extensive woodland
10	River Spey strath floor	32	Fochabers
11	River Spey and wooded slopes	33	Mosstodloch
12	Dense, forested hills	34	Lhanbryde
13	River Spey corridor	35	Elgin
14	Open, flat agricultural fields surrounded by woodland edge	36	Hills north of Elgin and discreet landscape of mixed woodland, agriculture and historic elements
15	Gordon Castle historic landscape	37	Rolling farmland, woodland and historic elements at periphery of designed landscape
16	Flat, open, expansive landscape with horizontal emphasis	38	Forres town and southern margins
17	Westfield, Newton and Ardgye historic landscapes with open spaces and historic built foci within a framework of trees	39	Mixed land use and foci around Dyke and Dalvey
18	Broad, linear strath	40	Innes flat, historic landscape within a framework of woodland
19	Enclosing slopes along broad, linear strath	41	Grange Hall estate landscape
20	Kinloss settlement and landscape setting	42	Open, simple, managed River Lossie plain with horizontal emphasis
21	Findhorn Bay	43	Quarrelwood wooded hill
22	Burgie Estate rolling slopes, contained spaces and historic features		

Landscape mitigation at DMRB Stage 2

Table 2.1 Landscape mitigation measures assumed at DMRB Stage 2

No	Location	Description of assumed mitigation measure	LLCAs affected
Hardmuir to Hillhead – North Option			
1	Between Brodie and Tearie Farm	Replant removed avenue trees.	LLCA30 and LLCA39
2	Longley, north of Darnaway	New woodland within space between Forres West junction and Inverness to Aberdeen Railway line.	LLCA39
3	Dalvey Smithy Cottages	New tree planting to fill gaps in avenue to reinforce feature.	LLCA26 and LLCA39
4	River Findhorn crossing	New planting by riverbank near bridge.	LLCA25
Hardmuir to Hillhead – South Option			
1	Between Brodie and Tearie Farm	Replant removed avenue trees.	LLCA30 and LLCA39
2	Longley, north of Darnaway	New woodland within space between Forres West junction and railway line.	LLCA39
3	Woodland adjacent to C10 minor road within Darnaway Forest	Replant policy trees (some semi-standards/ standards) and rebuild stone wall along road edge within Darnaway Castle Garden and Designed Landscape (GDL).	LLCA31
4	Open ground south of Newton of Dalvey	Extend woodland to north and south of new road	LLCA39
5	River Findhorn	Replace trees where felled.	LLCA25
6	Limekilns Wood, Fairyhills Wood and Keymoss Wood	Replace trees to road edge where felled.	LLCA24
7	Field between Limekilns and Fairyhills Wood	Plant woodland within space between link road and existing A940.	LLCA24
8	Dallas Dhu	Replant embankment slopes.	LLCA23
9	Marcassie	Reinforce existing riparian woodland with new planting either side of road.	LLCA23
10	Leys of Hillhead	Woodland planting on northern and western sides of property.	LLCA19
11	Scotsburn	Tree planting between cottage and new road.	LLCA19

No	Location	Description of assumed mitigation measure	LLCAs affected
Hillhead to Lhanbryde – North Option			
1	Alves	Extensive Elgin West junction contrasts to landscape pattern. Carry out woodland planting to extents that would relate to existing landscape pattern and spaces.	LLCA19
2	Alves	Elgin West Junction, link road and existing A96 will surround Ben Wyvis landscape feature. Mitigate by planting area isolated to south and east of property.	LLCA19
3	Newton	Plant standard policy trees adjacent to new road plus new woodland on embankment slopes up to line that fits landscape pattern.	LLCA17
4	Rosebrae	Replant existing line of trees that runs NW-SE either side of carriageway.	LLCA19
5	Lochside Farm	Reconstruct existing stone wall either side of carriageway.	LLCA36
6	Woodland west of A941	Replant trees along road edges.	LLCA36
7	Pitgaveny Road crossing of dismantled railway	New planting by dismantled railway to reinforce existing woodland.	LLCA36
8	River Lossie	New planting to reinforce/replace riparian woodland feature.	LLCA36
9	Coxton	Option would fragment existing woodland. Narrow extent of cutting slopes to reduce tree loss and replace removed trees.	LLCA7
10	Easter Coxton Farm	New woodland planting west and south of farm buildings within fragmented spaces and to provide screening.	LLCA7
11	Lhanbryde	New woodland planting within space between option and railway line, on southern embankment slopes and between main carriageway and local access road to Glenesk Cottage. Extend to line that fits with landscape pattern.	LLCA7
Hillhead to Lhanbryde – South Option			
1	Struthers - Brodieshill	Narrow strip of land between A96 and option. Consider planting between the two, although this would change the existing open character.	LLCA19
2	East of Gateside	Plant new woodland in area between overbridge and existing woodland edge.	LLCA19
3	Alves Church and Manse	New woodland planting of open space between existing A96 and Alves Church.	LLCA19
4	Block of woodland north-east of Alves Manse	Replant and expand existing small, young woodland to improve integrity and screening.	LLCA19
5	Lochinver	Replant disturbed native woodland within road corridor.	LLCA2
6	Wester Pittendreich	Replant and extend woodland to fit landscape pattern.	LLCA3 and LLCA42
7	River Lossie and pools to east	Replant and expand native woodland removed.	LLCA42
8	Fairfield House	Extend existing woodland further south to occupy space between woodland and road.	LLCA7

No	Location	Description of assumed mitigation measure	LLCAs affected
9	Troves	Replant existing woodland blocks where trees are removed to retain distinctive landscape qualities.	LLCA7
10	Troves	Explore replanting embankment slopes where option would cut through existing young, native woodland.	LLCA7
11	Coxton Tower and Doo Hill	Plant new woodland (note powerlines above) within fragmented open spaces between overbridge and Doo Hill woodlands and embankment slopes on west side of overbridge.	LLCA7 and LLCA4
12	Easter Coxton and south of Lhanbryde	Improve integration of option by creating new woodlands along roadside edges, embankment slopes and within open spaces surrounded/ isolated by infrastructure, including between railway line and road.	LLCA4
13	Lhanbryde	Extend existing woodland along the railway line, plant embankment slopes with trees and create new woodland within isolated spaces near existing A96 roundabout.	LLCA4
Lhanbryde to East of Fochabers – North Option			
1	Balnacoul Wood	Minimise width of option and embankments through existing woodland and replant trees either side of carriageway.	LLCA8
2	Fochabers east roundabout	Shape embankment slopes to fit with distinctive landscape pattern and spaces and plant slopes with policy trees.	LLCA15
Lhanbryde to East of Fochabers – South Option			
1	Balnacoul Wood	Minimise width of option and embankments through existing woodland and replant trees either side of carriageway.	LLCA8
2	Dipple Brae	Replant any trees lost along Dipple Brae to protect existing landscape feature.	LLCA10
3	Castle Hill	Plant new woodland on cutting slopes through Castle Hill.	LLCA11
4	Burn of Fochabers	Plant new woodland on cutting and embankment slopes.	LLCA11 and LLCA12
5	Along route of existing A96 at eastern end of option	Cutting and embankment slopes to be of minimum extent and replanted with mixed woodland.	LLCA12

Landscape Baseline and Predicted Landscape Effects

Hardmuir to Hillhead

Table 3.1 Landscape Baseline and Predicted Landscape Effects for Hardmuir to Hillhead

Sub-topic / criteria	Baseline and Predicted Effects (reflecting combined sensitivity and magnitude)		Predicted landscape effects	Assumed priority secondary mitigation	Predicted residual landscape effects
LLCA 1: Massive hills side slopes and foot slopes	**Landscape baseline:** • Linear, elevated hills that run broadly west - east. • Landform is large in overall scale, although there are some smaller scale shelves in which there is a sense of enclosure. • Upper slopes mainly covered in dense conifer plantation. This creates enclosure and limits views, although there are some elevated views to the north from upper slopes at woodland edges/ open spaces. • Dispersed pattern of farms and houses. • A perceived rural character and qualities of sanctuary within many parts of the LLCA. • This LLCA has a strong relationship with LLCA 2 and provides a hill backdrop and enclosing edge to this adjacent area as well as to other LLCAs to the west and east.				
	North Option predicted landscape effects: • From most parts of this LLCA, the option would appear distant and associated with other infrastructure seen within the same views. At a broad scale, the line of the option would seem to relate to the linear space and landform, although it would appear to increase the complexity of landscape pattern.	Sensitivity = Medium Magnitude = Low	Minor adverse	LV3, LV5	Minor adverse
	South Option predicted landscape effects: • The option would be screened from many parts of this LLCA, although it would be prominent from some open, elevated slopes at the western end of the area around Lawrenceton, Blervie and Califer. From here, the option would seem	Sensitivity = High	**Moderate adverse**	LV3, LV5	**Moderate adverse**

Sub-topic / criteria	Baseline and Predicted Effects (reflecting combined sensitivity and magnitude)		Predicted landscape effects	Assumed priority secondary mitigation	Predicted residual landscape effects
	imposing upon the open space of LLCA 2 to the north, changing the juxtaposition and distinction between the two LLCAs. The option and associated vehicles would also seem to contrast to the perceived rural character of the landscape and local qualities of sanctuary.	Magnitude = Medium			
LLCA 2: Enclosed agricultural strath	**Landscape baseline:** The options between Hardmuir to Hillhead would affect the western area (Newforres) of the two places where this LLCA occur. • Wide, open space within strath contained by surrounding woodland and slopes. This results in a clearly defined space and contributes to the sense of enclosure and sanctuary. • Predominantly rural in character, managed mainly for agriculture. There are dispersed residences and farms that create point foci. The area is relatively quiet and low in activity (apart from around Newforres quarry), contributing to perceived tranquillity. • Fairly rolling landform, with some views limited by mid-ground horizons. • Powerlines cross the north-eastern part of the area, diminishing the local sense of containment and sanctuary.				
	North Option predicted landscape effects: • The option would be located to the north of this LLCA and, where seen from this area, would mainly appear near to the existing A96, high voltage powerlines and/or Forres Enterprise Park. This would limit the incongruity of the option and associated vehicles although it would seem more imposing due to its greater scale and closer proximity to the LLCA.	Sensitivity = Medium Magnitude = Low	Minor adverse	LV5, LV7	Minor adverse
	South Option landscape effects: • This option would cross the western area of this LLCA near Lawrenceton. Here, it would contrast to the linear space and, thereby, change the relationship between this LLCA and the surrounding slopes. • The option would pass through a flat, open area and would be highly prominent, as would the Forres East junction within the adjacent LLCA 19 by Hillhead. • The option would contrast in scale and seem imposing upon existing houses and farms within this LLCA, especially where raised upon embankment. It would also	Sensitivity = Medium Magnitude = High	**Major adverse**	LV5, LV7	**Major adverse**

Sub-topic / criteria	Baseline and Predicted Effects (reflecting combined sensitivity and magnitude)		Predicted landscape effects	Assumed priority secondary mitigation	Predicted residual landscape effects
	contrast to the rural character and perceived tranquillity, albeit that this is occasionally interrupted in some parts of the LLCAs by heavy goods vehicles and quarry operations. • The option would contrast in its line to the landscape pattern within this LLCA.				
LLCA 18: Broad, linear strath	**Landscape baseline:** • Linear area defined by rising slopes to the north and south which contribute to a sense of enclosure. • Within the central open area, there are wide, open views, although some local screening occurs. • Views tend to pass across this LLCA between the opposite north and south slopes. • The area is predominantly rural and agricultural in character, although some parts are strongly affected by existing infrastructure routes such as the railway and the sound and activity of vehicles along the existing A96. • Dispersed houses within the LLCA as well as a network of minor roads, some of which are popular for cyclists.				
	North Option predicted landscape effects: • The option would appear to relate to the broad-scale linear form and pattern of this LLCA and, from most locations, it would seem to be within an existing infrastructure corridor that includes the existing A96 and railway line. • This option and vehicles along it would be clearly visible and audible from many parts of this area, particularly sections which are upon embankment. The option would nevertheless be screened by landform undulations in some locations. • Although the presence of the existing A96 would reduce the apparent incongruity of the option apparent from this LLCA, it would also have collective effects with this road, amplifying the prominence and dominance of the infrastructure corridor and the barrier this would create between this LLCA and the landscapes to the south.	Sensitivity = Low Magnitude = Low	Minor adverse	LV3, LV5, LV7	Minor adverse

Sub-topic / criteria	Baseline and Predicted Effects (reflecting combined sensitivity and magnitude)		Predicted landscape effects	Assumed priority secondary mitigation	Predicted residual landscape effects
	South Option predicted landscape effects: • This option would have similar effects to those described above for the North option. The main difference would be that the Forres East junction east of Hillhead for the South option would be more prominent and have greater effects on this LLCA, amplified by embankments and junction lighting.	Sensitivity = Low Magnitude = Medium	Minor adverse	LV7	Minor adverse
LLCA 19: Enclosing slopes along broad, linear strath	**Landscape baseline:** • The elevated slopes of this LLCA extend in a linear form broadly east – west, providing an edge to the adjacent low-lying areas. • The landform offers shelter and contributes to a sense of containment. • Land use is mixed, including agriculture, woodland and settlement. The area is predominantly open. • Key views pass between the opposite slopes of this area. • Infrastructure is routed along the slopes of this LLCA, including main and minor roads and high voltage powerlines. These diminish the prevailing rural character and the activity and/or sound of vehicles along the existing A96 is locally intrusive.				
	North Option predicted landscape effects: • This option would pass through this LLCA and seem to broadly follow the landform ridge and slopes. It would appear higher upon the slopes than the existing A96 which would result in it seeming less contained by the landform edges. • This option would typically appear within the existing A96 corridor and thus result in limited change of land use, although introduction of this option would increase the collective dominance of infrastructure as a key characteristic of this LLCA. This would diminish the perceived importance or prominence of other characteristics such as the mixed landscape pattern and foci of buildings. • The option would contrast in scale and seem imposing upon existing buildings within this LLCA, particularly where it is elevated upon embankment or where there would be collective encircling by the option in addition to the existing A96 and other roads.	Sensitivity = Low Magnitude = Low	Minor adverse	LV2, LV3, LV5, LV6, LV7	Minor adverse

Sub-topic / criteria	Baseline and Predicted Effects (reflecting combined sensitivity and magnitude)		Predicted landscape effects	Assumed priority secondary mitigation	Predicted residual landscape effects
	South Option predicted landscape effects: • The landscape effects of this option would be similar to the North option described above due to their similar location. The main difference of effects would result from the presence of the Forres East junction between Hillhead and Leys within this option. This would contrast to the scale of existing structures, the openness and simplicity of the landscape pattern, and it would seem to breach the spatial edge formed by the landform slopes within this LLCA, affecting its relationship with the adjacent LLCA2	Sensitivity = Low Magnitude = Medium	**Moderate adverse**	LV2, LV3, LV5, LV6, LV7	Minor adverse
LLCA 20: Kinloss settlement and landscape setting	**Landscape baseline:** • The settlement contains houses and large military buildings. • The edge of the area is marked by the line of the railway in the south. • Whiteinch is more discreet and enclosed due to surrounding woodland. • The landscape character is influenced by activity and noise associated with the military base, the B9011 and the railway, diminishing locally the perceived ruralness.				
	North Option predicted landscape effects: • This option would not pass through this LLCA and would be unlikely to be clearly visible from it due to intervening screening by the railway line and woodland in LLCA 41, although vehicles along the option may be audible.	Sensitivity = Low Magnitude = Negligible	Negligible	N/A	Negligible
	South Option predicted landscape effects: • This option would not pass through this LLCA and would be unlikely to be clearly visible from the area due to its distance and intervening screening.	Sensitivity = Low Magnitude = Negligible	Negligible	N/A	Negligible
LLCA 22: Burgie Estate rolling	**Landscape baseline:** • Policy woodlands enclose and define open spaces as well as forming distinct landscape features.				

Sub-topic / criteria	Baseline and Predicted Effects (reflecting combined sensitivity and magnitude)		Predicted landscape effects	Assumed priority secondary mitigation	Predicted residual landscape effects
slopes, contained spaces and historic features	• Many historic structures which form foci. • Rolling landform, including landform shelf in the south which seems contained and 'hidden' from the wider landscape, contributing to qualities of sanctuary. • Many tracks and paths across the estate are used for recreation and from which the landscape is experienced. • High voltage powerlines cross the central part of the area.				
	North Option predicted landscape effects: • This option would be largely screened from this LLCA by fore/ midground woodland and landform undulations, including low hills north of Burgie House. Furthermore, this option is unlikely to affect the distinctive historic landscape foci within this LLCA due to its distance or screening. • Where seen from high and/or open locations, the option would seem to relate to the existing A96, although it and its link roads and Forres East Junction would seem closer and thus more imposing, particularly where raised upon embankments. • Vehicles associated with the option may be audible from parts of this LLCA from which they would not be seen and this sound may disturb the perceived ruralness, albeit this is already affected in some places by the existing A96.	Sensitivity = Medium Magnitude = Low	Minor adverse	LV2, LV5, LV6	Negligible
	South Option predicted landscape effects: • This option would have similar effects to the North option described above. The main difference would be that the Forres East junction east of Hillhead for the South option may be more prominent and thus have greater effects on this LLCA, amplified by embankments and junction lighting. Furthermore, the South option would have more collective effects with the existing A96 so that there seems to be increasing dominance of infrastructure within LLCA 19 to the north of this area .	Sensitivity = Medium Magnitude = Low	Minor adverse	LV2, LV5, LV6, LV7	Minor adverse

Sub-topic / criteria	Baseline and Predicted Effects (reflecting combined sensitivity and magnitude)		Predicted landscape effects	Assumed priority secondary mitigation	Predicted residual landscape effects
LLCA 23: Intimate patchwork of mixed woodland and pasture over rolling and undulating slopes	**Landscape baseline:** • Mix of open agricultural ground and woodland in an irregular pattern as well as variable landform. This creates a varied spatial character and foci. The open areas are typically contained by the surrounding woodland/ trees, contributing to perceived sanctuary. • The woodland varies in species and maturity. Woodland clumps or blocks often occur upon landform knolls, emphasising these features. • Overriding rural character with some clustered settlements and dispersed houses. Some local roads criss-cross the area, resulting in intermittent activity. Vehicles along the B9010 and A96 can be seen and/or heard.				
	North Option predicted landscape effects: • This option would not pass through this LLCA or be clearly visible from it, apart from distant views from the C27E minor road by Easter Newforres.	Sensitivity = Low Magnitude = Negligible	Negligible	N/A	Negligible
	South Option predicted landscape effects: • This option would affect both the eastern part of this LLCA around Rafford and the western part around Mundole. • The linear form of this element would change the distinctive pattern and spatial character of this area, including the combination of open fields surrounded by woodland and the relationship with the River Findhorn, Dava Way and Wester Newforres Wood. • The option (including overpasses and bridges) would seem imposing upon the adjacent low-lying ground and semi-enclosed spaces and appear inconsistent in scale with existing elements such as houses, caravans and trees, especially where raised upon embankments. • The activity and sound of vehicles travelling along the option, would diminish the rural character and qualities of tranquillity, (where existing roads are less influential on the existing landscape character within this LLCA).	Sensitivity = High Magnitude = High	**Major adverse**	LV1, LV2, LV3, LV5, LV6	**Major adverse**

Sub-topic / criteria	Baseline and Predicted Effects (reflecting combined sensitivity and magnitude)		Predicted landscape effects	Assumed priority secondary mitigation	Predicted residual landscape effects
LLCA 24: Dense woodland with large grassland clearings and historic features	**Landscape baseline:** • Woodland is the predominant land cover, although the LLCA also contains some open fields/ clearings. The contrast between these results in a strong difference of experience: dense and dark woodland in which there is a strong sense of shelter and enclosure, and views are limited; and open clearings encircled by woodland in which views are focused and there is a strong sense of place. • The woodland varies in extent and type, from policy trees around Altyre to dense plantations. Some woodland is actively managed and at various stages of rotation. • Within the more extensive areas of mature woodland there are landscape qualities of sanctuary. • A number of historic features occur within the area, including around the Loch of Blairs. • Many paths pass through the area and these are popular for local amenity.				
	North Option predicted landscape effects: • This option would not pass through this LLCA or be clearly visible from it and it would be on the opposite side of the existing railway and A96. Vehicles along the option may be audible from parts of the LLCA.	Sensitivity = Low Magnitude = Negligible	Negligible	N/A	Negligible
	South Option predicted landscape effects: • The option would pass through Limekilns Wood and Fairyhills Wood, affecting a large part of this LLCA and changing the woodland margins by the A940 and C14E (south of Dallas Dhu). • The option (including Forres South junction, overpasses and link roads) would involve removal of an extensive area of woodland, creating multiple open corridors that would contrast in pattern and spatial character. • Earthworks associated with the option, including Forres South junction, overpasses and link roads, would increase the extent of effects and woodland removal. For these, the visibility of the option within cuttings will tend to be reduced whilst the visibility of link roads and overpasses upon embankments will tend to be increased.	Sensitivity = Medium Magnitude = High	**Major adverse**	LV1, LV2, LV5, LV6, LV7	**Moderate adverse**

Sub-topic / criteria	Baseline and Predicted Effects (reflecting combined sensitivity and magnitude)		Predicted landscape effects	Assumed priority secondary mitigation	Predicted residual landscape effects
	• The option would fragment the existing extensive woodland between Loch of Blairs and Knockomie. This would affect the experience of the landscape for many people that use the woodlands for recreation and change the perceived southern landscape context to Forres. The woodland clearance would leave just a narrow strip of woodland south of Mundole. • The sound of vehicles travelling along the option (even where not visible due to screening) would diminish the perceived tranquillity and sanctuary within some parts of this LLCA, such as Limekilns Wood and around the Loch of Blairs. The sensitivity of the LLCA to built elements and vehicles is reduced in other parts by evidence of ongoing forestry works. Furthermore, containment by dense woodland to the north and south of the option would limit the extent of visibility of landscape effects to the northern part of this LLCA (north of Altyre), reducing effects within the wider landscape.				
LLCA 25: River Findhorn corridor and gorge	**Landscape baseline:** • Clearly defined corridor through which the River Findhorn passes. • Strong linear feature cutting through the landscape. The river creates a barrier between one side and the other and encourages linear movement along the river and thus a sequential experience of the LLCA. • Combination of steep side slopes, riparian woodland and low-lying river means area tends to be experienced separate from its surroundings. • Views are limited by the river banks/ gorge sides. Thus, most views within the area are between opposite river sides or up and down the river. This means that the river is only heard and not seen from some surrounding locations. • Many trees along the river are mature and create vertical landscape features. The trees tend to be of mixed species. • Near the existing A96, the sound of vehicles diminishes the perceived ruralness and sanctuary. • Paths exist along sections of the river and are popular for recreation, including walking and fishing. The river is also used by some people in kayaks or boats.				

Sub-topic / criteria	Baseline and Predicted Effects (reflecting combined sensitivity and magnitude)		Predicted landscape effects	Assumed priority secondary mitigation	Predicted residual landscape effects
	North Option predicted landscape effects: • This option would directly affect this LLCA where it crosses the River Findhorn, contrasting in line to the linear feature of the river. Furthermore, it would run parallel to the river between the river crossing and the Dalvey Smithy Cottages to the west, although the sensitivity to the option along this stretch would be reduced due to the intervening railway and/or flood alleviation structures and trees. • The bridge over the River Findhorn would be clearly visible, but local sensitivity to this is reduced by the presence of the adjacent railway bridge. This would also reduce the prominence of the bridge when looking along the river from the north and south-west and when travelling sequentially along the river and riverbanks. • The sound of vehicles upon the bridge above this area would be intrusive, particularly to the north towards Broom of Moy. The landscape experience within the vicinity of this option is nevertheless currently influenced strongly by sounds from the existing A96 and railway to the south and south-west as well as the industrial estate to the east. • Removal of trees either side of the river (for structures and/or to allow clearance by the bridge) would diminish the distinctive linear enclosure of this area and increase visibility of the option.	Sensitivity = Medium Magnitude = Low	Minor adverse	LV1, LV2	Minor adverse
	South Option predicted landscape effects: • The bridge over the River Findhorn would contrast to the line and vertical emphasis of the river corridor (creating a ceiling to the space). It would also distract from the existing focal feature of the river and seem overbearing upon the spatial containment of the river corridor. Contrast between the bridge and the topography would be lessened slightly by this extending from the landform on the west side of the river. • The option would be highly prominent locally when looking along the river from the north-east and south, although the extent of visibility would be limited by the	Sensitivity = High Magnitude = Medium	**Moderate adverse**	LV1	**Moderate adverse**

Sub-topic / criteria	Baseline and Predicted Effects (reflecting combined sensitivity and magnitude)	Predicted landscape effects	Assumed priority secondary mitigation	Predicted residual landscape effects
	river meander and riparian trees. This would affect the sequential landscape experience gained along the river or riverside, including when moving through the River Findhorn Area of Great Landscape Value (AGLV). • The sound of vehicles upon the bridge and option embankments above this LLCA would seem intrusive (even where these are not seen) and diminish existing qualities of perceived naturalness and sanctuary, including from the River Findhorn AGLV. • The option would involve removal of mature trees either side of the river that form distinct landscape features, some with historic qualities. This would diminish the distinct linear enclosure of this LLCA and increase visibility of the option within the wider area.			
LLCA 26: Flat, open and exposed landscape with simple pattern, occasional foci and offering panoramic views	**Landscape baseline:** • Striking, flat landform and overriding horizontal emphasis of landscape composition. • Simple, agricultural pattern. • Prevailing spatial openness and perceived exposure. This openness enables there to be a spatial and visual link between Forres and its distinctive landscape surroundings, including with Findhorn Bay. • Open views, including to distant, vertical foci such as Cluny Hill and Nelson's Tower (within GDL). • Prevailing agricultural character, although this is diminished by views of houses in Forres and the activity and sound of vehicles along the existing A96. • Network of minor roads/ burns, although these are often difficult to see from a distance due to the flatness of the landform.			

Sub-topic / criteria	Baseline and Predicted Effects (reflecting combined sensitivity and magnitude)		Predicted landscape effects	Assumed priority secondary mitigation	Predicted residual landscape effects
	North Option predicted landscape effects: • To the west of the River Findhorn, this option would pass along the southern edge of this LLCA. Although vehicles would be visible from the north travelling along this stretch, they would appear largely backclothed by existing trees and the railway and would relate in line to the landscape pattern. • To the east of the River Findhorn, the option would be located largely outside this LLCA, within the adjacent LLCA 27. From LLCA 26 the option would be clearly visible to the south, crossing the open agricultural landscape. From here, the option would create a prominent feature that would seem incongruous to the openness and exposure of the landscape, especially where raised upon embankments or bridges. The vertical scale of the option (and vehicles at this elevation) would seem imposing upon the scale and foci of other characteristics below within the surrounding landscape. It would also distract from the existing vertical focal feature of Cluny Hill and Nelson's Tower (within GDL) to the south. • The option would have differing effects in relation to land use and activity within this LLCA. It and the activity and sound of associated vehicles would contrast to the prevailing agricultural character within this LLCA but, conversely, it's incongruity would be reduced due to the presence of existing overhead powerlines and the railway within this LLCA and industrial units and roads seen within the adjacent LLCA27. Even where associated with these, the option would have collective effects that would result in the LLCA appearing influenced more strongly by infrastructure or industry land use. • From this LLCA, the option would be perceived to relate to the edge of Forres to the south, although it would also create a spatial division between the town of Forres and this LLCA (and, thereby, between Forres and the landscape to the north including Findhorn Bay).	Sensitivity = Medium Magnitude = Medium	**Moderate adverse**	LV2, LV3, LV5, LV6	**Moderate adverse**

Sub-topic / criteria	Baseline and Predicted Effects (reflecting combined sensitivity and magnitude)		Predicted landscape effects	Assumed priority secondary mitigation	Predicted residual landscape effects
	South Option predicted landscape effects: • This option would not pass through this area and would be largely screened from it by the buildings and trees of Mundole, although the elevated section on the south-west side of Mundole may be visible. • Where seen from this LLCA, vehicles travelling along the option would mainly appear in relation to the wooded backdrop of LLCAs 24, 25 and 31. • Where the activity and sounds of vehicles along the South option would be apparent from the southern part of this LLCA, the effects of these would be experienced in combination with vehicles along the existing A96, contributing to a perceived greater collective influence of main roads and vehicles in this area.	Sensitivity = Medium Magnitude = Low	Minor adverse	LV1, LV3, LV5	Minor adverse
LLCA 27: Forres industrial and infrastructure fringe	**Landscape baseline:** • Predominantly developed peri-urban and industrial area strongly influenced by infrastructure routes. • The LLCA includes a high number of large industrial buildings. Existing infrastructure is concentrated within a corridor running along the southern edge. • The overriding character is active and noisy, mainly due to the existing A96. • There are some mature trees along the railway line that form distinct landscape features and contain views. • Some agricultural fields provide open spaces that separate clusters of activity and/or buildings and thereby limit the overall complexity of the landscape. • There are some small clusters of houses, for example around Cassieford. • High voltage powerlines cross the north of area, the pylons appearing incongruous in their vertical form and seeming to extend north the influence of industrial elements.				
	North Option predicted landscape effects: • This option would pass through this LLCA between the River Findhorn in the west and Forres Enterprise Park in the east. It would relate in character to existing	Sensitivity = Low	**Moderate adverse**	LV2, LV3, LV5, LV6.	**Moderate adverse**

Sub-topic / criteria	Baseline and Predicted Effects (reflecting combined sensitivity and magnitude)		Predicted landscape effects	Assumed priority secondary mitigation	Predicted residual landscape effects
	industrial, business and infrastructure land uses in this area and the large scale of structures associated with these (including the new railway overpass). It would, nevertheless, seem to extend these land uses slightly further to the north. • Where raised upon embankments, the option would contrast strongly to the openness of the landscape, especially to the north. Furthermore, visibility of this option would be increased due to its elevated embankments and bridges, although there would be local foreground screening in places by industrial buildings and mature trees. • Although the linear form of the option would seem to relate to the high voltage powerlines to the north and the A96 in the south, it would contrast in form to other large structures in the landscape and increase the complexity of the landscape composition within some open areas, including around Waterford Farm and Cassieford. • The scale of this option, particularly where raised upon embankments and bridges, would contrast to the low-lying and intricate character of the small number of houses within this LLCA. The activity and noise of vehicles along the option would increase the resulting perceived imposition upon these.	Magnitude = Medium			
	South Option predicted landscape effects: • This option would not pass through this LLCA and would not be visible from most parts, except where it would be seen from within the adjacent LLCA 2, from the southern edge of the Forres Enterprise Park and Lochyhill.	Sensitivity = Low Magnitude = Negligible	Negligible	LV5	Negligible
LLCA 28: Patchwork of agriculture and woodland adjacent to the	**Landscape baseline:** • Patchwork of agricultural fields and woodland, extending to the edge of Culbin Forest. • The woodland and open spaces contrast in their spatial character, being enclosed or open/ semi-enclosed. This also corresponds to contrasts of visibility, with limited views within the woodland and more open views within the fields.				

Sub-topic / criteria	Baseline and Predicted Effects (reflecting combined sensitivity and magnitude)		Predicted landscape effects	Assumed priority secondary mitigation	Predicted residual landscape effects
extensive backdrop of Culbin Forest	• The woodland edges adjacent to open spaces are prominent elements, defining the shape and containment of spaces and offering experiential qualities of prospect-refuge. • Strong contrast of vertical dimensions of vegetation between the woodland and agricultural fields. • Landform is gently sloping or undulating, limiting visibility and contributing to perceived enclosure at a local level. • An overriding rural character and some qualities of sanctuary, although vehicles along the existing A96 can be heard in some places, even if not seen, and thereby diminish locally these qualities, as do high voltage powerlines where they cross the LLCA. • A network of minor roads that are popular with cyclists. • A dispersed pattern of houses and farms create local foci within the landscape.				
	North Option predicted landscape effects: • This option would not be clearly visible from most parts of this LLCA, mainly due to screening by the intervening railway line, woodland, buildings and landform. An exception would be views from Rosehall towards the option near Banarach although, even from here, the option would be backclothed against woodland along the existing railway line. Furthermore, the Forres West junction south of Longley and associated vehicles may be more clearly visible due to being raised upon embankment and/or lighting.	Sensitivity = Medium Magnitude = Low	Minor adverse	LV2, LV3, LV5, LV7	Negligible
	South Option predicted landscape effects: • This option would typically be not visible from this LLCA due to screening by the intervening railway line, woodland, buildings and landform. The Forres West junction south of Longley and associated vehicles may be more clearly visible due to being raised upon embankment and/or lighting.	Sensitivity = Medium Magnitude = Low	Minor adverse	LV2, LV3, LV5, LV7	Negligible
LLCA 30: Hardmuir mixed farmland, woodland and infrastructure	**Landscape baseline:** • Gently rolling agricultural land with patches of woodland, resulting in variable scale of spaces, visibility and enclosure. • This LLCA has a predominantly developed character with high levels of activity and noise, mainly associated with the existing A96 and railway. High voltage powerlines also cross through the area and seem overbearing at a local level.				

Sub-topic / criteria	Baseline and Predicted Effects (reflecting combined sensitivity and magnitude)		Predicted landscape effects	Assumed priority secondary mitigation	Predicted residual landscape effects
upon a rolling landform	• The landform and woodland increases perceived enclosure and intimacy of scale within parts of the LLCA as well as the focus of views within the open spaces but these also screen some elements locally. • Clusters of houses and farm buildings create local foci, including large farm units at Feddan. • Agricultural fields are typically managed intensively so they contrast to adjacent woodland, emphasising the landscape pattern. • The woodland blocks tend to be regular in shape. • Within low-lying areas there are many burns and ditches, including along the Muckle Burn, that contribute to the sense of place and local qualities of perceived naturalness.				
	North Option predicted landscape effects: • The option would pass through the central and eastern part of this LLCA. The western half of the option would pass along the existing A96 corridor where it would seem to relate to existing land use. • The option within the eastern part of this LLCA would be located near the existing A96 and within open agricultural fields. This means that it would typically relate to the land use and landscape pattern, although it would contrast to these in some local areas, such as cutting through the avenue trees leading to Tearie Farm. • The option within the eastern part would relate to large scale structures in the landscape such as the large agricultural sheds at Feddan and the telecom mast near Tearie, although it would seem imposing in scale upon smaller structures such as Feddan Farmhouse, Blinkbonny and Glenmhor, including the overpass at Blinkbonny which would contrast in elevation. • The option in the eastern part of this LLCA would seem locally intrusive upon the scale and enclosure of the low-lying part of the area by the Muckle Burn as well as contrasting to this burn as a distinct linear feature.	Sensitivity = Low Magnitude = Low	Minor adverse	LV1, LV2, LV3, LV5, LV6.	Minor adverse

Sub-topic / criteria	Baseline and Predicted Effects (reflecting combined sensitivity and magnitude)		Predicted landscape effects	Assumed priority secondary mitigation	Predicted residual landscape effects
	South Option landscape effects: • The landscape effects of the South option would be the same as the North option, as described above, for most of this LLCA. This is because the options differ only slightly in the far east of the area. Here, the South option would be located slightly further from the existing A96 and include less embankment but there would be no significant difference of landscape effects for the two options within the LLCA.	Sensitivity = Low Magnitude = Low	Minor adverse	LV1, LV2, LV3, LV5, LV6.	Minor adverse
LLCA 31: Brodie and Darnaway estate landscapes including prominent historic features and some extensive woodland	**Landscape baseline:** • Historic estate characteristics including avenues, policy woodlands, historic buildings and stone walls. These create focal features and/or highlight the designed landscape pattern. • Within the framework of woodland, there are open areas used for agriculture or gardens. The contrast between these is very strong in elevation, colour and texture, emphasising the woodland edges and shapes of open spaces. • The estates tend to comprise policy trees and woodland closer to the castle and more actively managed and single species forest further away. • The LLCA tends to be sheltered. • Network of minor roads and tracks whose routes follow the landscape pattern. • The rural character combined with screening contributes to a sense of sanctuary, apart from close to the existing A96 where this quality is diminished. • The options would be further from Brodie Castle than the existing A96 and would result in reduced traffic flows along the existing A96, which may reduce local effects on the landscape experience of Brodie Castle grounds (GDL) due to vehicle noise. • The Forres West junction (and associated lighting) may be visible from the windows of the upper storeys of Brodie Castle.				
	North Option predicted landscape effects: • To the west of this LLCA, this option would pass through an area of LLCA30 in-between the northern and southern parts of LLCA31 which include Brodie Castle GDL and Darnaway Castle GDL. Through this area, the option would run broadly parallel to the existing A96 and thus would not seem highly incongruous in views	Sensitivity = Medium Magnitude = Medium	**Moderate adverse**	LV1, LV2, LV3, LV5, LV6, LV7	**Moderate adverse**

Sub-topic / criteria	Baseline and Predicted Effects (reflecting combined sensitivity and magnitude)		Predicted landscape effects	Assumed priority secondary mitigation	Predicted residual landscape effects
	from the edges of the LLCA, although it would seem intrusive upon the contained space in-between and to amplify the separation of the two parts of this LLCA. • In the north-east of the southern part of this LLCA, the option and Forres West junction to the north of the LLCA (near Longley) would contrast to the scale of the semi-enclosed space north of Darnaway woodland and would seem to diminish existing qualities of prospect – refuge along the woodland edge. The option and junction would also contrast to the focal prominence, small scale and historic character of existing structures such as Woodside Cottage. • Although the option and associated vehicles to the north-east of this LLCA would relate to the influence of the existing A96, the effects of these would be increased where the option is raised on embankment and result in increases in visibility, vehicle sound or spatial intrusion. This may change the effects of existing vehicle sound in places where the A96 is not seen within enclosed parts of the Darnaway GDL to the south such as around Berryley. • The Forres West Junction link road to Darnaway would have significant local effects due to tree removal and contrast to the landscape pattern. • Visibility of the Forres West Junction and associated lighting from upper storey rooms within Brodie Castle would diminish the perceived connectivity of the GDL with Darnaway and the distant hills and woodland to the south.				
	South Option predicted landscape effects: • West of Woodside Cottage, this option would have the same/ similar landscape effects to the North option described above. East of here, the South option would curve to the south-east and cut through the north-east corner of the Darnaway Castle GDL. • The option would result in removal of existing policy trees alongside the minor road to East Lodge (C10E) that are of high landscape value. This would result in a prominent change locally to the distinctive landscape pattern and spatial characteristics as well as the loss of historic landscape features.	Sensitivity = High Magnitude = Medium	**Moderate adverse**	LV1, LV2, LV3, LV5, LV6, LV7	**Moderate adverse**

Sub-topic / criteria	Baseline and Predicted Effects (reflecting combined sensitivity and magnitude)		Predicted landscape effects	Assumed priority secondary mitigation	Predicted residual landscape effects
	• The option would contrast to the scale and seem imposing on the focal feature of Woodside Cottage, adjacent to the Speedie Burn, amplified by its proximity and elevation on embankments. • The option would pass through a large area of existing woodland between Woodside and Newton of Dalvey, involving extensive tree removal within the GDL and reducing the landscape qualities of enclosure experienced within a tall canopy. Towards the existing A96, the susceptibility levels of these baseline conditions are reduced, however, as the woodland has undergone some restructuring in the past and the local landscape experience is currently affected by the activity and sound of vehicles along the existing A96 and railway line. • Even where not seen, the sound of vehicles along the option may intrude on the landscape experience of the Berryley area.				
LLCA 38: Forres town and southern margins	**Landscape baseline:** • Predominantly urban/ peri-urban area with structures semi-enclosing spaces and limiting visibility. • There is frequent activity within the LLCA linked to residences, businesses and roads. • Distant views of the surrounding landscape are gained from the town edges and elevated locations, revealing the distinctive rural setting and its relationship to features such as the hills to the south. Vantage points include Cluny Hill and the south-eastern slopes overlooking the golf course and farmland to the south-east. • The north edge of this LLCA is abrupt, following the existing A96 and dividing this LLCA from the industrial land use of LLCA27. In contrast, the southern edge of this LLCA is less pronounced due to the mixed pattern of residences (of variable architecture), the golf course and patches of woodland and agricultural fields.				
	North Option predicted landscape effects: • This option and the activity and sound of vehicles would be seen and heard from the elevated, north-facing slopes of this LLCA. From these locations, the option would seem to broadly follow the line of the existing A96 and be of similar character to existing industry and infrastructure along the northern edge of Forres. It would, nevertheless, amplify the existing effects of these land uses,	Sensitivity = Medium Magnitude = Low	Minor adverse	LV2, LV5, LV6	Minor adverse

Sub-topic / criteria	Baseline and Predicted Effects (reflecting combined sensitivity and magnitude)		Predicted landscape effects	Assumed priority secondary mitigation	Predicted residual landscape effects
	including associated vehicle activity and noise, on the north facing slopes of this area as well as appearing to extend the influence of these land uses further to the north. • Although the option would typically be seen within the low midground of views from elevated north-facing parts of this area, the effects of the option would be increased by its elevation where upon embankments or bridges (so it adds another vertical 'tier' to the existing A96). Furthermore, the vertical dimension of the option would seem to create a spatial barrier that would increase perceived separation of this LLCA from the coastal plain to the north.				
	South Option predicted landscape effects: • This option would be largely screened from this LLCA, although it may be visible in the distance from some high points on the southern side of town, for example from elevated parts of the golf course. • The option would change the relationship between this urban/ peri-urban area and the surrounding landscape, diminishing the perceived qualities of extending unobstructed to the south into a rural landscape. • The option would be more prominent and seem more imposing upon the southern edge of this LLCA where raised upon embankment, including overpasses.	Sensitivity = Low Magnitude = Low	Minor adverse	LV1, LV2, LV3, LV5	Minor adverse
LLCA 39: Mixed land use and foci around Dyke and Dalvey	**Landscape baseline:** • Mix of land uses, including open agricultural fields, woodland, infrastructure and settlements, with no land use dominant. In combination with a variable landform, this creates varied spatial character and foci. • There is a strong influence of historic elements within the area, including the concentrated settlement of Dyke and the estate of Dalvey, as well as stone buildings, bridges, walls and policy trees and woodland. • The open spaces are semi-enclosed by surrounding trees and woodland, amplifying the sense of place within these. • The area has a prevailing rural character, although vehicle activity and noise along the existing railway and A96 diminishes this quality locally.				

