9. Landscape

9.1. Introduction

9.1.1. Landscape character assessment is the systematic description and analysis of the elements and features, such as landform, vegetation cover, settlement, land use and transport pattern present in the landscape which together make up the landscape pattern or sense of place.

9.1.2. The assessment of landscape receptors concerns direct anticipated changes to the landscape including impacts to designated landscapes, and to the landscape character, and considers the Special Qualities of the landscape as defined by the Loch Lomond and The Trossachs National Park Authority (LLTNPA).

9.1.3. This chapter identifies and assesses the existing landscape receptors within the identified study area. It is supported by Appendix A9.1 Landscape Legislation, Policy and Guidance and Appendix A9.2 Landscape Methodology. It is also supported by Figure 9.1 Landscape Designations and Figure 9.2 Landscape Character Types.

9.2. Approach and Methods

9.2.1. The assessment has been carried out in accordance with Design Manual for Roads and Bridges (DMRB) LA 107 - Landscape and visual effects and LA 104 - Environmental assessment and monitoring, and the Landscape Institute and Institute of Environmental Management and Assessment, Guidelines for Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment 3rd Edition, Routledge (GLVIA3).

9.2.2. The approach and methods have been informed by legislation, policy and guidance. A full list of those that are most relevant to landscape assessment in the study area are contained in Volume 4, Appendix 9.1 Landscape Legislation, Policy and Guidance.

Study Area

9.2.3. The study area for the landscape assessment extends to 3km as shown in Figure 9.1 Landscape Designations. It gives the wider landscape context which reflects the scale of the landscape in the context of the Loch Lomond and The Trossachs National Park (LLTNP), the Areas of Panoramic Quality (APQ), and the A83 Argyll Coastal Route (ACR), and the regional landscape assessments. The Core Wildness Areas (CWA) lie well beyond the 3km study area and are not included in the assessment.

9.2.4. Based on the topography and forestry cover, potential landscape impacts, if they occur, are not likely to be significant beyond 3km. The extent of this study area was determined by desk studies including the Zone of Theoretical Visibility (ZTV) and field surveys to determine actual visibility. Actual visibility is limited within the study area by the topography.

Method of Baseline Collection

9.2.5. The assessment was undertaken by two Chartered Landscape Architects and comprised of desk study, field surveys and consultation. A site visit was undertaken in February/March 2023 as part of the DMRB Stage 2 process and helped to gain an understanding of the landscape context and to supplement information gathered during the desk study. Site surveys at DMRB Stage 3 were undertaken in August 2023 and October 2023.

Consultation

9.2.6. Consultation was undertaken throughout the DMRB Stage 2 and DMRB Stage 3 process through the Environmental Steering Group (ESG) which comprised, in relation to landscape, LLTNPA and Scottish Forestry (SF).

9.2.7. Public consultation was undertaken between 02 June and 28 July 2023 which included four days of public exhibitions in Arrochar and Lochgilphead in June 2023 and the virtual exhibition online. Further public consultation was undertaken between 18 March and 10 May 2024 both online and at public exhibitions.

9.2.8. Together these helped identify what the public valued about the landscape and visual amenity of the area. The findings are set out in Section 9.3 Baseline.

Assessment Methodology

9.2.9. The design vision is one where the landscape will accommodate the changes in balance with the landscape character. The landscape design objectives are to respect the landscape character and the cultural and social aspects of the landscape, to minimise any impact on the Special Landscape Qualities and consider opportunities to enhance these, and to input to the design quality of the new elements.

9.2.10. In accordance with DMRB LA107, DMRB LA104 and GLVIA3, the assessment has considered the sensitivity of each landscape receptor and the magnitude of impact of The Proposed Scheme upon it, resulting in a determination of the significance of effect of The Proposed Scheme on the landscape resource.

9.2.11. The landscape assessment considers all landscapes, including designated landscapes and landscape character. The Special Qualities of the LLTNP are also considered. The methodology can be found in Volume 4, Appendix 9.2 Landscape Methodology.

9.2.12. A number of landscape designations were scoped out during the Scoping phase in agreement with the LLTNPA. They are National Scenic Areas (NSAs), Ben Lui Wild Land Area (Core Wildness Areas), Ancient Woodland Inventory (AWI), Gardens and Designed Landscapes (GDLs), and the North Argyll Area of Panoramic Quality (NAAPQ). They were scoped out due to their distance from the Proposed Scheme and the unlikely significant impacts arising from the Proposed Scheme. It was also agreed to scope out the Argyll Forest Park (AFP). However, this designation has been included here as there is some direct impact upon it arising from the proposals for the Rest and Be Thankful car park area, the maintenance access to the Debris Flow Shelter (DFS) and the OMR.

Limitations of the Assessment

9.2.13. The assessment was predominantly undertaken from publicly available locations. Where access to private land was required, this was agreed in advance of the assessment.

9.2.14. Signage will be addressed at the detailed design stage and is not considered here. The installation of deer fencing has not been confirmed and is, therefore, not considered in this assessment.

9.3. Baseline Conditions

Landscape Context

9.3.1. Most of the study area, with the exception of the north-western area, lies within the LLTNP. The entire study area comprises the highland landscape known as the 'Arrochar Alps' as described in the SNH Commissioned Report 376: The Special Landscape Qualities of the Loch Lomond and The Trossachs National Park (nature.scot). Glen Croe runs from Loch Restil through the centre of the study area to the upper reaches of Loch Long which is in the southern part of the study area. Glen Kinglas runs through the study area in the northwest.

9.3.2. Landcover is predominantly upland moor with scattered conifer plantation.

9.3.3. The Croe Water crosses Glen Croe at Cobbler Bridge. The main waterbody is Loch Restil.

9.3.4. There is no settlement in the area. There are two residential properties, one of which is currently inhabited.

9.3.5. The A83 and Old Military Road (OMR) run through Glen Croe with the B828 crossing to the north and entering Glen Kinglas. There are a number of telecommunications masts clustered on the verge of the B828. The Rest and Be Thankful car park is located at the junction of the A83 and B828 and consists of a rest stop with picnic benches and the Listed Rest and Be Thankful stone.

9.3.6. The landscape within the study area typically represents the key characteristics of the individual landscape character types. It is relatively intact, though there are some elements such as the drystone walls which are not always in a good state or repair. The scenic quality is high and it is valued by the designations (National Park, Argyll Coastal Route (A83) and the evidence of recreational use (walking routes and Rest and Be Thankful car park and OS marked viewpoint). The OMR is associated with General Wade and has been a 'drove road' for cattle, and more recently associated with motorsports. The cultural connections are strong with connections to both William Wordsworth and the poet John Keats.

Landscape Designations

9.3.7. The designations scoped in are described below and assigned a sensitivity rating. The A83 is the Argyll Coastal Route.

Loch Lomond and The Trossachs National Park

9.3.8. Approximately three-quarters of the study area lies within the LLTNP. The LLTNPA have identified the Special Landscape Qualities (SLQs) of the Park.

9.3.9. The NatureScot Commissioned Report 376: The Special Landscape Qualities of the Loch Lomond and The Trossachs National Park | NatureScot states that "*the identification of the special qualities provides a sound baseline for future work on the celebration, promotion and safeguarding of the Loch Lomond and The Trossachs National Park"*. The SLQs considered to be most relevant to the designation within the study area are:

- Tranquillity
- Famous through routes
- A world-renowned landscape
- Easily accessible landscape splendour
- a remote area of high hills and deep glens
- a land of forests and trees
- Arrochar's mountains and distinctive peaks
- the variety of glens and

- the dramatic pass of Rest and Be Thankful.

9.3.10. The SLQs are considered in more detail in the assessment tables.

9.3.11. The LLTNP is Very High Sensitivity due to its national importance and value associated with the designation.

Argyll Forest Park

9.3.12. The AFP is extensive across the study area and beyond over the Cowal Peninsula and to the east of Loch Lomond to Strathearn and Callander as shown on Volume 3, Figure 9.1 Landscape Designations. The forest parks within LLTNP were designated for recreation and early plantings and are one of the SLQs of the LLTNP. Part of the Proposed Scheme lies within the AFP. It is of High Sensitivity due to its national importance and because it contains distinctive features and elements.

Landscape Character

9.3.13. The Landscape Character Assessment of Scotland, which includes mapping and descriptions detailing key characteristics of each numbered Landscape Character Type (LCT), is available from NatureScot and was produced in WebGIS.

9.3.14. The Landscape Character Type in which The Proposed Scheme lies is the Upland Glens LCT No.252 and Highland Summits LCT No.251.

9.3.15. LCTs through which the Proposed Scheme does not run but which have coverage, as shown on Volume 3, Figure 10.2 Zone of Theoretical Visibility, have also been assessed; these are:

- Steep Ridges and Mountains LCT No.34
- Steep Ridges and Hills LCT No.250 and
- Rugged Mountains LCT No.35.

9.3.16. The LCTs within the study area that do not include any part of the Proposed Scheme footprint nor fall within the ZTV have not been subject to further consideration. However, for contextual understanding, they are depicted on Figure

9.2 Landscape Character. These LCTs are identified as Settled Coastal Fringe LCT No.265, and Straths and Glens LCT No.253.

Upland Glens LCT No. 252, Loch Lomond and the Trossachs

9.3.17. This is a Very High Sensitivity LCT due to being within the LLTNP and having iconic rare features such as the Rest and Be Thankful pass, and the associated culture and heritage value of the drover's route and OMR. Key characteristics of the LCT most relevant to the study area are:

- Often narrow with limited flat glen floor, strongly enclosed by steep hill slopes of the adjacent Steep Ridges and Hills and Highland Summits.
- Steep glen sides often patterned with rocky outcrops, boulders and screes but also extensively forested, particularly on lower slopes.
- Tributary burns and rivers cut deep gullies into slopes and many feature waterfalls and cascades, pools and rocky outcrops.
- Walled pastures sometimes occasionally occurring on lower (usually south-facing) slopes. Heather covers better drained areas and bright green flushes appear at spring lines on hill slopes.
- Some glens covered with extensive coniferous forestry.
- Scattered trees and native woodland trace the edges of burns.
- Sparsely settled, with a few isolated farms situated in the lower reaches of glens, which often have a south-facing aspect.
- Significant cultural features in more open glens, including shielings and abandoned field systems.
- Areas of crofting evident on some lower slopes.
- Historically important strategic routes have evolved to support and accommodate key road and rail links that are vital for communication today.
- Classic views channelled up and down the Glens, with steep side slopes framing landscapes that lie beyond them.

Highland Summits LCT No. 251 (LLTNP)

9.3.18. This is a Very High Sensitivity LCT due to being within the LLTNP and having iconic peaks such as The Cobbler. Key characteristics of the LCT most relevant to the study area are:

- High mountains generally lying above 800 metres, but lower and intensely craggy in the core of the Trossachs where geology is particularly complex.
- Steep slopes often covered in scree.
- Narrow rocky ridges, deeply scooped corries and rocky gullies on many of these mountains.
- Narrow glens deeply cut into the mountains, often contain fast-flowing burns and waterfalls.
- Strongly patterned landscape with exposed rock, crags, small lochs and myriad water courses significantly increasing complexity.
- Simple vegetation cover is, largely comprising semi-natural grassland with patchy heather and ground-hugging alpine species on upper slopes and summits. Bracken and bog occur on lower slopes and within glen floors. Coniferous forestry is present on some lower slopes, extending up into glens.
- Broadleaf woodlands rare, confined to steeper slopes with fragments of oak and birch tracing burns and gullies.
- Very sparsely populated with roads and dispersed settlement occurring only on its fringes.
- Highly visible massive peaks and ridges of the mountains forming a scenic rugged backdrop to the lower settled loch shores, glens and straths.
- Instantly recognisable mountain forms such as the Cobbler and Ben Lomond. Ben Ledi, Ben Vorlich and Ben Lomond are important landmark features, marking the Highland edge seen widely from the Central Lowlands of Scotland.
- Popular mountains with walkers because of their highly natural and rugged character, and the presence of ‘Munro’ and ‘Corbett’ peaks. The higher summits offer extensive views.

- Distinct sense of wild character of the summits due to their rugged and natural qualities, especially away from hydro-electric infrastructure and poorly integrated forestry

Steep Ridges and Mountains LCT No. 34

9.3.19. This is a High Sensitivity LCT due to part of it on the boundary of the LLTNP and part of it being within the NAAPQ. Key characteristics of the LCT most relevant to the study area are:

- Dramatic mountain ridges with steep, plummeting slopes and numerous rocky outcrops.
- Ribbon lochs and meandering rivers on narrow floodplains form dramatic contrast to surrounding slopes.
- Extensive conifer forests on lower slopes and open moorland, with bare rock faces on upper slopes and summits.

Rugged Mountains LCT No. 35

9.3.20. This is a High Sensitivity LCT due to part of it being on the boundary of the LLTNP and part of it being within the NAAPQ. Key characteristics of the LCT most relevant to the study area are:

- Rugged, steep sided mountain ranges with a massive scale.
- Diverse landform with gullies, scarp slopes and rocky screes.
- Striking exposed rock faces, with scrubby birch-oak woodland in gullies.
- Relatively wide glens between mountain ranges.
- Fast-flowing burns, waterfalls and small upland lochs are distinctive features.
- Extensive conifer forests on some lower slopes.
- Inaccessible and relatively uninhabited, with strong wildness qualities.
- Dramatic mountain scenery.

Steep Ridges and Hills LCT No. 250 (LLTNP)

9.3.21. This is a Very High Sensitivity LCT due to being within the LLTNP. Key characteristics of the LCT most relevant to the study area are:

- Steep-sided hills, with pronounced summits, which rise dramatically from narrow sea lochs and deep glens.
- Long and narrow sea lochs of Loch Long, and the more sinuous Loch Goil.
- Generally smoother Luss Hills forming conical peaks and long narrow ridges and spurs. These hills are more open with only small areas of coniferous forestry on lower slopes
- Hills often seen in conjunction with the higher Highland Summits.
- Some hills form key landmark features in views along the sea lochs
- Settlement largely absent even from the narrow rocky coastal edges along the sea lochs and some parts feel relatively remote.

Public Perception of Landscape Value

9.3.22. The DMRB LA107 standard requires that the public perception of landscape value is considered in the landscape assessment. Following the consultation set out in Section 9.2 Approach and Methods: Consultation, twenty-one respondents commented on what they considered valuable in the landscape.

9.3.23. During the 2023 consultation, eight of the respondent's comments specifically focused on the 'drama' and/or scenic views from the proposed DFS and/or towards the proposed DFS. Two responses stated that a green roof on the DFS was important visually. Two responders stated the 'gateway' experience to Argyll and Bute was of importance.

9.3.24. During the 2024 consultation, there were 97 responses in total comprising of 53 on the online survey, 33 through the public exhibition questionnaire and 11 from emails. The questionnaire contained a specific question (question 3) which was set to identify what the public considered to be of value in the landscape at the A83 Rest and Be Thankful. The questionnaire results were mostly split between the scenery/views being most important (17 responses) and the landscape fit of

the Proposed Scheme in the landscape (21 responses). Of the latter, eight respondents stated a green roof would be important to blending the proposed DFS to the landscape. Seven responded that the DFS could be an iconic engineering opportunity. Three stated trees/native trees were important, two specifically noted the rock outcrop at the Rest and Be Thankful pass was important and one respondent mentioned prevention of light pollution as being important.

9.3.25. Views to and from the road are considered in Chapter 10: Visual Effects. 'Scenery' and 'drama' are considered in the landscape assessment tables within this chapter. The inclusion of a green roof has been considered and incorporated into the design of the DFS. The DFS may contribute to the experience of the approach or gateway to Argyll and Bute. The assessment uses mitigation measures (Table 9.2) to prevent unnecessary felling of trees. A nighttime assessment has been undertaken to determine the effect of additional lighting associated with the proposed DFS.

Future Baseline

9.3.26. In the absence of the Proposed Scheme, there would be ongoing interventions on the slopes and traffic management interventions including diversions to the OMR as there is at present.

9.4. Embedded Mitigation

9.4.1. The Proposed Scheme has been developed through an iterative design process involving both engineering and environmental specialists. This embedded mitigation as it relates to landscape has been undertaken throughout the design process in the following ways:

- LV-Embed 1 Debris Flow Shelter:
  - The Debris Flow Shelter has been designed to include a green roof to help blend the DFS to the landscape and
  - Through further design development at the next stage, and with engagement with the LLTNPA, Transport Scotland will design and, where necessary, specify measures for the Appointed Contractor to improve the aesthetics of

the DFS (such as slanted piers) through the detailed design process (Volume 4, Figure 10.4 - Photomontages shows both vertical and slanted pier styles).

- LV-Embed 2 Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS)
  - bund slope gradients have been designed to be varied and to make the SuDS features as natural as possible and will be agreed with the Environmental Clerk of Works.

- LV-Embed 3 Rest and Be Thankful Car Park
  - conceptual design has been developed to retain open views for users of the A83 and
  - conceptual design has been developed to maintain local landscape character (Volume 3, Figure 9.4 Rest and Be Thankful Car Park Concept Design).

- LV-Embed 4 HESCO barrier
  - The HESCO barrier extension will match the colour of the existing HESCO barrier as far as possible.

9.5. Potential Impacts

Construction Impacts

9.5.1. The Proposed Scheme would have construction impacts which would include all or some of the following:

- rock cuts
- piling activity
- temporary stabilisation measures for protection of workforce
- removal of vegetation to facilitate works
- resulting bare earth due to removal of vegetation and earthworks
- changes in landform due to earthworks, including temporary soil storage areas
- vehicle activity due to excavation, earthmoving and construction

- construction of bridges, DFS, retaining walls, and other structures such as the maintenance access, utility buildings, cascades and culverts
- drainage features
- localised areas of stabilisation measures including soil nailing
- site compound areas, storage of materials and lighting to facilitate work during hours of darkness and
- traffic management systems.

Operational Impacts

9.5.2. Potential effects for the Proposed Scheme are described during operation in the Winter of year 1 (WY1) and the Summer of year 15 (SY15). The potential landscape impacts associated with the Proposed Scheme include (but are not limited to):

- changes to landscape character and/or SLQs as a result of additional new man-made built features and elements including the new active travel link from the Rest and Be Thankful car park
- changes to landscape character and/or SLQs as a result of additional new permanent engineering safety measures (rock debris fall fences, mesh, debris flow shelter and associated catch pits and catch pit protection walls, retaining walls, deflection walls, localised soil nailing, natural rock cascade features, and signage)
- changes to the landscape character and/or SLQs due to removal of landscape elements and/or features
- changes to landscape character and/or SLQs as a result of lighting associated with the debris flow shelter and
- non-compliance with legislation, plans, policies and guidance related to landscape.

9.5.3. Effects on landscape / landscape related designations and the landscape character including the SLQs of the LLTNP have been described in Table 9.1 below. This includes consideration of the embedded mitigation.

Table 9.1 - Potential Effects on Landscape Receptors

Landscape Receptor, Sensitivity, Description, Magnitude of Effect	Construction Effect	Significance of Effect WY1	Significance of Effect SY15
Loch Lomond and The Trossachs National Park (LLTNP) **Sensitivity: Very high** (due to the high value denoted by the National Park designation and that the susceptibility is high as the landscape is unlikely to be able to accommodate a change of the type proposed without undue consequences). Due to the extent of the designation and the relevant size of the development, the Proposed Scheme is not predicted to result in a significant adverse impact upon the National Park beyond the construction period. In terms of compliance with policy, the landscape character of the National Park in this location is considered in the assessment of landscape character areas. Construction activity includes the felling of trees, formation of rock cuts and earthworks and additional new man-made features including the DFS, retaining walls, ancillary buildings, the SuDS and access track. Due to the extent of the LLTNP, and the duration of the existing engineering works, the magnitude of effect would be minor adverse during construction. During operation the magnitude of change would be negligible due to embedded mitigation, the softening of the structural elements as scattered trees establish and the retention of the focus of the view.	Moderate adverse	Slight adverse	Slight adverse
Northern Area Argyll Forest Park (NAAFP). The southern extent of the Proposed Scheme, part of the Rest and Be Thankful car park and area to the west of the car park lie within/partly within the NAAFP. **Sensitivity is medium**. (due to the value denoted by the National Park designation and the Forest Park designation and that the susceptibility is medium as the landscape is likely to be able to accommodate a change of the type proposed albeit with some consequences). During construction changes would include a slight reduction in the tree cover to facilitate the maintenance access and the introduction of the structures and ancillary building. The magnitude of effect to the designation would be negligible adverse at construction resulting from felling and the introduction of the maintenance access to the DFS structure due to the overall extent of the designation and the context of the nature of rotational felling within this designation. During operation the magnitude would remain negligible.	Slight adverse	Slight adverse	Slight adverse

Landscape Receptor, Sensitivity, Description, Magnitude of Effect	Construction Effect	Significance of Effect WY1	Significance of Effect SY15
Upland Glens LCT No.252 (LLTNP) Most of the Proposed Scheme lies within this LCT. **Sensitivity: Very high.** (due to the high value denoted by the National Park designation and that the susceptibility is high as the landscape is unlikely to be able to accommodate a change of the type proposed without undue consequences). The Proposed Scheme is located mostly within the open upland glen part of this LCT, lying in the forested area only for its southerly extent and the area southwest of the Rest and Be Thankful car park. The DFS, catch pit, retaining walls, update to the junction with the B828, SuDS, RBT car park improvements and new active travel link would be additional elements. There would be notable verge widening to the inside bend opposite the B828. There would be occasional maintenance vehicles to the top level of the DFS required for removing debris and clearing the catch-pits. The magnitude of effect to the LCT would be major adverse during construction due to the scale of the construction activity associated with the new structural elements and the felling, rock cuts and earthworks to facilitate these. The nature of the view would be compromised during the construction period. During operation lighting would be a new element in the glen as indicated on the Figure 10-2 Lighting ZTV. This would reduce to moderate adverse during operation when the focus of the view is no longer distracted by construction activity, and the tree planting has become established to help screen and soften views towards new built elements.	Very large adverse	Moderate adverse	Moderate adverse
Highland Summits LCT No. 251 (LLTNP). Part of the Proposed Scheme lies within this LCT. **Sensitivity: very high** (due to the high value denoted by the National Park designation and that the susceptibility is high as the landscape is unlikely to be able to accommodate a change of the type proposed without undue consequences). Construction activity would be largely limited to Glen Croe though partially visible from a limited area of the Highland Summits LCT for a limited period. There will be a minor adverse magnitude of effect during construction. During operation lighting would be a new element in the glen as indicated on the Figure 10-2 Lighting ZTV. During operation the magnitude of change will be negligible as the planting becomes established and softens the new built elements.	Moderate adverse (During construction the character would be altered by the construction activity but the sense of place would not be diminished for this LCT due to the geographical extent).	Slight adverse (Although new elements will be at variance with the existing localised character, the sense of place will not be diminished for the LCT which is extensive beyond the study area and for which ZTV is limited for the LCT as a whole)	Slight adverse (Although new elements will be at variance with the existing localised character, the sense of place will not be diminished for the LCT which is extensive beyond the study area and for which ZTV is limited for the LCT as a whole)

Landscape Receptor, Sensitivity, Description, Magnitude of Effect	Construction Effect	Significance of Effect WY1	Significance of Effect SY15
Steep Ridges and Mountains LCT No.34. **Sensitivity: High** (due to the high value denoted by the National Park designation and that the susceptibility is high as the landscape is unlikely to be able to accommodate a change of the type proposed without undue consequences). There is no direct impact on the LCT. Construction activity would be largely limited to Glen Croe though partially visible from a limited area of the Steep Ridges and Mountains LCT for a limited period. The magnitude of impact is minor adverse during construction. During operation the built structures will be softened by the planting and the focus of the view will remain. The magnitude of impact is negligible in operation.	Slight adverse	Neutral adverse (Due to the very limited ZTV coverage and that the sense of place will not be affected, the significance is neutral and not slight)	Neutral (Due to the very limited ZTV coverage and that the sense of place will not be affected, the significance is neutral and not slight)
Rugged Mountains LCT No.35. **Sensitivity: High** (due to the high value denoted by the National Park designation and that the susceptibility is high as the landscape is unlikely to be able to accommodate a change of the type proposed without undue consequences). There is no direct impact on the LCT. Construction activity would be largely limited to Glen Croe though partially visible from a very limited area of the Rugged Mountains LCT for a limited period. The magnitude of effect is negligible during construction as indicated by the limited ZTV coverage and distance from the works and negligible adverse in operation due to distance from the new elements.	Slight	Neutral (due to there being none or barely perceptible change from a very limited area of the southeast part of this LCT)	Neutral (due to there being none or barely perceptible change from a very limited area of the southeast part of this LCT)
Steep Ridges and Hills LCT No. 250 (LLTNP). **Sensitivity: Very high** (due to the high value denoted by the National Park designation and that the susceptibility is high as the landscape is unlikely to be able to accommodate a change of the type proposed without undue consequences). There is no direct impact on the LCT. Construction activity would be largely limited to Glen Croe though partially visible from a very limited area of the Steep Ridges and Hills LCT for a limited period. The magnitude of effect is negligible during construction due to the distance and none in operation.	Slight	Neutral	Neutral

Landscape Receptor, Sensitivity, Description, Magnitude of Effect	Construction Effect	Significance of Effect WY1	Significance of Effect SY15
SLQs of LLTNP: SLQs of the LLTNP as experienced from the Viewpoints (Volume 3, Figure 10.1: Viewpoint Locations) are very high sensitivity (due to being within the LLTNP). There would be a direct effect on the A83, the OMR and the Rest and Be Thankful car park resulting from the construction work and an effect on *tranquillity SLQ*. The changes would include addition of the DFS, retaining walls and associated DFS lighting, localised widening to the OMR and the introduction of additional man-made elements (HESCO barrier extension, bund to the south of the existing HESCO barrier and upgrades to culverts). The magnitude is major during construction. During operation the *tranquillity SLQ* would not be very different from the baseline scenario, which would have a localised magnitude of impact of minor.	Very large adverse	Slight adverse (as the new elements would not affect tranquillity from the baseline scenario, with the exception of introducing lighting to the DFS)	Slight adverse (as the new elements would not affect tranquillity from the baseline scenario, with the exception of introducing lighting to the DFS)
SLQs of LLTNP: SLQs of the LLTNP as experienced from the Viewpoints (Volume 3, Figure 10.1: Viewpoint Locations) are very high sensitivity (due to being within the LLTNP). There would be a direct effect on the A83, the OMR and the Rest and Be Thankful car park resulting from the construction work and an effect on *famous through routes SLQ*. The changes would include addition of the DFS, retaining walls and associated DFS lighting, localised widening of the OMR and the introduction of additional man-made elements (HESCO barrier extension, bund to the south of the existing HESCO barrier and upgrades to culverts). Construction of DFS and associated retaining walls and maintenance access, including lighting, would affect the *famous through route*. The magnitude is major during construction on the *famous through routes SLQ*. During operation the experience of the *famous through route* will have changed from the baseline scenario. The *famous through routes* SLQ would continue to have some localised changes, which would have a localised magnitude of moderate. This would remain significant at SY15 due to the scale and nature of the change of experience of travelling through the DFS altering the historic perspective of the route for this section.	Very large adverse	Large adverse	Large adverse

Landscape Receptor, Sensitivity, Description, Magnitude of Effect	Construction Effect	Significance of Effect WY1	Significance of Effect SY15
SLQs of LLTNP: The SLQ *Dramatic Pass of the Rest and Be Thankful* as experienced from the Viewpoints (Volume 3, Figure 10.1: Viewpoint Locations) is very high sensitivity (due to being within the LLTNP). There would be a direct effect on the A83, the OMR and the Rest and Be Thankful car park resulting from the construction work and an effect on *the Dramatic Pass of the Rest and Be Thankful*. The changes would include addition of the DFS, retaining walls and associated DFS lighting, localised widening of the OMR and the introduction of additional man-made elements in close proximity (HESCO barrier extension, bund to the south of the existing HESCO barrier and upgrades to culverts). Construction of DFS and associated retaining walls and maintenance access, including lighting, would affect the *Dramatic Pass of the Rest and Be Thankful*. The magnitude is major during construction on the SLQ. During operation the experience of the *Dramatic Pass of the Rest and Be Thankful* will have changed from the baseline scenario. The SLQ would continue to have some localised changes, which would have a localised magnitude of moderate. This would remain significant at SY15 due to the scale and nature of the change of experience of travelling through the DFS altering the perspective of the route for this section.	Very large adverse	Moderate adverse (as the DFS will provide an inherent sense of drama at this location)	Moderate (as the DFS will provide an inherent sense of drama at this location)

Landscape Receptor, Sensitivity, Description, