Offshore Wind Power Limited

West of Orkney Windfarm Onshore EIA Report

Volume 2, Supporting Study 16: LVIA Viewpoint Assessment

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West of Orkney Windfarm

1 VIEWPOINT ASSESSMENT

1.1 Introduction

This Supporting Study sets out the findings of the detailed viewpoint assessment, carried out as part of the Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment (LVIA) for the onshore Project. The findings of the viewpoint assessment are used to inform the overall assessment of effects of the LVIA.

The viewpoints were selected to reflect a range of receptor locations at different distances and directions, and elevations from the onshore substation area. The selected viewpoints were intended to represent a proportionate and representative range of visual receptors, and include two viewpoints from scheduled monuments, as requested by Historic Environment Scotland (HES).

The viewpoints were agreed with The Highland Council (THC), NatureScot (NS) and HES and their locations are shown on Figure 17-2: Zone of Theoretical Visibility (ZTV) and Visual Receptors (Supporting Study (SS) 17: LVIA Figure pack).

An assessment of the potential effects on both landscape character and visual amenity arising from the onshore Project at each of the agreed viewpoints was undertaken and the findings set out in the tables below. These tables describe the:

- Name and location of viewpoints;
- Sensitivity of visual receptors and at the viewpoint;
- Landscape character type and value at the viewpoint;
- Existing view from each location;
- Predicted operational view of the onshore substation with other operational and consented developments;
- Predicted residual effects of the onshore substation; and
- Predicted cumulative view with operational, consented and in planning developments.

Visualisations for each of the viewpoints are illustrated in SS18: LVIA Visualisation pack and SS19: Terrestrial archaeology onshore setting supporting visualisation. These images have been created in accordance with current THC and NS guidance and contain details of the location, elevation, bearing and distance of the onshore Project from the onshore substation.

The assessment of cumulative effects of the onshore Project considers cumulative effects in respect of the identified cumulative developments, either included as part of the future baseline or within the cumulative assessment section of the LVIA.

1.2 Viewpoint assessment

1.2.1 Summary of effects

1.2.1.1 Operation and maintenance effects with existing, consented and under construction developments

Table 1 presents summary of effects attributable to the onshore Project in addition to the effects of operation and maintenance, under construction and/or consented cumulative developments upon each viewpoint.

Table 1 Viewpoints assessment summary of effects

VP REF	VIEWPOINT LOCATION	DISTANCE/ DIRECTION	SENSITIVITY	MAGNITUDE	SIGNIFICANCE OF EFFECT AT YEAR 1	RESIDUAL EFFECT AT YEAR 15
1	Harpsdale, Bridge Street	1.7 km / W	High (Residents)	Medium (Residents)	Moderate (significant)	Moderate-Minor (not significant)
1	Harpsdale, Bridge Street	1.7 km / W	Medium (Road Users)	Medium-Low (Road Users)	Moderate-Minor (not significant)	Minor (not significant)
2	Achanarras Quarry, Caithness	From within 1.3 km / S	High (Users of Core Path)	Medium-Low to Negligible	Moderate-Minor to Negligible (not significant)	Minor to Negligible (not significant)
2	Achanarras Quarry, Caithness	From within 1.3 km / S	Medium (Visitors to the Quarry)	Medium-Low	Moderate-Minor (not significant)	Minor (not significant)
3	A9, Spittal, at entrance to Spittal Mains Farm	1.7 km / S	High (Residents)	Negligible	Negligible (not significant)	Negligible (not significant)
3	A9, Spittal, at entrance to Spittal Mains Farm	1.7 km / S	Medium (Road Users)	Negligible	Negligible (not significant)	Negligible (not significant)
4	A9, Spittal, at Road to Quarry	380 m / E	High (Residents)	High	Major-Moderate to Moderate (significant)	Moderate to Moderate-Minor (significant to not significant)

VP REF	VIEWPOINT LOCATION	DISTANCE/ DIRECTION	SENSITIVITY	MAGNITUDE	SIGNIFICANCE OF EFFECT AT YEAR 1	RESIDUAL EFFECT AT YEAR 15
4	A9, Spittal, at Road to Quarry	380 m / E	Medium (Road Users)	Medium	Moderate-Minor (not significant)	Minor (not significant)
5	Junction of A9, Spittal and Road to Halkirk / Bridge Street	650 m / NW	High (Residents)	High-Medium to Medium	Major-Moderate (significant)	Moderate (significant)
5	Junction of A9, Spittal and Road to Halkirk / Bridge Street	650 m / NW	Medium (Road Users)	Medium	Moderate-Minor (not significant)	Minor (not significant)
6	Road to Halkirk at entrance to Hayfold Cottage	490 m N	High (Residents)	High-Medium	Major-Moderate (significant)	Moderate (significant)
6	Road to Halkirk at entrance to Hayfold Cottage	490 m N	Medium (Road Users)	High-Medium	Moderate (significant)	Moderate-Minor (not significant)
7	Cairn 800m north-west of Achanarras	800 m / NW	Scheduled Monument	Medium	Moderate-Minor (not significant)	Minor (not significant)
8	St Magnus' Church	1,180 m / S	Scheduled Monument	High	Negligible (not significant)	Negligible (not significant)

1.2.2 Viewpoint assessment

The tables below describe the nature of visual change likely to be experienced from each of the representative viewpoints and the magnitude of change likely to occur during construction, operation and decommissioning as well as the likely cumulative effects.

Table 2 Viewpoint 1 Harpsdale

	DESCRIPTION
Visual receptors type:	Residential properties at Harpsdale, as well as people working in the industrial buildings and users of Bridge Street.
Visual receptor's sensitivity:	High (Residents); Users of Bridge Street (medium). Residents are considered to be of high sensitivity to changes in visual amenity. General road users are considered to be of medium sensitivity and Bridge Street is not a promoted tourist route or within a designated landscape.
Landscape character type:	Farmed Lowland Plain Landscape Character Type (LCT)
Landscape Value:	No designated landscapes in proximity to the viewpoint.
Viewpoint location:	Viewpoint 1 is located by the side of the minor road to the south-east of Harpsdale, approximately 2 km south of Halkirk.
Existing view:	The view is principally characterised by open farmland. Agricultural built form is visible to the right of the view, including Benachie Farm, beyond which the views are contained by the subtle form of the hill of Achanarras which is reinforced by areas of forestry on its southern slopes (Achlahan Moss). Within the relatively flat and open landscape, the elevated topography associated with Spittal Hill introduces a distinctive feature into the view, and creates a backcloth to the onshore substation and existing SHET-L Spittal substation. There are open views west towards Ben Dorrery and Beinn Freiceadain. The Spittal to Loch Bhuide overhead lines runs in a north-south direction approximately 1.4 km to the east of Harpsdale.
Magnitude of change:	Medium (residents); Medium-Low (road users of Bridge Street) The onshore substation will introduce a new industrial development into the view, with relatively open views into the onshore substation including fencing, buildings and energy infrastructure. The onshore substation will replace views of open fields and scattered residential properties and farmsteads. The onshore substation will be contained by the rising landform beyond, backclothed by Spittal Hill and the coniferous forest blocks on the lower slopes. For residents with open and filtered views towards the onshore substation, a medium magnitude of change is anticipated. For road users of Bridge Street, the onshore substation will be peripheral to the direction of view, which will be transient in nature. The onshore substation will be most apparent in views travelling towards Harpsdale from the north, with landform and forestry screening the onshore substation search area to the south of Harpsdale. A medium-low magnitude of change is likely to occur on transient views from Bridge Street.
Significance of Effects:	Moderate (residents); Moderate-Minor (road users of Bridge Street).
Residual Effects:	Moderate-Minor (residents); Minor (road users of Bridge Street).

	DESCRIPTION
	By Year 15 the existing and proposed trees will have increased in height, providing additional screening of the onshore substation, although open views of the onshore substation will remain. The weathering of the onshore substation will also reduce its prominence as the shiny elements become more dull over time.
Cumulative context:	None.

Table 3 Viewpoint 2 Achanarras Quarry

	DESCRIPTION
Visual receptors type:	Visitors to Achanarras Quarry Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI), including users of the core path.
Visual receptor's sensitivity:	Medium (visitors to the quarry) and high (core path users) Visitors to landscape and heritage resources where views of the surroundings are a minor contributor to appreciation, experience and/or enjoyment are considered to be of medium susceptibility to changes in visual amenity. Achanarras Quarry is a tourist destination promoted in guide books and on tourist maps, accessed by a core path, and of interest to fossil collectors, with medium value associated with views. Overall, visitors to Achanarras Quarry are considered to be of high sensitivity. Although core paths provide views that are transient in nature, the recreational users of core paths are considered to be sensitive to changes in visual amenity and are therefore considered as having high sensitivity.
Landscape character type:	Farmed Lowland Plain LCT.
Landscape value:	No designated landscapes in proximity to the viewpoint.
Viewpoint location:	Viewpoint is located to the north of Achanarran Quarry, on high ground above the quarry.
Existing view:	The location offers 360-degree extensive views of the surrounding landscape. Views of the distant hills to the west and to the south are afforded over the forestry plantation at Achlahan Moss. Wind turbines are present on the skyline to the south, and to the east Spittal Hill draws the eye as a distinctive feature within the flat landscape. The existing substations are visible to the north-east and contrast with the scale of Achanarras farmstead, which is seen in the foreground. The view is principally characterised open grass fields and contrasting blocks of woodland, that lie within this part of the shallow valley landscape. There is a framed view of the existing SHET-L Spittal substation, beyond blocks and belts of commercial forest, and an open view of Achanarras Farm. The onshore substation is visible from this location, albeit partially screened by existing woodland and seen beyond Achanarras Farm. The onshore substation is seen against the backdrop of the distant hills. The existing SHET-L Spittal substation and lines of overhead lines already introduce industrial features to the landscape.

	DESCRIPTION
	In views to the south, turbines from DaleFarm Scop, Achlachan Causeymire, Halsary and Loch Toftingall windfarms are visible on the skyline from distances of approximately 2.5 km. In views to the east, the Spittal to Loch Bhuide overhead lines is visible, although partially backdropped by Spittal Hill, and the existing SHET-L substations are visible on lower ground to the northeast.
Magnitude of change:	Medium-Low (visitors to the quarry); Medium-Low-Negligible (core path users) The onshore substation will introduce new energy infrastructure into the view, which is of a substantial scale, although it will form part of more extensive elevated 360° views across the open landscape. The onshore substation will be partially screened by existing mixed woodland and is set down within the low-lying land east of the Achanarras Burn and backclothed by the proposed landscape bunds and the surrounding agricultural landscape. The onshore substation is seen in the context of Achanarras Farmstead and the existing SHET-L Spittal substation and overhead lines. A medium magnitude of change is anticipated.
Significance of Effects:	Moderate-Minor (visitors to the quarry); Moderate-Minor-Negligible (core path users)
Residual Effects	Minor (visitors to the quarry); Minor to Negligible (core path users) By Year 15 the existing and proposed trees will have increased in height, providing additional screening of the onshore substation, particularly the mixed woodland at Torran Wood. This will reduce the extent of the onshore substation that is visible. The weathering of the onshore substation will also reduce its prominence as the shiny elements become more dull over time.
Cumulative context:	The ESB Asset Development Synchronous Compensator will introduce additional energy infrastructure into the view, between the farmstead and existing SHET-L Spittal substation, including a 15 m high building and 3 m high chainlink fence although this would be screened by existing woodland, should this be retained, and partially screened by proposed woodland once it matures. The proposed high voltage underground grid connection would not be apparent in the view. Tormsdale windfarm would appear to extend the Causeymire windfarm to the west, extending the windfarm to the south of Spittal, with additional wind turbines potentially visible in views to the south.

Table 4 Viewpoint 3 A9 Spittal (entrance to Spittal Mains Farm)

	DESCRIPTION
Visual receptors type:	Residential properties nearby and road users of the A9.
Visual receptor's sensitivity:	High (residents); Medium (road users of A9). Residents are considered to be of high sensitivity to changes in visual amenity. General road users are considered to be of Medium sensitivity and the A9 is not a promoted tourist route or within a designated landscape, but is a main route through the LVIA onshore study area.
Landscape character type:	Farmed Lowland Plain LCT.
Landscape value:	No designated landscapes in proximity to the viewpoint.
Viewpoint location:	Viewpoint 3 is taken from the A9 opposite the entrance to Spittal Mains Farmstead, approximately 1.3 km north of Spittal.
Existing view:	The view is principally characterised by open farmland, falling to the north-west towards a shallow valley although the elevated field and structure in the foreground partially obscure views down into the valley to the west of the view. The existing SHET-L Spittal substation is located within the shallow valley, and is partially screened by landscaped bunds. However, the recently felled coniferous tree belt has opened up views of the existing substation. Long distance views to the north are available from this location towards the wider landscape to the north, within which Halkirk is located, and which form a backdrop to the existing SHET-L Spittal substation and the onshore substation beyond. Occasional blocks of dense plantation woodland contrast with the largely flat and open landscape. To the east (right of the view) the elevated land associated with Spittal Hill, along with the woodland belts that lie to the east of the A9, contain views of the wider landscape to the east The Spittal to Loch Bhuide overhead line runs on a north-west-south-east direction to the west of the A9 and approximately 820 m to the west of the viewpoint. Wind turbines are visible in the background to the southwest, and on the distant hills to the northwest. Limekiln windfarm is approximately 13.9 km to the north-west of the onshore substation area, seen in the distance beyond Halkirk.
Magnitude of change:	Negligible The onshore substation is entirely screened by the intervening landform and the existing Spittal Substation due to its low-lying position relative to the viewpoint.
Significance of Effects:	Negligible
Residual Effects:	Negligible In the long-term, some of the proposed woodland planting within the onshore substation area may become visible, although this is likely to be screened by the young mixed woodland along the access track which will increase in height over time.

	DESCRIPTION
Cumulative context:	None.

Table 5 Viewpoint 4 A9 Spittal (road to quarry)

	DESCRIPTION
Visual receptors type:	Residential properties nearby and road users of the A9.
Visual receptor's sensitivity:	High (residents); Medium (road users of A9) Residents are considered to be of high sensitivity to changes in visual amenity. General road users are considered to be of medium sensitivity and the A9 is not a promoted tourist route or within a designated landscape but is a main route through the study area.
Landscape character type:	Farmed Lowland Plain LCT.
Landscape Value:	No designated landscapes in proximity to the viewpoint.
Viewpoint location:	Viewpoint 4 is located at the road to a former quarry off the A9, opposite the onshore substation.
Existing view:	The view is principally characterised by rough open grass/scrubland, interspersed with occasional farmsteads and agricultural built form. Long distance views to the west are available across the shallow valley landscape, albeit obscured to a degree by the existing plantation woodland that lies over Achanarras Hill. To the left of the view, there are open views of the existing SHET-L Spittal substation due to the recent felling of a belt of coniferous trees. Young native broadleaf woodland provides low-level screening but the large massing of the main building of the existing SHET-L Substation is visible against the low skyline. Overhead lines extend north and south from the existing SHET-L substation. There are open views into the onshore substation area from this viewpoint, beyond a low wall and existing grassland. The existing Spittal substation and Spittal to Loch Bhuide overhead lines are visible to the west. Limekiln windfarm is approximately 13.9 km to the north-west of the onshore substation area, seen in the distance beyond Halkirk.
Magnitude of change	High (residents); Medium (road users) The onshore substation itself will not be visible within the view as it will be entirely screened by the proposed landscape bunds, and therefore there the view will not be affected by the industrial nature of the large-scale substation. However, there will be a loss of open views of the valley floor and a change from low, open agricultural fields to vegetated landscape bunds. The landscape bunds will be set back from the road, beyond existing fields, and will retain the existing open views beyond the Achanarras Burn, including of Torran Wood and the

	DESCRIPTION
	distant hills in views from the A9. Views of the onshore substation from the A9 are transient views, and peripheral to the direction of travel along this section of the A9. The screening effect of the landscape bunds will be more apparent in fixed views from the residential properties along the A9 to the north of Viewpoint 4.
Significance of Effects:	Major-Moderate to Moderate (residents on A9); Moderate-Minor (road users of A9).
Residual Effects:	Moderate to Moderate-Minor (residents on A9); Minor (road users of A9). Over time, the proposed planting will soften the form of the landscape bunds and provide an additional layer of screening. This will partially screen the existing SHET-L Spittal substation, which is prominent in views travelling south, and will extend the woodland cover around the Achanarras Burn.
Cumulative context:	None.

Table 6 Viewpoint 5 Residents and road users south-east of Halkirk

	DESCRIPTION
Visual receptors type:	Residents along and users of the A9 and local road to Halkirk / Bridge Street.
Visual receptor's sensitivity:	High (Residents); Medium (Users of local road). Residents are considered to be of high sensitivity to changes in visual amenity. General road users are considered to be of medium sensitivity and the A9 is not a promoted tourist route or within a designated landscape but is a main route through the study area.
Landscape character type:	Farmed Lowland Plain LCT.
Landscape Value:	No designated landscapes in proximity to the viewpoint.
Viewpoint location:	Viewpoint is located on the verge of the A9, on a junction with a minor road that runs west towards Halkirk, approximately 2.7 km to the northwest of the viewpoint.
Existing view:	The landscape at this point is principally characterised by open grass fields bound to the east by the A9 road corridor and intersected by intermittent farmsteads, woodland belts and plantation woodland. The landscape is relatively open in nature. Long distance views towards the wider landscape to the south and west (right of the view) are therefore available albeit obscured to some degree by the existing woodland blocks and the rising land to the south at Achanarras Hill. Vegetation and the rising land of Spittal Hill on the eastern edge of the A9 serves to contain views towards the wider landscape to the east (left of the view). There are open views across the onshore substation, which is seen in the foreground of the existing SHET-L Spittal substation. Views of the Spittal Substation have opened up with the

	DESCRIPTION
	felling of the coniferous shelter belt that ran along the access track to the north of the existing SHET-L substation. The Spittal to Loch Bhuide overhead line runs on a northwest-southeast direction to the west of the A9 and approximately 920 m to the west of the viewpoint. Wind turbines are visible on the background to the south-west at Causeymire windfarm, and atop of distant hills to the northwest, at Limekiln windfarm.
Magnitude of change	High-Medium to Medium (residents); Medium (road users) There would only be a very limited glimpsed view of the onshore substation itself from Viewpoint 5 where the proposed landscape bunds enable a view through the gap to accommodate a cable corridor. The main visual effect as a result of the onshore Project would therefore arise as a result of the introduction of the landscape bunds. From this location, the landscape bunds would partially screen views towards Torran Wood, although their undulating heights will allow some open views of the landscape beyond the onshore substation. The landscape bunds would also partially screen the existing overhead line towers. Views of the onshore substation from the A9 are transient views, and are peripheral to the direction of travel when travelling north, with views towards the onshore substation when travelling south along this section.
Significance of Effects:	Major-Moderate (residents); Moderate-Minor (road users).
Residual Effects:	Moderate-Minor (residents); Minor (road users). By Year 15 the proposed planting will have established and be starting to mature, reinstating a wooded character to the view, albeit the woodland would be closer to the viewpoint than the current woodland. The proposed planting will soften views of the landscape bunding and help to integrate them into the existing view and landscape. The proposed planting would also screen the glimpsed view of the onshore substation through the cable corridor.
Cumulative context:	None.

Table 7 Viewpoint 6 Road to Halkirk

	DESCRIPTION
Visual receptors type:	Local residents and users of local road between Halkirk / Bridge Street and A9.
Receptor's sensitivity:	High (Residents); Medium (Users of local road). Residents are considered to be of high sensitivity to changes in visual amenity. General road users are considered to be of medium sensitivity and the A9 is not a promoted tourist route or within a designated landscape but is a main route through the study area.
Landscape character type:	Farmed Lowland Plain LCT.
Landscape Value:	No designated landscapes in proximity to the viewpoint.
Viewpoint location:	Viewpoint is located on a local road between Halkirk / Bridge Street and the A9.
Existing view:	The viewpoint has extensive 360-degrees views across the surrounding agricultural fields, occasionally interrupted by small conifer plantations and shelterbelts, with views towards Halkirk to the north. There are open views towards the onshore substation area, which is bound by a heavily managed hedgerow. Beyond the onshore substation area, the existing SHET-L Spittal substation is seen against the skyline, which has become more visible since a coniferous shelterbelt between the onshore substation area and existing SHET-L Spittal substation was felled. Overhead lines extend north and south of the existing SHET-L Spittal substation, running along the Achanarras Burn to the west of the onshore substation area (right of the view). To the east (left of the view), Spittal Hill rises up beyond the A9, fringed by coniferous forestry. To the west (right of the view), the rolling landform, reinforced by mixed woodland and coniferous forestry encloses views further south. There is a view towards Achanarras Quarry through the break in the trees. The Spittal to Loch Bhuide overhead line is prominent in the skyline to the southwest, west and northwest. Open views of the Spittal substation are afforded to the south.
Magnitude of change:	High-Medium (residents and road users). The onshore substation itself will not be visible within the view as it will be entirely screened by the proposed landscape bunds, and therefore the view will not be affected by the industrial nature of the large-scale substation. However, there will be a loss of open views along the valley floor and a change from low, open agricultural fields to enclosing, vegetated landscape bunds in views towards the onshore substation area. The existing view is contained by the large built form of the SHET-L Spittal substation, and by Spittal Hill and the vegetated higher ground of Achanarras Hill to the east (left of the view) and west (right of the view), respectively. The landscape bund would be set back from the road, beyond the existing farmstead and associated fields. Whilst the landscape bund will introduce a new feature into the view, it will also screen the existing SHET-L Spittal substation and part of the existing overhead lines, reducing the prominence of infrastructure within the view. Views from the road are transient and are peripheral when travelling towards Bridge Street, with views towards the onshore substation along part of the route when travelling towards the A9.

	DESCRIPTION
	Residential properties along the local road are fixed, with some direct views towards the onshore substation and some oblique views, depending on the orientation of the properties.
Significance of Effects:	Major-Moderate (residents); Moderate (users of local road).
Residual Effects:	Moderate (residents); Moderate-Minor (users of local road). By Year 15 the proposed planting will have established and be maturing, softening the form of the landscape bund and helping to integrate it into the wider landscape setting. The management of the existing hedgerow as a taller, fuller hedge will also help to better integrate the landscape bund and planting into the view.
Cumulative context:	None.

Table 8 Viewpoint 7 Cairn

	DESCRIPTION
Visual receptors type:	Visitors to Cairn.
Receptor's sensitivity:	Medium The Cairn is a Scheduled Monument and therefore of national importance, however there are few people experiencing the view due to its location within a field remote from any promoted walking routes or destinations, and with no above ground remnants of the Cairn to view.
Landscape character type:	Farmed Lowland Plain LCT.
Landscape Value:	No designated landscapes in proximity to the viewpoint.
Viewpoint location:	Viewpoint is located on the northern slopes of Achanarras Hill, in the location of a Cairn, approximately 800 m northwest of the existing SHET-L Spittal substation.
Existing view:	The viewpoint offers extensive views to the north, east and west. To the south, views are limited by the rising ground and forestry on Achanarras Hill. To the east and northeast, the Spittal to Loch Bhuide overhead line is a prominent feature in the skyline.
Magnitude of change:	Medium There are open views of part of the onshore substation itself, with the intervening landform along Achanarras Burn entirely screening the southern part of the onshore substation. This

	DESCRIPTION
	results in a change in part of the view from residential properties and agricultural fields to one of industrial-scale infrastructure.
Significance of Effects:	Moderate-Minor
Residual Effect:	Minor By Year 15 the proposed planting will have established and be maturing, filtering and screening views of the onshore substation, depending on the season and how open or bare the proposed woodland is.
Cumulative context:	None.

Table 9 Viewpoint 8 St Magnus Church

	DESCRIPTION
Visual receptors type:	Visitors to the remains of St Magnus Hospital and Chapel.
Receptor's sensitivity:	High St Magnus Hospital and Chapel is a Scheduled Monument and therefore of national importance, and there are some, limited, above ground remnants of the Scheduled Monument to view.
Landscape character type:	Farmed Lowland Plain LCT.
Landscape Value:	No designated landscapes in proximity to the viewpoint.
Viewpoint location:	Viewpoint is located at the remains of St Magnus Hospital and Chapel.
Existing view:	The gently rising ground contains the views to the south, and the forested slopes of Spittal Hill and Achanarras Hill contain the views to the east and west respectively. The existing substation lies approximately 1,200 m to the north of the viewpoint and it is a prominent feature in the views to the north, which are otherwise open and extensive across agricultural fields. The Spittal to Loch Bhuide overhead lines is also prominent in the skyline to the north and to the west, albeit partially backdropped by Achanarras Hill to the west. Views of the onshore substation area are curtailed by landform and existing built form. The existing overhead lines and SHET-L substation are prominent features on the views to the west and north.
Magnitude of change	Negligible

	DESCRIPTION
	The onshore substation is entirely screened by the intervening landform and the existing Spittal Substation due to its low-lying position relative to the viewpoint.
Significance of Effects:	Negligible
Residual Effects:	Negligible
Cumulative context:	The ESB Asset Development Synchronous Compensator will introduce additional energy infrastructure into the view, beyond the existing overhead lines and adjacent to the existing SHET-L Spittal substation. The synchronous compensator includes a 15 m high building and 3 m high chainlink fence which will be partially screened by proposed woodland once it matures. The proposed high voltage underground grid connection would not be apparent in the view. The onshore substation is not visible within the view and therefore no cumulative effects would arise in combination with the onshore Project.