Sub-topic / criteria	Baseline and Predicted Effects (reflecting combined sensitivity and magnitude)		Predicted landscape effects	Assumed priority secondary mitigation	Predicted residual landscape effects
	North Option predicted landscape effects: • This option would pass across this LLCA west – east. Its western half through the LLCA would run on the south side of the railway, whilst its eastern half would pass to the north of the railway and south of Dalvey House. Visibility of the option would be limited from the northern parts of the LLCA due to screening by intervening trees and woodland. • The presence of existing infrastructure near the option would reduce its incongruity, although it would have collective effects with the existing A96 and railway line and thereby increase the proportion of infrastructure within this LLCA. Specifically, the Forres West junction on the south side of Longley would strongly influence the character of the local landscape, sandwiched between the railway line and Darnaway, so that this area would no longer seem part of LLCA39. • The option would seem to impinge upon the historic character of some historic buildings, policy trees and woodland within the LLCA, including Dalvey House. Specifically, it would result in the removal of some important mature trees that form landscape features along the minor road between Dalvey Smithy Cottages and Dalvey House (C7E) as well as removal of one of two prominent wooded moot-hills north-east of Tearie Farm. • Within the area between Banarach, Dalvey and the railway, the option would seem overbearing upon the open space and the scale and focal qualities of existing houses, partly due to its contrasting scale and partly due to its high elevation raised on embankments or bridges that would seem to tower above.	Sensitivity = Medium Magnitude = High	**Moderate adverse**	LV1, LV2, LV3, LV5, LV6, LV7.	**Moderate adverse**
	South Option predicted landscape effects: • This option would pass through this LLCA by Woodside and part-way between Newton of Dalvey and Berryley. Here, the option would change the characteristic mix of land uses and spaces, resulting in an increased dominance of infrastructure and reduction in the openness of the open spaces.	Sensitivity = Medium Magnitude = Medium	**Moderate adverse**	LV1, LV2, LV3, LV5, LV6, LV7.	**Moderate adverse**

Sub-topic / criteria	Baseline and Predicted Effects (reflecting combined sensitivity and magnitude)		Predicted landscape effects	Assumed priority secondary mitigation	Predicted residual landscape effects
	• The option would pass through the edge of the Darnaway woodland, diminishing the landscape qualities of this as a distinct and enclosing edge to the south (in LLCA 31). • West of the Darnaway woodland, the option and associated vehicles would dominate the existing open space between East Lodge and Longley, although the experience of this area is already strongly influenced by infrastructure and the activity and sounds of vehicles. East of the Darnaway woodland, the element would seem imposing upon the semi-enclosed space between the woodland edge and the River Findhorn where there are some qualities of tranquillity further away from the existing A96.				
LLCA 41: Grange Hall estate landscape	**Landscape baseline:** • Historic estate character including avenues, policy trees and historic buildings. • A mix of woodland and open spaces, with trees surrounding and containing the open areas which tend to be inward-facing in focus as the surrounding trees limit visibility across the LLCA and from/to the outside. • This LLCA is small in extent, contained by the B9011 and railway line in the north and the existing A96 in the south. • The LLCA has a prevailing rural character and seems relatively sheltered which, in combination with limited views, contributes to some qualities of sanctuary. These characteristics and qualities are, however, diminished in the north and south by the sound of vehicles along both the A96 and B9011. • The landscape is typically regular and designed in pattern, mainly defined by trees and buildings. There is also a network of minor roads and tracks that follow this pattern. • The contrast between arable fields and surrounding trees is strong in colour, texture and vertical or horizontal line, emphasising the containment and definition of the open spaces.				
	North Option predicted landscape effects: • This option would pass largely around the southern edge of this LLCA, only entering the area by the South Lodge and at the Forres East junction between	Sensitivity = Medium	Minor adverse	LV1, LV2, LV3, LV5, LV6, LV7	Minor adverse

Sub-topic / criteria	Baseline and Predicted Effects (reflecting combined sensitivity and magnitude)		Predicted landscape effects	Assumed priority secondary mitigation	Predicted residual landscape effects
	the A96 and the minor road U67E. As such, it would broadly relate to the historic landscape pattern and distinctive spaces. • The option would relate to the influence of the existing A96 to the south of this LLCA. • The option would seem imposing upon the southern edge of woodland and adjacent open fields within this LLCA, mainly due to its proximity and scale. Furthermore, even where not seen within the LLCA due to tree screening, the sound of vehicles along the option would be intrusive, including cumulatively with vehicles upon the B9011. This imposition would be amplified where the option and Forres East junction is raised upon embankments.	Magnitude = Low			
	South Option predicted landscape effects: • This option would be largely screened from this LLCA by the perimeter woodland and landform slopes. Furthermore, where seen, it would appear beyond the existing A96. The Forres East junction may have increased effects due to being at a higher elevation upon embankment and lighting.	Sensitivity = Medium Magnitude = Low	Minor adverse	LV1, LV2, LV3, LV5, LV6, LV7	Negligible

Hillhead to Lhanbryde

Table 0 Landscape Baseline and Predicted Landscape Effects for Hillhead to Lhanbryde

Sub-topic / criteria	Baseline and Predicted Effects (reflecting combined sensitivity and magnitude)		Predicted landscape effects	Assumed priority secondary mitigation	Predicted residual landscape effects
LLCA 1: Massive hills side slopes and foot slopes	**Landscape baseline** • Linear, elevated hills that run broadly west - east. • Landform is large in overall scale, although there are some smaller scale shelves in which there is a sense of enclosure. • Upper slopes mainly covered in dense conifer plantation. This creates enclosure and limits visibility extent, although there are some elevated views to the north from upper slopes at woodland edges or within open spaces. • Dispersed pattern of farms and houses. • A perceived rural character and qualities of sanctuary within many parts of the LLCA. • This LLCA has a strong relationship with LLCA 2 and provides a hill backdrop and enclosing edge to this adjacent area.				
	North Option predicted landscape effects: • The western stretch of this option (west of Elgin) would be seen in open views looking to the north from this LLCA, although it would be screened by woodland within many parts of the area and, where seen, would often appear distant. • The route of the option would appear to very broadly relate to the linear form of this LLCA. • In elevated views from the woodland edge and/or clearings, the option would be seen to the south of a ridge between Morayscairn and Carden Hill in addition to Alves Wood. This would increase its prominence and that of vehicles due to backclothing by the landform and vegetation which would appear of strong colour contrast.	Sensitivity = Medium Magnitude = Low	Minor adverse	LV3, LV4, LV5	Minor adverse

Sub-topic / criteria	Baseline and Predicted Effects (reflecting combined sensitivity and magnitude)		Predicted landscape effects	Assumed priority secondary mitigation	Predicted residual landscape effects
	• The option would appear to encroach upon the open, encircled space and rural and agricultural area that extends between this LLCA and the northern strath sides opposite (within LLCA 19) between Morayscairn and Cloves. Furthermore, it would appear to contrast to the distinctive landscape pattern and dispersed foci of buildings seen within the strath floor (LLCA 2) to the north within this area. In some elevated views, the option would nevertheless be seen in association with the existing A96 and railway line where its incongruity would seem reduced.				
	South Option predicted landscape effects: • The western stretch of this option (west of Elgin) would be seen in open, elevated views looking to the north and north-east from this LLCA, although it would be screened by foreground woodland within many parts of the area. Where seen, it would often appear distant. Furthermore, at a broad level, its line would seem to relate to the linear space and landform of this LLCA. • In elevated views from the woodland edge and/or clearings, the option west of Alves would be partially screened by Alves Wood and/or the landform and appear within the same corridor as the existing A96. In contrast, east of Alves, the option would seem more prominent and encroaching on the rural strath character (LLCA2) in between this LLCA and the hills opposite to the north (LLCA19), particularly east of the C26E minor road.	Sensitivity = Medium Magnitude = Low	Minor adverse	LV3, LV5, LV7	Minor adverse
LLCA 2: Enclosed agricultural strath	**Landscape baseline:** • The options between Hardmuir to Hillhead would affect the western occurrence of this LLCA (between Easter Newforres and Lochaber). • Wide, open space within the strath floor, enclosed at its outer edges by surrounding woodland and slopes. This results in a clearly defined space and contributes to the sense of containment and sanctuary. • Predominantly rural in character, managed mainly for agriculture. There are dispersed residences and farms that create point foci. The area is relatively quiet and low in activity (apart from around Newforres quarry), contributing to perceived tranquillity. • Fairly rolling landform, with some views limited by mid-ground horizons.				

Sub-topic / criteria	Baseline and Predicted Effects (reflecting combined sensitivity and magnitude)		Predicted landscape effects	Assumed priority secondary mitigation	Predicted residual landscape effects
	• Powerlines cross the north-eastern part of the area, diminishing the local sense of containment and sanctuary.				
	North Option predicted landscape effects: • This option would pass though this LLCA between Morayscairn and Cloves. Along this stretch, the option would seem to relate broadly to the linear space and the landform edge to the north (created by the adjacent LLCA19). By being located upon the southern side of the ridge between Alves Wood and the railway bridge at Cloves, the option would nevertheless be very imposing upon the contained strath space to the south and contrast to the rural character within this area. • The option would contrast in scale to existing houses and farms within this area, including around Monaughty, Sweethillock and Cloves. The imposition of the option would be increased where it and overpasses are raised on embankments. • The option and associated activity and sound of vehicles would contrast to the perceived seclusion of this landscape and the qualities of sanctuary. • This option would be seen across a large open area of this LLCA, although it would be screened locally in some places by foreground features and landform cuttings. Its visibility would be increased where the option, including overpasses and bridges, are raised on embankments. • The incongruity of the option in relation to the prevailing ruralness would be reduced where seen near the existing overhead powerlines and railway line, although it would also result in collective effects in addition to these elements. This would result in the option seeming to collectively increase the prominence and influence of infrastructure as a landscape element of this LLCA. • The route of the option would contrast to the distinctive landscape pattern within this LLCA.	Sensitivity = High Magnitude = Medium	**Major adverse**	LV2, LV4, LV5, LV6	**Major adverse**

Sub-topic / criteria	Baseline and Predicted Effects (reflecting combined sensitivity and magnitude)		Predicted landscape effects	Assumed priority secondary mitigation	Predicted residual landscape effects
	South Option predicted landscape effects: • Between Hillhead and the railway crossing of the C4E by Alves, this option would not be prominent when viewing from this LLCA and, where seen, would typically appear to broadly follow the existing A96. • In contrast, between the Alves railway crossing with the C4E and Lochinver, the option would be very prominent. Although it would broadly follow the railway line within this section, this would not aid its integration significantly as the railway is not an obvious feature within this area. Conversely, the option would appear to contrast to the distinctive landscape pattern and enclosed strath space of LLCA2. • The option would contrast in scale and seem imposing upon existing houses and farms within this LLCA, especially where it is raised upon embankments. Specifically, the option would cut across the slopes of Easter Cloves and Woodside so that it seems to divide these from the strath floor to the south. At Easter Cloves, the imposition on some houses would be amplified due to their position sandwiched between the option and the existing railway line. At Lochinver, they would further seem encircled by the option, the Elgin West Junction link road and the railway. • By Lochinver, the option would cross an open or sparsely-wooded, low-lying space in the west and the River Lossie plain in the east, contrasting strongly to the landscape pattern. In this area, the option would be very prominent and appear incongruous, partly due to being elevated upon embankments or bridges and partly due to contrasting to the overriding rural, quiet character with qualities of sanctuary.	Sensitivity = High Magnitude = High	**Major adverse**	LV1, LV2, LV3, LV5, LV6, LV7	**Major adverse**
LLCA 3: Miltonduff open basin with mixed landscape	**Landscape baseline:** • At a broad level, this LLCA comprises a wide, open area contained by hills around its periphery to the west and south. At a more detailed level, there is a fairly even mix of woodland and agricultural fields. This creates a patchwork pattern which results in variable visibility across the area.				

Sub-topic / criteria	Baseline and Predicted Effects (reflecting combined sensitivity and magnitude)		Predicted landscape effects	Assumed priority secondary mitigation	Predicted residual landscape effects
pattern and edged by adjacent hills	• The area is predominantly rural in character, although there are some frequently-used local roads as well as industrial features associated with a large distillery. • There is a fairly settled character created by both clusters and a dispersed pattern of houses and farms. • The hills edging the area to the west and south create broad-scale enclosure of the area and some perceived qualities of seclusion.				
	North Option predicted landscape effects: • This option would not pass through this LLCA or be visible from it due to its distance and intervening screening.	Sensitivity = Low Magnitude = No change	None	N/A	None
	South Option predicted landscape effects: • This option would pass through the north-eastern part of this LLCA by Muiryhall. It would relate to the large scale and wide openness of this part of the LLCA and its incongruity would be reduced due to the existing quarry and intensive agriculture. • Whilst the option would generally relate to the simple composition and landform of the landscape, it would appear prominent and to obstruct and fragment the characteristic openness where raised upon embankments or bridges. • The line of the option would contrast to the landscape pattern as well as the route and focal qualities of the Black Burn and riparian woodland.	Sensitivity = Low Magnitude = Low	Minor adverse	LV2, LV3, LV5, LV6	Minor adverse
LLCA 4: Elgin town margins with infrastructure and mixed wooded and	**Landscape baseline:** • Gently rolling landform that is relatively open and large in scale. • The character is strongly influenced by the margins of Elgin town and/or infrastructure. This includes frequently used roads and the railway which have collective influence. • Views to both the edge of Elgin (including industrial buildings and houses) as well as distant hills to the south.				

Sub-topic / criteria	Baseline and Predicted Effects (reflecting combined sensitivity and magnitude)		Predicted landscape effects	Assumed priority secondary mitigation	Predicted residual landscape effects
open surroundings	• A variety of vegetation, with woodland blocks fragmenting spaces and limiting views. There are also clusters of houses and farms within the agricultural landscape. • Typically, a regular pattern of agricultural field boundaries. • Despite a consistent influence of the edge of Elgin and/or infrastructure, this varies slightly across the LLCA, with the relative prominence of built elements and infrastructure compared to more rural and agricultural elements being greater where closer to Elgin.				
	North Option predicted landscape effects: • This option would pass through this LLCA in one place: between Barmuckity and Lhanbryde. It would also be visible from this LLCA upon the adjacent hill slopes and near the River Lossie within LLCA36. Here, the option would contrast to the existing landscape pattern, most obviously where it crosses the open linear space between the railway line and the existing A96. It would also increase the complexity of landscape elements within the area to the east of Elgin, affecting the arrival/ exit of the town (LLCA 35) and the perceived separation of Elgin and Lhanbryde within the landscape. • The option, including the Elgin East Junction, link roads and associated vehicles, would relate in character to the existing A96, railway and overhead powerlines. The option would, however, also have collective effects with this infrastructure and, thereby, increase the prominence and prevalence of infrastructure as a key characteristic of this LLCA. • There would be some local screening of the option within this LLCA provided by landform undulations and knolls, the railway embankment and patches of trees and woodland. • The option and associated vehicles would seem imposing upon the semi-enclosed and intimate-scale spaces within some parts of this LLCA, amplified where these are raised on embankments or bridges.	Sensitivity = Medium Magnitude = Medium	**Moderate adverse**	LV1, LV2, LV3, LV5, LV6	**Moderate adverse**

Sub-topic / criteria	Baseline and Predicted Effects (reflecting combined sensitivity and magnitude)		Predicted landscape effects	Assumed priority secondary mitigation	Predicted residual landscape effects
	South Option predicted landscape effects: • The option would pass through this LLCA in three different locations: a) west of Elgin around Bruceland; b) south of Elgin between the River Lossie and Troves; and c) east of Elgin by Lhanbryde. *a) West of Elgin around Bruceland* – The Elgin West Junction link road would cross through this area by Bruceland. Here, it would contrast to the distinctive space formed by the combination of a wooded edge of hills to the north (LLCA43) and simple, flat, open agricultural land to the south. It would also contrast to the overriding rural character of the area and local qualities of tranquillity and sanctuary (where distant from the sound of the existing A96). – The option within this LLCA would contrast to the scale and foci of houses in and around Aldroughty (LLCA43). It would also obstruct key views from some areas towards the south and south-west. – The line of the option would relate to the northern loop of the River Lossie but it would contrast greatly in elevation, especially where raised up on embankment or bridges. This elevation of the option would also increase its prominence within the surrounding landscape and increase the perceived imposition on the structure and associated vehicles. *b) South of Elgin between the River Lossie and Troves* – Where the option passes through this LLCA on the eastern side of the Lossie, it would be raised on embankment which would contrast to the openness of the space, although this would be difficult to perceive from public locations due to the flatness of the landform and the simplicity of the landscape pattern. – North of Duffus Hillock, the option would cut into the landform and involve removal of a distinctive area of native woodland that creates a landscape feature.	Sensitivity = Medium Magnitude = Medium	**Moderate adverse**	LV1, LV2, LV3, LV5, LV6	**Moderate adverse**

Sub-topic / criteria	Baseline and Predicted Effects (reflecting combined sensitivity and magnitude)	Predicted landscape effects	Assumed priority secondary mitigation	Predicted residual landscape effects
	– The Elgin South junction would seem intrusive in scale within the open space defined by Mayne Wood and the C2E local road in the west and Birkenhill Wood and the A941 in the east. It would also contrast strongly to the landscape pattern and seem imposing upon the focal features of houses at Burnside of Birnie and the western edge of Birkenhill Wood. – The option and the Elgin South junction would cut through the distinct hill and woodland feature of Birkenhill Wood. This would not only involve removal of a wide corridor of trees but, by breaching this feature, the option would seem to change the existing separation of distinct open areas to the west and east of Birkenhill Wood. Furthermore, by creating an open corridor through the woodland and hill landform, the option would reduce the perceived tranquillity and sanctuary experienced within the Bogs of Linkwood area which is currently separated from the activity and noise of the A941 and Elgin margins to the west/ north-west. *c) Lhanbryde* – Within this area, the option, including the Elgin East junction, bridges and local access roads would relate in character to the existing A96, railway and overhead powerlines. The option would nevertheless extend over a large area as well as having collective effects with the existing infrastructure. As a result, infrastructure would become the key characteristic of the area and change the local landscape character, diminishing the prominence and perceived importance of other key landscape characteristics. – The option, including the Elgin East Junction and link roads, would contrast to the local landscape pattern and fragment existing spaces. There would however be some local screening of the option within this LLCA provided by landform undulations and knolls, the railway embankment and existing patches of trees and woodland.			

Sub-topic / criteria	Baseline and Predicted Effects (reflecting combined sensitivity and magnitude)		Predicted landscape effects	Assumed priority secondary mitigation	Predicted residual landscape effects
	– The option and associated vehicles, particularly where elevated upon bridges or embankments, would seem imposing upon the semi-enclosed and intimate-scale spaces within some parts of this LLCA near Coxton and Lhanbryde.				
LLCA 7: Rural, undulating slopes with a mix of open ground and woodland	**Landscape baseline:** • Undulating, sloping or flat landform, with a subtle variation of slopes that limits visibility and increases enclosure and contributes to a sense of sanctuary in places. • The landscape is typically relatively open, although blocks of woodland create pockets of smaller scale, more intricate spaces. • Predominantly rural character, although some roads are used frequently by vehicles. • Farms and clusters of houses are dispersed through the area. • High voltage powerlines cross the eastern and northern parts of the area.				
	North Option predicted landscape effects: • This option would pass through the north-eastern tip of this LLCA near Coxton. It would also be visible from this LLCA to the north and north-east, within the adjacent LLCA4. • Within this LLCA, views of the option would be limited in extent due to the screening effect of local landform knolls and patches of woodland. Where seen, the option would typically seem imposing upon the intricate character and enclosure within the landscape. This imposition would seem amplified where the option is raised upon embankment or bridges. • The option and associated vehicles would contrast to the prevailing rural character within this LLCA, although qualities of tranquillity are already diminished within the vicinity of the option due to the proximity of the B9103 and A96 main roads and the railway.	Sensitivity = Medium Magnitude = Low	Minor adverse	LV1, LV2, LV3, LV5, LV6	Minor adverse

Sub-topic / criteria	Baseline and Predicted Effects (reflecting combined sensitivity and magnitude)		Predicted landscape effects	Assumed priority secondary mitigation	Predicted residual landscape effects
	• The option would contrast to the distinctive landscape pattern within this LLCA, including the pattern of existing infrastructure routes, field boundaries and woodland. Within the mixed composition, the option would seem to increase locally the dominance of infrastructure. It would also result in the loss of some existing woodland.				
	South Option predicted landscape effects: • This option would pass through this LLCA near Troves and Coxton, running between the west and eastern boundary. • Within this LLCA, views of the option would be limited in extent due to the screening effect of the local landform and patches of woodland as well as option cuttings along stretches. • Where seen to the west of Troves, the option would typically appear to relate to the gentle, rolling slopes and wide, open spaces, although it would cut through some distinctive woodland blocks. Conversely, where seen to the east of Troves, the option would typically appear imposing upon the more intricate scale and enclosure of the landscape. This imposition would typically seem amplified where the option is raised on embankments or bridges and, conversely, reduced where the option is in cutting. • The option would contrast to the distinctive landscape pattern within this LLCA, including the pattern of existing infrastructure routes, field boundaries, woodland and buildings. Within the mixed composition, the option would seem imposing upon some of the dispersed buildings and it would increase locally the dominance of infrastructure. It would also result in the loss of existing woodland, including some mature pinewoods east of Troves that create prominent landscape features in contrast to the surrounding open fields. • The option and associated vehicles would contrast to the prevailing rural character within this LLCA and qualities of sanctuary that occur within some parts, although these are already reduced within the vicinity of the B9103.	Sensitivity = Medium Magnitude = Medium	**Moderate adverse**	LV1, LV2, LV3, LV5, LV6.	Minor adverse

Sub-topic / criteria	Baseline and Predicted Effects (reflecting combined sensitivity and magnitude)		Predicted landscape effects	Assumed priority secondary mitigation	Predicted residual landscape effects
LLCA 8: Woodlands and open spaces enclosed by surrounding trees	**Landscape baseline:** • Woodland is a prevailing characteristic of this area. This varies in type, for example from dense, single species plantations to open, native species woodlands of variable age. These woodlands provide a framework for other elements and limit views through the area. • There are variable sizes and shapes of woodland and open spaces/ clearings, with obvious edges in-between. • There are some open spaces within the woodland within which views are focused and the spaces are enclosed and secluded, contributing to qualities of sanctuary. • Houses and farms are dispersed through the area, although many are located at the woodland edges. • The existing A96 runs through this LLCA, separating the northern half from the south. Locally, the activity of vehicles along this route is clearly visible and audible, contrasting to the surrounding rural character.				
	North Option predicted landscape effects: • This option would not pass through this LLCA and ends approximately 200m to the north-west. The option would be visible from the edge of the area around Pittensair and Scotsburn. From here, the option would seem to relate to the line of the existing A96 and railway corridor which would also reduce its incongruity.	Sensitivity = Low Magnitude = Low	Minor adverse	LV3, LV5	Minor adverse
	South Option predicted landscape effects: • The South option, alike the North option, would not pass through this LLCA and ends approximately 200m to the north-west. It too would be mainly visible from the Pittensair and Scotsburn areas and, where seen, would typically appear to relate to the existing A96 and railway corridor. In contrast to the North option, the Elgin East junction of the South option would result in greater prominence and contrast to the landscape pattern and landform, due mainly to its extent, elevation and lighting.	Sensitivity = Low Magnitude = Low	Minor adverse	LV3, LV5, LV7	Minor adverse
LLCA 9: Undulating, irregular	**Landscape baseline:** • Deeply undulating and irregular landform with variable patches of woodland and farmland. These combine to create an intimate scale of semi-enclosed spaces, with typical limited visibility within and outwith the LLCA.				

Sub-topic / criteria	Baseline and Predicted Effects (reflecting combined sensitivity and magnitude)		Predicted landscape effects	Assumed priority secondary mitigation	Predicted residual landscape effects
landform with patchwork of woodland and farmland and an intimate landscape scale	• A dispersed pattern of residences and farms as well as minor roads, with some of the routes popular for walking and cycling. • The LLCA is predominantly rural and agricultural in character. There are, however, some frequently used roads in places and infrastructure associated with intensive farming. Furthermore, vehicles along the existing A96 to the south of this LLCA can also be seen and heard from some locations. • Within the woodlands, there is a strong sense of enclosure and views are limited, whilst there are qualities of prospect-refuge at their boundaries with adjacent open spaces.				
	North Option predicted landscape effects: • The option would not pass through this LLCA but it would be visible to the south from the LLCA's southern parts, around Sheriffston and Darkland. From here, the option would seem to contrast to the intricate and enclosed character of this LLCA, particularly as it would be raised upon embankment or bridges for most of its length seen from this this area. • The option would appear to contrast strongly to a distinctive landscape feature and edge to this LLCA where it cuts through the small hill and woodland west of Sheriffston. • From this LLCA, the option would seem to relate to the existing infrastructure corridor containing the railway line and A96, and it would be seen beyond this to the south, apart from where it crosses near Sheriffston. In addition to the existing infrastructure, the option would collectively increase the dominance of infrastructure so that it increasingly seems to divide this LLCA from the landscape to the south.	Sensitivity = Medium Magnitude = Low	Minor adverse	LV1, LV2, LV3, LV5, LV6, LV7	Minor adverse
	South Option predicted landscape effects: • This option would not pass through this LLCA, although its associated local access roads would be visible to the south from southern parts of the area near Lhanbryde. From here, the option would seem to relate to the existing infrastructure corridor containing the railway line and A96, although the lines of	Sensitivity = Low	Minor adverse	LV1, LV2, LV3, LV5, LV6, LV7	Minor adverse

Sub-topic / criteria	Baseline and Predicted Effects (reflecting combined sensitivity and magnitude)		Predicted landscape effects	Assumed priority secondary mitigation	Predicted residual landscape effects
	the access roads would contrast to the landscape pattern and their elevation upon embankments and bridges would contrast to the landform. • Added to existing infrastructure, the option would collectively increase the dominance of this land use within the area. It would also increase the effect by which the infrastructure corridor divides this LLCA from the landscape to the south.	Magnitude = Low			
LLCA 16: Flat, open expansive landscape with horizontal emphasis	**Landscape baseline:** • A wide open, extensive, flat and exposed landscape with distant visibility. • There is a simple landscape pattern with a strong horizontal emphasis to the landscape composition and panoramic views, including visibility of wide skies. • This area is predominantly rural in character. There is clear evidence of human management of the landscape in most places. • The landscape pattern is typically difficult to discern from the ground due to the flatness of the landscape and visual foreshortening and screening when looking across it. • The River Lossie, some mature hedgerow trees and an avenue from Easter Calcots (C23E) create distinct landscape features within the area.				
	North Option predicted landscape effects: • This option would be located largely outside this LLCA (except a short stretch near Kirkhill Wood and part of an overpass by Pitgaveny Wood) but it would be seen from this LLCA upon or against the adjacent hills (LLCA 36) to the south which form an important edge and backcloth to this area. • From this LLCA, the option would mainly appear to run around the base of the hills to the south (LLCA 35) and thus not seem intrusive on the openness of this LLCA. The option would nevertheless be prominent and seem incongruous from this LLCA where it is raised upon embankment or bridges and cuts through the distinctive hill landform at Kirkhill.	Sensitivity = Low Magnitude = Low	Minor adverse	LV1, LV2, LV3, LV5, LV6	Minor adverse

Sub-topic / criteria	Baseline and Predicted Effects (reflecting combined sensitivity and magnitude)		Predicted landscape effects	Assumed priority secondary mitigation	Predicted residual landscape effects
	• The option would cut through distinctive, mature avenue trees along the minor road from Kirkhill to Easter Calcots (C23E). Furthermore, its route would involve removal of existing woodland along and near the dismantled railway line.				
	South Option predicted landscape effects: • This option does not pass through this LLCA and it would not be clearly visible from it due to its distance and/or screening by intervening landscape elements.	Sensitivity = Low Magnitude = Negligible	Negligible	N/A	Negligible
LLCA 17: Westfield, Newton and Ardgye historic landscapes with open spaces and historic built foci within a framework of trees	**Landscape baseline:** • Prevailing historic character with a strong influence of historic elements such as avenues, policy trees and mature woodland, creating a framework into which there are open agricultural fields. Historic built features create key foci, including stone walls, historic buildings and York Tower. • The LLCA is fragmented by dividing elements, for example avenues and hedges (often along roads), and these also limit visibility so that views tend to be contained within the area and are inward-looking. • Trees and woodland provide shelter and create enclosed and semi-enclosed spaces which possess qualities of sanctuary. • There is a strong contrast of elevation (including vertical and horizontal lines) and scale between the arable fields and the surrounding trees, emphasising the definition of open spaces. • There is a network of minor roads and tracks across the LLCA which follow and partly define the landscape pattern, highlighted where lined by trees or avenues. • There is a prevailing rural character and sense of sanctuary, although this is diminished near to the existing A96 and B9013 main roads due to the activity and sound of vehicles.				
	North Option predicted landscape effects: • This option would pass through the south of this LLCA between the west and east boundaries. The extent of the effects of the option would be contained spatially and visually by surrounding woodland.	Sensitivity = High Magnitude = Medium	**Moderate adverse**	LV1, LV2, LV3, LV5, LV6	**Moderate adverse**

Sub-topic / criteria	Baseline and Predicted Effects (reflecting combined sensitivity and magnitude)		Predicted landscape effects	Assumed priority secondary mitigation	Predicted residual landscape effects
	• The option within this LLCA west of the B9013 would relate to the line of the existing A96. Thus, the incongruity of the option and the extent of effects would be limited. • The option would involve removal of some significant mature and/or policy trees which are key features within the landscape (even though the route of the option would be slightly offset to the north from the existing A96 to reduce removal of existing roadside trees). • Within the contained, open spaces of this LLCA, including at Newton and Ardgilzean, the option would seem imposing in scale, especially where raised on embankments. The perceived imposition of the option may seem reduced, however, where it would appear backclothed by trees of considerably greater vertical scale. • The option would change the distinctive historic landscape pattern of woodland and open space within this LLCA. Whilst it would be screened from most of the key historic foci within the LLCA, the sound of vehicles upon embankments may be imposing upon the enclosed and intricate character of Newton House. • The option and associated vehicle activity and noise would relate to the existing effects of the B9013 and A96. In combination with the existing A96, the option would seem to increase the division of this LLCA north and south of this main road.				
	South Option predicted landscape effects: • The option would not pass through this area. Whilst visibility of it from the southern part of the LLCA would also be limited due to screening in many places by mature trees, it would be visible from some open, elevated slopes around Ardgye and York Tower, the latter being of high value as a landscape focal feature within the vicinity. From here, the option and associated vehicle activity	Sensitivity = Medium Magnitude = Low	Minor adverse	LV1, LV3, LV5, LV6	Minor adverse

Sub-topic / criteria	Baseline and Predicted Effects (reflecting combined sensitivity and magnitude)		Predicted landscape effects	Assumed priority secondary mitigation	Predicted residual landscape effects
	and noise would seem imposing and to strongly sever this LLCA and York Tower from the rural landscape context and views extending to the south. • The line of the option would seem to relate to the broad linear farm of the strath to the south (LLCA2) and the railway line, although the latter is discreet and not clearly visible from many parts of the surrounding landscape. • From elevated vantage points within this LLCA, the option would be seen tucked down low within the foreground of distant views across the strath (LLCA2) to the hills to the south (LLCA1 and, beyond, outwith the study area). • Although the option would not be far from the existing A96, it would be seen within a very different LLCA in which it would appear to contrast to the prevailing ruralness. It would not typically be seen together with the existing A96 but both would be audible from some locations where there would be collective effects, seeming to surround and impose strongly on the landscape experience of the LLCA in-between.				
LLCA 18: Broad, linear strath	**Landscape baseline:** • Linear area defined by rising slopes to the north and south which contribute to a sense of enclosure. • Within the central open area, there are wide, open views, although some local screening occurs. • Views tend to pass across this LLCA between the opposite north and south slopes. • The area is predominantly rural and agricultural in character, although some parts are strongly affected by existing infrastructure routes such as the railway and the sound and activity of vehicles along the existing A96. • Dispersed houses within the LLCA as well as a network of minor roads, some of which are popular for cyclists.				
	North Option predicted landscape effects: • In the west, this option would be largely screened from the LLCA by the intervening landform ridge between Burgie, Ardgye and Newton as well as woodland (mainly within LLCA 19). In contrast, this option would be visible from	Sensitivity = Medium Magnitude = Medium	**Moderate adverse**	LV1, LV2, LV5, LV6	**Moderate adverse**

Sub-topic / criteria	Baseline and Predicted Effects (reflecting combined sensitivity and magnitude)		Predicted landscape effects	Assumed priority secondary mitigation	Predicted residual landscape effects
	between Newton and Loanhead on the slopes above the LLCA, whilst it would pass through the LLCA itself between Loanhead and Findrassie. • In the east, the option would appear to contrast to the character of the existing rural and agricultural landscape character. • Between Newton and Loanhead, the option would appear prominent within the open landscape, seen from this LLCA as crossing the slopes above. This prominence would be amplified where the option is raised on embankment, such as the overpasses of the B9012 and the U47E, and reduced where in cutting. It would contrast to the landscape pattern and seem imposing upon the open space and rural character of the landscape. • Between Loanhead and Findrassie, the option would cross through the lower, wider strath floor of this LLCA. Here, it would broadly relate to the large scale of the landscape and its curve would appear to follow the landform slopes to the south. The route option would be very prominent in relation to the simplicity of the landscape composition and it would contrast to the landscape pattern (highlighted by hedgerows and watercourses) and the existing dispersed foci of buildings and farms. It would also contrast to the ruralness and qualities of tranquillity and sanctuary that result, partly, from being distant from the existing A96 and high voltage powerlines. • From this LLCA, the option would distract from the existing focal feature of Quarrelwood. Its prominence would also be amplified where it is seen backclothed by landform slopes (especially where wooded) due to colour contrast.				
	South Option predicted landscape effects: • This option would not pass through this LLCA and most of it would not be visible due to distance and/or intervening screening. The exception is the stretch between Burgie and Alves Wood. This would be visible from the LLCA when looking to the south although, even here, the option would be seen beyond the	Sensitivity = Low Magnitude = Low	Minor adverse	LV1, LV2, LV3, LV5, LV6	Negligible

Sub-topic / criteria	Baseline and Predicted Effects (reflecting combined sensitivity and magnitude)		Predicted landscape effects	Assumed priority secondary mitigation	Predicted residual landscape effects
	existing A96, reducing its prominence and contrast to surrounding landscape elements.				
LLCA 19: Enclosing slopes along broad, linear strath	**Landscape baseline:** • The elevated slopes of this LLCA extend in a linear form broadly east – west, providing an edge to the adjacent low-lying areas. • The landform offers shelter and contributes to a sense of containment. • Land use is mixed, including agriculture, woodland and settlement. The area is predominantly open. • Key views pass between the opposite slopes of this area. • Infrastructure is routed along the slopes of this LLCA, including main and minor roads and high voltage powerlines. These diminish the prevailing rural character and the activity and/or sound of vehicles along the existing A96 is locally intrusive.				
	North Option predicted landscape effects: • This option would run through or past a large part of the southern branch of this LLCA between Burgie and Westerton (by the B9012 north-west of Elgin). • This option would seem to relate closely to the existing infrastructure corridor between Burgie and Newton but it would split from this further east, passing through an existing agricultural and rural landscape so that its incongruity would be greater. • Between Burgie and Newton, this option would seem to broadly follow the linear landform ridge and slopes, although it would appear higher up the slopes than the existing A96, particularly around Morayscairn, Alves and Carden Hill. This would result in it seeming less contained by the landform and to breach its edge in places, for example where passing between the north and south facing slopes around Alves Wood. • Between Burgie and Newton, whilst the option would seem to relate to existing infrastructure, it would also seem to collectively extend the existing effects of this. The option would additionally isolate areas of ground in-between it and the existing A96 and railway line (e.g. Alves Wood). Here, the local character would	Sensitivity = Medium Magnitude = High	**Major adverse**	LV1, LV2, LV3, LV5, LV6	**Major adverse**

Sub-topic / criteria	Baseline and Predicted Effects (reflecting combined sensitivity and magnitude)		Predicted landscape effects	Assumed priority secondary mitigation	Predicted residual landscape effects
	seem dominated by infrastructure and the importance or prominence of other landscape characteristics would seem diminished. • Between Burgie and Newton, the option would seem to contrast to the scale and intimate character of houses and settlements within the LLCA, being particularly imposing where elevated upon embankment. Furthermore, this imposition would be increased where the option, local access roads and/or overpasses would seem to collectively sandwich or surround houses together with the existing A96 or railway line. • The option, including the Elgin West junction by Carden, would be screened and/or spatially contained in some areas by foreground elements such as the landform, woodland and railway line. • Between Newton and Westerton, the option would cross the open slopes between Quarrelwood and the strath below. Here, it would contrast strongly to the openness of the landscape and the landscape pattern marked by distinctive trees and hedgerows and the point foci of dispersed houses and farms. It would also contrast strongly to the ruralness and existing qualities of tranquillity and sanctuary experienced where distant from the A96, although these are also affect by the existing overhead powerlines. The scale of the option would contrast to existing houses in the landscape although, distant from these, it would seem to relate to the large scale of the wider landscape.				
	South Option predicted landscape effects: • This option would pass this LLCA between Burgie and the minor road between Alves and Cloves (C4E) and it would be visible to the south of this LLCA at Carden Hill (within LLCA2). Further east, the South option would not be visible from this LLCA. • This option would relate strongly to the existing infrastructure corridor (including both the existing A96 and railway line) between Burgie and Alves. It would also seem to follow the landform ridge and slopes of the LLCA along this stretch.	Sensitivity = Medium Magnitude = Low	Minor adverse	LV1, LV2, LV3, LV5	Minor adverse

Sub-topic / criteria	Baseline and Predicted Effects (reflecting combined sensitivity and magnitude)	Predicted landscape effects	Assumed priority secondary mitigation	Predicted residual landscape effects
	The option would nevertheless appear higher on the slopes than the existing A96 which would result in it seeming less contained by the landform edges. • The addition of this option to the LLCA would generally increase the collective dominance of infrastructure as a key characteristic, seeming to diminish the importance or prominence of other characteristics such as the mixed landscape pattern. • The option would contrast in scale and seem imposing upon existing houses and settlements within this LLCA, particularly where it is elevated upon embankment or where there would be collective encircling by the option in addition to the existing A96 or railway line. Specifically, at Carden Hill, the option and local access roads would have collective effects in combination with the existing A96 to the north and the railway to the south, increasing the effects of encirclement and eroding the strong relationship between this area and the open, rural landscape to the south (LLCAs 1&2 and outwith the study area). • To pass through Alves Wood, this option would involve tree removal. Although this would relate to existing forest management within the wood, the creation of a wide, open corridor would increasingly divide Alves Wood as a landscape feature.			
LLCA 22: Burgie estate rolling slopes, contained spaces and historic features	**North Option landscape baseline:** • Policy woodlands enclose and define open spaces as well as forming distinct landscape features. • Many historic structures which form foci. • Rolling landform, including landform shelf in the south which seems contained and 'hidden' from the wider landscape, contributing to qualities of sanctuary. • Many tracks and paths across the estate are used for recreation and from which the landscape is experienced. • High voltage powerlines cross the central part of the area.			

