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Red John Pumped Storage Hydro Scheme

Volume 5, Appendix 11.3: Visual Assessment

ILI (Highlands PSH) Ltd.

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Quality information

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Revision History

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1	November 2018	Submission	CA	Catherine Anderson	Associate Director

Distribution List

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Appendix 11.3 Visual Assessment

11.1 Introduction

11.1.1 This appendix should be read in conjunction with Chapter 11: Landscape and Visual (Volume 2) and Figures, 11.3- 11.4 (Volume 3).

11.1.2 The visual assessment is also supported by a package of visualisations from each of the 11 viewpoints at Operation (year 1) and Operation (year 15) which are presented in Volume 4: Visualisations.

11.1.3 All landscape and visual mitigation is embedded and descried in Chapter 3: Evolution of Design and Alternatives (Volume 2). All effects identified in the tables below are therefore residual.

11.2 Assessment of Visual Effects

11.2.1 The following tables present the detailed assessment of visual effects at construction, operation (year 1) and year 15 of operation. The baseline description and value judgment of each viewpoint is considered in Chapter 11: Landscape and Visual, Section 11.4.

11.2.2 The assessment is set out in the following tables:

- Table 11.1 Viewpoint 1: Minor road adjacent to Ach-Na-Sidhe B&B
- Table 11.2 Viewpoint 2: Abriachan
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Table Error! No text of specified style in document**.1 Viewpoint 1: Minor road adjacent to Ach-Na-Sidhe B&B**

Sensitivity of Visual receptor	Magnitude of Visual Change	Significance of Effect
Receptor Group: Residential Distance to the Development: Tailpond: 1788 m Headpond: 416 m Value: **Medium** Susceptibility: This viewpoint is representative of views from a residential property where the views will be experienced daily and are an important part of the experience. Susceptibility is **High**. Visual Sensitivity: Taking into account the value judgements and the susceptibility to change, overall visual sensitivity is considered to be **High**.	Construction The scale and proximity of construction activities would be apparent in immediate views to the north and west and forestry clearance operations would temporary dominate views. Once constructed the mitigation earth bund and associated planting adjacent to the property and land boundary would assist in partially screening views of construction plant and activity associated with the Headpond. Nonetheless construction activities including, forestry clearance operations, the movement of large-scale construction plant, earthworks, storage of material and lighting associated with the Headpond would dominate views. However, the focus of views south would remain largely unchanged apart from the increased construction traffic on the C1064. The scale and intensity of construction activity would fundamentally alter the visual experience therefore the magnitude of change is considered to be **High**. The magnitude of change, assessed alongside the high sensitivity would result in a **Major Adverse** effect, which is considered **significant**.	**Major Adverse (Significant)**
	Operation (Year 1): The removal of coniferous plantation forestry in views west and north and beyond the mitigation earth bund would open up views. To the north, the Embankment and Headpond Inlet / Outlet Structure would be dominant features in the view. The C1064 Realignment would be visible, but would appear beyond the mitigation earth bund to the west and more distant than the existing road. The main focus of views south across the moorland would remain unchanged. However, the contrasting scale of the Development and the full extent of change in views north would fundamentally alter the balance of features and visual amenity experienced. Therefore, the magnitude of change is considered to be **High**. The magnitude of change, assessed alongside the high sensitivity would result in a **Major Adverse** effect, which is considered **significant**.	**Major Adverse (Significant)**

Sensitivity of Visual receptor	Magnitude of Visual Change	Significance of Effect
	Operation (Year 15): Once established, the native broadleaved woodland would partially reduce the scale of vertical change experienced in views north towards the Embankment and the Headpond Inlet / Outlet Structure. Nonetheless the height and mass of the Headpond Inlet / Outlet Structure would be apparent and in relatively close proximity in an elevated position. The overall balance of features in the view would be altered and the contrast would be a noticeable change across the view north. However, the focus of views south remains unchanged. On balance, the magnitude of change is considered to be **Medium**. The magnitude of change, assessed alongside the high sensitivity would result in a **Moderate Adverse** effect, which is considered **significant**.	**Moderate Adverse (Significant)**

Table Error! No text of specified style in document.**.2 Viewpoint 2: Abriachan**

Sensitivity of Visual receptor	Magnitude of Visual Change	Significance of Effect
Receptor Group: Residential Distance to the Development: Tailpond: 2868 m Headpond: 4905 m Value: **High** Susceptibility: This viewpoint is representative of views from residential receptors who experience scenic views across Loch Ness and the wider landscape of the Great Glen and is of primary importance. Susceptibility is **High**. Visual Sensitivity: Taking into account the value judgements and the susceptibility to change, overall visual sensitivity is considered to be **High**.	Construction: Forestry clearance operations would appear across an extensive portion of the view. Construction activity associated with the entire Development would extend from the Tailpond at the loch shore up to the Headpond. The scale and intensity of construction activity at the Tailpond, including the movement of large-scale plant, the presence of lighting and the movement of cranes particularly associated with the Cofferdam and Temporary Jetty would be prominent and contrasting elements extending from the loch edge into the loch. The transportation and loading of material to and from barges and the assembly of plant including the Tunnel Boring Machine would be noticeable on the loch itself. The movement of construction plant along the Temporary Access Track between the Tailpond, Temporary Compound (3) and Headpond would be noticeable within the main focus of views. Earthworks and storage of materials, Temporary Compounds (1, 3 and 4) and associated structures would be seen on the hillside alongside operations at the Headpond all of which would be an incongruous addition across a substantial horizontal extent of the view. Overall construction activities would introduce discordant features that contrast heavily with the current view. Therefore the magnitude of change is considered to be **High**. The magnitude of change, assessed alongside the sensitivity would result in a **Major Adverse** effect, which is considered **significant**.	**Major Adverse (Significant)**
	Operation (Year 1): At year 1 of opening, the removal of forestry would be apparent across a large extent of the view stretching from the loch edge to the Headpond. The Valvehouse, Control Building, Workshop, Inlet / Outlet Structure and Permanent Jetty would be noticeable elements on the loch shore. However, the scale of these components would appear broadly comparable to other scattered development already present on the loch shore. The Permanent Compound (1) including Battery House and Substation would be noticeable elements within the area of forestry clearance, part way up the hillside and would heavily contrast with the residential scale of other buildings within Dores.	

Sensitivity of Visual receptor	Magnitude of Visual Change	Significance of Effect
Operational (Year 1) (cont.)	The full extent of the western elevation of the Embankment would be apparent across a large horizontal extent of the view. The Headpond Inlet / Outlet Structure would be an additional built element within the view but seen against the backdrop of the rolling hills beyond. Vehicles travelling along the C1064 Realignment would also be visible. The majority of the Development components would be visible within the same portion and in the main focus of the view. Therefore the magnitude of change is considered to be **High**. The magnitude of change, assessed alongside the sensitivity would result in a **Major Adverse** effect, which is considered **significant**.	**Major Adverse (Significant)**
	<u>Operation (Year 15):</u> Once established, the native broadleaved woodland would help to integrate various components of the Development into the view. The more established woodland would disassociate the Tailpond and Headpond, and would reduce the sense of scale associated with the Development. The Tailpond Inlet / Outlet Structure and Jetty would be visible on the loch shore whilst the Valvehouse, Workshop and Control Building would be seen within the wooded loch edge, not dissimilar to other buildings already present along the loch shore. The Temporary Access Track corridor would be reinstated and the C1064 Realignment would not be discernible in the view due to the reinstated woodland. Furthermore the reinstated woodland surrounding the Permanent Compound (1) would largely screen the Battery House and Substation. The planted Landscape Embankment would substantially reduce the extent of the Embankment visible. However the Headpond Inlet / Outlet Structure and Embankment below would remain visible within a smaller portion of the view. The visible parts of the Embankment would be seen in the context of the larger swathes of reinstated native broadleaved woodland. The full extent to which the Development components would be visible and would also vary with the change in light conditions. Overall the Development would result in a small change to the balance and composition of the view. Taking all of this into account the magnitude of change is considered to be **Low**. The magnitude of change, assessed alongside the sensitivity would result in a **Minor Adverse** effect, which is not considered significant.	**Minor Adverse**

Table Error! No text of specified style in document.**.3 Viewpoint 3: Lochend**

Sensitivity of Visual receptor	Magnitude of Visual Change	Significance of Effect
Receptor Group: Residential Distance to the Development: Tailpond: 4330 m Headpond: 4024 m Value: **Medium** Susceptibility: This viewpoint is representative of views from residential properties where the views across Loch Ness and the Great Glen are experienced daily and are an important part of the experience. Susceptibility is **High**. Visual Sensitivity: Taking into account the value judgements and the susceptibility to change, overall visual sensitivity is considered to be **High**.	Construction: Forestry clearance operations would be visible on the skyline beyond the Torr Wood peninsula. Construction plant and activity would be visible on the hillside beyond, at the Headpond location where the movement of plant, lighting, earthworks and the storage of materials would be seen moving up and down the hillside and across the skyline. Overall construction activity would be a distracting element across a small but noticeable portion of the view. Therefore the magnitude of change is considered to be **Medium**. The magnitude of change, assessed alongside the sensitivity would result in a **Moderate Adverse** effect, which is considered **significant**.	**Moderate Adverse (Significant)**
	Operation (Year 1): At year 1 of operation, the removal of forestry would be noticeable on upper portions of the hillside extending up to the skyline beyond the intervening Torr Wood peninsula. The Battery House and Substation at the Permanent Compound (1) would also be screened by the intervening landform. However, the Embankment and the Headpond Inlet / Outlet Structure would be a new addition on the skyline. Overall the components of the Development visible would result in a limited change across a small part of the background of the view. The iconic vistas of the Great Glen and along Loch Ness would remain unchanged. Taking all of this into account the magnitude of change is considered to be **Low**. The magnitude of change, assessed alongside the sensitivity would result in a **Minor Adverse** effect, which is not considered significant.	**Minor Adverse**
	Operation (Year 15): Once established, the native broadleaved woodland would largely screen a large part of the Embankment. The Headpond Inlet / Outlet Structure would remain visible against the skyline. The Development would result in a small change although the overall composition of the view would remain unchanged. Furthermore, vistas along the Great Glen and Loch Ness would remain intact. Taking all of this into account the magnitude of change is considered to be **Low**. The magnitude of change, assessed alongside the sensitivity would result in a **Minor Adverse** effect, which is not considered significant.	**Minor Adverse**

Table Error! No text of specified style in document.**.4 Viewpoint 4: Minor road to the north-east of Loch Duntelchaig (Trail of the Seven Lochs)**

Sensitivity of Visual receptor	Magnitude of Visual Change	Significance of Effect
Receptor Group: Recreational route Distance to the Development: Tailpond: 4143 m Headpond: 1354 m Value: **Medium** Susceptibility: This viewpoint is representative of people walking and cycling along the Trail of the Seven Lochs, whose attention will be in part focused on the landscape, particularly views across Loch Duntelchaig. However, views towards the Development Site are unlikely to be the primary focus of the view. Therefore susceptibility is considered to be **Medium**. Visual Sensitivity: Taking into account the value judgements and the susceptibility to change, overall visual sensitivity is considered to be **Medium**.	Construction: Forestry clearance operations would be apparent beyond the overhead line, across the upper part of the hillside and against the skyline. The scale and intensity of construction activity including the movement of plant, lighting, excavation, earthworks and storage of materials would occupy the skyline across the horizontal extent of the view. Overall the scale and extent of construction activity would become the focus of the view. Therefore the magnitude of change is considered to be **Medium**. The magnitude of change, assessed alongside the sensitivity would result in a **Moderate Adverse** effect, which is considered **significant**.	**Moderate Adverse (Significant)**
	Operation (Year 1): At year 1 of operation, the removal of forestry across the upper section of the hillside would be a noticeable addition on the skyline. The Embankment and Landscape Embankment would be visible to the west beyond the overhead line and would create a new backdrop to the view. The height and scale of the Embankment would be in contrast to the smaller scale components of the mid-ground view. However, the Landscape Embankment would lessen the overall scale and contrast. Overall the Development would be a noticeable addition across the horizontal extent of the background of the view and therefore the magnitude of change is considered to be **Medium**. The magnitude of change, assessed alongside the sensitivity would result in a **Moderate Adverse** effect, which is considered **significant**.	**Moderate Adverse (Significant)**
	Operation (Year 15): Once established, the native broadleaved woodland would further integrate the Embankment into the view. The overall extent of change would be reduced across the skyline. Woodland would screen the majority of the Embankment whilst the Landscape Embankment would taper down and retain views of the hills beyond. The magnitude of change would reduce to **Low**. The magnitude of change, assessed alongside the sensitivity would result in a **Minor Adverse** effect, which is not considered significant.	**Minor Adverse**

Table Error! No text of specified style in document.**.5 Viewpoint 5: Trail of the Seven Lochs, between Loch Duntelchaig and Loch a' Choire**

Sensitivity of Visual receptor	Magnitude of Visual Change	Significance of Effect
Receptor Group: Recreational route Distance to the Development: Tailpond: 4620 m Headpond: 2851 m Value: **Medium** Susceptibility: This viewpoint is representative of people walking and cycling along the Trail of the Seven lochs, whose primary attention and interest is focused on the landscape, particularly elevated views across Loch Duntelchaig and the Great Glen. However for large sections of the route, the view is enclosed by dense forestry. Susceptibility is **Medium**. Visual Sensitivity: Taking into account the value judgements and the susceptibility to change, overall visual sensitivity is considered to be **Medium**.	Construction: Forestry clearance operations would be particularly noticeable across half of the horizontal extent of the view. Construction activities associated with the Headpond, Embankment and Temporary Compound (4) including large-scale earthworks, lighting, storage of material and the movement of plant would be prominent. The full scale and extent of change across the main focus of the view would be very apparent. Therefore the magnitude of change is considered to be **High**. The magnitude of change, assessed alongside the sensitivity would result in a **Major Adverse** effect, which is considered **significant**.	**Major Adverse (Significant)**
	Operation (Year 1): At year 1 of opening the removal of forestry would be apparent across a noticeable proportion of the view. The Headpond, Embankment and the Headpond Inlet / Outlet Structure would be noticeable within an area of cleared forestry, across a wide horizontal extent of the view. The Headpond would be seen in the context of the adjacent lochs and lochans. The scour-line associated with the draw down would also be distinguishable from this elevated location. The Headpond Inlet / Outlet Structure would be a noticeable built element seen against the backdrop of a landscape within which few built elements are in view. This combined with the Embankment would appear as contrasting and noticeable features across the main focus of the view. Therefore the magnitude of change is considered to be **Medium**. The magnitude of change, assessed alongside the sensitivity would result in a **Moderate Adverse** effect, which is considered **significant**.	**Moderate Adverse (Significant)**
	Operation (Year 15): Once established, the introduction of native broadleaved woodland would help integrate the Headpond and Embankment into the landscape. The Headpond Inlet / Outlet Structure would remain a small but noticeable feature within the view. However the introduction of the native broadleaved woodland would be an improvement to the scenic quality and composition of the view. On balance the magnitude of change is considered to be **Low.** The magnitude of change, assessed alongside the sensitivity would result in a **Minor Adverse** effect, which is not considered significant.	**Minor Adverse**

Table Error! No text of specified style in document.**.6 Viewpoint 6: Creag nan Clag**

Sensitivity of Visual receptor	Magnitude of Visual Change	Significance of Effect
Receptor Group: Recreational route Distance to the Development: Tailpond: 4624 m Headpond: 4261 m Value: **Medium** Susceptibility: This viewpoint is representative of recreational users walking to the summit of hills within the local landscape where the attention and interest will be focused on the landscape. Susceptibility is therefore considered to be **High**. Visual Sensitivity: Taking into account the value judgements and the susceptibility to change, overall visual sensitivity is considered to be **Medium**.	Construction: Forestry clearance operations would be visible across a noticeable portion of this panoramic view. Construction activity visible would be associated with the C1064 Realignment, Temporary Access Tracks, Temporary Compounds (1 and 4) and the Headpond. The scale and intensity of activity at these locations resulting from the creation of settlement lagoons, lighting, movement of plant, large-scale earthworks and storage of material would all be clearly distinguishable and in contrast to the wider scenic quality experienced in the view. Overall, the scale of construction activity would be an uncharacteristic and distracting feature within this panoramic view. Therefore the magnitude of change is considered to be **Medium**. The magnitude of change, assessed alongside the sensitivity would result in a **Moderate Adverse** effect, which is considered **significant**.	**Moderate Adverse (Significant)**
	Operation (Year 1): At year 1 of operation, the extent of forestry removal would be noticeable within the plateau moorland. The introduction of the Headpond would be seen in the immediate context of the existing lochs but would appear smaller than Loch Duntelchaig, which maintains a balance of similar features within the view. The fluctuating scour line and draw down would be seen alongside the Embankment, Headpond Inlet / Outlet Structure, Permanent Compounds (1 and 4) and Permanent Access Tracks. Together these would contribute to a notable, new intervention within the landscape. However, the Development would not noticeably detract from the overall panoramic quality of this view. Therefore the magnitude of change is considered to be **Low**. The magnitude of change, assessed alongside the sensitivity would result in a **Minor Adverse** effect, which is not considered significant.	**Minor Adverse**

Sensitivity of Visual receptor	Magnitude of Visual Change	Significance of Effect
	Operation (Year 15): Once established, the introduction of native broadleaved woodland would help to integrate the Headpond, Permanent Compounds (1 and 4), Permanent Access Track and C1064 Realignment into the landscape. However, the Headpond Inlet / Outlet Structure would remain a small but noticeable feature in the view. Overall the Development would result in a small change to the wider composition and panoramic quality of the view. Therefore the magnitude of change is considered to be **Low**. The magnitude of change, assessed alongside the sensitivity would result in a **Minor Adverse** effect, which is not considered significant.	**Minor Adverse**

Table Error! No text of specified style in document.**.7 Viewpoint 7: Carn na Leitire (near The Great Glen Way)**

Sensitivity of Visual receptor	Magnitude of Visual Change	Significance of Effect
Receptor Group: Recreational route Distance to the Development: Tailpond: 4186 m Headpond: 6412 m Value: **Medium** Susceptibility: This viewpoint is representative of views from recreational users walking along the trail where elevated and panoramic views across the vast landscape are an important part of the experience. Susceptibility is **High**. Visual Sensitivity: Taking into account the value judgements and the susceptibility to change, overall visual sensitivity is considered to be **Medium**.	Construction: Forestry clearance operations would appear across a noticeable portion of the view to the east. Construction activity associated with the entire Development would extend from the Tailpond at the loch shore up to the Headpond. However, the Tailpond construction site would be entirely screened by intervening landform. The scale and intensity of construction activity including the movement of construction plant along the Temporary Access Track from the Tailpond to the Temporary Compounds (1, 3 and 4), large-scale earthworks, the creation of settlement lagoons, lighting and the storage of materials would result in a noticeable change across a noticeable horizontal extent of the view. Furthermore, the transportation and loading of material to and from barges and the assembly of plant including the Tunnel Boring Machine would be noticeable on the loch itself. The scale and intensity of construction activity would be a noticeable and uncharacteristic addition which would be in contrast to the wider scenic quality experienced in this panoramic view. Therefore the magnitude of change is considered to be **Medium**. The magnitude of change, assessed alongside the sensitivity would result in a **Moderate Adverse** effect, which is considered **significant**.	**Moderate Adverse (Significant)**
	Operation (Year 1): At year 1 of operation, the full extent of forestry removal would be apparent across a noticeable extent of the view extending up the hillside to the area surrounding the Headpond. The Permanent Compound (1 and 4), Battery House and Substation would be noticeable elements within the large area of cleared forestry on the hillside and would heavily contrast with the residential scale of other buildings within Dores. The Headpond and the western Embankment would be noticeable additions on the plateau landscape. The Headpond Inlet / Outlet Structure would be an additional built element within the view but seen against the backdrop of the rolling hills beyond. Vehicles travelling along the C1064 Realignment would also be visible. The scale of the Development would appear as a noticeable and contrasting addition in views east but would not fundamentally alter the balance and overall scenic quality of this panoramic view. Therefore the magnitude of change is considered to be **Medium**. The magnitude of change, assessed alongside the sensitivity would result in a **Moderate Adverse** effect, which is considered **significant**.	**Moderate Adverse (Significant)**

Sensitivity of Visual receptor	Magnitude of Visual Change	Significance of Effect
	Operation (Year 15): Once established, the native broadleaved woodland would help to integrate various components of the Development into the view. The established woodland would also reduce the sense of scale associated with the Development. The Tailpond Inlet / Outlet Structure and Jetty would be visible on the loch shore whilst the Valvehouse, Workshop and Control Building would be seen within the wooded loch edge, not dissimilar to other buildings along the loch shore. The Temporary Access Track corridor and C1064 Realignment would be barely discernible due to the reinstated native broadleaved woodland. Furthermore the reinstated woodland surrounding the Permanent Compound (1) would largely screen the Battery House and Substation. The planted Landscape Embankment would substantially reduce the extent of the Embankment visible. However, the Headpond Inlet / Outlet Structure and Embankment below would remain visible within a smaller portion of the view. The visible parts of the Embankment would be seen in the context of the larger swathes of reinstated native broadleaved woodland. The full extent to which the Development components would be visible would also vary with the change in light conditions. Overall the Development would result in a small change to the balance and composition of the view. Taking all of this into account the magnitude of change is considered to be **Low**. The magnitude of change, assessed alongside the sensitivity would result in a **Minor Adverse** effect, which is not considered significant.	**Minor Adverse**

Table Error! No text of specified style in document.**.8 Viewpoint 8: Watercraft on Loch Ness**

Sensitivity of Visual receptor	Magnitude of Visual Change	Significance of Effect
Receptor Group: Recreational routes and places of interest Distance to the Development: Tailpond: 3470 m Headpond: 5529 m Value: **High** Susceptibility: This viewpoint is representative of recreational users of watercraft travelling on Loch Ness and to places of interest such as Urquhart Castle, where views and interest is focused on the landscape. Therefore susceptibility is considered to be **High**. Visual Sensitivity: Taking into account the value judgements and the susceptibility to change, overall visual sensitivity is considered to be **High**.	Construction: Forestry clearance operations would appear across a small part of the view to the north east of Loch Ness. The construction of the Cofferdam and Temporary Jetty would be visible on the Loch. The construction plant associated with the loading of plant and materials including cranes would be clearly distinguishable features operating on the loch shore across a largely uninterrupted part of the view. Lighting, transportation and loading of material to and from barges and the assembly of plant including the Tunnel Boring Machine would be noticeable on the loch itself. The movement of plant on the Temporary Access Track connecting the Tailpond and Headpond would also be apparent in the view. Temporary Compounds (1, 2 and 3) including temporary facilities, material storage and earthworks would be noticeable features on the hillside whilst construction plant and activity at the Headpond would be visible on the skyline. Overall construction activity would result in an intensive change to a small part of the view. However, the full extent of change would vary dependant on the direction of travel and the sequential nature of the visual experience underpinned by the visual qualities of the Great Glen. Taking all of this into account the magnitude of change is considered to be **Medium**. The magnitude of change, assessed alongside the sensitivity would result in a **Moderate Adverse** effect, which is considered **significant**.	**Moderate Adverse (Significant)**
	Operation (Year 1): At year 1 of operation, the extent of forestry removal would be apparent across a small section of the view. The introduction of the Tailpond Inlet / Outlet Structure and Permanent Jetty would appear on the loch shore. This together with the Valvehouse, Workshop and Control Building would appear as built elements siting on the loch shore. The Permanent Compounds (1 and 4), Battery House and Substation would be noticeable structures on the hillside within an area of cleared forestry.	**Minor Adverse**

Sensitivity of Visual receptor	Magnitude of Visual Change	Significance of Effect
	The Embankment, Headpond Inlet / Outlet Structure and C1064 Realignment would also be visible, sometimes seen on the skyline, depending on the angle of view experienced. Overall the Development would be confined to within a small portion of the view, often experienced sequentially as visitors travel along the loch. However, the overall scenic quality and composition of the view would remain largely intact. Taking all of this into account the magnitude of change is considered to be **Low**. The magnitude of change, assessed alongside the sensitivity would result in a **Minor Adverse** effect, which is not considered significant.	
	<u>Operation (Year 15):</u> Once established, the native broadleaved woodland would help to integrate the various components of the Development including the Tailpond Inlet / Outlet Structure, Valvehouse, Workshop and Control Building, Battery House and Substation into the landscape and consequently the view. The corridor of the former Temporary Access Track would be reinstated and barely perceptible. The Landscape Embankment and associated planting would effectively screen large parts of the Embankment and Headpond Inlet / Outlet Structure. Furthermore, the establishment of broadleaved woodland would help to disassociate the components in the view and reduce the overall scale and prominence of the Development. Overall there would be little perceptible change to the integrity, balance and composition of the view. Therefore the magnitude of change is considered to be **Low**. The magnitude of change, assessed alongside the sensitivity would result in a **Minor Adverse** effect, which is not considered significant.	**Minor Adverse**

Table Error! No text of specified style in document.**.9 Viewpoint 9: Urquhart Castle**

Sensitivity of Visual receptor	Magnitude of Visual Change	Significance of Effect
Receptor Group: Place of interest Distance to the Development: Tailpond: 7281 m Headpond: 9098 m Value: **High** Susceptibility: This viewpoint is representative of views from within the grounds of Urquhart Castle where views are channelled along the Great Glen across Loch Ness and are integral to the visual experience, therefore susceptibility is **High**. Visual Sensitivity: Taking into account the value judgements and the susceptibility to change, overall visual sensitivity is considered to be **High**.	Construction: Forestry clearance operations would be visible stretching from the Tailpond up the slope to the Temporary Compounds (1 and 3) and Headpond areas. The construction activities visible would be associated with the Tailpond including the Cofferdam and Temporary Jetty on the loch shore. Activities including the delivery and transportation of large-scale plant including the movement of cranes, loading of plant and materials would be particularly noticeable on the loch shore. The intensity of construction activity including the presence of lighting and the movement of plant along the Temporary Access Track that runs up the hillside from the Tailpond to the Headpond would also be noticeable. Construction activity associated with the Headpond would be distinguishable on a small section of the skyline. Overall the scale and intensity of construction activity although distracting would not directly conflict with the focus of views along Loch Ness. Taking all of this into account the magnitude of change is considered to be **Medium**. The magnitude of change, assessed alongside the sensitivity would result in a **Moderate Adverse** effect, which is considered **significant**.	**Moderate Adverse (Significant)**
	Operation (Year 1): At year 1 of operation, the removal of forestry visible would include a corridor extending from the Tailpond to the larger cleared area towards the Headpond. The Tailpond Inlet / Outlet Structure, Permanent Jetty and Permanent Compound (2) including the Valvehouse, Workshop and Control Building would be seen in distant views on the loch shore. The Permanent Compound (1) with Battery House and Substation would be visible on the hillside amongst the expanse of cleared forestry. The Embankment would also be seen across a very limited extent of the skyline. However the Headpond Inlet / Outlet Structure would remain distinguishable on the skyline Overall the Development would result in a small change, oblique to the main focus of the view. Therefore the magnitude of change is considered to be **Low**. The magnitude of change, assessed alongside the sensitivity would result in a **Minor Adverse** effect, which is not considered significant	**Minor Adverse**

Sensitivity of Visual receptor	Magnitude of Visual Change	Significance of Effect
	Operation (Year 15): Once established, the native broadleaved woodland would largely screen the Embankment, Battery House and Substation. The establishment of woodland would also help to disassociate the Development components and further reduce the scale and prominence of the Development. The Valvehouse, Workshop and Control Building would be largely integrated into the wooded loch edge. The Tailpond Inlet / Outlet Structure and Permanent Jetty would be distinguishable at the loch shore but oblique to the main focus of the view. The Headpond Inlet / Outlet Structure would remain distinguishable on the skyline. The overall extent to which the Development is discernible would vary dependant on the lighting conditions. Taking all of this into account the magnitude of change is considered to be **Low**. The magnitude of change, assessed alongside the sensitivity would result in a **Minor Adverse** effect, which is not considered significant.	**Minor Adverse**

Table Error! No text of specified style in document.**.10 Viewpoint 10: Layby on A82**

Sensitivity of Visual receptor	Magnitude of Visual Change	Significance of Effect
Receptor Group: Road users Distance to the Development: Tailpond: 2352 m Headpond: 3905 m Value: **High** Susceptibility: This viewpoint is representative of road users using a series of laybys along the A82 where views across Loch Ness are an important part of the experience. However views of Loch Ness from moving vehicles are peripheral to the direction of travel. On balance susceptibility is considered to be **Medium** Visual Sensitivity: Taking into account the value judgements and the susceptibility to change, overall visual sensitivity is considered to be **Medium**.	Construction: Forestry operations would be visible extending from the loch shore up the hillside and across an extensive area up to the skyline. The Cofferdam, Temporary Jetty and associated plant at the Tailpond including the presence of lighting, cranes and the loading of equipment and materials would be prominent features operating on the loch shore. Furthermore, the transportation and loading of material to and from barges and the assembly of plant including the Tunnel Boring Machine would be noticeable on the loch itself. Construction plant would also be visible moving up and down the hillside along the Temporary Access Track between the Tailpond and Headpond. Temporary Compounds (1 and 3), lighting, earthworks and the storage of materials would also be visible on the hillside. Construction activity associated with the Embankment would be visible across a large horizontal extent of the skyline. Overall, construction activities would be prominent across the main focus of the view. Therefore the magnitude of change is considered to be **High**. The magnitude of change, assessed alongside the sensitivity would result in a **Major Adverse** effect, which is considered **significant**.	**Major Adverse (Significant)**
	Operation (Year 1): At year 1 of opening, the extensive removal of forestry extending from the loch shore to the skyline would be apparent. The Tailpond Inlet / Outlet Structure and Permanent Jetty would be visible structures on the edge of Loch Ness, whilst the Valvehouse, Control Building and Workshop would be seen set against a cleared expanse of woodland behind. The Permanent Compound (1) including the Battery House and Substation would be visible on the upper portion of the hillside within the expanse of cleared forestry whilst the Embankment would be noticeable across the horizontal extent of the background. In addition the Headpond Inlet / Outlet Structure would be a noticeable element on the skyline. Overall the Development would extend from the loch shore to the skyline within the main focus of the view. Taking all of this into account the magnitude of change is considered to be **Medium**. The magnitude of change, assessed alongside the sensitivity would result in a **Moderate Adverse** effect, which is considered **significant**.	**Moderate Adverse (Significant)**

Sensitivity of Visual receptor	Magnitude of Visual Change	Significance of Effect
	Operation (Year 15): Once established, the native broadleaved woodland would help to integrate the Development into the landscape and consequently into the view. The established woodland would reduce the sense of scale associated with the Development. Whilst the Tailpond Inlet / Outlet Structure would remain visible on the loch shore, The Valvehouse, Control Building and Workshop would be largely screened and assimilated into the wooded loch shore. The former Temporary Access Track would be reinstated whilst the Battery House and Substation would also be largely screened by the native broadleaved woodland. The Landscape Embankment together with the woodland planting would substantially reduce the prominence of the embankment across the skyline however the Headpond Inlet / Outlet Structure would remain visible above the Embankment. Overall the Development would result in a small change to the overall composition of the view. Taking all of this into account the magnitude of change is considered to be **Low**. The magnitude of change, assessed alongside the sensitivity would result in a **Minor Adverse** effect, which is not considered significant.	**Minor Adverse**

Table Error! No text of specified style in document.**.11 Viewpoint 11: Local road near Caisteal an Dunriachaidh**

Sensitivity of Visual receptor	Magnitude of Visual Change	Significance of Effect
Receptor Group: Road users Distance to the Development: Tailpond: 1799 m Headpond: 1659 m Value: **Medium**	Construction: Forestry operations would be apparent across the background view and would open up views beyond. Construction activities associated with the Headpond, C1064 Realignment and Temporary Access Tracks would extend across the horizontal extent of the view. The scale and intensity of movement including that of large-scale construction plant along with the presence of lighting, excavation, earthworks and the storage of materials would be prominent and would diminish the overall scenic quality of the view. Therefore the magnitude of change is considered to be **High**. The magnitude of change, assessed alongside the sensitivity would result in a **Major Adverse** effect, which is considered **significant**.	**Major Adverse (Significant)**
Susceptibility: This viewpoint is representative of local road users where the view is incidental to the receptor's reason for being there. This view is also experienced by recreational users including cyclists and people exploring the Loch Ness area and views of the landscape are of particular interest. On balance susceptibility is **Medium**. Visual Sensitivity: Taking into account the value judgements and the susceptibility to change, overall visual sensitivity is considered to be **Medium**.	Operation (Year 1): At year 1 of operation, the extensive removal of forestry across the skyline would be a noticeable change across the horizontal extent of the background of the view. The introduction of the Headpond Inlet / Outlet Structure would be apparent on the skyline above the embankment. The 8 m high Headpond Inlet / Outlet Structure would be clearly distinguishable and seen in the context of the 2 storey Ach-Na-Sidhe Bed and Breakfast and therefore would appear more prominent. The Permanent Access Track would also be visible between the Ach-Na-Sidhe Bed and Breakfast and the Embankment. Overall the Development would substantially alter the composition and characteristic features apparent in the view. Therefore the Magnitude of change is considered to be **High**. The magnitude of change, assessed alongside the sensitivity would result in a **Major Adverse** effect, which is considered **significant**.	**Major Adverse (Significant)**

Sensitivity of Visual receptor	Magnitude of Visual Change	Significance of Effect
	Operation (Year 15): Once the native broadleaved woodland has established the vertical scale of the embankment would be reduced. The introduction of the woodland would also reinstate the wooded backdrop to the view albeit comprised of mixed broadleaved species composition. This wooded backdrop would help to reduce the scale and extent of change in the view. The generally open nature of the view would remain unchanged as would views west across the Great Glen. However, the presence of the Headpond Inlet / Outlet Structure would remain a noticeable and discordant feature in the view. Therefore the Magnitude of change is considered to be **Medium**. The magnitude of change, assessed alongside the sensitivity would result in a **Moderate Adverse** effect, which is considered **significant**.	**Moderate Adverse (Significant)**

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