Sub-topic / criteria	Baseline and Predicted Effects (reflecting combined sensitivity and magnitude)		Predicted landscape effects	Assumed priority secondary mitigation	Predicted residual landscape effects
	North Option predicted landscape effects: • This option would not pass through this LLCA but its western end would be located within the adjacent LLCA 19. Most of the route would be screened by woodland within the LLCA and adjacent areas, but it may be visible from some parts of the northern margins. Where seen, the option would seem to relate to the existing A96, although it and its local access roads would seem closer and thus more imposing, particularly where raised upon embankments. Furthermore, the option would have collective effects with the existing A96 so that there seems to be increasing dominance of infrastructure within LLCA 19 to the north of this area. • Vehicles associated with the option may be audible from parts of this LLCA from which they would not be seen. This sound would disturb the perceived ruralness, enclosure and sanctuary in this landscape, albeit this is already affected in the north by the existing A96. • This option is unlikely to affect the distinctive historic landscape foci within this LLCA due to its distance and/or screening.	Sensitivity = Medium Magnitude = Low	Minor adverse	LV1, LV2, LV3, LV5, LV6	Negligible
	South Option predicted landscape effects: • The South option would be located within the same area as the North option in relation to this LLCA (although it would be located slightly further away near Newmill). Consequently, the effects of the South option would be the same as those described above for the North option.	Sensitivity = Medium Magnitude = Low	Minor adverse	LV1, LV2, LV3, LV5, LV6	Negligible
LLCA 34: Lhanbryde	**Landscape baseline:** • This LLCA is primarily urban or peri-urban in character. It appears nestled within the undulating and enclosing landform of the adjacent LLCA 9 as well as being edged to the south by the existing A96 and railway line. This results in varying influence: a sense of containment from the landform and a prevailing rural character in the north; and a sense of imposition from the sight and sound of vehicles along the A96 and (intermittently) along the railway in the south.				

Sub-topic / criteria	Baseline and Predicted Effects (reflecting combined sensitivity and magnitude)		Predicted landscape effects	Assumed priority secondary mitigation	Predicted residual landscape effects
	• This area comprises a mix of residential land use and some small scale industrial units. A long-established residential area within the settlement conveys a sense of history. Houses within the LLCA tend to face inwards within the area. • Residential parts of this LLCA are typically split into separate groups by the undulating topography and steep slopes in-between that remain as open green spaces and link with the surrounding landscape.				
	North Option predicted landscape effects: • This option would not pass through this LLCA but it would be visible from some parts in the south. From here, the option would be seen beyond the existing A96 and railway line. These would reduce the incongruity of the option whilst also seeming to clearly separate the option from this LLCA so it would appear less imposing. • Whilst the option would relate to existing infrastructure to the south of this LLCA, its addition would have collective effects, increasing the imposition of infrastructure and associated vehicles upon the southern part of this LLCA and increasing its perceived separation from the wider landscape to the south. • The visibility and perceived imposition of the option from this LLCA would be reduced along some stretches due to screening by intervening trees along the railway line. Furthermore, its visibility and imposition would be reduced where the option is in cutting (directly south and either side of Easter Coxton Farmhouse) and increased where raised upon embankment (east of the C1E minor road).	Sensitivity = Low Magnitude = Low	Minor adverse	LV1, LV3, LV5	Minor adverse
	South Option predicted landscape effects: • The South option (similar to the North option described above) would not pass through this LLCA but would be visible from some parts to the south and west. From here, the option would generally appear to relate to the character of existing infrastructure including the A96, railway line and overhead powerlines.	Sensitivity = Low Magnitude = Low	Minor adverse	LV1, LV3, LV5, LV7	Minor adverse

Sub-topic / criteria	Baseline and Predicted Effects (reflecting combined sensitivity and magnitude)		Predicted landscape effects	Assumed priority secondary mitigation	Predicted residual landscape effects
	• The Elgin East junction and northern link roads would appear to contrast to the existing landscape pattern and the embankments and bridges would contrast to the surrounding landform and seem imposing upon local spaces to the south-west of this LLCA. Furthermore, the junction would seem to contrast in scale, complexity of layout and its prominence would be increased by lighting. • The visibility and perceived imposition of the option from this LLCA would be reduced along some stretches due to screening by intervening trees along the railway line. Furthermore, its visibility and imposition would be reduced where the option is in cutting and increased where raised upon embankment. • Although this option would relate to existing infrastructure to the south of this LLCA, its addition would have collective effects like the North option, as described above.				
LLCA 35: Elgin	**Landscape baseline:** • This LLCA is predominantly urban or peri-urban in character. Structures semi-enclose spaces and there is frequent activity and noise linked to residences, businesses and infrastructure. • Within the settlement, visibility tends to be restricted by buildings: both obstructing some views and framing others, which has the effect of emphasising landscape elements seen beyond. • Many historic elements, such as old buildings, monuments, stone walls, bridges, and mature trees. • This LLCA is edged by surrounding hills to the north and west (LLCAs 43 and 36), creating a sense of containment on these sides. • From a few elevated locations within the town, such as Lady Hill, there are views to the wider setting of Elgin. • The eastern side of this LLCA is strongly influenced by the combined effects of industry and infrastructure near the A96 and the railway. This includes large industrial units and the activity and sound of vehicles.				
	North Option predicted landscape effects: • This option would not pass through this LLCA but would be located within the hills (LLCA 36) to the north-east and east.	Sensitivity = Medium Magnitude = Low	Minor adverse	LV3, LV5	Minor adverse

Sub-topic / criteria	Baseline and Predicted Effects (reflecting combined sensitivity and magnitude)		Predicted landscape effects	Assumed priority secondary mitigation	Predicted residual landscape effects
	• The option would be screened from this LLCA where it runs along the north side of the intervening hills between Linksfield and Kirkhill. The option would be seen from this LLCA where it crosses the hills by Kirkhill and Sheriffston and the open space between these and the railway to the south. In this area, whilst the option would not contrast to the character of other infrastructure within the landscape, it would collectively increase the complexity of the landscape composition and influence the dominance of infrastructure around the eastern arrival/ exit to the town.				
	South Option predicted landscape effects: • This option would pass through the western margins of this LLCA by the Riverside Caravan Park. Further east, the option would be visible from the southern margins of the town where it crosses the adjacent LLCA4 between Nether Birnie and Birkenhill Wood. • By the Riverside Caravan Park and River Lossie, the option would cut through open grassland slopes and woodland, contrasting to the landscape pattern and landform. The option would relate to the existing urban margins of Elgin and existing infrastructure, including the characteristic activity and noise of vehicles. • By the Riverside Caravan Park, deep cuttings would limit visibility of the option from the north and south, although the bridge over the Lossie and associated vehicles would be prominent and seem imposing upon the houses to the west and the caravan park to the east. This option would also involve removal of some existing mature trees which contribute to the character of the area and provide a link with the riparian woodland to the west. • Between Nether Birnie and Birkenhill Wood, the option may be visible from some open edges of the LLCA which offer distant views. From here, the option would reduce the linkage between this LLCA and the more distant landscape to the south, albeit this is already being reduced by existing development on the south side of the town.	Sensitivity = Low Magnitude = Low	Minor adverse	LV1, LV2, LV3, LV5, LV6, LV7	Minor adverse

Sub-topic / criteria	Baseline and Predicted Effects (reflecting combined sensitivity and magnitude)		Predicted landscape effects	Assumed priority secondary mitigation	Predicted residual landscape effects
LLCA 36: Hills north of Elgin and discreet landscape of mixed woodland, agriculture and historic elements	**Landscape baseline:** • This LLCA comprises hills and an elevated shelf that arcs around the north side of Elgin and separates the town from the wider landscape to the north. The hills typically create a backcloth and sharp edge to the town as well as seeming to divide Elgin from the separate, discreet shelf beyond. • There is a mix of agriculture and woodland. Together with variable landform, this creates semi-enclosed spaces and variable extent of visibility and focus of views. • There are many historic elements within the LLCA, including stone walls, policy trees and avenues, as well as historic structures such as the Palace of Spynie. These vary in their prominence and prevalence within the area. • The perceived separation of this area from Elgin contributes to its perceived rural character and value for recreation: lying within close vicinity to the town but offering landscape qualities of sanctuary. • High voltage powerlines pass around the north edge of Elgin, seeming intrusive and to diminish the perceived ruralness at a local level. • In some areas, shelves in the landform have gentler slopes and these tend to be favoured for agriculture.				
	North Option predicted landscape effects: • The option would pass through this LLCA between Findrassie in the north-west and Sheriffston in the south-east. • The option would generally seem to extend the influence of urban or industrial elements out from Elgin, seeming to breach and isolate the hills that currently form an important edge and buffer to the town. This would affect the distinctive experience of the rural landscape around the north-eastern side of Elgin (LLCA 35) which is often accessed locally via the network of minor roads and paths. • Between Findrassie and Spynie, the option would cross an area of large scale, open and intensively managed slopes from which the margins of Elgin can be seen from some places, including housing estates, powerlines and the busy A941. Thus, although the option would seem to breach the hills surrounding Elgin, it would not appear incongruous in relation to the scale of the landscape and land use. In this area, the Elgin North junction would also contrast to the	Sensitivity = High Magnitude = High	**Major adverse**	LV1, LV2, LV3, LV5, LV6	**Major adverse**

Sub-topic / criteria	Baseline and Predicted Effects (reflecting combined sensitivity and magnitude)		Predicted landscape effects	Assumed priority secondary mitigation	Predicted residual landscape effects
	simplicity of the landscape, although it would fit within the space edged by surrounding woodland and Spynie Quarry. • Between Spynie and Muir of Linksfield, the option would contrast to the prevailing landscape character by cutting through an area that is distinctly rural and separate from Elgin to the south. Here, the option would also cut through an existing woodland with mixed, mature species. By Muir of Linksfield, the option would, however, relate to the line of existing powerlines. • Between the dismantled railway by Linksfield and Kirkhill Wood in the east, the option would broadly relate to the line and edge of the hills to the south-west. In contrast, it would contrast very strongly to the landform where it crosses the hills between Kirkhill and Sheriffston. Here, the option would seem to breach the landscape feature of the hills which, although not high, appear distinct in their landform and edge in comparison with the adjacent low-lying and flat landscape. This effect would be increased by the removal of trees upon the hills that contribute to the feature, particularly along the hill top at Kirkhill and within one of the woodland blocks west of Sheriffston. The imposition of the option upon this hill landform would also seem increased where the road is graded with cuttings and embankments and thus diminishing the distinctive contrast between the hills and adjacent low-lying, flatter ground. • The large scale and linear form of the option would contrast to the intricate, enclosed spaces and small house foci within parts of this landscape, for example at Kirkhill. • The option would cut through distinctive, mature avenue trees along the minor road from Kirkhill to Easter Calcots (C23E). Furthermore, it would involve removal of existing trees and woodland that contribute to the distinctive character of the LLCA adjacent to Kirkhill, next to the River Lossie, upon the hills west of Sheriffston and along and near the dismantled railway line.				
	South Option predicted landscape effects:	Sensitivity = Low	Negligible	N/A	Negligible

Sub-topic / criteria	Baseline and Predicted Effects (reflecting combined sensitivity and magnitude)		Predicted landscape effects	Assumed priority secondary mitigation	Predicted residual landscape effects
	• This option would not pass through this LLCA and it would not be clearly visible from it due to distance and/or intervening screening.	Magnitude = Negligible			
LLCA 42: Open, simple managed River Lossie plain with horizontal emphasis	**Landscape baseline:** • This LLCA covers part of the River Lossie floodplain south of Elgin. It comprises a flat, open and exposed landscape with a simple landscape composition and horizontal emphasis. • There is typically open visibility across this LLCA. The flatness of the landscape means that low-lying features are not clearly visible from a distance (including the River Lossie) but, where vertical elements occur, such as shelter belts, these have a strong screening effect. In combination, this means that it is typically difficult to see how far this LLCA extends and where its edges lie. • The landscape is predominantly managed for agriculture, with clusters of large farm buildings creating local foci within the landscape. There is also a main road running through the area (the B9010) and a large sand and gravel quarry which result in intermittent noise and activity. • In most parts of the area, there is clear evidence of human management and control of the landscape, including engineering of the River Lossie and views to distant buildings in Elgin (LLCA 35). Some small parts of the LLCA are, however, managed less intensively and valued for nature conservation, for example restored quarry workings, areas of wetland, scrub vegetation and lochans, and these contribute to qualities of perceived sanctuary within some local places. • The area typically has a regular landscape pattern, mainly defined by field boundaries, open drains, shelterbelts and blocks of woodland, and broadly aligned to the River Lossie. • The uniformity of the agricultural vegetation, the openness of the landscape and the typical lack of distinctive reference points visible from a distance means that it tends to be difficult to perceive scale across the LLCA.				
	North Option predicted landscape effects: • This option would not pass through this LLCA nor be visible from it due to distance and/or intervening screening.	Sensitivity = Low Magnitude = No change	None	N/A	None

Sub-topic / criteria	Baseline and Predicted Effects (reflecting combined sensitivity and magnitude)		Predicted landscape effects	Assumed priority secondary mitigation	Predicted residual landscape effects
	South Option predicted landscape effects: • This option would cross this LLCA between Wester Pittendreich and the lochans on the east side of the River Lossie, north of Nether Birnie. • The option would be highly prominent crossing this LLCA, primarily due to the openness of the landscape and its contrast to the landscape pattern, and these effects would be amplified where the option would be raised upon embankments. • The option would relate to the large scale of the landscape and its horizontal emphasis and it would seem to follow a simple line that relates to the simplicity of the landscape composition. • The option would seem to contrast to the Black Burn and River Lossie landscape features which are highlighted by riparian woodland at a local level, although these are not typically visible within the wider landscape from a distance. • The option would seem to relate to the prevailing managed character of this landscape. Although it would contrast to qualities of sanctuary experienced in some parts of the LLCA away from the B9010 main road and Cloddach Quarry, these qualities are not commonly experienced due to limited access within the area.	Sensitivity = Medium Magnitude = Medium	Moderate adverse	LV1, LV2, LV3, LV5	Minor adverse
LLCA 43: Quarrelwood wooded hill	**Landscape baseline:** • Densely wooded hill slopes that form a distinctive feature and backcloth in views from the surrounding landscape. • Typically, views are limited within the LLCA due to tree screening, creating a sense of enclosure and qualities of sanctuary. Exceptions occur from the edge of the woodland and open clearings upon the slopes (including a signed 'viewpoint' along the FCS Elginia trail) where there are some distant views over surrounding farmland and towards the coast. • This LLCA contains a network of paths popular for recreation, facilitated by public car parks. • Only a few residences occur within this LLCA, tending to be located around its edge, including at Aldroughty.				

Sub-topic / criteria	Baseline and Predicted Effects (reflecting combined sensitivity and magnitude)		Predicted landscape effects	Assumed priority secondary mitigation	Predicted residual landscape effects
	• The character of the southern part of this area is strongly influenced by the sound of vehicles travelling along the existing A96 (even where these cannot be seen) and this diminishes locally the perceived ruralness and qualities of sanctuary.				
	North Option predicted landscape effects: • This option would be located upon slopes that descend from this LLCA to the north-west (largely within LLCA 19). • Visibility of the option from this LLCA would generally be limited by tree screening and subtle landform screening in LLCA19, especially where the option would be in cutting east of Dykeside. Furthermore, the prominence of the option from this LLCA would be reduced by it typically appearing 'tucked down' below more elevated views that are directed into the distance in the north-west, including to Burghead and the coast. • Where the option would be visible and/or audible from the north-western slopes/woodland edge of this LLCA (including the signed 'viewpoint' along the FCS Elginia trail), it would be prominent and seem highly imposing, affecting key views of the distinctive characteristics and qualities of the landscape setting. • Where seen from this LLCA, the line of the option would appear to relate to the broad scale landform slopes. • The option would contrast to the line of the powerlines, the point foci of buildings (such as at Rosebrae and Dykeside) and the distinctive lines of trees that run along field boundaries south-east to north-west. • This option would contrast to a prevailing rural character and qualities of sanctuary within parts of this LLCA distant from the existing A96. Furthermore, although the incongruity of the option would be reduced near the existing A96, the option would have collective effects with this road and seem to surround the northern part of this LLCA on two of three sides.	Sensitivity = Medium Magnitude = Medium	**Moderate adverse**	LV1, LV2, LV5, LV6	**Moderate adverse**

Sub-topic / criteria	Baseline and Predicted Effects (reflecting combined sensitivity and magnitude)		Predicted landscape effects	Assumed priority secondary mitigation	Predicted residual landscape effects
	South Option predicted landscape effects: • This option would not pass through this LLCA and it would not be visible from a large part of it that lies to the north of the existing A96. The option would, however, be seen from the south-facing slopes at the southern edge of the area and it would border the Elgin West Junction link road near Aldroughty. • From the southern slopes of this LLCA between Knock in the west and Aldroughty in the east, the main carriageway of the option and associated vehicles would be seen in the distance to the south. The option along this section would be on the far side of the railway line from this LLCA, thus reducing its apparent contrast to the landscape pattern, although its contrast of scale and perceived imposition would be increased where it is raised up on embankment. Furthermore, the option would appear to interrupt and diminish the link between this LLCA and the open, rural landscape to the south. • At Aldroughty, the Elgin West Junction link road to Elgin would be highly prominent and imposing, affecting key views from this LLCA to the south. This prominence and imposition would be increased significantly by the elevation of the option embankments and bridges (and associated vehicles) which would contrast to the low-lying and open character of the landscape to the south (within LLCA2 and LLCA4). The option would also appear to contrast to the rural character of the landscape to the south and impinge upon local qualities of tranquillity and sanctuary around Aldroughty (which is shielded from the effects of the existing A96 due to landform and woodland screening).	Sensitivity = Medium Magnitude = Medium	**Moderate adverse**	LV1, LV2, LV5, LV6	**Moderate adverse**

Lhanbryde to East of Fochabers

Table 3.3 Landscape Baseline and Predicted Landscape Effects for Lhanbryde to East of Fochabers

Sub-topic / criteria	Baseline and Predicted Effects (reflecting combined sensitivity and magnitude)		Predicted landscape effects	Assumed priority secondary mitigation	Predicted residual landscape effects
LLCA 4: Elgin town margins with infrastructure and mixed wooded and open surroundings	**Landscape baseline:** • Gently rolling landform that is relatively open and large in scale. • The character is strongly influenced by the margins of Elgin town and/or infrastructure. This includes frequently used roads and the railway which have collective influence. • Views to both the edge of Elgin (including industrial buildings and houses). • A variety of vegetation, with woodland blocks fragmenting spaces and limiting views. There are also clusters of houses and farms within the agricultural landscape. • Typically, a regular pattern of agricultural field boundaries. • Despite a consistent influence of the edge of Elgin and/or infrastructure, this varies slightly across the LLCA, with the relative prominence of built elements and infrastructure compared to more rural and agricultural elements being greater where closer to Elgin.				
	North Option predicted landscape effects: • This option would pass through just the far eastern part of this LLCA by Lhanbryde. Here, the option, including the Elgin East Junction link roads and associated vehicles, would relate in character to the existing A96 and railway. The option would also have collective effects with this infrastructure and, thereby, increase the prominence and prevalence of infrastructure as a key characteristic of this part of the LLCA. • There would be some local screening of the option within this LLCA provided by landform undulations and knolls, the railway embankment and surrounding patches of trees and woodland.	Sensitivity = Low Magnitude = Low	Minor adverse	LV1, LV2, LV3, LV5, LV6	Minor adverse

Sub-topic / criteria	Baseline and Predicted Effects (reflecting combined sensitivity and magnitude)		Predicted landscape effects	Assumed priority secondary mitigation	Predicted residual landscape effects
	• The option and associated vehicles would seem more imposing where raised on embankments or bridges and, conversely, less imposing where in cutting.				
	South Option predicted landscape effects: • This option would follow the same route and almost identical layout to the North option. Consequently, it would have the same landscape effects as described above for the North option.	Sensitivity = Low Magnitude = Low	Minor adverse	LV1, LV2, LV3, LV5, LV6	Minor adverse
LLCA 7: Rural, undulating slopes with a mix of open ground and woodland	**Landscape baseline:** • Undulating, sloping or flat landform, with a subtle variation of slopes that limits visibility and increases enclosure and contributes to a sense of sanctuary in places. • The landscape is typically relatively open, although blocks of woodland create pockets of smaller scale, more intricate spaces. • Predominantly rural character, although some roads are used frequently by vehicles. • Farms and clusters of houses are dispersed through the area. • High voltage powerlines cross the eastern and northern parts of the area.				
	North Option predicted landscape effects: • This option would not pass through this LLCA, although its western end may be visible from the north-eastern part of this LLCA. From here, the option would not be prominent and would seem to relate in character to the existing A96 and railway which would provide a close backcloth.	Sensitivity = Low Magnitude = Low	Minor adverse	LV1, LV2, LV3, LV5, LV6	Minor adverse
	South Option predicted landscape effects: • This option would not pass through this LLCA but it would be visible from it in two locations: at its western end by Lhanbryde and where it crosses Strathspey. • At its western end, this option would have the same landscape effects on the LLCA as described above for the North option.	Sensitivity = Medium Magnitude = Low	Minor adverse	LV1, LV5	Minor adverse

Sub-topic / criteria	Baseline and Predicted Effects (reflecting combined sensitivity and magnitude)		Predicted landscape effects	Assumed priority secondary mitigation	Predicted residual landscape effects
	• From a relatively small area at the eastern part of this LLCA, this option would be seen crossing from Balnacoul Wood nearby to Ordiquish on the opposite side of Strathspey. Although the option would be distant from here, it would still be highly prominent to the north and / north-east, including as experienced from the B9015. • From the eastern part of this LLCA, the option would appear strongly contrasting to the landscape through which it passes, principally: in line, by cutting across the River Spey strath; in elevation, by being raised high above the strath below; and in activity, which would contrast to the prevailing ruralness. In contrast, the option would appear to relate to the route of the existing high voltage powerlines, although it would also have collective effects with these.				
LLCA 8: Woodlands and open spaces enclosed by surrounding trees	**Landscape baseline:** • Woodland is a prevailing characteristic of this area. This varies in type, for example from dense, single species plantations to open, native species woodlands of variable age. These woodlands provide a framework for other elements and limit views throughout the area. • There are variable sizes and shapes of woodland and open spaces/ clearings, with obvious edges in-between. • There are some open spaces within the woodland in which views are focused and the spaces are enclosed and secluded, contributing to qualities of sanctuary. • Houses and farms are dispersed through the area, although many are located at the woodland edges. • The existing A96 runs through this LLCA, separating the northern half from the south. Locally, the activity of vehicles along this route is clearly visible and audible, contrasting to the surrounding rural character.				
	North Option predicted landscape effects: • This option would pass across this LLCA west - east, running broadly parallel to the existing A96 to the north. • Visibility of the option would be limited in extent within surrounding areas due to woodland screening.	Sensitivity = Medium Magnitude = Medium	**Moderate adverse**	LV1, LV2, LV3, LV4, LV5, LV6	**Moderate adverse**

Sub-topic / criteria	Baseline and Predicted Effects (reflecting combined sensitivity and magnitude)	Predicted landscape effects	Assumed priority secondary mitigation	Predicted residual landscape effects
	• The option would seem imposing upon the contained open spaces and buildings within this LLCA, such as around Loch na Bo and Wester Marchfield. This imposition would be reduced where the option is in cutting and, conversely, increased where the option is raised on embankments, including overpasses. • Even where not seen due to woodland screening, the noise of vehicles along the option may be imposing and contrast to the prevailing rural character of this landscape. This may also diminish qualities of seclusion and sanctuary within some parts of the LLCA. • The linear form of the option would contrast to the shape and pattern of the open spaces and woodland within this LLCA, including the distinctive shapes of Loch na Bo and Loch Oire. Additionally, the option would erode some of the distinct woodland edges within this LLCA and create open corridors that further fragment the landscape pattern and spaces. • Although dense woodland in this LLCA often masks the underlying landform, the graded levels of the option (modified with cuttings and embankments) would clearly contrast to the distinctive undulations and knolls within parts of this LLCA such as within the east of Threapland Wood and around Wester Marchfield. In contrast, the option would pass over a simpler landform in the east of the LLCA around Bauds. • The option would relate to the character of the existing A96 to the north. It would, however, have collective effects with this route, effectively isolating a band of this LLCA in-between the existing A96 and the option (which includes Loch Oire). • The effects of the option described above would affect the distinctive landscape experience via paths and tracks through parts of this LLCA, including around Loch na Bo and within Threapland Wood and Balnacoul Wood. • The Fochabers West junction by Balnacoul would contrast strongly to the landscape pattern, although it would relate to the existing influence of both the			

Sub-topic / criteria	Baseline and Predicted Effects (reflecting combined sensitivity and magnitude)		Predicted landscape effects	Assumed priority secondary mitigation	Predicted residual landscape effects
	A96 and B9015 within the vicinity and seem spatially contained and screened from the wider landscape by surrounding woodland and slopes. East of the junction with the B9015, the option would seem to cut through the hill of Coul Brae, although its effects would be reduced by avoiding the existing distinctive woodland upon this hill.				
	South Option predicted landscape effects: • This option would follow the same route as the North option through this LLCA between Lhanbryde and Bauds and thus its landscape effects along this section would be the same as described above for the North option. • The Fochabers West junction by Easter Bauds would be highly prominent due to the openness of the surrounding landscape. Its embankments and bridge would also contrast to the openness, horizontal emphasis and low-lying character of the landscape, and its layout would contrast to the simple landscape pattern. The scale of the junction would, however, seem to relate to the wide, open and large scale of the landscape around Easter Bauds and its presence would relate to the intensively managed land use. • By Bauds, the option would seem to relate to the character and local disturbance of the existing A96 to the north. Conversely, further south, the option would seem to intrude upon the more rural character of the landscape and local qualities of sanctuary. • The option would involve removal of a large corridor of trees within Balnacoul Wood, although it would follow the existing southern edge of this. Furthermore, although the option may be screened from the core of the wood, vehicle noise may impose upon some of the qualities of the landscape experience within the woodland.	Sensitivity = Medium Magnitude = Medium	**Moderate adverse**	LV1, LV2, LV3, LV4, LV5, LV6	**Moderate adverse**
	Landscape baseline:				

Sub-topic / criteria	Baseline and Predicted Effects (reflecting combined sensitivity and magnitude)		Predicted landscape effects	Assumed priority secondary mitigation	Predicted residual landscape effects
LLCA 9: Undulating, irregular landform with patchwork of woodland and farmland and an intimate landscape scale	• Deeply undulating and irregular landform with variable patches of woodland and farmland. These combine to create an intimate scale of semi-enclosed spaces, with typical limited visibility within and outwith the LLCA. • A dispersed pattern of residences and farms as well as minor roads, with some of the routes popular for walking and cycling. • The LLCA is predominantly rural and agricultural in character. • There are some frequently used roads in places and infrastructure associated with intensive farming. Furthermore, vehicles along the existing A96 to the south of this LLCA can also be seen and heard from some locations. • Within the woodlands, there is a strong sense of enclosure and views are limited, whilst there are qualities of prospect-refuge at their boundaries with adjacent open spaces.				
	North Option predicted landscape effects: • This option would not pass through this LLCA but a small section would be visible to the south from the LLCA's southern parts, east of Lhanbryde. Further east, it would be screened by the landform at Pittensair and the woodland around Loch Oire. From here, the option would seem to relate to the existing infrastructure corridor containing the railway line and A96, seen beyond this to the south. The option would increase the collective dominance of infrastructure within this LLCA. This would include the option seeming to increase the division of the LLCA from the landscape to the south as well as increased intrusion by the sound of vehicles.	Sensitivity = Low Magnitude = Low	Minor adverse	LV1, LV2, LV3, LV5, LV6	Minor adverse
	South Option predicted landscape effects: • The South option would be the same as the North option in relation to this LLCA. Consequently, the effects of the South option would be the same as those described above for the North option.	Sensitivity = Low Magnitude = Low	Minor adverse	LV1, LV2, LV3, LV5, LV6	Minor adverse
LLCA 10: River Spey Floodplain	**Landscape baseline:** • Linear spatial characteristics with a regular landscape pattern emphasised by large arable fields, edged by the line of the River Spey (within LLCA13).				

Sub-topic / criteria	Baseline and Predicted Effects (reflecting combined sensitivity and magnitude)		Predicted landscape effects	Assumed priority secondary mitigation	Predicted residual landscape effects
	• Flat, low strath floor or adjacent shelves which contrast to the surrounding hills. Slopes either side of the strath, which are particularly steep and high to the east, overlook the LLCA and contain the strath space, resulting in strong edges and sense of place. • Predominantly open landscape, although local elements such as hedges and hedgerow trees limit some foreground views and provide local shelter. • Farms are dispersed within the area as well as clusters of houses and woodland around Inchberry. • The LLCA has a prevailing rural character, although this is diminished within some local areas by powerlines and the noise of vehicles along roads.				
	North Option predicted landscape effects: • This option will cross the northern tip of this LLCA just south of Inchberry Road and the Fochabers Bridge. • The option would contrast strongly to the linear space and openness of the strath as well as the landform, being elevated above the strath floor and affecting views north and south along the strath. • From the south side of the option, its prominence would be reduced from many places by being backclothed against the margins of Fochabers and Mosstodloch settlements (LLCAs32 and 33 respectively) and the existing Fochabers and A96 bridges (within LLCA13). Conversely, from the north, particularly from Inchberry Road and Fochabers Bridge, the option would be highly prominent and intrusive, crossing key views of the distinct landscape characteristics of the strath LLCA to the south and distinctive, distant hills (outwith the study area). • Although the activity and noise of vehicles travelling along the option would not be entirely incongruous given the existing A96 and settlements nearby, the option would result in greater imposition upon the landscape due to the elevation and scale of the option bridge. This would also have collective effects with vehicles travelling along the existing A96, particularly from the area in-	Sensitivity = Medium Magnitude = Medium	**Moderate adverse**	N/A	**Moderate adverse**

Sub-topic / criteria	Baseline and Predicted Effects (reflecting combined sensitivity and magnitude)		Predicted landscape effects	Assumed priority secondary mitigation	Predicted residual landscape effects
	between the two roads which will seem completely surrounded by roads (including the U19E minor road to the north-west).				
	South Option predicted landscape effects: • This option would cross through this LLCA west – east between Balnacoul Wood and Ordiquish. It would be in cutting at the far west of this stretch, but mainly raised above the strath on embankment or bridge. • This option would pass through part of the Speyside AGLV. The bridge structure would be very prominent throughout the LLCA. • The option would strongly contrast to the linear, open space of the strath. It would also involve removal of part of the Dipple Brae woodland which forms a distinct landscape feature. • The bridge would tower over the low-lying strath floor, contrasting in its scale and elevation and the distinction of the strath space in contrast to the slopes either side. It would also contrast to the scale and point foci of the houses and farms within the agricultural landscape beneath. • The activity and sound of vehicles upon the bridge and embankments would intrude upon the experience of the low-lying landscape underneath and diminish the perceived rural character and tranquillity in some places.	Sensitivity = High Magnitude = High	**Major adverse**	LV1, LV5	**Major adverse**
LLCA 11: River Spey and wooded slopes	**Landscape baseline:** • The River Spey and riverside woodland creates a key linear feature between Orton and Ordiquish and this lies at the foot of steep, west-facing wooded slopes that define the eastern edge of the strath. • The wooded slopes create a simple backcloth to views of the area from the west, including from Gordon Castle GDL, Fochabers and the west side of Strathspey. • Within the woodland, there is a strong sense of enclosure and perceived sanctuary, with associated qualities of prospect-refuge when looking out across open areas to the west. Views in this direction are often filtered or framed by trees.				

Sub-topic / criteria	Baseline and Predicted Effects (reflecting combined sensitivity and magnitude)		Predicted landscape effects	Assumed priority secondary mitigation	Predicted residual landscape effects
	• This area tends to be experienced sequentially following or in parallel to the River Spey, including along the Speyside Way and the A98. • The hill horizon of this area varies according to the elevation of the viewer in relation to the hill landform. • This area is popular for recreation, including fishing along and within the river, kayaking/canoeing, and walking along the Speyside Way long distance path. There is also a popular walk to the Earth Pillars which offers elevated views along and across the River Spey.				
	North Option predicted landscape effects: • The option would cut through this LLCA south-east of Fochabers, between the A98 and the Hill of Fochabers. The option would involve very deep cuttings which would be highly prominent from the surrounding landscape, including from Fochabers (LLCA32) and Gordon Castle GDL (LLCA15). • The option would cut through the slopes of the Hill of Fochabers, contrasting strongly to the landform. This would diminish the value of the hill slopes in defining a distinct edge and backcloth to the lower-lying landscapes to the west, thereby affecting the distinct landscape character of Strathspey (LLCAs 10, 13), Fochabers (LLCA32) and Gordon Castle GDL (LLCA15). • The option would involve removal of a wide corridor of existing trees within Leitch's Wood. It would also involve removal of existing paths upon the slopes (which form part of the Winding Walks) from which the distinctive characteristics of the landscape are experienced. • The option would involve removal of the Peeps View vantage point from which the distinctive landscape characteristics of this LLCA and its relationship to surrounding landscapes are experienced (including Strathspey, Fochabers, Gordon Castle GDL and the landscape beyond). • This option and associated vehicles would be imposing upon the landscape experience of Leitch's Wood, although this would be reduced from the east by the screening effect of landform cuttings. • This option would fragment Leitch's Wood and isolate an area between the option and the existing A96. Due to the small scale of this isolated area and it	Sensitivity = High Magnitude = High	**Major adverse**	LV1, LV5	**Major adverse**

Sub-topic / criteria	Baseline and Predicted Effects (reflecting combined sensitivity and magnitude)		Predicted landscape effects	Assumed priority secondary mitigation	Predicted residual landscape effects
	being surrounded by roads, it would not retain the distinct characteristics of this LLCA.				
	South Option predicted landscape effects: • This option would cross through this LLCA west – east between the River Spey and the existing A96 south-east of Fochabers. It would pass through part of the Speyside AGLV and would cross over the Speyside Way long distance path. • The option would contrast in its line and elevation to the west-facing slopes within this LLCA. In doing so, it would seem to contrast to the characteristic landform and diminish the existing distinction of the strath in relation to the hill slopes within this LLCA. • The option would cut through existing woodland upon the slopes. This would result in tree removal but also an increase in the visibility of the option from opposite slopes. It would also result in a reduction in the qualities of the wooded slopes as a backdrop when seen from the west that highlights the distinctive characteristics of the strath in contrast. • The option would adversely affect the distinctive landscape experience of this area, including when travelling along the Speyside Way, River Spey and its riverside paths, and from within the Ordiquish area. Specifically, it would disrupt key views looking down the strath to the north, diminish the sense of tranquillity and sanctuary experienced in many parts of this LLCA, and interrupt the sequential experience travelling along the strath slopes. • The scale of the option would contrast and seem overbearing upon the small scale existing buildings, crofts, winding single-track roads and other elements of landscape pattern in and around Ordiquish. • The option cuttings and embankments would contrast to the distinctive landform, including upon Castle Hill. Furthermore, the earthworks within wooded areas would extend the area of tree removal.	Sensitivity = High Magnitude = High	**Major adverse**	LV1, LV2, LV3, LV5, LV6	**Major adverse**

Sub-topic / criteria	Baseline and Predicted Effects (reflecting combined sensitivity and magnitude)		Predicted landscape effects	Assumed priority secondary mitigation	Predicted residual landscape effects
	• The Fochabers East junction between this option and the existing A96 would be elevated up above the Burn of Fochabers, resulting in it and associated vehicles seeming overbearing upon this landscape feature below which is experienced along pathways within the woodland.				
LLCA 12: Dense, forested hills	**Landscape baseline:** • This LLCA comprises broad, elevated landform slopes clothed in woodland (mainly conifer plantation of single species and age). The forest is dense, masking underlying features and resulting in enclosure and shelter with limited visibility (both within the LLCA and looking out). • Limited visibility within the dense forest in combination with uniformity of tree type results in a typical difficulty to orient within the forest or to perceive its extent. It is also dark due to low light penetration. • The area is criss-crossed with tracks, powerlines and open wayleaves that create incongruous straight lines across the hill side that are prominent from a distance. • Despite the seeming uniformity of the forest at a broad level, there are some local variations and features apparent at close proximity such as the Burn of Fochabers which forms a deep glen within the woodland. There are also some mature and/or policy broadleaf trees and open spaces near Fochabers. • In the south-east of the area, restructuring of some parts of the forest has resulted in felled coupes which have opened views and revealed the underlying landform, although the shapes and edges of these typically contrast to the surrounding landscape pattern and topography. • The forested hill slopes form the backdrop to key views across the Spey strath from the west (including from LLCAs 8 and 10). There is a gradual transition between this LLCA and the upper slopes of LLCA 11.				
	North Option predicted landscape effects: • This option would pass through this LLCA between the Hill of Fochabers and the eastern end of the option. Along this stretch, the eastern half of the option would follow the existing A96 and thus its effects would be limited, mainly resulting from carriageway widening, roadside cuttings/ embankments and tree removal. In contrast, the western half of the option would divert from the existing A96 and cut through the Hill of Fochabers within this LLCA.	Sensitivity = Medium Magnitude = Medium	**Moderate adverse**	LV1, LV5	**Moderate adverse**

Sub-topic / criteria	Baseline and Predicted Effects (reflecting combined sensitivity and magnitude)		Predicted landscape effects	Assumed priority secondary mitigation	Predicted residual landscape effects
	• The option cuttings within the slopes of the Hill of Fochabers would contrast strongly to the characteristic landform. The prominence of these cuttings would be less than those to the north (in LLCA11) when looking from key vantage points within the surrounding landscape due to screening by the intervening landform and woodland. • The option would involve removal of a wide corridor of existing trees within Leitch's Wood. • This option and associated vehicles would be imposing upon the landscape experience of Leitch's Wood, although the extent of this would be limited by the cutting slopes to the east and because the character of the existing landscape within the vicinity of the option is strongly affected by the existing A96. • The option would fragment Leitch's Wood and isolate an area in-between the option and the existing A96. Due to the small scale of this area and it being surrounded by roads, it would not retain the distinct characteristics of this LLCA.				
	South Option predicted landscape effects: • This option would pass through this LLCA between the Burn of Fochabers and the eastern end of the option. Along this stretch, the eastern half of the option would be broadly the same as the North option and thus the landscape effects would be the same, as described above. In contrast, the western half of this option would follow the existing A96 and then divert to the west (south of the Burnside Caravan Park), with an elevated Fochabers East junction providing a link to the existing A96 to Fochabers. • The Fochabers East junction and embankments next to the Burn of Fochabers would contrast strongly to the line, elevation and landform of the glen and river below.	Sensitivity = Medium Magnitude = Medium	**Moderate adverse**	LV1, LV5	**Moderate adverse**

Sub-topic / criteria	Baseline and Predicted Effects (reflecting combined sensitivity and magnitude)		Predicted landscape effects	Assumed priority secondary mitigation	Predicted residual landscape effects
	• The option would not be highly prominent within the wider landscape due to surrounding landform and woodland screening and its incongruity would be reduced due to the proximity of the existing A96. • The option and associated vehicle activity and noise would seem imposing upon the enclosed space and qualities of sanctuary experienced within the glen below which is accessed via some woodland paths from/to Fochabers. • This option would involve removal of a wide area of existing woodland. Although some of the trees within this woodland are of relatively low landscape value due to being part of a dense conifer plantation, some of the trees comprise mature native or policy trees that are local landscape features and of higher value.				
LLCA 13: River Spey corridor	**Landscape baseline:** • Wide, meandering river forms a prominent landscape feature. • The river provides an open corridor within surrounding woodland, offering open, linear views • A variety of vegetation is experienced sequentially, from dense woodland to open clearings. • The sound of vehicles is apparent in some areas near the existing A96, but elsewhere there is a perceived naturalness and sanctuary. • There are many pathways both along the river and within adjacent woodland, including several leading from the Fochabers picnic site. • An important vantage point for this LLCA's key characteristics is gained from the old Spey Bridge (pedestrian) in Fochabers.				
	North Option predicted landscape effects: • This option would cross this LLCA west – east south of the existing Fochabers Bridge. • The option through this LLCA would be visible mainly from Inchberry Road (at a similar elevation to the option bridge), the Fochabers Bridge (lower than the option bridge) and from below along the River Spey and its riverbanks, including the Speyside Way and paths leading from the Fochabers picnic site. Otherwise,	Sensitivity = Medium Magnitude = Medium	**Moderate adverse**	N/A	**Moderate adverse**

Sub-topic / criteria	Baseline and Predicted Effects (reflecting combined sensitivity and magnitude)		Predicted landscape effects	Assumed priority secondary mitigation	Predicted residual landscape effects
	visibility of the option bridge would be limited within this LLCA due to screening by trees and the eastern river bank, and due to the river meander. • The option would contrast strongly to the linear feature and space along the river. As a bridge, it would relate to the existing Fochabers and A96 Bridges which are nearby, although it would be of contrasting scale, at a higher elevation and longer. • Whilst the option bridge would relate to the existing A96 bridge, including the associated effects of vehicles, it would result in collective effects that would increase the imposition of these structures and their vehicles within the surrounding area. Furthermore, these bridges would isolate an area in-between where the landscape character and experience of this would seem dominated by the combined effects of the bridges and this would include the existing Fochabers pedestrian bridge. • From a distance in the south, the prominence of the option would be reduced by being seen backclothed against the margins of Fochabers and Mosstodloch settlements (LLCAs32 and 33 respectively) and the existing Fochabers and A96 bridges (within LLCA13). Conversely, from the north, particularly from Inchberry Road and Fochabers Bridge, the option would be highly prominent, crossing key views of the distinct landscape characteristics of the river, strath and strath sides to the south (this LLCA together with LLCAs 10 and 11) and distinctive, distant hills (outwith the study area). • The option bridge east end and embankments would involve removal of existing riverside trees that contribute to the landscape character of the riverside.				
	South Option predicted landscape effects: • This option would pass through the southern tip of this LLCA. This would pass through the Speyside AGLV. • The option would be highly prominent when looking up and down the River Spey from the north and south. Where seen, it would contrast in its scale, elevation	Sensitivity = High Magnitude = High	**Major adverse**	N/A	**Major adverse**

Sub-topic / criteria	Baseline and Predicted Effects (reflecting combined sensitivity and magnitude)		Predicted landscape effects	Assumed priority secondary mitigation	Predicted residual landscape effects
	and contrasting horizontal form. As such, it would distract from the existing landscape feature and focal qualities of the River Spey. • The activity and sound of vehicles upon the bridge would seem intrusive within this LLCA and to diminish existing qualities of perceived naturalness, tranquillity and sanctuary by/on the river. • This option bridge over the River Spey is likely to be clearly visible from the pedestrian Fochabers Bridge despite its distance, affecting key views of the key characteristics of this LLCA, Strathspey and the surrounding hills.				
LLCA 14: Open, flat agricultural fields surrounded by woodland edge	**Landscape baseline:** • This LLCA comprises open, flat, agricultural fields surrounded by woodland. • The landscape is simple in pattern and composition, with key elements being field boundaries, woodland edges and the foci of farm or estate buildings. There is a network of roads across this area that fit within this landscape pattern of fields. • There is a prevailing rural character within this area however vehicle noise and activity influence this character at a local level near to the B9104 and B9015 roads. • Although the open areas are edged by woodland, they are sufficiently large that the landscape is perceived as expansive and has a horizontal emphasis at a broad level. There are also open views across the fields. • The area includes the flood plain of the River Spey and the coastal plain for the Moray Firth to the north, but neither the river or sea are clearly visible from most parts of the area due to screening by intervening elements.				
	North Option predicted landscape effects: • This option would not pass through this LLCA and it would not be clearly visible from it due to screening by intervening structures or woodland.	Sensitivity = Low Magnitude = Negligible	Negligible	N/A	Negligible
	South Option predicted landscape effects: • This option would not pass through this LLCA and it would not be clearly visible from it due to its distance and screening by intervening structures or woodland.	Sensitivity = Low Magnitude = Negligible	Negligible	N/A	Negligible

Sub-topic / criteria	Baseline and Predicted Effects (reflecting combined sensitivity and magnitude)		Predicted landscape effects	Assumed priority secondary mitigation	Predicted residual landscape effects
LLCA 15: Gordon Castle historic landscape	**Landscape baseline:** • This area possesses a strong historic character, partly due to prominent historic design features and partly due to the maturity of the landscape elements. • The landscape pattern and framework of the estate is principally defined by mature policy woodland and trees including woodland blocks, avenues and specimen/ lone trees. Within this framework, there are open spaces used as agricultural fields and gardens. • Estate buildings of historical character create foci throughout the LLCA. Some are substantial, for example the castle and main farm buildings, whilst others are smaller, such as estate cottages. Many of these are located at the edges of woodland. • Within the woodland, there is a strong sense of enclosure and shelter. In contrast, within the large open areas used as agricultural fields, there is a sense of openness. These areas offer some views to distant foci such as to the hills to the south. Conversely, within parkland areas, there is a mix of trees and grassland that results in variable enclosure and filtered views. • There is a prevailing rural character within this area and this, in combination with a sense of enclosure in places, contributes to qualities of tranquillity and sanctuary. • Within the south of area, there are views towards the edge of Fochabers and, beyond this, to the tops of foci and landmarks such as the chapel and church. • Wooded hills slopes to the east and south-east of the area (LLCAs 37 and 11) provide an obvious spatial edge. In many places, there are broadleaves along the nearest woodland edge, with dense conifers beyond. • From the southern part of this area, there are some views to the existing A96 vehicles and road furniture, including lampposts and signs. In some places (such as within the walled garden), A96 vehicles can be heard even where they are not visible which is imposing and diminishes the perceived rural character and qualities of sanctuary.				
	North Option predicted landscape effects: • This option would pass along the southern edge of this LLCA. It would broadly follow the line and elevation of the existing A96 between the Gordon Castle entrance drive (approx. chainage 307+200) and where level with Westmorland	Sensitivity = High Magnitude = High	**Major adverse**	LV1, LV2, LV3, LV5, LV6, LV7	**Major adverse**

Sub-topic / criteria	Baseline and Predicted Effects (reflecting combined sensitivity and magnitude)		Predicted landscape effects	Assumed priority secondary mitigation	Predicted residual landscape effects
	Street (approx. chainage 307+800) but it would rise steeply to the west (to link into the bridge over the B9104 and the Spey) and to the east to pass over the A98 and cross Fochabers Hill. • Within the south-eastern area of this LLCA, the option (including the activity and noise of associated vehicles) would be highly prominent and imposing within the Gordon Castle grounds (GDL). These effects would be increased by the raised elevation of the road and the embankment slopes that would contrast to the existing landform. The imposition of the option would diminish the perceived ruralness and qualities of tranquillity and sanctuary within the grounds. • From this LLCA, the option seen continuing beyond this area to the south-east, through the Hill of Fochabers, would be prominent. This would seem to compromise the distinctive qualities of the wooded hill backcloth to the Gordon Castle grounds, compromising its perceived shielding edge and the strong relationship between LLCA15 and LLCA11. These landscape effects would mainly be experienced from the open areas of the GDL that extend south and west of Gordon Castle Farm as well as from the Gordon Castle tower which forms a key focal feature within the LLCA. • This option would relate in character to the existing A96, B9014 and A98 main roads. Its increase in landscape effects compared to the existing A96 would, however, result in increased collective effects, amplifying the perception of this LLCA being surrounded and imposed upon by main roads and vehicle noise even where the option and other roads cannot be seen. • This option would involve a change in levels of the drive that approaches the option overpass, resulting in a local loss of vegetation within the LLCA.				
	South Option predicted landscape effects: • This option would not pass through this LLCA and it would not be clearly visible from it due to distance and intervening screening elements.	Sensitivity = Medium Magnitude = Negligible	Negligible	N/A	Negligible

Sub-topic / criteria	Baseline and Predicted Effects (reflecting combined sensitivity and magnitude)		Predicted landscape effects	Assumed priority secondary mitigation	Predicted residual landscape effects
LLCA 32: Fochabers	**Landscape baseline:** • Rural settlement with concentrated built core, including large stone buildings, narrow main street and central square. • Regular linear/grid layout of northern part of the LLCA, creating some framed views. In contrast, the housing estates in the south are irregular in layout and less clear in focus. • Typically, there is a fairly abrupt boundary between the town and the adjacent countryside to the south, although there are some filtered views in-between. • There is a wooded backdrop to the town to the east, north-east and south-east which contribute to the sense of place in the area. • Bridging points and junctions within the town create focal points, with the former also highlighting the crossing of the River Spey (LLCA 13). • The sound of vehicles along the existing A96 main road imposes upon the prevailing quiet character of the LLCA. This is particularly evident at the northern edge of the area and near the roundabouts at the western and eastern edges. • The existing A96 main road forms a hard edge to this area in the north and spatially divides the town from the Gordon Castle grounds (LLCA15) to the north. Some views pass between this LLCA and LLCA15, including from the Gordon Castle grounds to the tops of taller buildings and churches within the town, passing over the main road sunk within the landform in-between.				
	North Option predicted landscape effects: • This option would run along the northern edge of this LLCA as well as passing through its northern and eastern tips of the area. • Similar to the existing A96, the option would not be widely prominent from most parts of this LLCA, including the central core of the town and the Speyside Way, as it would be screened by surrounding structures and landform. The option would, however, be visible when looking south-east along the High Street (within the Fochabers Conservation Area) and at its western and eastern ends within this LLCA. Furthermore, associated vehicles would be audible which would impose upon the prevailing quiet settlement character, increased from	Sensitivity = High Magnitude = Medium	**Major adverse**	LV1, LV3, LV5	**Major adverse**

Sub-topic / criteria	Baseline and Predicted Effects (reflecting combined sensitivity and magnitude)		Predicted landscape effects	Assumed priority secondary mitigation	Predicted residual landscape effects
	that which currently results from the existing A96 due to the higher elevation of the option. • Looking south-east along the High Street through the centre of Fochabers, the option would be seen directly ahead within the framed view of the existing wooded hill backcloth to this LLCA (in line with the existing Peeps View shelter within LLCA11). From here, the high cutting slope face on the eastern side of the option would be highly prominent and the option would seem very imposing upon this LLCA, this effect increased by the higher elevation of the option in relation to the town below and because it would seem to breach the existing hill edge. • At the western end of the LLCA, the option bridge would be imposing due to its elevation and collective effects, with existing infrastructure seeming to intrude upon the area of the Gordon Castle lodges.				
	South Option predicted landscape effects: • The option is unlikely to be visible from the central core of the town (including the Fochabers Conservation Area) and the Speyside Way within this LLCA. • The option bridge would be visible to the south and south-west from some southern parts of this area, including the housing estates around Castlehill Road and Spey Road, although most views would be filtered or narrow in extent. Where visible, the bridge would seem to tower up above this area and the sound of vehicles would diminish existing qualities of tranquillity. • From this LLCA, the sight and sound of the option and associated vehicles in various places would have collective effects in addition to the existing A96 to the north, contributing to a sense of the LLCA being surrounded by main roads to the north, east and south and thus a greater influence of infrastructure on the character of the area.	Sensitivity = Medium Magnitude = Medium	**Moderate adverse**	LV1, LV3, LV5, LV6	**Moderate adverse**

Sub-topic / criteria	Baseline and Predicted Effects (reflecting combined sensitivity and magnitude)		Predicted landscape effects	Assumed priority secondary mitigation	Predicted residual landscape effects
	• Where visible from this LLCA, the cut of this option into the wooded hill backdrop to the east would seem to diminish the distinct shielding edge of the town and its sense of place within the wider landscape setting.				
LLCA 33: Mosstodloch	**Landscape baseline:** • This LLCA covers the settlement of Mosstodloch and is primarily urban and industrial in character. • The southern and western parts of this area are primarily residential in character, typically with a regular layout of houses along the B9015 and within housing estates. These residences are domestic in scale and tend to be inward-looking within the LLCA. • In contrast to the residential areas, the eastern and northern parts of this LLCA are mainly industrial in character. • Mosstodloch has a broadly linear pattern running parallel to the B9015. There is a notable amount of vegetation within residential areas, comprising both hedges and trees. A block of mature pine woodland on the south side of the town is popular for local walks. • The presence of the existing A96 to the south of the LLCA creates a strong southern edge. The block of pine woodland in the west spatially separates the town from this road. Noise from vehicles travelling along the existing A96 strongly influences the character of the area (even where vehicles cannot be seen).				
	North Option predicted landscape effects: • This option would not pass through this LLCA but it would run broadly parallel to its southern boundary, about 400m to the south. From most parts of this LLCA, the option would be screened by the Balnacoul Wood and/or the local landform and structures. The Fochabers West junction by Balnacoul could be visible due to its elevation and the option bridge over the River Spey would be clearly visible from the Inchberry Road area. • The option would generally relate in character to the existing A96 along the southern edge of this LLCA and the urban and industrial land uses within Mosstodloch. Furthermore, from the main part of this LLCA (excluding the Inchberry Road area), the option would seem spatially separated from this LLCA by the existing A96 in-between, reducing its perceived imposition. The option would have some collective effects in addition to the existing A96,	Sensitivity = Medium Magnitude = Medium	**Moderate adverse**	LV1, LV2, LV3, LV4, LV5, LV6	**Moderate adverse**

Sub-topic / criteria	Baseline and Predicted Effects (reflecting combined sensitivity and magnitude)		Predicted landscape effects	Assumed priority secondary mitigation	Predicted residual landscape effects
	seeming to increase the division between this LLCA and the landscape to the south. • From the Inchberry Road area, the option bridge would be highly prominent and intrusive (seen at a similar elevation), crossing key views to the distinct landscape characteristics of Strathspey and the hills to the south. The activity and noise of vehicles along this option bridge would increase this imposition greatly (despite these not being entirely incongruous given the existing A96 and settlements nearby). From the Inchberry Road area, the option would have collective effects with the existing A96 and U19E minor road, seeming to completely surround the area.				
	South Option predicted landscape effects: • This option would not pass through this LLCA, nor be clearly visible from most parts. The Fochabers West Junction and link road may be visible from the edges of the area. Furthermore, the bridge over the River Spey would be visible in the far distance from the Inchberry Road area, seen contrasting to the distinct line of the strath.	Sensitivity = Medium Magnitude = Low	Minor adverse	LV1, LV3, LV4, LV5	Minor adverse
LLCA 34: Lhanbryde	**Landscape baseline:** • This LLCA is primarily urban or peri-urban in character. It appears nestled within the undulating and enclosing landform of the adjacent LLCA 9 as well as being edged to the south by the existing A96 and railway line. This results in varying influence: a sense of containment from the landform and a prevailing rural character in the north; and a sense of imposition from the sight and sound of vehicles along the A96 and (intermittently) along the railway in the south. • This area comprises a mix of residential land use and some small scale industrial units. A long-established residential area within the settlement conveys a sense of history. Houses within the LLCA tend to face inwards within the area. • Residential parts of this LLCA are typically split into separate groups by the undulating topography and steep slopes in-between that remain as open green spaces and link with the surrounding landscape.				
	North Option predicted landscape effects:	Sensitivity = Low	Minor adverse	LV1, LV2, LV3, LV5	Minor adverse

Sub-topic / criteria	Baseline and Predicted Effects (reflecting combined sensitivity and magnitude)		Predicted landscape effects	Assumed priority secondary mitigation	Predicted residual landscape effects
	• This option would not pass through this LLCA but it would be visible from some parts in the south. From here, the option would be seen beyond the existing A96 and railway line. These would reduce the incongruity of the option whilst also seeming to clearly separate the option from this LLCA so it would appear less imposing. • Whilst the option would relate to existing infrastructure to the south of this LLCA, its addition would have collective effects, increasing the imposition of infrastructure and associated vehicles upon the southern part of this LLCA and increasing its perceived separation from the wider landscape to the south. • The visibility and perceived imposition of the option from this LLCA would be reduced by the option being in cutting along the nearest section and due to screening by intervening trees along the railway line.	Magnitude = Low			
	South Option predicted landscape effects: • The South option would be the same as the North option in relation to this LLCA. Consequently, the effects of the South option would be the same as those described above for the North option.	Sensitivity = Low Magnitude = Low	Minor adverse	LV1, LV2, LV3, LV5	Minor adverse
LLCA 37: Rolling farmland, woodland and historic elements at periphery of designed landscape	**Landscape baseline:** • This LLCA possesses a rolling landform, emphasised by its contrast to the flat flood plain of the River Spey to the west (LLCAs 14 and 15), resulting in variable mid-ground horizons within views. • There is mixed land use within this area, including extensive woodland, open agricultural fields surrounded by trees, and historic elements. • The trees and woodland within this LLCA tend to be large, mature and of mixed species (some of these being part of the Gordon Castle policy woodlands). The woodland edges and lines of trees form landscape features and it is along these edges that many of the houses within the landscape are situated. These edges also offer opportunities to experience qualities of prospect-refuge. • The landform slopes and woodland result in perceived enclosure, semi-enclosure and shelter within the landscape and limit the extent of visibility both within the area and outwards. • There are many historic elements within this landscape, such as stone buildings, walls and a cemetery, creating local foci.				

Sub-topic / criteria	Baseline and Predicted Effects (reflecting combined sensitivity and magnitude)		Predicted landscape effects	Assumed priority secondary mitigation	Predicted residual landscape effects
	• The activity and sound of vehicles travelling along the B9104 and A98 main roads are locally intrusive and, where experienced, diminish the perceived ruralness and tranquillity within the area.				
	North Option predicted landscape effects: • This option would not pass through this LLCA and it would not be clearly visible from most parts of the area due to the screening effect of woodland within the Gordon Castle estate. The option would however be visible from open clearings within the western woodland margins of the deer park, by Hampshire House. From here, the part of the option that would be most prominent would be the Fochabers East Junction link road to the A98. Whilst the line of this would relate to the existing A96, its elevation and embankment slopes would contrast to the surrounding landform at the southern part of the Gordon Castle grounds (LLCA15) and would increase the visibility and noise of associated vehicles.	Sensitivity = Medium Magnitude = Low	Minor adverse	LV1, LV3, LV5, LV7	Minor adverse
	South Option predicted landscape effects: • This option would not pass through this LLCA and it would not be clearly visible from it due to distance and intervening screening elements.	Sensitivity = Low Magnitude = Negligible	Negligible	N/A	Negligible

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Appendix A18.1 - Assessment Methodology

A18.1 Assessment Methodology

Introduction

The evaluation of nature conservation features (or assessment of values) was undertaken taking into consideration professional judgement and advice provided in the Design Manual for Roads and Bridges (DMRB) Interim Advice Note (IAN) 130/10 Ecology and Nature Conservation: Criteria for Impact Assessment, and guidance published by CIEEM (2016)[1]. Updated CIEEM Guidelines were published in September 2018. A review of the new guidelines indicates that use of them would not alter the assessment or conclusions of this chapter.

The criteria used to assess the value of nature conservation features are set out in Table 1.1. The assigned valuation to each receptor is set out in Appendix 18.2 (Valuation of Ecological Receptors).

As part of the route selection process, a series of design workshops allowed technical input (including nature conservation) into the development of route options. This allowed experienced ecologists to facilitate early implementation of the mitigation hierarchy (avoidance, minimise, mitigate) into the DMRB Stage 2 route option development.

Table 1.1 Criteria for Assessment of Ecological Value

Ecological Importance	Attributes of Ecological Feature
International (European)	**Habitats**: An internationally designated site or candidate site (i.e. Special Protection Area (SPA), provisional SPA (pSPA), Special Area of Conservation (SAC), candidate SAC (cSAC), Ramsar site or an area which meets the published selection criteria for such designation). A viable area of a habitat type listed in Annex I of the Habitats Directive (1992), or smaller areas of such habitat that are essential to maintain the viability of a larger whole. **Species**: Any regularly occurring population of an internationally important species, which is threatened or rare in the UK (i.e. a UK Red List species or listed as occurring in 15 or fewer 10km squares in the UK (category S3 on the Scottish Biodiversity List (SBL)) or of uncertain conservation status or of having an international obligation category S2 on the SBL). A regularly occurring, nationally significant population/number of any internationally important species.
National (Scottish)	**Habitats**: A nationally designated site (i.e. Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI), National Nature Reserve (NNR), or a discrete area, which meets the published selection criteria for national designation (e.g. SSSI selection guidelines)).

[1] Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management (CIEEM, 2016) Guidelines for Ecological Impact Assessment in the United Kingdom: Terrestrial, Freshwater and Coastal

Ecological Importance	Attributes of Ecological Feature
	A viable area of a priority habitat identified in the UK Biodiversity Action Plan (UKBAP) or SBL, or smaller areas of such habitat that are essential to maintain the viability of a larger whole. **Species**: A regularly occurring, regionally or county significant population/number of an internationally/nationally important species. Any regularly occurring population of a nationally important species which is threatened or rare in the region or county (see Local Biodiversity Action Plan (LBAP)). A species listed as occurring in <6 10km squares on the SBL. Species listed as Nationally Scarce, Nationally Notable A or Notable B (rare and scarce species not based on IUCN criteria).
Regional	**Habitats**: Sites which exceed the county-level designations but fall short of SSSI selection criteria. Viable areas of key habitat identified in the regional BAP or smaller areas of such habitat that are essential to maintain the viability of a larger whole. Habitats determined to be of medium to high value based on their ecological function. Ancient woodland covering an area of greater than 0.25ha. **Species**: Any regularly occurring, locally significant population of a species listed as being nationally scarce which occurs in 16-100 10km squares in the UK or in a regional BAP on account of its regional rarity or localisation. A regularly occurring, locally significant population/number of a regionally important species. Sites maintaining populations of internationally/nationally important species that are not threatened or rare in the region or county.
Authority Area (Moray Council)	**Habitats**: Sites that are recognised by local authorities (e.g. Sites of Interest for Nature Conservation (SINC) and District Wildlife Sites (DWS)). County/district sites that the designating Authority has determined meet the published ecological selection criteria for designation, including Local Nature Reserves (LNR). A viable area of habitat identified in the local BAP. A diverse and/or ecologically valuable hedgerow network. Ancient woodland smaller than 0.25ha. Habitats determined to be of at least medium value based on their ecological function. **Species**: Any regularly occurring, locally significant population of a species that is listed in a local BAP on account of its regional rarity or localisation. A regularly occurring, locally significant population of a county/district important

Ecological Importance	Attributes of Ecological Feature
	species (particularly during a critical phase of its life cycle). Sites supporting populations of internationally/nationally/regionally important species that are not threatened or rare in the region or county, and are not integral to maintaining those populations. Sites/features that are scarce within the county/district or which appreciably enrich the county/district habitat resource.
Local (e.g. in the locality of a place such as Elgin)	**Habitats**: Areas of habitat considered to appreciably enrich the habitat resource e.g. species-rich hedgerows, ponds etc. Sites that retain other elements of semi-natural vegetation that due to their size, quality or the wide distribution of such habitats within the local area are not considered for the above classifications. Habitats determined to be of low to medium value based on their ecological function. **Species**: Populations/assemblages of species that appreciably enrich the biodiversity resource within the local context. Sites supporting populations of county/district important species that are not threatened or rare in the region or county, and are not integral to maintaining those populations.
Site (less than local, limited ecological value)	**Habitats**: Sites that retain habitats and/or species that are of limited ecological importance owing to their size, species composition or other factors. Habitats determined to be of low to medium value based on their ecological function.

Identification of Impacts

Knowledge and assessment of standard construction methods and operational activities, together with professional judgment by experienced ecologists, were used to identify the potential impacts on ecological receptors during all phases of the Scheme.

The application of professional judgement to the scoping of potential impacts ensured that the assessment focused on key impacts and effects. For example, a small area of amenity grassland would be assessed as having less than local ecological value and would not progress through the assessment process. However, a potential impact on a SSSI valued at a national level would progress through the assessment process.

Characterising Ecological Impacts

When ecological impacts are described, the term 'impact magnitude' is an overall characterisation of either positive or negative impacts, which takes into account criteria set out below (in accordance with CIEEM guidance (2016)):

- Positive or negative.
- Extent;
- Magnitude;
- Duration;
- Timing;
- Frequency; and,
- Reversibility.

Following the characterisation of a potential impact, the potential magnitude of the impact is assessed and a value assigned according to the criteria set out in Table 1.2.

Table 1.2 Impact Characterisation in Relation to Magnitude

Impact Characterisation	Impact Magnitude
A permanent or long-term impact on the distribution and/or abundance of a habitat, species assemblage/community or population. An impact that results in changes to the distribution or availability of habitats over more than one season, or over multiple generations, or that has the potential to affect an entire cohort of juveniles of species. If negative this would have implications for the integrity of the receptor and its conservation status, and if positive would result in an improvement to the conservation status of the receptor.	High
A long-term but reversible impact on the distribution and/or abundance of a habitat, species assemblage/community or population. If negative this would have neutral implications for the integrity of the receptor or its conservation status and if positive would not alter the conservation status of the receptor.	Medium
A short-term reversible impact on the distribution and/or abundance of a habitat, species assemblage/community or population and within normal fluctuations observed within the ecology of the receptor.	Low
A short-term reversible impact on the distribution and/or abundance of a habitat, species assemblage/community or population unlikely to be detectable by monitoring.	Negligible

Significance of Effects

Following the assessment of ecological value and magnitude of potential impacts, professional judgement was then applied to determine the significance of potential impacts and then focus on any effects which would require mitigation.

In accordance with CIEEM guidance (2016), a significant effect is "*an effect that either supports or undermines biodiversity conservation objectives for 'important ecological features*'". As with the identification of potential impacts (see above), the application of knowledge and assessment of construction methods and operational activities, combined with the professional judgment by ecologists with experience of similar large-scale infrastructure projects, has been used to identify and assess the predicted effects of the options on ecological receptors. Additional information on the overall approach to environmental assessment is set out in Chapter 8, Section 8.4 of this Report. The terms used in relation to impact significance are explained in Table 1.3 and have been developed with reference to IAN 130/10, CIEEM (2016) and SNH (2018)[2] guidance.

Table 1.3 Significance Category Definitions

Significance Category	Description
Major	Adverse - effects associated with features of international, national and regional importance. Effects likely to be damaging or result in loss of integrity. Likely to be permanent and irreversible effects potentially resulting in loss of function/structure of receptor. Beneficial – would result in significant positive effect on an international, national or regional receptor.
Moderate	Adverse - effects associated with features of international, national, regional or authority importance. Effects likely to be damaging or result in loss of integrity. Likely to be long-term but reversible effects potentially resulting in loss of function/structure of receptor. Beneficial – would result in significant positive effect on an international, national or regional receptor.
Minor	Adverse - effects associated with features of regional or authority importance. Effects likely to be damaging or result in loss of integrity. Likely to be short-term and reversible. Beneficial – would result in significant positive effect on a regional or authority receptor.
Negligible	No detectable effects or effects within the normal level of variation expected for a receptor.

[2] SNH (2018) A Handbook on Environmental Impact Assessment: Guidance for Competent Authorities, Consultees and others involved in the Environmental Impact Assessment Process in Scotland. Scottish Natural Heritage and Historic Environment Scotland.

Taken together, the above information is applied to the matrix set out in Table 1.4 to determine the significance of a predicted impact for each receptor, which are listed in Tables 18.6 to 18.12 in the assessment. Impacts can be adverse or beneficial, either decreasing or improving the health, ecological status or viability of a population, species or habitat.

Table 1.4 Impact Significance

	Magnitude of Effect		
Importance	**High**	**Medium**	**Low**
International	Major	Major	Moderate
National	Major	Major	Moderate
Regional	Major	Moderate	Minor
Authority Area	Moderate	Moderate	Minor
Local	Minor	Minor	Minor
Site	Minor	Negligible	Negligible

Appendix A18.2 - Valuation of Ecological Receptors

A18.2 Valuation of Ecological Receptors

Introduction

The evaluation of nature conservation features (or assessment of values) was undertaken taking into consideration professional judgement and advice provided by Design Manual for Roads and Bridges (DMRB), Interim Advice Note (IAN) 130/10 Ecology and Nature Conservation: Criteria for Impact Assessment, and guidance published by CIEEM (2016[1]). The criteria used to assess the value of nature conservation features are set out in Table 1.1 within Appendix 18.1 (Assessment Methodology).

Table 1.1 below sets out the assigned valuation to each receptor.

Table 1.1 Valuation of Ecological Receptors

Receptor	Description	Value
Designated Sites		
Culbin Sands, Culbin Forest and Findhorn Bay Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI)	Nationally designated site due to its outstanding habitat assemblage which supports a range of notable flora and fauna. Shingle and saltmarsh habitats are notable nationally.	National
Darnaway and Lethen Forest Special Protection Area (SPA)	European designated site of predominantly Scots pine woodland with small areas of heather moorland which supports a nationally important population of breeding capercaillie.	International
Findhorn Bay Local Nature Reserve (LNR)	The site is an important estuarine habitat at an authority scale which supports significant numbers of migratory wildfowl and waders.	Authority
Loch Oire SSSI	A nationally designated waterbody with undisturbed plant communities typical of a mesotrophic loch. Important due to the relative scarcity of large waterbodies within the Moray area.	National
Loch Spynie SSSI	Nationally designated due to the relative scarcity of large eutrophic lochs within northern Scotland. The loch is an excellent example of seral succession and supports important populations of breeding birds and roosting greylag geese.	National
Loch Spynie SPA	European designated site which qualifies due to its importance for wintering Icelandic greylag geese. In the five-winter period 1985/86 to 1989/90 the average peak count was 8,830 birds (9% of the world population).	International
Loch Spynie Ramsar site	European designated site is one of the few large and naturally eutrophic waterbodies in northern Scotland. It supports a diverse and regionally scarce aquatic flora with extensive reedbeds fringing and adjacent to the open water body and various stages of hydroseral succession including mesotrophic fen, willow scrub and swamp alder woodland.	International

[1] Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management (CIEEM, 2016) Guidelines for Ecological Impact Assessment in the United Kingdom: Terrestrial, Freshwater and Coastal

Receptor	Description	Value
Lower Findhorn Woods SSSI	Nationally designated site as an oligotrophic river/stream and due to the range of woodland types present. Woodland contains a number of regionally rare floral species including bryophytes, fungi, lichen and flowering plants.	National
Lower Findhorn Woods SAC	European designated site of mixed woodland on base-rich soils associated with rocky slopes.	International
Lower River Spey – Spey Bay SAC	European designated site due to the shingle and alder woodland habitats which are exceptional within Britain.	International
Lower River Spey SSSI	Nationally designated due to the habitat assemblages present including river shingle and wet woodland.	National
Moray and Nairn Coast SPA	European designated site. The site is designated as an SPA for providing foraging grounds for breeding osprey. It also supports an internationally important wintering population of wintering wildfowl and waders, with an assemblage of over 20,000 waterfowl.	International
Moray and Nairn Coast Ramsar site	The site supports a variety of important wetland features, including particularly good examples of intertidal flats, saltmarsh and floodplain alder (*Alnus glutinosa*) woodland. At least six nationally scarce aquatic and coastal plants are present, and two British Red Data Book invertebrates are also found. It also supports internationally important bird assemblages.	International
Quarry Wood SSSI	Nationally designated as one of the best examples of upland oak woodland in Moray and the lowest altitude example in north-east Scotland.	National
River Spey SSSI	Nationally designated due to its high-quality freshwater habitats within Scotland which support notable populations of protected species.	National
River Spey SAC	European designated site as one of the most important freshwater habitats in the UK due to its water quality and protected species which it supports. The River Spey supports a major spawning population of the Atlantic salmon and has a relatively large population of the sea lamprey, at the northern limit of its British distribution in fresh waters.	International
Spey Bay SSSI	Spey Bay comprises a delta at the mouth of the River Spey, shingle beaches either side of the delta, and the largest shingle strand plain to the west of the river mouth. These features support a number of notable habitats and species including dingy skipper (*Erynnis tages*), hydromorphological mire range, Saltmarsh, shingle, small blue (*Cupido minimus*), vascular plant assemblages and wet woodland.	National
Habitats		
Air quality	Air pollution from the new road has the potential to alter habitats in vicinity of road over time resulting in changes to habitat types. Air quality is assessed in Chapter 10, however included here to acknowledge the potential for habitat changes over time from air quality alterations. Value classed as Regional due to extent of	Regional

Receptor	Description	Value
	Ancient Woodland along the route options.	
Arable	Arable fields are generally intensively managed with low quality field margins. Arable land is considered unlikely to support many protected and/or notable species.	Site
Ancient Woodland	This habitat is valuable and irreplaceable with the potential to support protected and notable species of flora and fauna including capercaillie, pine marten and red squirrel.	Regional
Dense Scrub	Dense scrub within the study area is mainly composed of gorse and is species-poor but will support breeding birds and potentially protected species.	Site
Grassland	The majority of these habitats have low species diversity with swards often dominated by grasses. This type of habitat is extensive in the area. It may be utilised by qualifying species of the Inner Moray Firth SPA or the Moray and Nairn Coast SPA, but generally has low potential to support protected species. There is the potential for areas of higher value grasslands to be present locally (either botanical more diverse or providing habitat for other species e.g. butterflies), however the Phase 1 survey and desk study have not identified significant extent of such habitats to raise the overall value assigned to grassland habitats.	Site
Native Woodland	Native woodland is relatively common within the Moray area however it will support a range of protected flora and fauna	Authority
Non-designated Woodland & Trees	Plantation woodland (excluding AWI woods), Parkland trees and roadside trees are common throughout the Moray area. Some plantations will have greater botanical and faunal diversity depending upon history, location and size.	Site
Non-Statutory Designated Watercourses	Value of watercourses will range considerably from large ecologically diverse rivers to small heavily modified field drains with little value. Larger rivers and streams will contain protected fish populations while also supporting protected species . In addition, endemic macroinvertebrate species may be present.	Authority/Local
Ponds	Ponds are classed as authority ecological value due to their relative scarcity within the Moray area and their potential to provide habitats for a range of protected species including great crested newt (GCN), osprey and otter.	Authority
Species and Species Groups		
Amphibians (not including GCN)	Common toad is listed on the Scottish Biodiversity List (SBL), while common frog, smooth newt and palmate newt are likely to be present within the study area.	Local

Receptor	Description	Value
Badger	Badger is afforded legal protection under the Protection of Badgers Act 1992 (as amended) however badger is locally and regionally common and it is assumed that all suitable habitat has the potential to support badgers.	Local
Barn Owl	Barn owl is afforded legal protection under the Wildlife & Countryside Act 1981 (WCA) as a Schedule 1 bird and is Amber listed on the British Trust for Ornithology (BTO) Birds of Conservation Concern 4: Red List for Birds (BoCC). This species is in decline in Scotland but widely distributed.	Authority
Bats	Although designated as a European Protected Species (EPS) under the Habitats Regulations 1994, the majority of bat species within the areas of the options are likely to be common locally and are not threatened. Rarer species may occur, however this is likely to be infrequent and does not alter the overall valuation of bats. The common pipistrelle is listed on the Local Biodiversity Action Plan (LBAP).	Regional
Birds, Breeding (excluding Barn Owl and Capercaillie)	The study area will support a range of breeding species including Schedule 1 species within a variety of habitats	Regional
Capercaillie	Capercaillie is protected under the WCA as a Schedule 1 bird, is Red listed as a BoCC, and the Scottish population is declining. Capercaillie is a qualifying feature of a the Darnaway and Lethen Forest SPA, which supports a nationally important population of breeding capercaillie. This species is also listed on the LBAP.	International
Fish	Nationally important populations of Atlantic salmon are present within the River Spey, while other suitable watercourses are likely to support additional ecologically valuable salmonid and cyprinid species.	National
Freshwater macroinvertebrates (excl. FWPM)	The value of macroinvertebrate populations will vary, larger rivers such as the River Findhorn and River Spey will have a high species richness including endemic species such as the Northern February red stonefly within the Findhorn and Culbin IIA. Smaller and poorer quality watercourses will only hold local value macro-invertebrate populations.	Authority
Freshwater pearl mussel (FWPM)	FWPM is protected under the WCA and is defined as Threatened by the IUCN primarily due to habitat degradation and illegal pearl fishing. The River Spey is considered to support a FWPM population of international significance. This species is listed on the LBAP.	International
Great crested newt	Great crested newt is on the Scottish Biodiversity List (SBL) and is an EPS. Great crested newt records exist close to the study area and the species is rare within Moray and listed on the LBAP. Additionally population is outwith standard range and disconnected from main UK range.	National
Invasive Non-native plants (INNS)	The WCA 1981 (as amended) makes it an offence to allow an INNS to grow outwith its native range. Phase 1 habitat surveys show that INNS are widespread across the study area, particularly along watercourses.	National

Receptor	Description	Value
Macrophytes	Value of macrophyte communities will vary across the site, however the findings of desk study and consultation and site visits has not identified any high value communities locally.	Site
Otter	Otter is an EPS and is classified as 'Near Threatened' by the IUCN across its range, however the species is nationally widespread and locally common. This species is listed on the LBAP.	Regional
Pine marten	Pine marten is listed on WCA Schedule 5, the SBL and UKBAP however it is locally common and it is assumed that all suitable habitat has the potential to support pine marten.	Authority
Red Squirrel	Red Squirrel is listed on WCA Schedule 5, the SBL and UKBAP however it is locally and regionally common and it is assumed that all suitable habitat has the potential to support red squirrel. This species is also listed on the LBAP.	Local
Reptiles	Common lizard, slow-worm and adder are all listed on the current version of the SBL, and will be present within the study area.	Local
Terrestrial invertebrates	Certain areas within the site will support notable invertebrate species such as the Endangered aspen hoverfly, Scottish wood ant and species of butterfly. A number of invertebrate species are listed on the LBAP.	Authority
Water Vole	Water vole is listed on the current version of the SBL and is protected under the WCA. Water vole is also thought to be uncommon within the Moray area and is listed on the LBAP.	Regional
Wintering Birds	Species of birds that are listed as features of the Moray and Nairn Coast SPA and Loch Spynie SSSI, including waders and geese, are likely to utilise grassland and arable areas within the site for roosting and foraging. These birds are therefore assessed as being of European/International ecological value. In addition, ponds within the footprint of the options support wintering birds listed as of conservation concern (BoCC) and vulnerable (IUCN)	International

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Appendix A18.3 - Phase 1 Target Notes

A18.3 Phase 1 Target Notes

Introduction

The Phase 1 Habitat Survey maps are shown on Figures 18.1 – 18.3 (Volume 3).

Target Notes were recorded during the Phase 1 Habitat Survey in order to identify locations of greater ecological interest or features too small to be accurately mapped.

Table 1.1 details information recorded at the various Target Notes (running west - east) shown on Figures 18.1 – 18.3 (Phase 1 Habitat Survey) in Volume 5.

Table 1.1 Target Notes

Target Note	Description
1	Otter spraint present on eastern bank.
2	Invasive Japanese knotweed present along eastern bank of the River Findhorn.
3	Invasive giant hogweed present around small pond east of the River Findhorn.
4	High bat roost potential buildings close to high value commuting/foraging habitat.
5	Active Quarry with sand martin nests present.
6	Himalayan balsam present along western bank of Mosset Burn.
7	Himalayan balsam present along eastern bank of Mosset Burn.
8	High bat potential in abandoned/run down farm buildings.
9	Orchard.
10	Small patch of marshy grassland dominated by soft-rush and tufted hair-grass, with scattered spruce spp.
11	Ditch with minor flow to the north-west. Up to 70 centimetres (cm) wide with frequent patches of brooklime.
12	Small damp, open area within plantation, dominated by tall ruderal vegetation with a line of silver birch.
13	Line of broad-leaved trees between marshy grassland and conifer plantation. The majority were dead cherry and oak, with a number of living oak at the northern end.
14	Waterlogged area of grassland, with the vegetation forming a floating mat in places. With occasional soft-rush and scattered mixed trees including birch, larch and spruce spp.
15	Corner of old and largely intact dry-stone dyke running approximately west and northwest.
16	Patch of reed sweet-grass extending out from wet ditch for approximately 4 metres (m) into marshy grassland area.

Target Note	Description
17	Narrow, wet ditch with very minor flow along rear edge of row of cottages. No associated species, with adjoining grassland habitats extending up to the edge of the ditch.
18	Long disused quarry site, now vertical cliff face up to approximately 20m high. Supporting numerous scattered trees and abundant mosses, with frequent heather and cross-leaved heath.
19	Habitat developing over an area of felled coniferous plantation woodland. A patch of trees becoming established, including ash, silver birch, sycamore and willow sp.
20	Scattered gorse scrub over an area of approximately 4m x 10m with soft-rush, tufted hair-grass and a small amount of reed sweet-grass.
21	In area of primarily bare ground with piled rock and cut vegetation. Some scattered broom and soft-rush growth around edges and a line of broad-leaved trees, some with ivy growth
22	Disused tip area. Dominated by sharp-flowered rush with some soft-rush and broad-leaved dock. A drier, but still damp, area around the margins includes pendulous sedge and tufted hair-grass, with scattered gorse scrub at the margins.
23	Small patch of semi-improved neutral grassland with common sorrel, creeping bent, white clover and Yorkshire-fog, with a line of gorse along southern edge.
24	Small solar farm.
25	Invasive giant hogweed present along River Lossie. River banks have frequent invasive species present.
26	Invasive Japanese knotweed and giant hogweed along River Lossie.
27	Area of approximately 6m x 20m with recently planted trees still in tubes, a number of which have not grown. Includes cherry and oak.
28	High bat roost potential in some buildings approximately 250m from option, with surrounding foraging habitat.
29	Area of approximately 20m x 10m with trees of varying ages, some in tubes. Includes birch, cherry and oak, with some honeysuckle.
30	Giant hogweed by river bank -appears to be a stand of approximately 3m that has been strimmed.
31	Scattered giant hogweed from this location along River Lossie.
32	Strip of marginal vegetation approximately 5 m long along north bank of the Lossie. Dominated by great reedmace.
33	Artificial pond with liner. Steep banks; could not determine depth. A small amount of floating sweet-grass but otherwise no associated species.
34	Area of standing water of approximately 4m x 8m. In a depression within a damp grassland area; possibly seasonal with filamentous algae and a small amount of floating sweet-grass.
35	Significant giant hogweed extends from here and continues along river and beyond survey boundary.
36	Giant hogweed - several plants within 10m radius.

Target Note	Description
37	Fresh intact otter spraint and pine marten scat at bridge over River Lossie leading from gravel pits to working quarry.
38	Giant hogweed present.
39	Bee hives present at location.
40	Active quarry. Site not visited.
41	Stand of Japanese knotweed approximately 20m x 20m.
42	Stand of Japanese knotweed.
43	Giant hogweed.
44	Continuous gorse scrub in wayleave.
45	Bare ground: working pig farm.
46	Gorse scrub with scattered bracken and occasional birch in wayleave.
47	Gorse scrub with scattered mixed trees (birch and pine) in a glade approximately 8 x 20m.
48	Giant hogweed present in multiple stands.
49	Small triangle of marshy grassland dominated by soft-rush.
50	Several giant hogweed plants within 2m radius.
51	Giant hogweed downslope to west, on field boundary.
52	Fenced off area of new plantation approximately 10m x 60m. Majority of trees still in tubes. Includes alder, beech, birch, hawthorn and oak.
53	Broad-leaved woodland with some mature trees as well as newer growth. Includes birch, oak and sycamore, with occasional hawthorn, holly and gorse in the understorey and some honeysuckle.
54	Area of approximately 5m x 30m. Includes alder, beech, oak, pine and silver birch.
55	In area of semi-natural broad-leaved woodland. Approximately 10m x 15m. Includes occasional patches of bracken.
56	Giant hogweed present.
57	Bare ground: working pig farm.
58	Giant Hogweed frequent along riverbank.
59	Bare ground: working pig farm.
60	Bare ground: working pig farm.
61	Bare ground: working pig farm.
62	Construction site of Elgin business park.

Target Note	Description
63	2 otters observed feeding and vocalising with potential holt present – no access possible to confirm holt presence.
64	Barn owl roost in hollow tree, recent (<2 month old) pellets in and around tree cavity.
65	Japanese knotweed present along eastern bank.
66	Potential otter holt on eastern bank of river Lossie.
67	High bat roost potential in some buildings. Approximately 200m north of option.
68	Bare ground: working pig farm.
69	Bare ground: working pig farm.
70	Bare ground: working pig farm.
71	Stands of giant hogweed present.
72	Giant hogweed present along burn.
73	Area of swamp vegetation at eastern end of Loch Oire. Very waterlogged so unable to survey in detail.
74	Area of damp woodland dominated by birch spp.
75	Cleared and surfaced areas within woodland for future house building.
76	Dense scrub all along former railway line, potentially hidden badger setts. Predominantly gorse/broom/bramble and rowan.
77	Stone bridge on disused railway - high bat potential.
78	Area of tall ruderal surrounding former ponds, some water still remains but mainly overgrown by vegetation.
79	Farm: old stone cottage and outbuildings with high bat potential.
80	Stone bridge on disused railway - high bat potential.
81	Tree with high bat potential.
82	Castlehill Farm: farmyard contains mature broadleaved trees. Bat potential in trees as well as buildings.
83	Large ponds with adjacent mixed woodland. Not as extensive a nature site as TN 85 & 87 but still utilised by waterfowl.
84	Pond on OS mapping no longer exists, shallow depression that may still occasionally flood however no vegetation change.
85	High quality mixed woodland including ash, willow, oak, silver birch and scots pine adjacent to large pond. Considerable wildlife interest including red squirrel. Bird boxes in some trees.
86	Large old estate house with high bat roost potential plus smaller stone cottage also with bat roost potential.
87	Large pond surrounded by dense gorse and broom and *Typha spp*. at periphery. Some waterfowl (moorhen, mallard, mute swan) present.

Target Note	Description
88	Lots of butterflies in clearer areas within Balnacoul wood - speckled wood, red admiral, peacock, ringlet.
89	Large pond surrounded by ruderal vegetation.
90	Beech hedges: Extensive set of intact beech hedges throughout Dipple area. Well maintained and almost continuous along roads and tracks.
91	Beech Hedges: Extensive set of intact beech hedges throughout Dipple area. Well maintained and almost continuous along roads and tracks.
92	Beech hedges: Extensive set of intact beech hedges throughout Dipple area. Well maintained and almost continuous along roads and tracks.
93	Broadleaved woodland around electricity substation as screening (ash, birch, hawthorn).
94	Small area of self-colonised broad-leaved woodland, pond on Ordnance Survey (OS) map not present (may reappear in wet periods).
95	Japanese knotweed significant Invasive spp (Japanese knotweed and Himalayan balsam along River Spey).
96	Solar farm.
97	Area of self-seeded broad-leaved woodland (alder, ash, birch) with significant gorse. Otter spraint on River Spey. Tunnels into dense vegetation so potential otter holt or badger sett within dense scrub. Significant Himalayan balsam present.
98	Remnant pond, still some water present but potentially not all year round, surrounded by scattered scrub (gorse, broom, some birch and willow young trees).
99	Old footbridge over River Spey: high bat potential, some bat potential on adjacent new bridge also.
100	Dense scrub colonising deposits of shingle, mainly broom and gorse. Significant Invasive Species present along River Spey (Himalayan balsam, Japanese knotweed and giant hogweed).
101	High quality mature broad-leaved woodland. Possibly qualify as Ancient (needs NVC to determine ground flora etc). Species include oak, sycamore, beech, ash, birch, rowan.
102	Broadleaved woodland along river (birch, ash, willow, rowan, some sycamore and oak). Some sparse areas with scrub including gorse & broom. Significant invasive species present along River Spey (Himalayan balsam, Japanese knotweed and giant hogweed).
103	SuDS drainage area for existing road. Two large ponds, surrounded by grass, scattered trees and bushes.
104	Bat boxes within strip of woodland adjacent to existing A96. Erected as mitigation for existing bypass.
105	Gordon Castle Estate: Large areas of parkland with scattered broad-leaved trees (oak, sycamore, beech). Some areas grazed under trees. Occasional conifers in some areas.
106	Walled garden: part of Gordon Castle Estate, dominated by ornamental plants.
107	Broad-leaved woodland along Fochabers Burn. Bluebell understorey indicating high quality woodland.

Target Note	Description
108	Fochabers Burn: very fast flowing and active burn with significant erosion issues passing caravan park.
109	New plantation area of Christies Nursery. Currently planted with young conifers.
110	Wet woodland area of approximately 8m x 20m. With willow growth and areas of standing water which is shallow and silty. Birch, oak and hairy wood-rush are present around the edges.
111	Open area of felled coniferous woodland recolonising with birch and spruce. With a dry heath understorey with dense heather growth.
112	Area of open water approximately 3m across. Deep with clear water and around 30% coverage of common duckweed. Fed by minor channel culverted under track. With bramble, gorse, willow and some wood-rush at the edges.
113	Steep-sided gorge at a right angle to the road. Dominated by beech but also including sessile oak and sycamore, and occasional mature silver birch.
114	Small area within coniferous plantation woodland dominated by mature broad-leaved trees (sessile oak and beech). Also a small number of young birch trees present.
115	Mature broad-leaved woodland with beech, birch, sessile oak and occasional holly, with some signs of regeneration. Some waterlogged ground at the southern edge of the woodland.
116	Steep-sided valley on edge of recently felled area. Dominated by coniferous woodland although there is a higher percentage of broad-leaved trees here than in other areas.
117	Area of broadleaved woodland (approximate size 60m x 20m). Includes mature sessile oak, sycamore and frequent birch.
118	Group of mature beech (approximately 15) surrounded by coniferous plantation woodland. With regeneration of young trees (before beech and conifer) on steep slope to south.
119	Open section along bank to the south of the track, dominated by hairy wood-rush, with occasional patches of bracken and gorse.
120	Minor tributary of Fochabers Burn, directed under the track via a culvert. Less than 0.5m wide, with a fast flow. Mainly vegetated over, with some willow and birch alongside and some planted oak in area to the north of the track.
121	Veteran atlas cedar.
122	Minor tributary on Fochabers Burn. Up to 70cm wide, fast flowing with some falls and a gravelly substrate. A small number of birch trees alongside.
123	Minor tributary of Fochabers Burn. Channel width is variable but overall less than 1m. Moderate flow over silt and rocks. A small number of birch at the margins.
124	Small area of planting, with trees estimated to be around 15 years old. Approximately 20 trees, primarily oak but also some alder.

Appendix A18.4 - Description of Designated Sites

A18.4 Description of Designated Sites

Introduction

A summary of the qualifying features of each designated site is included within the main nature conservation chapter (Chapter 18).

Table 1.1 below sets out the rationale for designation for each site as specified in the relevant site citations.

Table 1.1 Description of Designated Sites

Site Name and Designation	Qualifying Features	Further Information from Site Citations
Culbin Sands, Culbin Forest and Findhorn Bay Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI)	Fungi assemblage, hydromorphological mire range, invertebrate assemblage, lichen assemblage, mesotrophic loch, saltmarsh, sand dunes, shingle and vascular plant assemblage.	Although Culbin's sand dune system, the largest in Britain, has been extensively afforested, a large part of the original dune remains unplanted. Culbin Bar has one of the best areas of vegetated shingle in Britain, with the richest example of northern heath on shingle. The saltmarsh, the most extensive in north-east Scotland, includes low marsh characterised by saltmarsh grass *Puccinellia maritima* and transitions to sand dune. The wide variety of habitats supports a diverse flora with over 550 species of flowering plants recorded. A number of nationally or regionally rare or scarce species occur, some at or near the limits of their range in Britain. The diversity of lichens and fungi is also outstanding with 150 and over 450 species recorded respectively. In addition, the foreshore and Findhorn Bay are important components of the internationally important Moray Firth group of estuaries and hold significant numbers of feeding and roosting wildfowl and waders for much of the year. The site is of national importance for its exceptionally diverse entomological interest including several rarer species of fly, beetle, moth and butterfly.
Darnaway and Lethen Forest Special Protection Area (SPA)	Capercaillie (*Tetrao urogallus*)	Mature (50 years or older) Scots pine *Pinus sylvestris* forms a significant part of the forest, much of which occurs either on sites of ancient woodland

Site Name and Designation	Qualifying Features	Further Information from Site Citations
		or long-established woodland of plantation origin. The site also includes areas of woodland of oak *Quercus spp.* and birch *Betula spp.,* and small areas of semi-open forest with heather moorland. Darnaway and Lethen Forest SPA qualifies under Article 4.1 by regularly supporting a breeding population of European importance of the Annex I species capercaillie *Tetrao urogallus*. The site is estimated to support 23 individuals (mean 1999/2000, 2002, 2003), representing about 2.1 % of the GB population.
Findhorn Bay Local Nature Reserve (LNR)	N/A	Findhorn Bay is an enclosed estuary giving shelter to people and wildlife. The Bay is nationally important for birds with significant numbers of migrant wildfowl and waders.
Loch Oire SSSI	Mesotrophic loch	Loch Oire supports undisturbed aquatic plant communities associated with mesotrophic conditions, including diverse submerged and emergent vegetation, and both sedge fen and marginal willow carr woodland.
Loch Spynie SPA, SSSI and Ramsar	Breeding bird assemblage, eutrophic loch, fen meadow, greylag goose (*Anser anser* non-breeding), open water transition fen, wet woodland	This formerly more extensive shallow loch and wetland site is one of very few large eutrophic waterbodies in northern Scotland. It contains extensive and well-developed areas of alder and willow carr, reedbeds and mesotrophic fen as well as a fairly diverse submerged flora. The loch is also important for its assemblage of breeding birds and as a winter roost for Icelandic greylag geese (9% of world population).
Lower Findhorn Woods Special Area of Conservation (SAC) & SSSI	Bryophyte assemblage, lichen assemblage, oligotrophic river/stream, upland mixed ash woodland, upland oak woodland, wet woodland and mixed woodland on	The range of woodland types which occur is outstanding for north-east Scotland. Oak and birch woodland, locally with hazel or juniper, is extensive on the valley slopes and reaches the lip of the gorge in places. The field-layer within the woodland is species-rich in places with several regionally or locally rare species such as bird's-nest orchid *Neottia nidus-avis*, wood

Site Name and Designation	Qualifying Features	Further Information from Site Citations
	base-rich soils associated with rocky slopes	fescue *Festuca altissima* and pale sedge *Carex pallescens*. The woodland lichen flora is well developed with one of the highest number of indicator species of old woodlands in eastern Scotland and the best example of the lichen community characterised by lungwort *Lobaria pulmonaria* in the north-east. The site supports a total of 166 bryophyte species.
Lower River Spey SSSI	Fluvial geomorphology of Scotland (geological), wet woodland and river shingle/sand.	Nationally designated due to the habitat assemblages present including river shingle and wet woodland.
Lower River Spey - Spey Bay SAC	Alder woodland on floodplains and coastal shingle vegetation outside the reach of waves	The extensive area of river shingle deposits in the lower River Spey floodplain supports a range of shingle-related habitats on a scale which is exceptional in Britain. A wide variety of vegetation types has developed reflecting the succession from presently mobile, unstable conditions to those which have been stable for considerably longer.
Moray and Nairn Coast SPA and Ramsar	Bar-tailed godwit (*Limosa lapponica*), dunlin (*Calidris alpina alpina*), greylag goose (*Anser anser*), osprey (*Pandion haliaetus*), oystercatcher (*Haematopus ostralegus*), pink-footed goose (*Anser brachyrhynchus*), red-breasted merganser (*Mergus serrator*), redshank (*Tringa totanus*),	The Moray and Nairn Coast is an integral part of the Moray Basin Firths and Bays SPA. It comprises the Culbin Bar, Findhorn Bay and Spey Bay which together form the easternmost estuarine component of the Moray Basin ecosystem. The site qualifies under Article 4.1 of the EC Wild Birds Directive by providing foraging grounds for nationally important numbers of breeding osprey *Pandion haliaetus*. The site also qualifies under Article 4.2 by regularly supporting over 20,000 wintering waterfowl and further qualifies by supporting internationally important wintering populations of Icelandic/Greenlandic pink-footed goose, Icelandic greylag goose and redshank.

Site Name and Designation	Qualifying Features	Further Information from Site Citations
	waterfowl assemblage and wigeon (*Anas penelope*). Intertidal mudflats and sandflats, saltmarsh, sand dunes, shingle and wet woodland.	
Quarry Wood SSSI	Upland oak woodland	Quarry Wood is one of the best examples of oak woodland in Moray and the lowest altitude example in north-east Scotland. The woodland is predominantly composed of sessile oak *Quercus petraea* with some birch (*Betula* species) and Scots pine *Pinus sylvestris* with a locally well-developed shrub layer of holly *Ilex aquifolium* and juniper *Juniperus communis.*
River Spey SAC & SSSI	Atlantic salmon (*Salmo salar*), freshwater pearl mussel (*Margaritifera margaritifera*), otter (*Lutra lutra*) and sea lamprey (*Pertromyzon marinus*).	The Spey is the second largest river in Scotland, characteristic of an alpine river with high flow levels often associated with snow melt persisting late into spring. The river is unusual in that the upper and lower reaches are fast flowing with steep gradients whilst the middle reaches flatten out and the river slows and meanders through a wide floodplain. The River Spey supports a major spawning population of the Atlantic salmon *Salmo salar*. The River Spey supports a relatively large population of the sea lamprey *Petromyzon marinus*, at the northern limit of its British distribution in fresh waters The River Spey has one of the largest populations in Scotland of the freshwater pearl mussel, including both adults and juveniles. The River Spey supports a healthy population of otters and is a good, representative freshwater site for this species in Scotland.
Spey Bay SSSI	Dingy skipper (*Erynnis tages*),	The site comprises a delta at the mouth of the River Spey, a narrow shingle beach to the east and west

Site Name and Designation	Qualifying Features	Further Information from Site Citations
	Hydromorphological mire range, Saltmarsh, shingle, small blue (*Cupido minimus*), vascular plant assemblage and wet woodland	of the river mouth and a very large strandplain of shingle deposits to the west, the largest in Scotland. The river delta, active shingle ridges and shingle strandplain support a wide range, and some exceptional examples, of riparian and coastal habitats. The delta at the mouth of the River Spey has extensive areas of mobile shingle, saltmarsh, riverbank scrub and woodland. The saltmarsh is one of the most extensive in north-east Scotland. The active shingle ridge is bare of vegetation and backed by a sequence of pioneer shingle communities of scattered perennial herbs, dwarf shrubs and/or lichens followed by shingle grassland and scrub or sand dune vegetation. The strandplain has extensive areas of shingle colonised only by lichens, as well as gorse scrub and birch woodland, and fen and carr woodland in damp hollows. The wide range of habitats supports an extremely rich flora with many nationally or regionally rare or declining vascular plants. The wide range of habitats supports diverse invertebrate communities including two rare butterflies, the small blue *Cupido minimus* and the dingy skipper *Erynnis tages.*

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Appendix A18.5 - Estimated Habitat Loss

A18.5 Estimated Habitat Loss

Introduction

The Ancient Woodland Inventory (AWI) database was used to estimate the total area of each AWI category that would be lost under the footprint of each option. The digitised map created from the Phase 1 Habitat Survey was used to calculate the area of habitat loss across each habitat type.

Table 1.1 below sets out the estimated habitat loss per habitat type. These are listed as both the AWI Categories and the Phase 1 Habitat classifications.

Table 1.1 Habitat Loss Estimate per Option

Habitat Type	Option/Habitat Loss (approximate hectare, ha)[1]					
	Hardmuir to Hillhead		Hillhead to Lhanbryde		Lhanbryde to East of Fochabers	
	North	South	North	South	North	South
Ancient Woodland (AWI) Categories						
Total AWI Loss	**3**	**43**	**2**	**18**	**53**	**48**
Semi-natural origin	<1	0	0	0	<1	0
Long-established of plantation origin (LEPO)	3	43	2	18	53	48
Other Woodlands (Roy)	0	0	0	0	0	0
NWSS	4	6	5	16	0	2
Habitat Loss by Phase 1 Classifications						
Woodland and Scrub Habitats						
Broadleaved semi-natural (A1.1.1)	<1	6	2	3	3	5
Broadleaved plantation (A1.1.2)	<1	<1	10	10	0	0
Coniferous plantation (A1.2.2)	0	12	7	24	39	31
Scrub (A2.1 & A2.2)	<1	<1	1	7	1	2
Mixed Woodland - Semi-natural (A1.3.1)	2	8	0	<1	<1	5
Coniferous Woodland - Semi-natural (A1.2.1)	<1	7	1	<1	3	3
Mixed woodland - plantation (A1.3.2)	0	15	1	<1	4	1
Total Woodland Loss	**5**	**50**	**22**	**44**	**50**	**47**
Agricultural Habitats						
Arable (J1.1)	107	77	144	86	30	28
Neutral grassland (B2.2)	3	17	1	15	3	0
Improved grassland (B4)	11	20	22	31	17	25
Poor semi-improved grassland (B6)	0	<1	19	13	5	5

[1] Linear habitats (hedgerows etc) are not included in these calculations; loss of AWI may occasionally be greater than actual woodland loss due to changes in land use since the inventory was established; non-listed habitats include: roads, buildings, quarries, bare ground, amenity grassland, habitat areas too small to map, etc.

Habitat Type	Option/Habitat Loss (approximate hectare, ha)[1]					
	Hardmuir to Hillhead		Hillhead to Lhanbryde		Lhanbryde to East of Fochabers	
	North	South	North	South	North	South
Total	**121**	**115**	**186**	**146**	**56**	**58**
Other Key Habitat Types						
Tall ruderal (C3.1)	<1	<1	2	1	0	0
Open water (G1, G2, G2.2)	<1	<1	<1	1	<1	<1
Marshy grassland (B5)	0	1	1	4	0	0
Total	**1**	**3**	**3**	**6**	**1**	**1**
Overall Habitat Loss	**127**	**167**	**213**	**197**	**107**	**105**
Total Option Footprint	**142**	**178**	**235**	**222**	**118**	**112**
Total Ha of non-listed habitats (% of total)	15 (11)	11 (6)	22 (10)	26 (12)	11 (10)	7 (7)

Appendix A18.6 - Legislation and Conservation Status

A18.6 Legislation and Conservation Status

Note: Documents are referenced at their appropriate titled sections rather than where mentioned in general text.

International Conventions and Directives

The Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)[1]

The CBD was adopted in 1993 and provides a legal framework for biodiversity conservation. Contracting Parties are required to create and enforce national strategies and action plans to conserve, protect and enhance biological diversity. The UK Government published the UK Biodiversity Action Plan (UKBAP) in 1994, and following this, the Scottish Biodiversity Strategy (SBS) was published in 2004.

A revised and updated Strategic Plan for biodiversity was adopted for 2011-2020[2], which included the Aichi Biodiversity Targets. The Aichi Biodiversity Targets have five strategic goals, relating generally to addressing biodiversity loss, improving biodiversity status, and enhancing implementation of measures. Further details can be found at https://www.cbd.int/sp.

The Bern Convention on the Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats[3]

The Bern Convention imposes legal obligations on European Union (EU) Member States and non-member States (as appropriate) to ensure conservation and protection of wild plant and animal species listed within the Convention. Special attention is given to endangered and vulnerable species, including endangered and vulnerable migratory species specified in appendices. The Convention is implemented in the UK through the Wildlife and Countryside Act (WCA) 1981 (as amended) and the Nature Conservation (Scotland) Act (NCA) 2004 (as amended).

The Bonn Convention on Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals[4]

The Bonn Convention came into force in 1985 (it was adopted in 1979). Under the convention signatories work together to conserve migratory species and their habitats by providing strict protection for endangered migratory species (which are listed in its' Appendix I), establishing multilateral agreements for the conservation and management of migratory species which require or would benefit from international cooperation (listed in Appendix II), and by cooperative research activities. In the UK, the strict protection of Appendix I species is provided by the WCA 1981 (as amended).

[1] Convention on Biological Diversity (1992). http://www.cbd.int/convention/about.shtml
[2] Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 (2010) http://www.cbd.int/sp/targets/default.shtml
[3] The Bern Convention (1979). The Convention on the Conservation of European Wildlife & Natural Habitats. Appendix II, Strictly Protected Fauna Species. http://conventions.coe.int/Treaty/EN/Treaties/Html/104.htm
[4] The Bonn Convention on Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (1979). http://www.cms.int/en/node/3916

The Ramsar Convention on The Convention on Wetlands of International Importance

The Convention on Wetlands of International Importance, (known as the Ramsar Convention), is an intergovernmental treaty that provides the framework for national action and international cooperation for the conservation of wetlands. The treaty was ratified by the UK in 1976 and the Convention's mission is "*the conservation and wise use of all wetlands through local and national actions and international cooperation, as a contribution towards achieving sustainable development throughout the world*".

The Birds Directive (European Council Directive (79/409/EEC) on the Conservation of Wild Birds)[5]

The Directive is a primary tool for delivering EU obligations under the CBD, the Ramsar and the Bonn Conventions. The Birds Directive requires Member States to protect all bird species, their sites and their habitats. Article 4 of the Directive makes provision for the identification and classification of Special Protection Areas (SPAs) for rare or vulnerable species which are listed in Annex I of the Directive, as well as for all regularly occurring migratory species.

The Habitats Directive (European Council Directive (92/43/EEC) on the Conservation of Natural Habitats and Wild Fauna and Flora)[6]

The Habitats Directive is the means by which Member States meet obligations made as a signatory of the Bern Convention. The aim of the Directive is to promote the maintenance of biodiversity by requiring Member States to take measures to maintain or restore natural habitats and wild species at a favourable conservation status and introduce robust protection for those habitats and species of European importance. Member States are required to propose a national list of sites for evaluation in order to form a European network of Sites of Community Importance (SCIs). Once adopted, these are designated by Member States as Special Areas of Conservation (SACs).

Article 3 of the Directive requires that designated sites (including SPAs designated under the Birds Directive) contribute to a coherent European ecological network of protected sites under the title Natura 2000. Member States should also endeavour to improve the ecological coherence of the Natura 2000 network by maintaining, and where appropriate developing, features of the landscape which are of major importance for wild fauna and flora.

[5] European Commission (2009). Council Directive (2009/147/EC) Conservation of Wild Birds. http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=OJ:L:2010:020:0007:0025:en:PDF

[6] European Commission (1992). Council Directive (92/43/EEC) Conservation of Natural Habitats and Wild Flora and Fauna. http://www.central2013.eu/fileadmin/user_upload/Downloads/Document_Centre/OP_Resources/HABITAT_DIRECTIVE_92-43-EEC.pdf

Water Framework Directive (European Council Directive (2000/60/EC))[7]

The Water Framework Directive (WFD) came into force in December 2000 and establishes a framework for Community action in the field of water policy. It requires that all inland and coastal watercourses in Europe do not deteriorate from their current condition and reach at least 'good' ecological status by 2015. Under the WFD, the ecological status of watercourses is now the focus of river management and impact assessment. The directive was transposed into national law occurred through the Water Environment and Water Services (WEWS) (Scotland) Act 2003.

European Council Regulation (No: 1100/2007) Establishing measures for the recovery of the stock of European eel (2007)[8]

In response to the decline of European eels, each Member State is required to create separate eel management plans for each river basin district.

National Legislation

The Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (WCA)[9]

The WCA (as amended) is the principal mechanism for wildlife protection in the UK. Its aim is to implement the requirements of both the Bern Convention and the Birds Directive. The statutory designation of Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) is the main site based protection measure in the UK that was established by this legislation.

The Conservation (Natural Habitats, &c.) Regulations 1994 (as amended in Scotland)[10]

These regulations (often referred to as 'the Habitats Regs') transpose the Habitats Directive into national law. The Regulations provide for the designation and protection of 'European sites', the protection of 'European protected species', and the adaptation of planning and other controls for the protection of European sites.

The Regulations make it an offence (subject to exceptions) to deliberately capture, kill, disturb, or trade in the animals listed in Schedule 2 of the Regulations, or pick, collect, cut, uproot, destroy, or trade in the plants listed in Schedule 4. However, these actions can be made lawful through the granting of licenses by the appropriate authorities (e.g. Scottish Natural Heritage (SNH)). Licenses may be granted for a number of purposes (such as science and education, conservation, preserving public health and safety), but only after the appropriate authority is satisfied that there are no

[7] European Commission (2000). Council Directive (2000/60/EC) Water Framework Directive. http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=CELEX:32000L0060:EN:HTML
[8] European Commission (2007). Council Regulation (1100/2007/EC) Establishing measures for the recovery of the stock of European eel (2007). http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=OJ:L:2007:248:0017:0023:EN:PDF
[9] Wildlife and Countryside Act (1981) (as amended). HMSO, London. http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1981/69/contents
[10] Conservation (Habitats, &c.) Regulations (1994) (as amended) http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ssi/2008/17/contents/made

satisfactory alternatives and that such actions will have no detrimental effect on the conservation status of the species concerned.

Nature Conservation (Scotland) Act (NCSA) 2004[11]

The NCSA requires Scottish Ministers to publish a list of habitats and species considered to be of principal importance for biodiversity. The Scottish Biodiversity List (SBL, 2005) is intended to be a tool for public bodies and an important source of information and guidance for all.

The Act also made amendments to the WCA strengthening the legal protection for threatened species. The protection afforded to wild birds, animals and plants is extended to include 'reckless' acts. The Protection of Badgers Act 1992[12] was also amended.

Wildlife and Natural Environment (Scotland) Act (WANE Act) (2011)[13]

The Act introduced new wildlife related offences, including 'vicarious liability'. It abolished the designation of 'areas of special protection' under the WCA (1981), and added further regulation of snaring practice, further regulates invasive and non-native species, ensured that badger licensing is consistent with that of other protected species, amends current arrangements for deer management and deer stalking, strengthened protection of badgers, changed how moor burn can be practised and makes operational changes to the management of SSSIs.

The Act also changed the approach to dealing with invasive non-native species (INNS) with the aim of preventing the release and spread of non-native animal and plant species into areas where they can cause damage to native species and habitats and to economic interests, ensuring a rapid response to new populations can be undertaken, and that effective control and eradication measures can be carried out when problem situations arise.

The Act also provided a licensing means to derogate offences against species protected by the WCA (1981) (as amended) in certain circumstances.

Protection of Badgers Act (PBA)

Badgers (*Meles meles*) and their setts are protected under the PBA (1992), which makes it illegal to kill, injure or take badgers or to interfere with a badger sett. The Act specifically defines a sett as "*any structure or place which displays signs indicating current use by a badger*". Interference with a sett includes blocking tunnels or damaging the sett in any way.

Activities affecting badgers or their setts which would otherwise be illegal can be carried out under licence where there is suitable justification and the problem cannot be resolved by alternative means.

[11] Nature Conservation (Scotland) Act (2004). HMSO, London.
[12] Protection of Badgers Act (1992) (c. 51). http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1992/51/contents
[13] Wildlife and Natural Environment (Scotland) Act (2011). http://www.legislation.gov.uk/asp/2011/6/contents

Environmental Protection Act (1990)[14]

This Act sets out a number of provisions to protect and conserve the natural environment including provision for the improved control of pollution arising from certain industrial and other processes.

Surface Waters (Fishlife) (Classification) (Scotland) Amendment Regulations (2007)[15]

These Regulations prescribe a system for classifying and monitoring the quality of inland waters in Scotland which need protection or improvement to support fish-life.

Salmon and Freshwater Fisheries (Consolidation) (Scotland) Act (SFFA) (2003)16

This Act affords protection through a number of orders to which planning authorities must adhere. Under this any person who knowingly takes, injures or destroys; or obstructs the passage of, any smolt, parr, salmon fry or alevin shall be guilty of an offence. In addition, any person knowingly injuring or disturbing salmon spawn; or disturbs any spawning bed or any bank or shallow in which the spawn of salmon may be, shall be guilty of an offence.

Water Environment and Water Services (Scotland) Act (WEWS) (2003)[17]

The WEWS Act implements the WFD in Scotland but it is now augmented by the Controlled Activities Regulations (CAR) **[18]**.

Water Environment (Controlled Activities) (Scotland) Regulations (CAR) (2011) (as amended)

The CAR aids the implementation in Scotland of the WFD. The Regulations apply to inland waters and wetlands linking to lochs or rivers (although they may be extended to cover all wetlands). The Regulations were amended in 2013.

UK Biodiversity Action Plan[19]

The UK BAP, published in 1994, was the UK Government's response to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), which the UK signed up to in 1992 in Rio de Janeiro. The UK BAP described the biological resources of the UK and provided detailed plans for conservation of these resources. Action plans for the most threatened species and habitats were set out to aid recovery, and national

[14] Environment Protection Act (1990) (c. 43). http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1990/43/contents
[15] Surface Waters (Fishlife) (Classification) (Scotland) Amendment Regulations (2007) Scottish Statutory Instruments 178 2007. ISBN 9780110719696. The Stationery Office Limited. http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ssi/2007/178/regulation/2/made?view=plain
[16] Salmon and Freshwater Fisheries (Consolidation) (Scotland) Act (2003). ISBN 0105900575. The Stationery Office Limited. http://www.legislation.gov.uk/asp/2003/15/contents
[17] Water Environment and Water Services (Scotland) Act (2003). http://www.legislation.gov.uk/asp/2003/3/contents
[18] Water Environment (Controlled Activities) (Scotland) Regulations (2011). The Stationery Office Limited. http://www.legislation.gov.uk/sdsi/2011/9780111012963/contents
[19] UK Biodiversity Action Plan. http://jncc.defra.gov.uk/ukbap

reports, produced every three- to five-years, showed how the UK BAP was contributing to the UK's progress towards the significant reduction of biodiversity loss called for by the CBD.

The 'UK Post-2010 Biodiversity Framework'[20], published in July 2012, succeeds the UK BAP and 'Conserving Biodiversity – the UK Approach', and is the result of a change in strategic thinking following the publication of the CBD's 'Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011–2020' and its 20 'Aichi Biodiversity Targets', at Nagoya, Japan in October 2010, and the launch of the new EU Biodiversity Strategy (EUBS) in May 2011. The Framework demonstrates how the work of the four countries and the UK contributes to achieving the Aichi Biodiversity Targets, and identifies the activities required to complement the country biodiversity strategies in achieving the targets.

Local Biodiversity Action Plans

Local Biodiversity Action Plans were created to reflect and help implement the national priorities identified in the UK BAP, and to identify and address local priorities and local distinctiveness. LBAPs are implemented through planning policy which identifies habitats and species of particular value or risk at the local or regional level. The North-East Scotland LBAP is the relevant LBAP for the options. This document is currently unavailable as it is under review for updating, however the previous list of priority species (habitat list was not available) was provided by the North-East Scotland Biological Records Centre (NESBReC)[21].

A full list of local priority species from the previous North-East Scotland LBAP can be found at the end of this document (Table 1.1). There are no lists of the priority habitats from the North-East Scotland LBAP currently available, however it is expected that they are much in line with the UK BAP priority habitats. As it is under review there are currently no habitat or species action plans prepared in associated with this LBAP.

Locally Important Sites

District Wildlife Sites (DWS), Local Wildlife Sites (LWS), Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINC) and Sites of Interest to Natural Science (SINS) are the classifications given to sites of local conservation interest designated by local planning authorities. Such sites are afforded a measure of protection in local development plans.

Non-Statutory Guidance

International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN)[22]

The IUCN was founded in 1948 with the aim of delivering conservation and sustainability at both the global and local level through science, delivery of conservation projects and influencing international environmental conventions, policies and law.

[20] Joint Nature Conservation Committee and Defra (on behalf of the Four Countries' Biodiversity Group). (2012). UK Post-2010 Biodiversity Framework. July 2012. http://jncc.defra.gov.uk/page-6189
[21] North-East Scotland Biological Records Centre, NE LBAP Priority Species List (by email on 28/06/18)
[22] IUCN (2013). The IUCN Red List of Threatened Species. http://www.iucnredlist.org

The IUCN produces the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species (IUCN (2017) as a comprehensive and objective global approach for evaluating the conservation status of plant and animal species. The aim of the Red List is to provide information and analyses on the status, trends and threats to species in order to inform and catalyse action for biodiversity conservation. Species are classified into the following categories according to their extinction risk: Extinct; Extinct in the Wild; Critically Endangered; Endangered; Vulnerable; Near Threatened; Least Concern; and Data Deficient.

Scottish Biodiversity Strategy (SBS)[23][24]

The SBS was published in 2004 and places a duty of care on public bodies to further the conservation of biodiversity in Scotland, the execution of which is implemented through Local Biodiversity Action Plans (LBAPs). The strategy has been revised in light of new International and European agreements, the European Union's Biodiversity Strategy for 2020 and the 'Aichi Biodiversity Targets'. The current strategy, "2020 Challenge for Scotland's Biodiversity" was published in June 2013 (Scottish Government, 2013) and provides a focus for action up to 2020. The 2020 Challenge together with the original 2004 Strategy make up the current SBS.

Scottish Biodiversity List (SBL) (2013)[25]

The SBL is a list of animals, plants and habitats that Scottish Ministers consider to be of principal importance for biodiversity conservation in Scotland and was developed to meet the requirements of the NCSA (2004). The list provides a guide to empower decision-makers to further the conservation of biodiversity in Scotland. It was first published in 2005 and has since been updated since with the most recent version being 22 April 2013.

Scottish Planning Policy (SPP)[26]

The SPP published in 2014 is the statement of the Scottish Government's policy on nationally important land use planning matters. This document supersedes a collection of documents including National Policy Planning Guideline (NPPG) 14: Natural Heritage. It outlines planning guidance in relation to Landscape and Natural Heritage by providing planning authorities with advice on how to maintain and enhance biodiversity.

Planning Advice Note 60: Planning for Natural Heritage (2000)[27]

Planning Advice Note (PAN) 60 (Scottish Executive, 2000 updated 2008) is a guidance document that provides good practice in relation to natural heritage in Scotland. It includes the protection of

[23] Scottish Executive (2004). Scotland's Biodiversity: It's in Your Hands - A strategy for the conservation and enhancement of biodiversity in Scotland. http://scotland.gov.uk/Publications/2004/05/19366/37250
[24] Scottish Government (2013). 2020 Challenge for Scotland's Biodiversity- A Strategy for the conservation and enhancement of biodiversity in Scotland. Scottish Government, Edinburgh. http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/2013/06/5538
[25] Scottish Biodiversity List (2013) http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/Environment/WildlifeHabitats/16118/Biodiversitylist/SBL
[26] Scottish Government (2014). Scottish Planning Policy. June 2014
[27] Scottish Executive (2000). PAN 60: Planning For Natural Heritage. August 2000 http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Resource/Doc/927/0016396.pdf

biodiversity, designated sites and wider natural heritage, and sets out the provision that all development effects can be material considerations in the planning process.

Habitats and Species

Terrestrial Habitat

Semi-natural habitats may be protected under the Conservation (Habitats, &c.) Regulations (1994) (as amended), and the WCA 1981 (as amended).

The WCA (1981) (as amended) makes it an offence (subject to exceptions) to intentionally pick, uproot or destroy any wild plant listed in Schedule 8 of the WCA, or any seed or spore attached to any such wild plant. The WCA also contains measures for preventing the establishment of non-native species which may be detrimental to native wildlife.

The SBL (April 2013) currently lists 41 habitats across a range of types: coastal, freshwater, upland, lowland and woodland. It also includes 232 species of flowering plant, 12 species of fern, seven species of stonewort, 210 species of moss and liverwort and 240 species of alga.

The North-East Scotland LBAP (in review) categorised habitats into six groups (Table 1.1); Coastal and Marine, Farmland and Grassland, Wetland and Freshwater, Woodland, Montane and Heath and Bog. The full breakdown individual habitats within those groups was not available. This has also identified 46 plants as locally important species including two mosses/Liverworts and twenty-four lichens. Three species of fungi are also included on the list of locally important species.

Terrestrial Invertebrates

Terrestrial invertebrates are protected in the UK under the Conservation (Habitats, &c.) Regulations (1994) (as amended) and WCA (1981) (as amended).

There are 286 species of terrestrial invertebrates (not including molluscs) listed on the current version of the SBL (April 2013). There are 36 invertebrate species of ant, bee, beetle, butterfly, moth and wasp on the previous North-East Scotland LBAP.

Bats

Bats are a European Protected Species and therefore all British bat species and their roosts are protected under the following legislation: The Bern Convention (with the exception of common pipistrelle) (1979) (Appendix II); The Bonn Convention (1979); The Habitats Directive (1992) (Annex IV) and The Conservation (Natural Habitats, &c.) Regulations 1994 (as amended).

It is possible to obtain derogations under the Conservation (Natural Habitats, &c.) Regulations 1994 (as amended) in respect to destruction and disturbance of bat roosts through a licence from SNH, however this is only possible under specific criteria.

The WCA (1981) (as amended) makes it an offence to intentionally/recklessly kill or injure any bat species.

Nine species of bats are listed on the current version of the SBL (April 2013). Two species of bat are listed on the North-East Scotland LBAP.

Badger

Badgers are protected under the PBA and the WCA (1981) (as amended). Derogations under the PBA in respect to the destruction and disturbance of badger setts can only be undertaken under licence through consultation with SNH (the licensing authority).

Badgers are not listed on the current version of the SBL (April 2013), or the previous version of the North-East Scotland LBAP.

Breeding Birds

Populations of both migratory and resident birds within the UK are protected under the Conservation (Habitats, &c.) Regulations (1994) (as amended) and the WCA (1981) (as amended).

Protection is also given under the WCA (1981) (as amended) for all wild birds, their nests and eggs, which makes it an offence to intentionally or recklessly kill, injure or take any wild bird; take, damage or destroy the nest of any wild bird while it is in use or being built; take or destroy the egg of any wild bird; and disturb any wild bird listed in Schedule 1 while it is nest building or is at (or near) a nest with eggs or young; or disturb the dependent young of such a bird.

The current version of the SBL (April 2013) includes 105 bird species. The North-east Scotland LBAP contained 41 bird species associated with Habitat Action Plans. None of these had dedicated North-East Species Action Plans.

Reptiles

Common lizard (*Zootoca vivipara*), slow-worm (*Anguis fragilis*) and adder (*Vipera berus*) are common and widespread in Britain and receive limited protection under the WCA (1981) (as amended), which makes it an offence to intentionally or recklessly kill or injure these reptile species.

Common lizard, slow-worm and adder are all listed on the current version of the SBL (April 2013) and slow-worm and adder were listed on the previous North-East Scotland LBAP.

Pine Marten

Pine marten (*Martes martes*) is protected in the UK under the WCA (1981) (as amended) and Conservation (Natural Habitats, &c.) Regulations (1994) (as amended). Taken together, these protect pine marten from intentional or reckless killing or injury and disturbance, and from possession or sale.

Pine marten is listed on the current version of the SBL (April 2013).

Red Squirrel

Red squirrel (*Sciurus vulgaris*) is protected under the WCA (1981) (as amended). This legislation makes it an offence to intentionally or recklessly kill or injure red squirrel, disturb or destroy a place of shelter, and take or sell the species.

Red squirrel is listed on the current version of the SBL (April 2013) and on the previous North-East Scotland LBAP where it has a dedicated North-East Species Action Plan.

Wildcat

Wildcat (*Felis silvestris*) is protected under the Conservation (Habitats, &c.) Regulations (1994) (as amended) and the WCA (1981) (as amended).

Wildcat is listed on the current version of the SBL (April 2013).

Otter

Otter (*Lutra lutra*) is classed as a European Protected Species and is protected under the Conservation (Habitats, &c.) Regulations (1994) (as amended) and the WCA (1981) (as amended). This legislation prevents the deliberate or reckless killing or injury of an otter, disturbance or obstruction of an otter or its place of shelter or resting or breeding place. Certain activities can be carried out under licence from SNH.

Otter is listed on the current version of the SBL (April 2013) on the previous North-East Scotland LBAP.

Water Vole

Water vole (*Arvicola amphibius*) is protected under the WCA (1981) (as amended). This protects water vole from: damage, destruction or obstruction of access to any structure or place that water voles use for shelter or protection; and disturbance while occupying such a structure or place used for shelter or protection.

Water vole is listed on the current version of the SBL (April 2013) and on the previous North-East Scotland LBAP where it has a dedicated North-East Species Action Plan.

Amphibians

Great crested newts (*Triturus cristatus*) are classed as a European Protected Species and are fully protected in the UK under the Conservation (Natural Habitats, &c.) Regulations (1994) (as amended). This legislation makes it an offence to kill, injure, capture or disturb great crested newts; damage or destroy their habitat; or possess, sell or trade great crested newts. This legislation refers to all great crested newt life stages, including eggs.

Common frog (*Rana temporaria*), common toad (*Bufo bufo*), palmate newt (*Lissotriton helveticus*) and smooth newt (*Lissotriton vulgaris*) are protected under the WCA (1981) (as amended) from being sold or traded.

Great crested newt is listed on the current version of the SBL (April 2013) and the previous North-East Scotland LBAP. Common toad and palmate newt were also included in the LBAP.

Aquatic Habitat/River Habitat

The WFD (2000) required Member States to ensure that all watercourses in Europe reach at least 'good' ecological status by 2015. Any modifications to a river channel and/or riparian corridor may require prior approval by SEPA under requirements of the CAR (2005).

Fish

Fish species are afforded protection under various mechanisms including the Conservation (Habitats, &c.) Regulations (1994) (as amended), European Eel (Council Regulation (EC) No 1100/2007); SFFA (2003), and Surface Waters (Fishlife) (Classification) (Scotland) Amendment Regulations (2007).

Atlantic salmon (*Salmo salar*), bullhead (*Cottus gobio*), sea lamprey (*Petromyzon marinus*), river lamprey (*Lampetra fluviatilis*) and brook lamprey (*L. planeri*) are all listed in Annex II of the Habitats Directive (1992). Although, Atlantic salmon and river lamprey are also listed on Annex V of this Directive, which lists species whose taking in the wild and exploitation may be subject to management measures.

Thirteen fish species that are listed on the current version of the SBL (April 2013); including the three lamprey species, Atlantic salmon and European/common eel (*Anguilla anguilla*). There were five fish species, listed on the previous North-East Scotland LBAP including the three lamprey species and Atlantic Salmon.

Table 1.1 Priority Species List from previous North-East Scotland LBAP

North East LBAP Priority Species List Including UK Biodiversity Action Plan Species and Locally Important Species			
Species with dedicated North-East Species Action Plan			
Species action addressed through relevant Habitat Action Plan			
Group	**Scientific name**	**Common name**	**Main Habitat Grouping**
UK PRIORITY SPECIES			
Vertebrates			
Mammal	*Arvicola terrestris*	water vole	Wetland and Freshwater
Mammal	*Lepus europaeus*	brown hare	Farmland and Grassland
Mammal	*Lutra lutra*	European otter	Wetland and Freshwater
Mammal	*Phocoena phocoena*	harbour porpoise	Coastal and Marine

North East LBAP Priority Species List Including UK Biodiversity Action Plan Species and Locally Important Species			
Species with dedicated North-East Species Action Plan			
Species action addressed through relevant Habitat Action Plan			
Group	**Scientific name**	**Common name**	**Main Habitat Grouping**
Mammal	*Pipistrellus pipistrellus*	pipistrelle bat	Woodland
Mammal	*Sciurus vulgaris*	red squirrel	Woodland
Mammal	*Tursiops truncatus*	bottlenose dolphin	Coastal and Marine
Bird	*Alauda arvensis*	skylark	Farmland and Grassland
Bird	*Carduelis cannabina*	linnet	Farmland and Grassland
Bird	*Emberiza schoeniclus*	reed bunting	Wetland and Freshwater, Montane, Heath and Bog
Bird	*Loxia scotica*	Scottish crossbill	Woodland
Bird	*Melanitta nigra*	common scoter	Coastal and Marine
Bird	*Miliaria calandra*	corn bunting	Farmland and Grassland
Bird	*Muscicapa striata*	spotted flycatcher	Woodland
Bird	*Passer montanus*	tree sparrow	Woodland
Bird	*Perdix perdix*	grey partridge	Farmland and Grassland
Bird	*Pyrrhula pyrrhula*	bullfinch	Woodland
Bird	*Tetrao tetrix*	black grouse	Montane, Heath and Bog
Bird	*Tetrao urogallus*	capercaillie	Woodland
Bird	*Turdus philomelos*	song thrush	Woodland
Amphibian	*Triturus cristatus*	great crested newt	Wetland and Freshwater
Invertebrates			
Ant	*Formica aquilonia*	Scottish wood ant	Woodland
Ant	*Formica exsecta*	narrow-headed ant	Woodland
Ant	*Formica lugubris*	hairy wood ant	Woodland
Bee	*Bombus distinguendus*	great yellow bumble bee	Farming and Grassland, Montane, Heath and Bog
Beetle	*Crytocephalus decemmaculatus*	a leaf beetle	
Beetle	*Dyschirius angustatus*	a ground beetle	Wetland and Freshwater
Butterfly	*Aricia artaxerxes*	northern brown argus	Farmland and Grassland
Butterfly	*Boloria euphrosyne*	pearl-bordered fritillary	Montane, Heath and Bog, Woodland
Fly	*Blera fallax*	a hoverfly	
Fly	*Hammerschmidtia ferruginea*	aspen hoverfly	Woodland
Fly	*Metasyrphus lapponicus*	a hoverfly	
Fly	*Lipsothrix ecucullata*	a cranefly	Woodland, Freshwater and Wetland
Fly	*Rhabdomastix hilaris*	a cranefly	Wetland and Freshwater
Fly	*Thereva lunulata*	a stiletto fly	Wetland and Freshwater

North East LBAP Priority Species List Including UK Biodiversity Action Plan Species and Locally Important Species			
Species with dedicated North-East Species Action Plan			
Species action addressed through relevant Habitat Action Plan			
Group	**Scientific name**	**Common name**	**Main Habitat Grouping**
Mollusc	*Margaritifera margaritifera*	a freshwater pearl mussel	Wetland and Freshwater
Mollusc	*Atrina fragilis*	fan mussel	Coastal and Marine
Mollusc	*Modiolus modiolus*	horse mussel	Coastal and Marine
Moth	*Epione paralellaria*	dark bordered beauty	
Moth	*Hemaris tityus*	narrow-bordered bee hawk	Farmland and Grassland
Moth	*Noctua orbona*	lunar yellow underwing	Coastal and Marine
Moth	*Paradiarsia sobrina*	cousin German	
Moth	*Semiothisa carbonaria*	netted mountain	Montane, Heath and Bog
Moth	*Xestia alpicola alpina*	northern dart	Montane, Heath and Bog
Moth	*Xylena exsoleta*	sword grass	
Stonefly	*Brachyptera putata*	a stonefly	Wetland and Freshwater
Plants			
Fungi	*Sarcodon imbricatum*etc.	threatened hydnelloid fungi (14 species)	Woodland
Lichen	*Alectoria ochroleuca*	alpine sulphur-tresses	Montane, Heath and Bog
Lichen	*Bacidia incompta*	a lichen	Woodland
Lichen	*Bellemerea alpina*	a lichen	Montane, Heath and Bog
Lichen	*Caloplaca luteoalba*	orange-fruited elm-lichen	Woodland
Lichen	*Cladonia botrytes*	stump lichen	Woodland
Lichen	*Gyalecta ulmi*	Elm's gyalecta	Woodland
Lichen	*Hypogymnia intestiniformis*	a lichen	Montane, Heath and Bog
Lichen	*Opegrapha paraxanthodes*	a lichen	
Liverwort	*Marsupella stableri (M. boeckii)*	stabler's rustwort	Montane, Heath and Bog
Moss	*Buxbaumia viridis*	green shield moss	
Moss	*Hamatocaulis vernicosus*	slender green feather-moss	
Moss	*Andreaea frigida*	icy rock moss	Montane, Heath and Bog
Moss	*Bryum calophyllum*	matted bryum	Coastal and Marine
Moss	*Bryum uliginosum*	cernuous bryum	
Moss	*Bryum warneum*	sea bryum	Coastal and Marine
Moss	*Orthotrichum obtusifolium*	blunt-leaved bristle-moss	Woodland

North East LBAP Priority Species List Including UK Biodiversity Action Plan Species and Locally Important Species			
Species with dedicated North-East Species Action Plan			
Species action addressed through relevant Habitat Action Plan			
Group	**Scientific name**	**Common name**	**Main Habitat Grouping**
Moss	*Orthotrichum pallens*	a moss	
Vascular Plant	*Athyrium flexile*	Newman's lady-fern	Montane, Heath and Bog
Vascular Plant	*Cochlearia micacea*	mountain scurvy-grass	Montane, Heath and Bog
Vascular Plant	*Cochlearia scotica*	Scottish scurvy-grass	Coastal and Marine
Vascular Plant	*Euphrasia rotundifolia*	an eyebright	Coastal and Marine
Vascular Plant	*Juniperus communis*	juniper	Montane, Heath and Bog, Coastal and Marine
Vascular Plant	*Linnaea borealis*	twinflower	Woodland
Vascular Plant	*Luronium natans*	floating water plantain	Wetland and Freshwater
Vascular Plant	*Lycopodiella inundata*	marsh clubmoss	Coastal and Marine
Vascular Plant	*Melampyrum sylvaticum*	small cow-wheat	Freshwater and Wetland, Woodland
Vascular Plant	*Pilularia globulifera*	pillwort	Wetland and Freshwater
Vascular Plant	*Potamogeton compressus*	grass-wrack pondweed	Wetland and Freshwater
Vascular Plant	*Salix lanata*	woolly willow	Montane, Heath and Bog
Vascular Plant	*Saxifraga hirculus*	yellow marsh saxifrage	Wetland and Freshwater
Vascular Plant	*Scandix pecten-veneris*	shepherd's needle	Farmland and grassland
Vascular Plant	*Silene gallica*	small-flowered catchfly	Farmland and grassland
Vascular Plant	*Trichomanes speciosum*	Killarney fern	
UK SPECIES of CONSERVATION CONCERN			
Vertebrates			
Mammal	*Myotis daubentonii*	Daubenton's bat	Woodland/Freshwater/Farming and Grassland
Mammal	*Neomys fodiens*	water shrew	Freshwater and Wetland
Bird	*Anthus trivialis*	tree pipit	Woodland
Bird	*Aquila chrysaetos*	golden eagle	Montane, Heath and Bog
Bird	*Bucephala clangula*	goldeneye	Freshwater and Wetland
Bird	*Carduelis flammea*	lesser redpoll	Woodland
Bird	*Carduelis flavirostris*	twite	Farming and Grassland
Bird	*Charadrius morinellus*	dotterel	Montane, Heath and Bog
Bird	*Circus cyaenus*	hen harrier	Montane, Heath and Bog
Bird	*Emberiza citrinella*	yellowhammer	Farming and Grassland

North East LBAP Priority Species List Including UK Biodiversity Action Plan Species and Locally Important Species			
Species with dedicated North-East Species Action Plan			
Species action addressed through relevant Habitat Action Plan			
Group	**Scientific name**	**Common name**	**Main Habitat Grouping**
Bird	*Falco tinnunculus*	kestrel	Montane, Heath and Bog
Bird	*Gallinago gallinago*	snipe	Freshwater and Wetland
Bird	*Locustella naevia*	grasshopper warbler	Farming and Grassland
Bird	*Numenius arquata*	curlew	Coastal and Marine
Bird	*Panurus biarmicus*	bearded tit	Freshwater and Wetland
Bird	*Parus cristatus*	crested tit	Woodland
Bird	*Plectrophenax nivalis*	snow bunting	Montane, Heath and Bog
Bird	*Pluvialis apricaria*	golden plover	Montane, Heath and Bog
Bird	*Podiceps auritus*	Slavonian grebe	Coastal and Marine
Bird	*Porzana porzana*	spotted crake	Freshwater and Wetland
Bird	*Rallus aquaticus*	water rail	Freshwater and Wetland
Bird	*Somateria mollissima*	eider	Coastal and Marine
Bird	*Sterna albifrons*	little tern	Coastal and Marine
Bird	*Sterna hirundo*	common tern	Coastal and Marine
Bird	*Sterna paradisaea*	arctic tern	Coastal and Marine
Bird	*Sterna sandvicensis*	Sandwich tern	Coastal and Marine
Bird	*Tringa totanus*	redshank	Coastal and Marine
Bird	*Tyto alba*	barn owl	Farmland and Grassland
Bird	*Vanellus vanellus*	lapwing	Farmland and Grassland
Amphibian	*Bufo bufo*	common toad	Freshwater and Wetland
Amphibian	*Triturus helveticus*	palmate newt	Freshwater and Wetland
Reptile	*Anguis fragilis*	slow-worm	
Reptile	*Vipera berus*	adder	Montane, Heath and Bog
Fish	*Lampetra fluviatilis*	river lamprey	Wetland and Freshwater
Fish	*Lampetra planeri*	brook lamprey	Wetland and Freshwater
Fish	*Petromyzon marinus*	Sea lamprey	Coastal and Marine
Fish	*Salmo salar*	Atlantic salmon	Wetland and Freshwater/ Marine
Fish	*Salvelinus alpinus*	arctic charr	Freshwater and Wetland
Invertebrates			
Butterfly	*Boloria selene*	small pearl bordered fritillary	Woodland
Butterfly	*Coenonympha tullia*	large heath	Montane, Heath and Bog
Butterfly	*Cupido minimus*	small blue	Farmland and Grassland, Coastal and Marine
Damsel/Dragonfly	*Coenagrion hastulatum*	northern blue damselfly	Freshwater and Wetland
Fly	*Laphria flava*	a robberfly	

North East LBAP Priority Species List Including UK Biodiversity Action Plan Species and Locally Important Species			
Species with dedicated North-East Species Action Plan			
Species action addressed through relevant Habitat Action Plan			
Group	**Scientific name**	**Common name**	**Main Habitat Grouping**
Moth	*Endromis versicolora*	Kentish glory	Woodland
Moth	*Zygaena exulans subochracea*	Scotch burnet	Coastal and Marine, Montane, Heath and Bog
Spider Group	*Dipoena torva*	a spider	
Plants			
Lichen	*Cladonia mitis*	a lichen	Coastal and Marine
Lichen	*Cladonia stricta*	upright mountain-cladonia	Montane, Heath and Bog
Lichen	*Collema dichotomum*	river jelly lichen	Freshwater and Wetland
Lichen	*Parmelia subargentifera*	pale edged shield lichen	Woodland
Liverwort	*Gymnomitrion apiculatum*	pointed frostwort	
Vascular Plant	*Cicerbita alpina*	alpine sow-thistle	Montane, Heath and Bog
Vascular Plant	*Cystopteris dickieana*	Dickie's bladder fern	Rock, Coastal and Marine
Vascular Plant	*Diphasiastrum issleri*	Issleri's clubmoss	Montane, Heath and Bog
Vascular Plant	*Erigeron borealis*	Alpine fleabane	Montane, Heath and Bog
Vascular Plant	*Moneses uniflora*	one-flowered wintergreen	Montane, Heath and Bog
Vascular Plant	*Sagina boydii*	Boyd's pearlwort	
Vascular Plant	*Sagina saginoides*	Alpine pearlwort	Montane, Heath and Bog
Vascular Plant	*Saxifraga cespitosa*	tufted saxifrage	Montane, Heath and Bog
Vascular Plant	*Zostera marina*	seagrass	Coastal and Marine
LOCALLY IMPORTANT SPECIES			
Vertebrates			
Bird	*Lagopus mutus*	Ptarmigan	Montane, Heath and Bog
Invertebrates			
Beetle	*Ampedus tristis*		
Beetle	*Cercyon alpinus*		
Beetle	*Chrysanthia nigricornis*		
Butterfly/Moth	*Catoptria permutatella*		
Butterfly/Moth	*Erynnis tages*	dingy skipper	Farmland and Grassland, Coast
Mollusc	*Vertigo alpestris*		
Mollusc	*Vertigo pulsilla*		
Spider	*Lepthyphantes insiguis*		

North East LBAP Priority Species List Including UK Biodiversity Action Plan Species and Locally Important Species			
Species with dedicated North-East Species Action Plan			
Species action addressed through relevant Habitat Action Plan			
Group	**Scientific name**	**Common name**	**Main Habitat Grouping**
Plants			
Fungi	*Laccaria maritima*		Coastal and Marine
Fungi	*Suillus flavidus*		Coastal and Marine
Fungi	*Tricholoma caligatum*		Coastal and Marine
Algae	*Fucus distichus edentatus*		Coastal and Marine
Lichen	*Anaptychia ciliaris ciliaris*		Woodland
Lichen	*Bacidia igniarii*		Woodland
Lichen	*Bacidia subincompta*		Woodland
Lichen	*Biatora efflorescens*		
Lichen	*Calicium parvum*		
Lichen	*Catinaria neuschildii*		
Lichen	*Cetraria pinastri*		
Lichen	*Chaenotheca laevigata*		
Lichen	*Chaenotheca xyloxena*		
Lichen	*Cladonia cenotea*		
Lichen	*Cladonia maxima*		
Lichen	*Cladonia uncialis uncialis*		Coastal and Marine
Lichen	*Hypocenomyce xanthococca*		
Lichen	*Hypogymnia farinacea*		Montane, Heath and Bog
Lichen	*Lecidea botryosa*		
Lichen	*Leptogium saturninum*		Woodland
Lichen	*Micarea contexta*		
Lichen	*Parmelia septentrionalis*		Woodland
Lichen	*Peltigera malacea*		Coastal and Marine
Lichen	*Pseudephebe minuscula*		
Lichen	*Rinodina degeliana*		
Lichen	*Sagiolechia protuberans*		
Lichen	*Toninia coelestina*		
Lichen	*Toninia cumulata*		
Liverworts/Mosses	*Cryptothallus mirabilis*		Woodland
Liverworts/Mosses	*Dicranum spurium*		Montane, Heath and Bog

North East LBAP Priority Species List Including UK Biodiversity Action Plan Species and Locally Important Species			
Species with dedicated North-East Species Action Plan			
Species action addressed through relevant Habitat Action Plan			
Group	**Scientific name**	**Common name**	**Main Habitat Grouping**
Vascular plants	*Arctostaphylos alpinus*	mountain bearberry	Montane, Heath and Bog
Vascular plants	*Asplenium septentrionale*	forked spleenwort	Montane, Heath and Bog
Vascular plants	*Astragalus alpinus*	Alpine milk-vetch	Montane, Heath and Bog
Vascular plants	*Carex lachenalii*	hare's-foot sedge	Montane, Heath and Bog
Vascular plants	*Carex norvegica*	close-headed alphine-sedge	Montane, Heath and Bog
Vascular plants	*Carex rariflora*	mountain bog-sedge	Montane, Heath and Bog
Vascular plants	*Corallorhiza trifida*	coral-root orchid	Freshwater and Wetland, Woodland, Coastal and Marine
Vascular plants	*Corynephorus canescens*	grey hairgrass	Coastal and Marine
Vascular plants	*Dryas octopetala*	mountain avens	Montane, Heath and Bog
Vascular plants	*Epipactis atrorubens*	dark-red helleborine	Freshwater and Wetland
Vascular plants	*Gnaphalium norvegicum*	Highland cudweed	Montane, Heath and Bog
Vascular plants	*Lathyrus japonicus*	sea pea	Coastal and Marine
Vascular plants	*Mertensia maritima*	oyster plant	Coastal and Marine
Vascular plants	*Pyrola rotundifolia*	round-leaved wintergreen	Coastal and Marine
Vascular plants	*Ranunculus reptans*	creeping spearwort	Freshwater and Wetland
Vascular plants	*Ulmus glabra*	wych elm	Woodland, Farmland and Grassland

Appendix A20.1 - Assessment Methodology

A20.1 Assessment Methodology

Impact Significance

Tables 1.1 and 1.2 provide the criteria used to assess the sensitivity of an attribute and the magnitude of impact respectively. The level of significance of a predicted effect (Table 1.3) was assessed based on the sensitivity of the attribute and the magnitude of potential impact.

Table 1.1 Attribute Sensitivity Criteria

Sensitivity	Criteria
Very High Receptor/ Attribute has a high quality or rarity on regional or national scale	**Hydrology and Flood Risk:** • Water feature/floodplain causing direct flood risk to the adjacent populated areas, with greater than 100 residential properties or critical infrastructure at risk; and/or • A water feature/floodplain providing critical flood alleviation benefits (e.g. floodplain storage and conveyance); and/or • Flood Alleviation Scheme in operation protecting greater than 100 residential or commercial properties from flood risk. **Fluvial geomorphology:** • Water Framework Directive (WFD) hydromorphological or physical condition status of 'High', and/or located within or directly adjacent to a Geological Conservation Review (GCR) site/ geological Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI); • Channel morphology: watercourse with a diverse range of morphological features (such as variations in channel width and depth, natural planform, bed substrates and features, with no signs of modifications or morphological pressures); • Natural fluvial processes: watercourse with a diverse range of natural fluvial processes (such as natural erosion/deposition patterns, varied flow types and velocities) and not modified or influenced by human pressures including direct modifications or land use; highly vulnerable to change as a result of modifications; and • Support to aquatic species: watercourse supports a diverse range of species and habitats in the channel and the riparian zone (particularly protected species) which are sensitive to changes in channel morphology, flow patterns, suspended sediment and turbidity. **Water quality:** • Water quality/supply: WFD Physico-chemical status of 'High' and Specific pollutants status of 'Pass'. No pollutant pressures. Regionally important potable water source; • Dilution and removal of waste products: low/very low pollutant dilution and sediment dispersal capacity; and • Biodiversity: natural watercourses only (i.e. not classified as heavily modified or artificial). Habitats and/or species protected under EU legislation e.g. (Special Area of Conservation (SAC), Special Protection Area (SPA), Ramsar site). Designated as salmonid waters under WFD.

Sensitivity	Criteria
High Receptor/ Attribute has a high quality or rarity on local scale	**Hydrology and Flood Risk:** • Water feature/floodplain causing direct flood risk to the adjacent populated areas, with between 5 and 100 residential properties or commercial premises at risk. Critical infrastructure not affected; and/or • A water feature/floodplain providing significant flood alleviation benefits (e.g. floodplain storage and conveyance); and/or • Flood Alleviation Scheme in operation protecting between 1 and 100 residential or commercial properties from flood risk. **Fluvial geomorphology:** • WFD hydromorphological or physical condition status of at least 'Good'; • Channel morphology: watercourse with a range of morphological features (such as variations in channel width and depth, natural planform, bed substrates and features, with limited signs of modifications or morphological pressures); • Natural fluvial processes: watercourse with a range of natural fluvial processes (such as natural erosion/deposition patterns, varied flow types and velocities) which have limited signs of modification or anthropogenic influences; vulnerable to change as a result of modifications; and • Support to aquatic species: watercourse supports a range of species and habitats in the channel and the riparian zone (particularly protected species) which are sensitive to changes in channel morphology, flow patterns, suspended sediment and turbidity. **Water quality:** • Water quality/supply: WFD Physico-chemical status of at least 'Good' and Specific pollutants status of 'Pass'. Generally no pollutant pressures. Locally important potable water source; • Dilution and removal of waste products: low/moderate pollutant dilution and sediment dispersal capacity; and • Biodiversity: designated as salmonid/cyprinid waters under WFD. Could support habitats and/or species protected under EU/UK legislation (including SSSIs).
Medium Receptor/ Attribute has a medium quality or rarity on local scale	**Hydrology and Flood Risk:** • Water feature/floodplain causing direct flood risk to the adjacent populated areas, with fewer than 5 residential properties or commercial premises at risk; and/or • A water feature/floodplain providing some flood alleviation benefits (e.g. floodplain storage and conveyance); and/or • Water feature/floodplain causing direct flood risk to cultivated agricultural areas. **Fluvial geomorphology:** • WFD hydromorphological or physical condition status of at least 'Moderate'; • Channel morphology: watercourse with a limited range of morphological features and with evidence of some modifications (e.g. channel straightening, widening, deepening, bank reprofiling), and historic or ongoing morphological pressures; • Natural fluvial processes: watercourse with a limited range of fluvial processes (such as natural erosion/deposition processes, varied flow types and velocities) which are/have been clearly influenced by human pressures; and • Support to aquatic species: watercourse supports a limited range of species and habitats in the channel and the riparian zone which have a low sensitivity sensitive to changes in channel morphology, flow patterns, suspended sediment and turbidity.

Sensitivity	Criteria
	Water quality: • Water quality/supply: WFD Physico-chemical status of at least 'Moderate' and Specific pollutants status of 'Pass'. Water quality could be affected by pollutant inputs or other pressures. Flow present generally all year (i.e. not ephemeral). Could be a local potable water source; • Dilution and removal of waste products: moderate/high pollutant dilution and sediment dispersal capacity; and • Biodiversity: could support a limited number of protected habitats and species.
Low Receptor/ Attribute has a low quality or rarity on local scale	**Hydrology and Flood Risk:** • Water feature/floodplain passing through uncultivated agricultural land and/or • A water feature/floodplain providing limited or no flood alleviation benefits (e.g. floodplain storage and conveyance). **Fluvial geomorphology:** • WFD hydromorphological or physical condition status of 'Poor' or 'Bad', or watercourse may not be classified by SEPA; • Artificial channel (e.g. field drain), may have been an artificial construction, or previously natural but showing extensive signs of modification; • Channel morphology: watercourse with very limited morphological diversity (such as variations in channel width/depth, natural planform, bed substrates and features); extensive channel realignment or straightening; • Natural fluvial processes: watercourse with very limited active fluvial processes (such as erosion/deposition processes, varied flow types and velocities) which are/have been influenced by human pressures; and • Support to aquatic species: watercourse unlikely to support any species and habitats either in the channel or in the riparian zone. **Water quality:** • Water quality/supply: WFD Physico-chemical status of at least 'Poor' and Specific pollutants status of 'Fail'; or not classified by SEPA. Very likely to be affected by pollutant pressures. Heavily engineered or artificially modified, including short road and field drains. Likely to be ephemeral in nature and not used for water supply; • Dilution and removal of waste products: very high pollutant dilution and sediment dispersal capacity; and • Biodiversity: supports no protected habitats or species.

Table 1.2 Magnitude of Impact Criteria

Magnitude	Criteria
Major adverse Results in loss of attribute and/or quality and integrity of the attribute	**Hydrology and Flood Risk:** Increase in peak flood level (0.5% annual probability plus 20% climate change) greater than: • 100mm at residential or commercial properties at existing flood risk; or • 10mm at critical infrastructure at existing flood risk; or • 5 new residential or commercial properties; or • 1 new critical infrastructure asset. A significant loss of existing functional floodplain capacity and significant changes to the existing flow regime upstream and/or downstream of the option. **Fluvial geomorphology:** More than 1 new crossing structure and in-channel works, significantly increasing the extent of watercourse modification. Significant channel realignment, new/extended embankments and/or bridge abutments within the river corridor. **Water quality:** More than 2 new in-channel works and significant/cumulative works in channel/catchment resulting in a major shift away from baseline conditions (e.g. potential downgrade in 2 WFD classes). Total loss or extensive change to a fishery, water supply or designated conservation site.
Moderate adverse Results in effect on integrity of attribute, or loss of part of attribute	**Hydrology and Flood Risk:** Increase in peak flood level (0.5% annual probability plus 20% climate change) • Greater than 50mm at residential or commercial properties at existing flood risk; or • 1-5 new residential or commercial properties. A moderate loss of existing functional floodplain capacity and moderate changes to the existing flow regime upstream and/or downstream of the option. **Fluvial geomorphology:** 1 new watercourse crossing or structure required, and localised channel realignment and/or drainage outfall construction, which increases the extent of watercourse modification. The extension of an existing embankment or bridge abutment set back from the river banks. **Water quality:** Up to 2 in-channel works (or up to 3 in-channel works over a limited extent of channel) resulting in a moderate shift away from baseline conditions (e.g. potential downgrade in 1 WFD class). Partial loss in productivity of a fishery or water supply.
Minor adverse Results in some measurable change in attributes quality or vulnerability	**Hydrology and Flood Risk:** Increase in peak flood level (0.5% annual probability plus 20% climate change) of greater than 10mmat residential or commercial properties at existing flood risk. A minor loss of existing functional floodplain capacity and minor changes to the existing flow regime upstream and/or downstream of the option. **Fluvial geomorphology:** Upgrade to, or extension of, existing watercourse crossing or structure, with only minor channel realignment required; or new watercourse crossing(s) with limited watercourse modifications. **Water quality:** 1 in-channel work (or up to 2 in-channel works over a limited extent of channel). Construction/extension of a bridge with no in-channel piers or abutments resulting in a minor shift away from baseline conditions (measurable change but within the same WFD class).
Negligible Results in effect on attribute, but of insufficient magnitude to affect use or integrity	**Hydrology and Flood Risk:** Negligible change in peak flood level (0.5% annual probability plus 20% climate change) of less than+/-10mm at residential or commercial properties at existing flood risk. A negligible change to existing functional floodplain capacity and negligible changes to the existing flow regime upstream and/or downstream of the option. **Fluvial geomorphology:** No direct engineering impact but potential indirect impact due to proximity of the watercourse to the options, such as pollution by sediment release or reduction in riparian corridor.

Magnitude	Criteria
	Water quality: No in-channel works resulting in an imperceptible change to water quality.
Minor beneficial Results in some beneficial effect on attribute or a reduced risk of negative effect occurring	**Hydrology and Flood Risk:** Reduction in peak flood level (0.5% annual probability plus 20% climate change) of greater than 10mm at residential or commercial properties at existing flood risk. **Fluvial geomorphology:** Slight improvement of the river channel from baseline conditions as a consequence of the works (generally on existing heavily modified/artificial watercourses). **Water quality:** Minor improvement in water quality attributes over baseline conditions.
Moderate beneficial Results in moderate improvement of attribute quality	**Hydrology and Flood Risk:** Reduction in peak flood level (0.5% annual probability plus 20% climate change) of greater than 50mm at residential or commercial properties at existing flood risk. **Fluvial geomorphology:** Improvement to a watercourse (e.g. through means of some restoration or mitigation). **Water quality:** Moderate improvement in water quality attributes over baseline conditions.
Major beneficial Results in major improvement of attribute quality	**Hydrology and Flood Risk:** Reduction in peak flood level (0.5% annual probability plus 20% climate change) of greater than 100mm at residential or commercial properties at existing flood risk. **Fluvial geomorphology:** Significant improvement to a watercourse as a result of substantial restoration or mitigation. **Water quality:** Major improvement in water quality attributes over baseline conditions, whereby the removal or likelihood of removal of existing pressures achieves compliance with WFD.

Table 1.3 Matrix of Effects Significance (significant effects in bold)

	Magnitude of Effect			
Sensitivity	**Negligible**	**Minor**	**Moderate**	**Major**
Very High	Neutral/Minor	Minor/**Moderate/Major**	**Moderate/Major**	**Major**
High	Neutral/Minor	Minor/**Moderate**	**Moderate/Major**	**Major**
Medium	Neutral/Minor	Minor	**Moderate**	**Moderate/Major**
Low	Neutral	Neutral/Minor	Minor/**Moderate**	**Moderate**

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Appendix A20.2 - Baseline Environment

A20.2 Baseline Environment

Introduction

This Appendix provides the supporting detail for the watercourse baseline conditions, namely hydrology and flood risk, fluvial geomorphology and water quality within the option study areas:

- Table 1.1 - Hardmuir to Hillhead (North and South Options);
- Table 1.2 - Hillhead to Lhanbryde (North and South Options); and
- Table 1.3 - Lhanbryde to East of Fochabers (North and South Options).

Where the baseline conditions or key characteristics of watercourses (reach-scale) differ in the vicinity of the option crossings, this is reported where relevant. The approximate crossing location of the North and South Options is also provided for context (i.e. common crossing point, similar location or different location). The supporting baseline sensitivity criteria is provided in Appendix 20.1, Table 1.1.

For watercourses with reaches which are assigned more than one Water Framework Directive (WFD) status, and/or exhibit different characteristics within a study area as highlighted above, a single sensitivity rating has been assigned based on a precautionary approach.

Information gained from desk-based assessments, consultations and targeted walkover surveys was used to inform the baseline assessment and sensitivity classification for each of the watercourses. Relevant sources of information referred to in this Appendix are provided in Section 20.2 of Chapter 20 (Road Drainage and the Water Environment).

Table 1.1 Baseline Sensitivity: Hardmuir to Hillhead Options

Watercourse (SEPA monitoring ID, where applicable; general description, WFD status)	Hydrology and Flood Risk	Fluvial Geomorphology	Water Quality
Burn of Feddan Not WFD monitored. Modified field drain, 10km^2 catchment area, flowing from the south of Wester Hardmuir Wood to its confluence with the Muckle Burn to the east of the village of Dyke (NH 9934 5847). Downstream reaches of the channel referenced on OS mapping as Little Burn. **Hardmuir to Hillhead - North and South Option common crossing location**	• Baseline flood risk confined to cultivated agricultural areas along the watercourse, with flooding ponding upstream of the existing A96 road at Feddan including local farm properties (source: SEPA Fluvial Flood Map and Stage 2 flood model). Overall hydrology and flood risk sensitivity: **Medium**	• Likely to support very limited species and habitats with a low level of sensitivity to changes to the existing channel morphology/sediment regime. • Historic mapping suggests stability over the past century. Overall fluvial geomorphology sensitivity: **Low**	• Drains to the Muckle Burn (4.5km downstream of the crossing location), which is classified as High sensitivity for water quality. • Minimal upstream pollution pressures – could receive intermittent agricultural nutrient-rich and polluted runoff. • Estimated to have a low pollutant/ sediment dilution and dispersal capacity. • Unlikely to support salmonid species and habitats protected under EU/UK legislation, but is protected salmonid waters (associated with the Muckle Burn). Overall water quality sensitivity: **Medium**
Muckle Burn ID: 20317; reach Lethen to Speedie Burn. Medium sized watercourse, 114km^2 catchment area, flowing from Clunas reservoir and Carn Sgumain to Findhorn Bay.	• Baseline flood risk confined to the valley until Earlsmill, upstream of the existing A96 and Aberdeen to Inverness Railway line, where flooding from the Muckle Burn extends west to the Burn of Feddan. • Settlements between Earlsmill and Dyke at baseline flood risk, including a campsite (source: SEPA Fluvial	• Lower reaches have been extensively realigned with embankments and other modifications (weirs, mill leats, fords). Surrounding land-use is mainly agricultural. • Hydromorphology status of 'Good' (2016). • Likely to support limited species and habitats with a low level of	• Physico-chemical status of High, Specific pollutants status of Pass (2016). • Estimated to have a medium pollutant/sediment and dispersal capacity. • Protected salmonid waters under WFD. Likely to contain species protected under EU/UK legislation.

Watercourse (SEPA monitoring ID, where applicable; general description, WFD status)	Hydrology and Flood Risk	Fluvial Geomorphology	Water Quality
Overall WFD status Good (2016). **Hardmuir to Hillhead - North and South Option common crossing location**	Flood Map and Stage 2 flood model). Overall hydrology and flood risk sensitivity: **High**	sensitivity to changes to the existing channel morphology/sediment regime. • Historic mapping suggests the channel has changed little over the past century, although natural changes to morphology and planform constrained by modifications. Overall fluvial geomorphology sensitivity: **Medium**	Overall water quality sensitivity: **High**
Unnamed tributary of Speedie Burn Not WFD monitored. Modified woodland field drain with a rural, 3km^2 catchment area. Drains to the Speedie Burn (NH 9983 5813), approximately 350m upstream of the Muckle Burn/Speedie Burn confluence. **Hardmuir to Hillhead - North and South Option crossings at similar location**	• No properties are at baseline flood risk; flood risk to cultivated land (source: SEPA Fluvial Flood Map). Overall hydrology and flood risk sensitivity: **Medium**	• Tributary of Speedie Burn (Speedie Burn has hydromorphology status of Moderate). • Likely to support limited species and habitats with a low level of sensitivity to changes to the existing channel morphology/sediment regime. • Historic mapping suggests stability over the past century although morphological change will have been constrained by modifications. Overall fluvial geomorphology sensitivity: **Low**	• Drains to the Speedie Burn (1km downstream of crossing location), which is classified as High sensitivity for water quality. • Minimal upstream pollution pressures; land-use is predominantly woodland and arable farmland. Watercourse is crossed by existing A96 and Aberdeen to Inverness Railway line immediately downstream of crossing – could receive intermittent nutrient-rich and polluted runoff. • Estimated to have a low pollutant/sediment dilution and dispersal capacity. • Watercourse believed to be ephemeral in the vicinity of the crossing locations.

Watercourse (SEPA monitoring ID, where applicable; general description, WFD status)	Hydrology and Flood Risk	Fluvial Geomorphology	Water Quality
			• Unlikely to support salmonid species and habitats protected under EU/UK legislation but is part of the designated Muckle Burn catchment. Overall water quality sensitivity: **Low**
Speedie Burn ID: 20319; reach Speedie Burn. Small watercourse, 17km^2 catchment area, flowing from Darnaway Forest for approximately 11km before its confluence with the Muckle Burn (NJ 0018 5829). Overall WFD status Moderate (2016). **Hardmuir to Hillhead - North and South Option crossings in similar location**	• Baseline flood risk generally confined to a narrow valley until north of the Aberdeen to Inverness Railway line, near to the confluence with the Muckle Burn. The floodplain then widens and is inundated from both the Speedie Burn and the Muckle Burn. • A small number of residential and commercial properties and cultivated land are at baseline flood risk (source: SEPA Fluvial Flood Map). Overall hydrology and flood risk sensitivity: **Medium**	• Retained in parts natural character (mainly in woodland areas in upper reaches) but other sections have been modified (realignment, straightened, to support field drainage). • Hydromorphology status of 'Moderate' (2016). • Watercourse likely to support limited species and habitats with a low level of sensitivity to changes to the existing channel morphology/ sediment regime. • Historic mapping suggests the channel has changed little over the past century (limited stream power), although natural changes to morphology and planform will have been constrained by modifications. Overall fluvial geomorphology sensitivity: **Medium**	• Physico-chemical status of High, Specific pollutants status of Pass (2016). • No recorded pressures on water quality or biodiversity. • Unlikely to be a source of water supply/abstraction. • Estimated to have a low pollutant/sediment dilution and dispersal capacity. • Protected salmonid waters (tributary of Muckle Burn). Could support a limited number of habitats and species. Overall water quality sensitivity: **High**

Watercourse (SEPA monitoring ID, where applicable; general description, WFD status)	Hydrology and Flood Risk	Fluvial Geomorphology	Water Quality
River Findhorn ID: 23000; reach Dorback Burn to sea. Major watercourse, 787km^2 catchment area, flowing from the Monadhliath Mountains to Findhorn Bay. Overall WFD status Good (2016). **Hardmuir to Hillhead - North and South Option crossings at different locations**	• Baseline flood risk confined to a narrow valley until Mundole, just upstream of Forres. From Mundole the floodplain widens and flattens, and flood risk is more prevalent. • Forres (Findhorn & Pilmuir) Flood Alleviation Scheme (FAS) completed in 2015. Comprises flood embankments, topography changes and reopening of the 'Back Run' as a flood relief channel to transfer a proportion of the flood flows from the River Findhorn to the Muckle Burn. **North Option:** • Main settlements at flood risk include Broom of Moy and a number of farmstead properties (source: SEPA Fluvial Map and Stage 2 flood model). • Forres (Findhorn & Pilmuir) FAS (standard of protection 0.5% AEP flood event with a 15% climate change allowance) protects hundreds of residential properties and businesses in Forres[1].	• An active, dynamic river with high energy and ability to move sediment, evidence of changing morphology[2, 3]. • Channel is 30m-40m wide, characterised by alternating gravel bars which are shaped and moved by floods. Recent aerial photography shows most gravel bars are not vegetated, demonstrating recent movement and re-ordering of gravels. • The channel has been modified in places for flood alleviation. • Ad-hoc revetments installed along the riverbanks (some of which are in poor condition). • Hydromorphology status of 'Good' (2016). • Supports a range of species and habitats which will be sensitive to changes in channel morphology and sediment regime. • Historic mapping suggests relative morphological stability in the study area over the past century, with no	• Physico-chemical status of High, Specific pollutants status of Pass (2016); no recorded pressures on water quality or biodiversity. • Estimated to have a high pollutant/sediment dilution and dispersal capacity. • Protected salmonid waters under WFD. Likely to contain species protected under EU/UK legislation. • Recreation: angling/fisheries and walking/cycling routes. • Potential sources of contamination – i) former Forres RAF base (near 72,000 gallon aviation fuel storage installation), to the east of the River Findhorn near Red Craig/Mundole; ii) former landfill of unknown materials on east bank of Findhorn near Waterford Farm; and iii) Waterford Waste Transfer Station and Recycling Centre. Overall water quality sensitivity: **High**

[1] Moray Council Flood Management webpages for the Forres (River Findhorn & Pilmuir) FAS: http://www.moray.gov.uk/moray_standard/page_85999.html
[2] Information from Royal Haskoning (2001) The Moray Flood Alleviation Group: Geomorphology Scoping Study
[3] Werrity, A. and Hoey, T. (2004) Geomorphological changes and trends in Scotland, river channels and processes. Scottish Natural Heritage commissioned report

Watercourse (SEPA monitoring ID, where applicable; general description, WFD status)	Hydrology and Flood Risk	Fluvial Geomorphology	Water Quality
	South Option: • Main settlements at flood risk include Mundole and Red Craig (source: SEPA Fluvial Map and Stage 2 flood model). Overall hydrology and flood risk sensitivity: **Very High**	significant changes to overall channel planform. **North Option:** • Active channel (including an extensive gravel bar on the left bank within the wider channel) with base flow directed to the right-hand side within a deeper set channel approximately 20m wide. • The extensive build-up of alluvial sediment in this area accumulated over the past century was excavated (by approximately 1m depth) as part of the Forres (River Findhorn & Pilmuir) FAS in 2014. Since the excavation, there has been sediment accretion and in-channel adjustment (e.g. gravel bar redevelopment) following major flood events. • Historic mapping suggests the river has not changed substantially in its wider planform during the last century, with no significant lateral migration in the area surrounding the Aberdeen - Inverness Railway viaduct - this structure is likely to have had an influence on channel morphology since it was constructed (series of piers within the river).	

Watercourse (SEPA monitoring ID, where applicable; general description, WFD status)	Hydrology and Flood Risk	Fluvial Geomorphology	Water Quality
		South Option: • Active channel (including extensive gravel bar deposited on the right bank) is approximately 40m wide with base flow directed to the left-hand side. • Evidence of recent erosion on the left bank, visible damage to existing rock revetment/stone wall at toe of left bank. • Historic mapping suggests the river has not changed substantially, with no significant lateral migration or planform change in the area. Overall fluvial geomorphology sensitivity: **High**	
Burn of Mosset North Option: ID: 23020; reach Forres to the sea. South Option: ID: 23021; reach Altyre to Forres. Medium watercourse, 55km^2 catchment area, rising near Tomnamoon (NJ 0432 4974) and flowing north over 25km	• Forres (Burn of Mosset) FAS completed in 2009. Comprises a large upstream flood storage reservoir and minor defences through Forres. **North Option:** • Forres (Burn of Mosset) FAS (standard of protection 1% AEP flood event with a 15% climate change allowance) protects	• Designated under WFD as a 'heavily modified waterbody' due to historical morphological alterations relating to drainage of agricultural land, particularly in the lower reaches through and downstream of Forres. Recently modified as part of the Forres (Burn of Mosset) FAS. • ID: 23020; hydromorphology status of 'Poor' (2016).	**North Option only:** • Specific pollutants status of Pass (2016). • Water quality has been recorded to be impacted by rural diffuse pollution pressures - SEPA measures in place to address this. • Forres sewage treatment works (STW) is 0.5km upstream of North Option. • North Option downstream of the FAS.

Watercourse (SEPA monitoring ID, where applicable; general description, WFD status)	Hydrology and Flood Risk	Fluvial Geomorphology	Water Quality
through Forres into Findhorn Bay. Overall WFD status Poor Ecological Potential (North); Overall WFD status Moderate Ecological Potential (South) (2016). **Hardmuir to Hillhead - North and South Option crossings in different locations**	hundreds of residential properties and businesses in Forres[4]. • Baseline flood risk confined downstream of Chapelton Dam until Mill of Grange (source: SEPA Fluvial Flood Map). **South Option:** • Baseline flood risk confined to a narrow valley until Sanquhar Mains, where the flood storage reservoir attenuates floodwaters via use of a large natural basin upstream of Forres at Chapelton Dam (source: SEPA Fluvial Flood Map). Overall hydrology and flood risk sensitivity: **Very High**	• ID: 23021; hydromorphology status of 'Moderate' (2016). • Watercourse is showing signs of recovery (e.g. bank erosion and bar deposition and will likely increase sinuosity over time, outside of areas where embankments are constraining lateral movements. • Historic map indicates the watercourse has shown relative morphological stability over the past century, with natural changes constrained by modifications in the lower reaches. • Watercourse is likely to support limited species and habitats with a low level of sensitivity to changes to the existing channel morphology / sediment regime Overall fluvial geomorphology sensitivity: **Medium**	• Flows directly in to Moray and Nairn Coast Special Protection Area (SPA) 1km downstream of the option crossing. **North and South Options:** • Physico-chemical status of High (2016). • Estimated to have a medium pollutant/sediment dilution and dispersal capacity. Overall water quality sensitivity: **Medium**
Manachy Burn Not WFD monitored. Modified woodland field drain, 5km^2 catchment area,	• Manachy Burn feeds into Burn of Mosset upstream of Chapelton Dam within the upstream storage area of the Forres (Burn of Mosset) FAS.	• Artificial and extensively modified watercourse (straightened, likely over-deepened). • Likely to support limited species and habitats with a low level of	• Surrounding land-use is rural; woodland and arable farmland – could receive intermittent nutrient-rich runoff from fields.

[4] Moray Council Flood Management webpages for the Forres (Burn of Mosset) FAS: http://www.moray.gov.uk/moray_standard/page_85999.html

Watercourse (SEPA monitoring ID, where applicable; general description, WFD status)	Hydrology and Flood Risk	Fluvial Geomorphology	Water Quality
which drains from the Loch of Blairs and 'The Lake'. Drains to the Burn of Mosset approximately 3km downstream of the South Option crossing (NJ 0469 5756). **Hardmuir to Hillhead - South Option only**	• Floodwaters confined until the FAS storage area; Manachie Farm and Dallas Dhu distillery at current flood risk (source: SEPA Fluvial Flood Map). Overall hydrology and flood risk sensitivity: **Very High** (Forres (Burn of Mosset) FAS immediately downstream)	sensitivity to changes to the existing channel morphology/sediment regime. • Historic mapping suggests stability over the past century although morphological change will have been constrained by modifications. Overall fluvial geomorphology sensitivity: **Low**	• The burn flows through Dallas Dhu Distillery – the burn is the historic water source for the distillery. Although understood to be no longer in use, there is potential for future use. • Estimated to have a low pollutant/sediment dilution and dispersal capacity. • Unlikely to support any species protected under EU/UK legislation. Overall water quality sensitivity: **Medium**
Marcassie Burn Not WFD monitored. Included in the Burn of Mosset WFD waterbody - Altyre to Forres (ID: 23021). Overall WFD status Moderate Ecological Potential (2016). Small watercourse with a catchment area to its confluence with the Burn of Mosset of 10km^2. **Hardmuir to Hillhead - South Option only**	• Marcassie Burn feeds into Burn of Mosset upstream of Chapelton Dam within the upstream storage area of the Forres (Burn of Mosset) FAS. • Floodwaters pond in the upper catchment and then are generally confined until the FAS storage area (source: SEPA Fluvial Flood Map). Overall hydrology and flood risk sensitivity: **Very High** (Forres (Burn of Mosset) FAS immediately downstream)	• Artificial and extensively modified burn/large forestry drain that lies upstream of and discharges into Burn of Mosset. • Likely to support very limited species and habitats with a low level of sensitivity to changes to the existing channel morphology/sediment regime. • Historic mapping suggests stability over the past century although morphological change will have been constrained by modifications. Overall fluvial geomorphology sensitivity: **Low**	• Physico-chemical status of High (2016). • Estimated to have a low/medium pollutant/sediment dilution and dispersal capacity. • Surrounding land-use is rural; woodland and mixed farmland – could receive intermittent nutrient-rich runoff from fields. • Unlikely to support any species protected under EU/UK legislation. Overall water quality sensitivity: **Medium**

Watercourse (SEPA monitoring ID, where applicable; general description, WFD status)	Hydrology and Flood Risk	Fluvial Geomorphology	Water Quality
Kinloss Burn ID: 23023; reach Kinloss Burn. Small watercourse/artificial field drain, 29km^2 catchment area, 11km in length, rising to the south-east of Forres and flowing into Findhorn Bay at Kinloss. Overall WFD status Moderate (2016). **Hardmuir to Hillhead - South Option only (two crossings).**	• A small number of residential and commercial properties and cultivated land are at baseline flood risk. Flood extents are not complete on the SEPA flood mapping but are likely to be constrained to areas immediately adjacent to the watercourses (source: SEPA Fluvial Flood Map). Overall hydrology and flood risk sensitivity: **Medium**	• Extensively modified (mainly channel straightening and realignment through agricultural land), low morphological diversity. • Hydromorphology status of Moderate (2016). • Likely to support limited species and habitats with a low level of sensitivity to changes to the existing channel morphology/sediment regime. • Historic mapping suggests the channel has changed little over the past century (limited stream power), although natural changes to morphology and planform will have been constrained by modifications. Overall fluvial geomorphology sensitivity: **Medium**	• Physico-chemical status of High (2016). • Watercourse has been modified (straightened to follow existing field boundaries) and could be affected by nutrient-rich agricultural runoff. • Estimated to have a low pollutant/sediment dilution and dispersal capacity. • Unlikely to support any species protected under EU/UK legislation. • There is an abstraction point along Kinloss Burn for Glenburgie Distillery immediately south of the existing A96 (see Chapter 19: Geology, Soils, Contaminated Land & Groundwater for more information). Overall water quality sensitivity: **Medium**

Table 1.2 Baseline Sensitivity: Hillhead to Lhanbryde Options

Watercourse (SEPA monitoring ID, where applicable; general description, WFD status)	Hydrology and Flood Risk	Fluvial Geomorphology	Water Quality
Kinloss Burn ID: 23023; reach Kinloss Burn. Small watercourse/artificial field drain, 29km^2 catchment area, 11km in length, rising to the south-east of Forres and flowing into Findhorn Bay at Kinloss. Overall WFD status Moderate (2016). **Hillhead to Lhanbryde - North and South Option crossings at similar location**	• Baseline flood risk constrained to areas immediately adjacent to the watercourse between Burgie Lodge and Newmill. A small number of residential and commercial properties and cultivated land are at baseline flood risk (source: SEPA Fluvial Flood Map). Overall hydrology and flood risk sensitivity: **Medium**	• Extensively modified (mainly channel straightening and realignment through agricultural land), low morphological diversity. • Hydromorphology status of Moderate (2016). • Likely to support limited species and habitats with a low level of sensitivity to changes to the existing channel morphology/ sediment regime. • Historic mapping suggests the channel has changed little over the past century (limited stream power), although natural changes to morphology and planform will have been constrained by modifications. Overall fluvial geomorphology sensitivity: **Medium**	• Physico-chemical status of High (2016). • Watercourse has been modified (straightened to follow existing field boundaries) and could be affected by nutrient-rich agricultural runoff. • Estimated to have a low pollutant/sediment dilution and dispersal capacity. • There is an abstraction point along Kinloss Burn for Glenburgie Distillery immediately south of the existing A96 (see Chapter 19: Geology, Soils, Contaminated Land & Groundwater for more information). • Unlikely to support any species protected under EU/UK legislation. Overall water quality sensitivity: **Medium**
Burgie Burn Not WFD monitored. Small watercourse/drain, 5km^2 catchment area, rising in Burgie Wood, flowing into the Kinloss Burn at the	• A small number of residential and commercial properties and cultivated land are at baseline flood risk near Brodieshill Cottages and Glenburgie Distillery (source: SEPA Fluvial Flood Map).	• Upper reaches in Burgie Wood (plantation) have retained some natural character, but middle/lower reaches have been straightened and realigned to support field drainage (majority of lower watercourse is tree-lined); limited morphological diversity.	• Drains to the Kinloss Burn immediately downstream of the crossing locations. • Estimated to have a low pollutant/sediment dilution and dispersal capacity. • Unlikely to support any species protected under EU/UK legislation.

Watercourse (SEPA monitoring ID, where applicable; general description, WFD status)	Hydrology and Flood Risk	Fluvial Geomorphology	Water Quality
existing A96 crossing (NJ 0937 6064). **Hillhead to Lhanbryde - North and South Option crossings at similar location**	Overall hydrology and flood risk sensitivity: **Medium**	• Likely to support limited species and habitats with a low level of sensitivity to changes to the existing channel morphology/ sediment regime. • Historic mapping indicates stability, though channel changes will have been constrained by modifications. Overall fluvial geomorphology sensitivity: **Low**	Overall water quality sensitivity: **Medium**
Unnamed tributary of Spynie Canal Not WFD monitored. Small modified watercourse, approximately 4km^2 catchment area, flowing in a north-easterly direction to Loch Spynie. **Hillhead to Lhanbryde - North Option only**	• A small number of residential and commercial properties and cultivated land are at baseline flood risk between Myreside and Spynie Canal (source: SEPA Fluvial Flood Map). Overall hydrology and flood risk sensitivity: **Medium**	• Small, artificial field drain/canal channel situated upstream of Loch Spynie/Spynie Canal. • Likely to support limited species and habitats with a low level of sensitivity to changes to the existing channel morphology/ sediment regime. Overall fluvial geomorphology sensitivity: **Low**	• Surrounding land-use is rural (woodland and mixed farmland) and urban (north Elgin) – could receive intermittent nutrient and pollutant-rich runoff. • 2km downstream drains to Loch Spynie SPA which is naturally eutrophic so any change to watercourse nutrient loading could impact on this. Overall water quality sensitivity: **Medium**
River Lossie North Option: ID: 23032; reach Waukmill to Arthurs Bridge. South Option:	• Elgin FAS completed in 2016 (standard of protection 0.5% AEP flood event) protects hundreds of residential properties and businesses. Comprises set-back flood embankments and flood walls; lowered floodplain; new flood relief	• Low geomorphic power because of the gradual change in gradient across river profile; low dynamism with slow flows (particularly downstream of Elgin).	**North Option** • Immediately downstream of Elgin; potential for urban pollutants in runoff **South Option**

Watercourse (SEPA monitoring ID, where applicable; general description, WFD status)	Hydrology and Flood Risk	Fluvial Geomorphology	Water Quality
ID: 23039; reach Leanoch Burn to Mosstowie Canal ID: 23033; reach Mosstowie Canal to Waulkmill. Large river, 216km^2 catchment area, over 50km in length, flowing from the hills above Dallas, Moray and flowing into the Moray Firth at Lossiemouth (NJ 2373 7052). Overall WFD status Poor (North); Overall WFD status Moderate (South); Overall WFD status Good (South) (2016). **Hillhead to Lhanbryde - North and South Option crossings in different locations**	channel; new diversion channel to move Tyock confluence approximately 1.5km downstream and two localised defences in area downstream of Elgin[5]. **North Option:** • Baseline flood risk confined through Elgin due to FAS. Flood extent widens downstream of FAS between Waulkmill and Kirkhill. • Baseline flood risk extent covers a small number of properties at Barmuckity, east of Elgin and near the existing A96. The majority of the flood extent in the area is agricultural land (source: SEPA Fluvial Flood Map and Stage 2 flood model). **South Option:** • Baseline flood risk confined to river valley upstream of Upper Bogside, due to topography. Downstream of Upper Bogside the floodplain widens on the left bank and the flood risk extends across the Cloddach Quarry and the B9010 road to the Black Burn. The Aberdeen to Inverness Railway line	• Sandy-bed river, with gravel deposits in the channel upstream of Elgin where flows are comparatively faster. • Very isolated from the floodplain, particularly in the lower reaches due to modifications. • ID: 23032 - hydromorphology status of 'Poor' (2016). • ID: 23033 - hydromorphology status of 'Good' (2016). • ID: 23039 - hydromorphology status of 'Moderate' (2016). **North Option:** • Positioned at a meander which appears to be relatively stable (channel size and shape has remained relatively consistent). • Some evidence of bank erosion/slumping upstream where bank composition is very sandy. **South Option:** • Option crosses the River Lossie in three places, twice by Elgin West junction link road (at Aldroughty	• Catchment impacted by rural diffuse pollution - SEPA measures in place to address this. • Glen Moray distillery located alongside Elgin West junction link road crossing likely extracting water from the River Lossie. • Potential contamination source from quarrying; hydrologically connected pits on the right bank are a habitat restoration area. **North and South Options** • Physico-chemical status of High, Specific pollutants status of Pass (2016). • Estimated to have a medium pollutant/sediment dilution and dispersal capacity. • Protected salmonid waters under WFD. Likely to contain species protected under EU/UK legislation. Overall water quality sensitivity: **High**

[5] Moray Council Flood Management webpages for the Elgin FAS: http://www.moray.gov.uk/moray_standard/page_81702.html

Watercourse (SEPA monitoring ID, where applicable; general description, WFD status)	Hydrology and Flood Risk	Fluvial Geomorphology	Water Quality
	is at flood risk (source: SEPA Fluvial Flood Map and Stage 2 flood model). Overall hydrology and flood risk sensitivity: **Very High**	and north of Glen Moray distillery), and once by the main carriageway adjacent to Cloddach Quarry. • At Aldroughty and Glen Moray distillery, the Lossie is 10m-15m wide, meandering across predominantly agricultural land. • Sections of the left bank are confined by embankments; the channel appears to have some floodplain connection on the right bank. • Historic mapping shows minimal morphological change over past century. • At Cloddach Quarry, the Lossie is a similar width but is confined by embankments on both banks. • The channel is almost completely disconnected from floodplain, floodplain to the east contains large storage ponds/wetlands. • Evidence of gravel deposits in the channel along this reach, indicating high enough stream power to transport sediment during high flow events. • Historic mapping shows the formerly natural channel has been extensively straightened and	

Watercourse (SEPA monitoring ID, where applicable; general description, WFD status)	Hydrology and Flood Risk	Fluvial Geomorphology	Water Quality
		modified within the past century, likely to support quarry activities. Overall fluvial geomorphology sensitivity: **High**	
Spankie Burn Not WFD monitored. Part of a system of extensively modified field drains/ditches, 10.5km^2 catchment area, supporting agricultural land at Greens of Coxton and flows north into the River Lossie (NJ 2477 6221). **Hillhead to Lhanbryde - North Option only**	• Baseline flood risk extent for downstream reaches covers cultivated agricultural areas. Upstream reaches are not included in the SEPA Fluvial Flood Map but are likely to be limited to areas around the channel covering cultivated agricultural land. Overall hydrology and flood risk sensitivity: **Medium**	• Lies within catchment of and drains to the River Lossie (which has a hydromorphology status of 'Poor'). • Small sized channel with limited evidence of sediment transport. • Historic mapping suggests the channel has changed little over the past century (limited stream power), although natural changes to morphology and planform will have been constrained by modifications. Overall fluvial geomorphology sensitivity: **Low**	• Drains to the River Lossie which is classified as High sensitivity for water quality. • Protected salmonid waters under WFD (associated with River Lossie). Likely to contain species protected under EU/UK legislation. • Estimated to have a low/medium pollutant/sediment dilution and dispersal capacity. • Could be affected by nutrient-rich agricultural runoff. Overall water quality sensitivity: **Medium**
Lhanbryde Burn North Option: ID: 23377; reach Innes Canal/Lhanbryde Burn. South Option: ID 23378; reach Lhanbryde Burn/Burn of Blackhills.	• Lhanbryde FAS completed in 2015 (standard of protection 1% AEP plus climate change) consists of a storage reservoir at Scotsburn upstream of Lhanbryde and local channel improvement works through the village to stabilise the	• Extensively modified, through realignment and straightening to support field drainage systems. Some limited areas where natural character has been retained. • ID: 23377 - hydromorphology status 'Poor' (2016).	• Reach 23377 not classified for Physico-chemical status or Specific pollutants, although monitored by SEPA. Reach 23378 High status for Physico-chemical. • Estimated to have a low/medium pollutant/sediment dilution and dispersal capacity.

Watercourse (SEPA monitoring ID, where applicable; general description, WFD status)	Hydrology and Flood Risk	Fluvial Geomorphology	Water Quality
Small, 18km^2 catchment area, extensively modified watercourse flowing from the Blackhills south of Lhanbryde, through western Lhanbryde and to a confluence with the Innes Canal and subsequently the River Lossie (NJ 2531 6908). Overall WFD status Poor (North); Overall WFD status Moderate (South) (2016). **Hillhead to Lhanbryde - North and South Option crossings in similar location**	channel, improve conveyance and maintain defences[6]. • Baseline flood risk to land immediately surrounding the channel. Flood risk is limited by the function of the FAS. Overall hydrology and flood risk sensitivity: **Very High**	• ID: 23378 – hydromorphology status 'Moderate' (2016) • Likely to support limited species and habitats with a low level of sensitivity to changes to the existing channel morphology/ sediment regime. • Historic mapping suggests the channel has changed little over the past century (limited stream power), although natural changes to morphology and planform will have been constrained by modifications. Overall fluvial geomorphology sensitivity: **Low**	• Waterbody could be affected by nutrient-rich agricultural runoff and other potential sources of urban contamination through Lhanbryde. • Likely to support species protected under EU/UK legislation. Overall water quality sensitivity: **Medium**
Mosstowie Canal ID: 23037; reach Mosstowie Canal. Small/medium watercourse, 29km^2 catchment area, which is part canalised. Forms part of a complex drainage system in agricultural land north of Monaughty Wood. Flows in	• The Mosstowie Canal confluences with the River Lossie approximately 1.5km downstream of the South Option. • The Elgin FAS (standard of protection 0.5% AEP flood event) protects hundreds of residential properties and businesses[5] and is based on design flows from the River Lossie, encompassing the Mosstowie Canal catchment.	• Forming part of a complex drainage and canal system north of Monaughty Wood. • Channel extensively realigned and straightened, with very limited morphological diversity with no clear geomorphological function. • Hydromorphology status of 'Bad' (2016).	• Not classified for Physico-chemical status or Specific pollutants. • Protected salmonid waters under WFD. Perceived to be likely to contain species protected under EU/UK legislation. • Waterbody is extensively modified and could be affected by nutrient-rich agricultural runoff.

[6] Moray Council Flood Management webpages for the Lhanbryde FAS: http://www.moray.gov.uk/moray_standard/page_93225.html

Watercourse (SEPA monitoring ID, where applicable; general description, WFD status)	Hydrology and Flood Risk	Fluvial Geomorphology	Water Quality
to River Lossie at NJ 1849 6229. Upper reaches known as Monaughty Burn (OS Mapping). Overall WFD status Bad (2016). **Hillhead to Lhanbryde - South Option only**	• Baseline flood risk includes a large extent of cultivated agricultural land near to the farmsteads of Whitefield, Burnside and Woodside. The Aberdeen to Inverness Railway line is at flood risk (source: SEPA Fluvial Flood Map and Stage 2 flood model). Overall hydrology and flood risk sensitivity: **Very High** (presence of Elgin FAS downstream)	• Likely to support limited species and habitats with a low level of sensitivity to changes to the existing channel morphology/ sediment regime. • Historic mapping suggests the channel has changed little over the past century (limited stream power), although natural changes to morphology and planform will have been constrained by modifications. Overall fluvial geomorphology sensitivity: **Low**	• Estimated to have a low pollutant/sediment dilution and dispersal capacity. Overall water quality sensitivity: **Medium**
Black Burn ID: 23038; reach Black Burn. Medium-sized watercourse, 63km^2 catchment area, flowing over 20km in a north-east direction to its confluence with the River Lossie (NJ 1882 6204). Overall WFD status Good (2016). **Hillhead to Lhanbryde - South Option only**	• The Black Burn confluences with the River Lossie approximately 2km downstream of the South Option. • The Elgin FAS (standard of protection 0.5% AEP flood event) protects hundreds of residential properties and businesses[5] and is based on design flows from the River Lossie, encompassing the Black Burn catchment. • Baseline flood risk includes a large extent of cultivated agricultural land, Miltonduff distillery and properties at Allarburn. The Aberdeen to Inverness Railway line is at flood	• Medium sized watercourse within the River Lossie catchment retaining a significant amount of natural character and features, with some modified areas. • Hydromorphology status 'Good' (2016). • Likely to support limited species and habitats with a low level of sensitivity to changes to the existing channel morphology/ sediment regime. • Historic mapping suggests the channel has changed little over the past century (limited stream	• Physico-chemical status of High (2016). • Estimated to have a medium pollutant/sediment dilution and dispersal capacity. • Protected salmonid waters under WFD. Likely to contain species protected under EU/UK legislation. • Catchment impacted by rural diffuse pollution; SEPA measures in place to address this. Overall water quality sensitivity: **High**

Watercourse (SEPA monitoring ID, where applicable; general description, WFD status)	Hydrology and Flood Risk	Fluvial Geomorphology	Water Quality
	risk (source: SEPA Fluvial Flood Map and Stage 2 flood model). Overall hydrology and flood risk sensitivity: **Very High** (presence of Elgin FAS downstream)	power), although natural changes to morphology and planform will have been constrained by modifications. Overall fluvial geomorphology sensitivity: **Medium**	
Linkwood Burn ID: 23034; reach Linkwood Burn. Small/medium watercourse, 26km^2 catchment area, approximately 10km long and flowing in a northerly direction to the River Lossie Overall WFD status Bad (2016). **Hillhead to Lhanbryde - South Option only**	• Baseline flood risk generally confined to the river valley, with flood risk to a small number of properties at Burnside of Birnie and surrounding cultivated agricultural land (source: SEPA Fluvial Flood Map). Overall hydrology and flood risk sensitivity: **Medium**	• Small/medium watercourse, extensively modified (realigned, straightened) with little natural geomorphological character remaining. • Hydromorphology status 'Bad' (2016). • Likely to support limited species and habitats with a low level of sensitivity to changes to the existing channel morphology/sediment regime. • Historic mapping indicates stability, though channel changes will have been constrained by modifications. Overall fluvial geomorphology sensitivity: **Low**	• Physico-chemical status of High, Specific pollutants status of Pass (2016). • Estimated to have a medium pollutant/sediment dilution and dispersal capacity. • Water quality in the catchment is recorded to be impacted by diffuse sources – SEPA measures in place to address this. • Protected salmonid waters under WFD. Likely to contain species protected under EU/UK legislation although fish migration could be impeded by watercourse through Elgin. Overall water quality sensitivity: **Medium**

Table 1.3 Baseline Sensitivity: Lhanbryde to East of Fochabers Options

Watercourse (SEPA monitoring ID, where applicable; general description, WFD status)	Hydrology and Flood Risk	Fluvial Geomorphology	Water Quality
Black Burn/Stripe Burn ID: 23045; reach Stripe Burn. Small watercourse, 20.5km^2 catchment area, flowing over 17km from the Brown Muir Hills, discharging into Spey Bay (NJ 3398 6534). Overall WFD status Moderate (2016). **Lhanbryde to East of Fochabers - North and South Option crossings in similar location**	• Baseline flood risk extent includes cultivated agricultural areas, land immediately adjacent to the watercourse and some flow paths across fields near the watercourse (source: SEPA Fluvial Flood Map). Overall hydrology and flood risk sensitivity: **Medium**	• Extensively realigned/ straightened with Hydromorphology status 'Moderate' (2016). • Likely to support limited species and habitats with a low level of sensitivity to changes to the existing channel morphology/ sediment regime. • Historic mapping suggests the channel has changed little over the past century (limited stream power), although natural changes to morphology and planform will have been constrained by modifications. Overall fluvial geomorphology sensitivity: **Low**	• Not classified for Physico-chemical status or Specific pollutants, although monitored by SEPA. • Estimated to have a low/medium pollutant/sediment dilution and dispersal capacity. • Waterbody could be affected by nutrient-rich agricultural runoff and road runoff. • Could potentially support species protected under EU/UK legislation. Overall water quality sensitivity: **Medium**
Dipple Burn Not WFD monitored. Small modified watercourse, 5km^2 catchment area, tributary of the River Spey. Flows into the River Spey at NJ 3397 5945. **Lhanbryde to East of Fochabers - North and**	• Flood risk confined by steep ground to the west and combines with River Spey floodplain to east. • Flood Risk to properties at Dipple and cultivated agricultural land (source: SEPA Fluvial Flood Map). Overall hydrology and flood risk sensitivity: **High**	• Small/medium watercourse fed by field drains flowing northwards across agricultural farmland, discharging into the River Spey. • A 500m reach of the watercourse (a tree-lined reach along Dipple Brae) is a designated Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI)/ Geological Conservation Review (GCR) site for geological features	• Surrounding land-use is mostly mixed farmland; could receive intermittent nutrient-rich and polluted runoff from fields/farm operations and Dipple Road. • Unlikely to be a source of water supply/ abstraction. Scottish Water abstract groundwater from shallow river deposits at boreholes located between the Dipple Burn and River Spey (see Chapter 19: Geology, Soils,

Watercourse (SEPA monitoring ID, where applicable; general description, WFD status)	Hydrology and Flood Risk	Fluvial Geomorphology	Water Quality
South Option crossings in similar location		(fossil record of fishes in the Palaeozoic Era). • Likely to support limited species and habitats with a low level of sensitivity to changes to the existing channel morphology/ sediment regime. • Historic mapping suggests the channel has been stable over the past century, indicating very low stream power. Overall fluvial geomorphology sensitivity: **Medium*** **watercourse not assigned 'very high' sensitivity despite presence of SSSI/GCR site upstream, as it is not anticipated that the option crossing could impact the integrity of this feature.*	Contaminated Land & Groundwater for more information). • Estimated to have a low pollutant/sediment dilution and dispersal capacity. • Could potentially support salmonid species protected under EU/UK legislation. Overall water quality sensitivity: **Medium**
River Spey ID: 23065; reach Spey - River Fiddich to tidal limit. Large, 2948km^2 catchment area, nationally significant watercourse. Flows from Loch Spey in the Highlands (NN 4213 9373) through the	• Flood extent is contained by the topography of the river valley. • Baseline flood risk covers a large extent of cultivated agricultural land, Dipple Farm, Burnside of Dipple, Scottish Water Dipple Abstraction Scheme (Speyside Wellfield) and adjacent commercial properties, and properties on the right bank immediately upstream of	• Active meandering and partly braided river type, displaying high stream power even in lower reaches. • The river bed and floodplain contain extensive gravel and cobble deposits, with gravel bars forming multiple-thread braided channels.	• Physico-chemical status of High, Specific Pollutants status of Pass (2016). • Minimal recorded pressures on water quality or biodiversity. • Large regional groundwater abstraction from Spey Abstraction Scheme (from shallow river deposits), supplying drinking water to large parts of Moray, along the west bank of the Spey from

Watercourse (SEPA monitoring ID, where applicable; general description, WFD status)	Hydrology and Flood Risk	Fluvial Geomorphology	Water Quality
Cairngorm Mountains to Spey Bay at NJ 3453 6559. Overall WFD status Moderate (2016). **Lhanbryde to East of Fochabers - North and South Option crossings in different locations**	the existing A96 (source: SEPA Fluvial Flood Map and Stage 2 flood model). Overall hydrology and flood risk sensitivity: **Very High** (critical infrastructure at baseline flood risk)	• Hydromorphology status of 'Moderate' (2016) - noting this element was at 'Good' status in 2015. • The lower River Spey (downstream of Fochabers, to Spey Bay) is a GCR site, designated for 'fluvial geomorphology' and 'coastal geomorphology'. • Typically 40m-60m wide, with a gradually meandering course lined with intermittent gravel bar deposits along both banks. **North Option:** • Option positioned across a relatively straight, narrow section of the Spey, 200m upstream of existing A96 road crossing (narrow channel width constrained by existing infrastructure). • Channel has extensive gravel deposits on both banks which indicates some recent in-channel activity. • Historic mapping indicates no significant changes to planform within the past century.	approximately Burnside of Dipple to Fochabers (see Chapter 19: Geology, Soils, Contaminated Land & Groundwater for more information). • Estimated to have a high/very high pollutant/sediment and dispersal capacity. • EU level habitat designations including River Spey Special Area of Conservation (SAC), Lower River Spey - Spey Bay SAC, Moray and Nairn Coast SPA and salmonid waters under WFD. Likely to contain species protected under EU legislation and potential for freshwater pearl mussel. • Recreation: angling/fishery associations and walking/cycling routes. Overall water quality sensitivity: **Very High**

Watercourse (SEPA monitoring ID, where applicable; general description, WFD status)	Hydrology and Flood Risk	Fluvial Geomorphology	Water Quality
		South Option: • Option positioned across a well-defined meander bend adjacent to the village of Ordiequish. • Evidence of active erosion on the outer meander bend (clear riffle feature observed in channel), with flow cutting into the cliffside of the asymmetric valley. Extensive gravel deposits on inner meander bank. • Evidence of a substantial landslip in the area at Ordiequish (with movement occurring during periods of heavy rainfall), likely to link with continuous active erosion by the Spey at the toe of the cliff. • Historic mapping suggests the meander is active and that lateral movement has occurred, with the channel migrating approximately 10m eastward over the past century. • Area morphologically active, change is expected to occur in the area during high flow events. Overall fluvial geomorphology sensitivity: **Very High**	

Watercourse (SEPA monitoring ID, where applicable; general description, WFD status)	Hydrology and Flood Risk	Fluvial Geomorphology	Water Quality
Burn of Ordiequish Not WFD monitored. Small burn, 2km^2 catchment area, and tributary of the River Spey. Flows from the Wood of Ordiequish into the River Spey at NJ 3379 5804. **Lhanbryde to East of Fochabers - South Option only**	• Baseline flood risk is not shown on the SEPA Fluvial Flood Map due to the small size of the catchment. • The catchment is steep and wooded and the catchment topography suggests floodwaters would be contained to the channel corridor. Overall hydrology and flood risk sensitivity: **Low**	• A majority of the watercourse has a natural, highly sinuous course through woodland. • The watercourse is likely to support some species and habitats, although it is a relatively steep and shaded channel. • Evidence of recent morphological activity around South Option crossing. Existing twin pipe culvert (downstream of option) may be affecting sediment transport. • Likely to support limited species and habitats with a low level of sensitivity to changes to the existing channel morphology/ sediment regime. Overall fluvial geomorphology sensitivity: **Medium**	• Surrounding land-use is mostly woodland (Slorach's Wood and Wood of Ordiequish) - could receive intermittent nutrient-rich runoff from woodland. • Estimated to have a low/moderate pollutant/sediment dilution and dispersal capacity. • Could support salmonid species protected under EU/UK legislation in downstream reach. Overall water quality sensitivity: **Medium**
Burn of Fochabers ID: 23067; reach Burn of Fochabers. Small modified watercourse, 10km^2 catchment area, flowing from Douglasshiel Moss (NJ 3770 5480), through Fochabers to the	• SEPA flood risk shows flooding contained to the river corridor (source: SEPA Fluvial Flood Map), however anecdotal information supports flooding in 2009. More than 20 homes were flooded, three bridges impacted and the fish pass washed away.	• Middle/upper reaches have a natural, highly sinuous meandering course through the woodland, lower reaches through Fochabers have been modified (straightened, bank and bed modifications). • Evidence of instability and high erosive power (during high flows)	• WFD monitored waterbody but not for Physico-chemical status or Specific pollutants (2016). • Surrounding land-use is mostly woodland - could receive intermittent nutrient-rich runoff from woodland. • Could support salmonid species protected under EU/UK legislation.

Watercourse (SEPA monitoring ID, where applicable; general description, WFD status)	Hydrology and Flood Risk	Fluvial Geomorphology	Water Quality
River Spey (confluence at NJ 3407 5883). Overall WFD status Poor (2016). **Lhanbryde to East of Fochabers - South Option only**	Overall hydrology and flood risk sensitivity: **High**	in upper reaches of watercourse, potential for scour. • Hydromorphology status 'Moderate' (2016). Overall fluvial geomorphology sensitivity: **Medium**	• Estimated to have a low/moderate pollutant/sediment dilution and dispersal capacity. Overall water quality sensitivity: **Medium**
Little Dramlach Not WFD monitored. Small woodland drain, 0.75km^2 catchment area and tributary of the Burn of Fochabers (confluence at NJ 3654 2667). **Lhanbryde to East of Fochabers - North and South Option common crossing location**	• Baseline flood risk is not shown on the SEPA Fluvial Flood Map due to the small size of the catchment. • The catchment is steep and wooded and the catchment topography suggests floodwaters would be contained to the channel corridor. Overall hydrology and flood risk sensitivity: **Low**	• Flowing south into the Burn of Fochabers through steep sided valley. • Watercourse retains much of its natural character, is already crossed by existing A96 in lower reaches. • Historic mapping indicates no significant changes to planform within the past century. Overall fluvial geomorphology sensitivity: **Low**	• Not classified or monitored by SEPA. • Surrounding land-use is entirely woodland, could receive intermittent nutrient-rich runoff. • Estimated to have a low pollutant/sediment dilution and dispersal capacity. • Unlikely to support salmonid species protected under EU/UK legislation. Overall water quality sensitivity: **Low**
Meikle Dramlach Not WFD monitored. Small woodland drain, approximately 0.5km^2 catchment area and tributary of the Burn of Fochabers	• Baseline flood risk is not shown on the SEPA Fluvial Flood Map due to the small size of the catchment. • The catchment is steep and wooded and the catchment topography suggests floodwaters would be contained to the channel corridor.	• Flowing south into the Burn of Fochabers through steep sided valley. • Watercourse retains much of its natural character, is already crossed by existing A96 in lower reaches.	• Not classified or monitored by SEPA. • Surrounding land-use is entirely woodland, could receive intermittent nutrient-rich runoff. • Estimated to have a low pollutant/sediment dilution and dispersal capacity.

Watercourse (SEPA monitoring ID, where applicable; general description, WFD status)	Hydrology and Flood Risk	Fluvial Geomorphology	Water Quality
(confluence at NJ 3680 5636). **Lhanbryde to East of Fochabers - North and South Option common crossing location**	Overall hydrology and flood risk sensitivity: **Low**	• Historic mapping indicates no significant changes to planform within the past century. Overall fluvial geomorphology sensitivity: **Low**	• Unlikely to support salmonid species protected under EU/UK legislation. Overall water quality sensitivity: **Low**

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Appendix A20.3 - Predicted Environmental Effects

A20.3 Predicted Environmental Effects

Introduction

This Appendix presents the supporting information for the predicted environmental effects summary tables presented in Section 20.6 of Chapter 20 (Road Drainage and the Water Environment). Predicted effects have been assessed prior to mitigation and the residual effects then evaluated following assumed mitigation. The mitigation measures assumed are detailed in Section 20.5 of the chapter.

The supporting information is presented in the following tables:

- Tables 1.1 and 1.2 - Hardmuir to Hillhead North and South Options;
- Tables 1.3 and 1.4 - Hillhead to Lhanbryde North and South Options; and
- Tables 1.5 and 1.6 - Lhanbryde to East of Fochabers North and South Options.

Table 1.1 Predicted Environmental Effects: Hardmuir to Hillhead – North Option

Sub-topic / criteria	Predicted Effects (permanent and operational phase)	Significance of Predicted Effects	Assumed Mitigation	Predicted Significance of Residual Effects (and reasoning)
River Findhorn				
Hydrology and Flood Risk	• No predicted significant effects – crossing immediately downstream of the Aberdeen to Inverness Railway bridge (Findhorn Viaduct) predicted to result in Negligible impact on flood conveyance and floodplain storage. Negligible impact predicted on water levels at Forres (River Findhorn & Pilmuir) Flood Alleviation Scheme (FAS).			
Fluvial Geomorphology	• Watercourse crossing and associated abutments and embankments within the active river corridor 'pinning' the river channel in place, impacting on fluvial processes and causing changes to morphological features upstream and downstream.	Major adverse	W6, W7	Minor adverse (High sensitivity watercourse; the bridge design is adjacent to the existing Aberdeen to Inverness Railway bridge (Findhorn Viaduct) thereby sediment accretion is unlikely to be affected. Crossing would intersect the watercourse on a reach which has shown relative morphological stability over the past century. Use of SEPA best practice guidance, leading to Minor residual magnitude).
Water Quality	• Road runoff and increased risk of accidental vehicular spillages through drainage outfall(s).	Moderate adverse	W7, W8, W9, W10	Minor adverse (High sensitivity watercourse; with appropriate SuDS pollution control leading to Minor residual magnitude).
Burn of Mosset				
Hydrology and Flood Risk	• No predicted significant effects – crossing downstream of Forres (Burn of Mosset) FAS where floodwaters contained to channel. Use of SEPA best practice guidance in bridge crossing design, in conjunction with flood risk guidance, predicted to result in Negligible impact on flood conveyance and floodplain storage.			
Fluvial Geomorphology	• No predicted significant effects – Medium sensitivity watercourse that has been extensively modified and realigned to support agricultural field drainage systems with few natural geomorphological features retained. Classified as 'heavily modified' under the WFD. Use of SEPA best practice guidance in bridge crossing design predicted to result in Negligible impact on fluvial geomorphology.			
Water Quality	• Road runoff and increased risk of accidental vehicular spillages through drainage outfall(s).	Moderate adverse	W7, W8, W9, W10	Minor adverse (Medium sensitivity watercourse; with appropriate range of mitigation including SEPA best practice guidance leading to Minor residual magnitude).

Table 1.2 Predicted Environmental Effects: Hardmuir to Hillhead – South Option

Sub-topic / criteria	Predicted Effects (permanent and operational phase)	Significance of Predicted Effects	Assumed Mitigation	Predicted Significance of Residual Effects (and reasoning)
River Findhorn				
Hydrology and Flood Risk	• Reduced flood conveyance and floodplain storage due to road embankment footprint. Resulting in higher water levels during flood events and increased flood risk to residential/commercial property receptors in the existing floodplain or the Forres (River Findhorn & Pilmuir) FAS.	Major adverse	W1, W4	Minor adverse (Very High sensitivity watercourse; compensatory storage and raised access road leading to Minor residual magnitude, i.e. increase in flood levels at sensitive receptors).
	• Reduced flood conveyance and floodplain storage due to road embankment footprint. Resulting in higher water levels during flood events and increased flood risk to residential/commercial property receptors not in the existing floodplain.	Major adverse	W1, W4	Neutral (Very High sensitivity watercourse; compensatory storage and raised access road leading to Negligible residual magnitude).
Fluvial Geomorphology	• Watercourse crossing and associated abutments and embankments within the active river corridor 'pinning' the river channel in place, impacting on fluvial processes and causing changes to morphological features upstream and downstream. • There is evidence of erosion on the left bank immediately north of the proposed crossing, with visible damage to bankside and existing rock revetment.	Major adverse	W6, W7	Minor adverse (High sensitivity watercourse; the design of the bridge will take into account potential scour risk and potential for minor bank migration on the left bank. Use of SEPA best practice guidance, leading to Minor residual magnitude).

Sub-topic / criteria	Predicted Effects (permanent and operational phase)	Significance of Predicted Effects	Assumed Mitigation	Predicted Significance of Residual Effects (and reasoning)
Water Quality	• Road runoff and increased risk of accidental vehicular spillages through drainage outfall(s).	Moderate adverse	W7, W8, W9, W10	Minor adverse (High sensitivity watercourse with appropriate SuDS pollution control leading to Minor residual magnitude).
Burn of Mosset				
Hydrology and Flood Risk	• No predicted significant effects – crossing upstream of Forres (Burn of Mosset) FAS where floodwaters contained to channel. Use of SEPA best practice guidance in bridge crossing design, in conjunction with flood risk guidance, predicted to result in Negligible impact on flood conveyance and floodplain storage.			
Fluvial Geomorphology	• No predicted significant effects – Medium sensitivity watercourse that has been extensively modified and realigned to support agricultural field drainage systems with few natural geomorphological features retained. Classified as 'heavily modified' under the WFD. Use of SEPA best practice guidance in bridge crossing design predicted to result in Negligible impact on fluvial geomorphology.			
Water Quality	• Road runoff and increased risk of accidental vehicular spillages through drainage outfall(s).	Moderate adverse	W7, W8, W9, W10	Minor adverse (Medium sensitivity watercourse; with appropriate range of mitigation including SEPA best practice guidance leading to Minor residual magnitude).

Table 1.3 Predicted Environmental Effects: Hillhead to Lhanbryde – North Option

Sub-topic / criteria	Predicted Effects (permanent and operational phase)	Significance of Predicted Effects	Assumed Mitigation	Predicted Significance of Residual Effects (and reasoning)
River Lossie				
Hydrology and Flood Risk	• No predicted significant effects to residential/commercial property receptors or the Elgin FAS. Restriction in flood conveyance resulting in very localised areas of agricultural land at increased flood risk.	Neutral	W2	Neutral (Very High sensitivity watercourse; flood relief culverts reducing flood risk to very localised areas of agricultural land, leading to Negligible residual magnitude at sensitive receptors).
Fluvial Geomorphology	• Watercourse crossings and associated abutments and embankments within the active river corridor 'pinning' the river channel in place, impacting on fluvial processes and causing changes to morphological features upstream and downstream.	Major adverse	W6, W7	Minor adverse (High sensitivity watercourse; the route crosses at a meander bend, which although appears relatively stable with no evidence of active erosion/deposition, will be considered in the design. Use of SEPA best practice guidance, leading to Minor residual magnitude).
Water Quality	• Road runoff and increased risk of accidental vehicular spillages through drainage outfall(s).	Moderate adverse	W7, W8, W9, W10	Minor adverse (High sensitivity watercourse; with appropriate range of mitigation including SEPA best practice guidance leading to Minor residual magnitude).

Table 1.4 Predicted Environmental Effects: Hillhead to Lhanbryde – South Option

Sub-topic / criteria	Predicted Effects (permanent and operational phase)	Significance of Predicted Effects	Assumed Mitigation	Predicted Significance of Residual Effects (and reasoning)
Mosstowie Canal				
Hydrology and Flood Risk	• Reduced flood conveyance and floodplain storage due to road embankment footprint. Resulting in higher water levels during flood events and increased flood risk to residential/commercial property receptors and the Aberdeen to Inverness Railway line in the existing floodplain.	Major adverse	W1, W2	Minor adverse (Very High sensitivity watercourse; area of compensatory storage included north of Mosstowie Canal and flood relief culverts leading to Minor residual magnitude, i.e. increase in flood levels at sensitive receptors).
Fluvial Geomorphology	• No predicted significant effects – Low sensitivity watercourse that has been extensively modified and realigned to support agricultural field drainage systems with few natural geomorphological features retained. Use of SEPA best practice guidance in bridge crossing design predicted to result in Negligible impact on fluvial geomorphology.			
Water Quality	• Road runoff and increased risk of accidental vehicular spillages through drainage outfall(s).	Moderate adverse	W7, W8, W9, W10	Minor adverse (Medium sensitivity watercourse; with appropriate range of mitigation including SEPA best practice guidance leading to Minor residual magnitude).
Black Burn				
Hydrology and Flood Risk	• Reduced flood conveyance and floodplain storage due to road embankment footprint. Resulting in higher water levels during flood events and increased flood risk to residential/commercial property receptors and the Aberdeen to Inverness Railway line in the existing floodplain.	Major adverse	W2, W3	Minor adverse (Very High sensitivity watercourse; bridge widening and flood relief culverts leading to Minor residual magnitude, i.e. increase in flood levels at sensitive receptors).

Sub-topic / criteria	Predicted Effects (permanent and operational phase)	Significance of Predicted Effects	Assumed Mitigation	Predicted Significance of Residual Effects (and reasoning)
	• Reduced flood conveyance and floodplain storage due to road embankment footprint. Resulting in higher water levels during flood events and increased flood risk to residential/commercial property receptors not in the existing floodplain.	Major adverse	W2, W3	Neutral (Very High sensitivity watercourse; bridge widening and flood relief culverts leading to Negligible residual magnitude).
Fluvial Geomorphology	• Watercourse crossings and associated abutments and embankments within the active river corridor 'pinning' the river channel in place, impacting on fluvial processes and causing changes to morphological features upstream and downstream.	Moderate adverse	W6, W7	Minor adverse (Medium sensitivity watercourse; use of SEPA best practice guidance, leading to Minor residual magnitude).
Water Quality	• Road runoff and increased risk of accidental vehicular spillages through drainage outfall(s).	Moderate adverse	W7, W8, W9, W10	Minor adverse (High sensitivity watercourse; with appropriate range of mitigation including SEPA best practice guidance leading to Minor residual magnitude).
River Lossie				
Hydrology and Flood Risk	• Reduced flood conveyance and floodplain storage due to road embankment footprint. Resulting in higher water levels during flood events and increased flood risk to residential/commercial property receptors and the Aberdeen to Inverness Railway line in the existing floodplain or the Elgin FAS.	Major adverse	W2, W3	Minor adverse (Very High sensitivity watercourse; bridge realignment and widening for main option crossing and Elgin West Junction link road crossings, plus flood relief culverts leading to Minor residual magnitude, i.e. increase in flood levels at sensitive receptors).
	• Reduced flood conveyance and floodplain storage due to road embankment footprint. Resulting in	Major adverse	W2, W3	Neutral (Very High sensitivity watercourse; bridge realignment and widening for main option crossing and Elgin West Junction link road crossings, plus flood

Sub-topic / criteria	Predicted Effects (permanent and operational phase)	Significance of Predicted Effects	Assumed Mitigation	Predicted Significance of Residual Effects (and reasoning)
	higher water levels during flood events and increased flood risk to residential/commercial property receptors not in the existing floodplain.			relief culverts leading to Negligible residual magnitude).
Fluvial Geomorphology	• Watercourse crossings and associated abutments and embankments within the active river corridor 'pinning' the river channel in place, impacting on fluvial processes and causing changes to morphological features upstream and downstream.	Major adverse	W6, W7	Minor adverse (High sensitivity watercourse; the Elgin West Junction link road crossings are located on relatively stable reaches and at Cloddach Quarry the river is straightened and constrained. Design of the bridges will consider the risk of erosion and channel migration. Use of SEPA best practice guidance leading to Minor residual magnitude).
Water Quality	• Road runoff and increased risk of accidental vehicular spillages through drainage outfall(s).	Moderate adverse	W7, W8, W9, W10	Minor adverse (High sensitivity watercourse; with appropriate range of mitigation including SEPA best practice guidance leading to Minor residual magnitude).

Table 1.5 Predicted Environmental Effects: Lhanbryde to East of Fochabers – North Option

Sub-topic / criteria	Predicted Effects (permanent and operational phase)	Significance of Predicted Effects	Assumed Mitigation	Predicted Significance of Residual Effects (and reasoning)
River Spey				
Hydrology and Flood Risk	• Reduced flood conveyance and floodplain storage due to road embankment footprint. Resulting in higher water levels during flood events and increased flood risk to residential/commercial property receptors in the existing floodplain.	Major adverse	W2, W3	Minor adverse (Very High sensitivity watercourse; with flood relief structure beneath the North Option crossing, along with ground re-profiling leading to Minor residual magnitude, i.e. increase in flood levels at sensitive receptors).
	• Reduced flood conveyance and floodplain storage due to road embankment footprint. Resulting in higher water levels during flood events and increased flood risk to residential/commercial property receptors not in the existing floodplain.	Major adverse	W2, W3	Neutral (Very High sensitivity watercourse; with flood relief structure beneath the North Option, along with ground re-profiling leading to Negligible residual magnitude).
Fluvial Geomorphology	• Watercourse crossings and associated abutments and embankments within the active river corridor 'pinning' the river channel in place, impacting on fluvial processes and causing changes to morphological features upstream and downstream.	Major adverse	W6, W7	Minor adverse (Very High sensitivity watercourse; river planform appears to be relatively stable with no evidence of active erosion. Extensive gravel deposits on both banks that will be reshaped during flood events. No works are proposed within the river corridor and River Spey SAC (i.e. the bridge crossing will have a clear span over the channel and SAC designated area). Crossing structure will be designed to allow continuation of sediment sorting and shaping, replicating baseline conditions and therefore reducing geomorphological risk. Use of SEPA best practice guidance leading to Minor residual magnitude).

Sub-topic / criteria	Predicted Effects (permanent and operational phase)	Significance of Predicted Effects	Assumed Mitigation	Predicted Significance of Residual Effects (and reasoning)
Water Quality	• Road runoff and increased risk of accidental vehicular spillages through drainage outfall(s).	Moderate adverse	W7, W8, W9, W10	Minor adverse (Very High sensitivity watercourse; with appropriate range of mitigation including SEPA best practice guidance leading to Minor residual magnitude).

Table 1.6 Predicted Environmental Effects: Lhanbryde to East of Fochabers – South Option

Sub-topic / criteria	Predicted Effects (permanent and operational phase)	Significance of Predicted Effects	Assumed Mitigation	Predicted Significance of Residual Effects (and reasoning)
Dipple Burn				
Hydrology and Flood Risk	• No predicted significant effects – use of SEPA best practice guidance in culvert design, in conjunction with flood risk guidance, resulting in Negligible impact.			
Fluvial Geomorphology	• Culvert resulting in alterations to channel/bank morphology with implications for flow types and sediment behaviour. • Dipple Brae Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) designated for geological value located 40m downstream of crossing point.	Moderate adverse	W6, W7	Minor adverse (Medium sensitivity watercourse; culvert will be designed with use of SEPA best practice guidance, leading to Minor residual magnitude).
Water Quality	• Road runoff and increased risk of accidental vehicular spillages through drainage outfall(s).	Moderate adverse	W7, W8, W9, W10	Minor adverse (Medium sensitivity watercourse; with appropriate SuDS pollution control and SEPA best practice for culvert and channel realignment design, leading to Minor residual magnitude).
	• New culvert causing localised change in dissolved oxygen levels, and associated channel realignment locally altering turbulence and minor effect on atmospheric oxygenation of the water.	Moderate adverse	W7, W10	Minor adverse (Medium sensitivity watercourse; with SEPA best practice for culvert and channel realignment design, leading to Minor residual magnitude).
River Spey				
Hydrology and Flood Risk	• Reduced flood conveyance and floodplain storage due to road embankment footprint. Resulting in higher water levels during flood	Major adverse	W5	Minor adverse (Very High sensitivity watercourse; with property level protection implemented at the Scottish Water Spey Abstraction Scheme, leading to Minor residual magnitude, i.e. increase in flood levels at sensitive

Sub-topic / criteria	Predicted Effects (permanent and operational phase)	Significance of Predicted Effects	Assumed Mitigation	Predicted Significance of Residual Effects (and reasoning)
	events and increased flood risk to residential/commercial property receptors, including public water supply infrastructure (associated with the Spey Abstraction Scheme), in the existing floodplain.			receptors, including the Spey Abstraction Scheme infrastructure).
Fluvial Geomorphology	• Watercourse crossing and associated abutments and embankments within the active river corridor 'pinning' the river channel in place, impacting on fluvial processes and causing changes to morphological features upstream and downstream. • Evidence of a substantial landslip in the area at Ordiequish (with movement occurring during periods of heavy rainfall), likely to link with continuous active erosion at the toe of the cliffside at the right bank of the River Spey.	Major adverse	W6, W7	Minor adverse (Very High sensitivity watercourse; there is evidence of active erosion on the outer meander bend of the River Spey at the location of the proposed crossing, which is linked to a landslide occurring on the river cliff at this location. No works are proposed within the river corridor and River Spey SAC (i.e. the bridge crossing will have a clear span over the channel and SAC designated area). Any scour protection required to protect the integrity of the crossing structure and bank protection measures to prevent further erosion of the cliff bank will be set-back sufficiently from the SAC boundary and from the water level during normal flow conditions. The use of SEPA best practice guidance for structure design and other suitable mitigation is predicted to result in Minor adverse residual magnitude).
Water Quality	• Road runoff and increased risk of accidental vehicular spillages through drainage outfall(s).	Moderate adverse	W7, W8, W9, W10	Minor adverse (Very High sensitivity watercourse; with appropriate SuDS pollution control and SEPA best practice for culvert and channel realignment design, leading to Minor residual magnitude).
Burn of Ordiequish				
Hydrology and Flood Risk	• No predicted significant effects – use of SEPA best practice guidance in culvert design, in conjunction with flood risk guidance, predicted to result in Negligible impact, on flood water levels.			
Fluvial Geomorphology	• Culvert resulting in alterations to channel/bank morphology with	Moderate adverse	W7	Minor adverse (Medium sensitivity watercourse; culvert will be designed using SEPA best practice guidance to

Sub-topic / criteria	Predicted Effects (permanent and operational phase)	Significance of Predicted Effects	Assumed Mitigation	Predicted Significance of Residual Effects (and reasoning)
	implications for flow types and sediment behaviour.			minimise impacts on flow/sediment patterns, leading to Minor residual magnitude).
Water Quality	• Road runoff and increased risk of accidental vehicular spillages through drainage outfall(s).	Moderate adverse	W7, W8, W9, W10	Minor adverse (Medium sensitivity watercourse; with appropriate SuDS pollution control leading to Minor residual magnitude).
	• New culvert causing localised change in dissolved oxygen levels, and associated channel realignment locally altering turbulence and minor effect on atmospheric oxygenation of the water.	Moderate adverse	W7, W10	Minor adverse (Medium sensitivity watercourse; with SEPA best practice for culvert and channel realignment design, leading to Minor residual magnitude).
Burn of Fochabers				
Hydrology and Flood Risk	• Reduced channel capacity and conveyance due to impact of three bridges on sediment released into channel. Resulting in higher water levels during flood events and the potential for increased flood risk to residential/commercial property receptors. • Fochabers experienced flash flooding in 2009, when extensive channel destabilisation occurred in the wood upstream and large volumes of sediment were released downstream.	Major adverse	W6, W7	Minor adverse (High sensitivity watercourse; historic flood risk and erosion issues will be taken into consideration. Use of SEPA best practice guidance, leading to Minor residual magnitude, i.e. increase in flood levels at sensitive receptors).
Fluvial Geomorphology	• Watercourse crossings and associated abutments and embankments within the active	Moderate adverse	W6, W7	Minor adverse (Medium sensitivity watercourse; historic erosion issues will be taken into consideration. Use of

Sub-topic / criteria	Predicted Effects (permanent and operational phase)	Significance of Predicted Effects	Assumed Mitigation	Predicted Significance of Residual Effects (and reasoning)
	river corridor 'pinning' the river channel in place, impacting on fluvial processes and causing changes to morphological features upstream and downstream.			SEPA best practice guidance, leading to Minor residual magnitude).
Water Quality	• Road runoff and increased risk of accidental vehicular spillages through drainage outfall(s).	Moderate adverse	W7, W8, W9, W10	Minor adverse (Medium sensitivity watercourse; with appropriate SuDS pollution control and use of SEPA best practice guidance, leading to Minor residual magnitude).

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A96 DUALLING
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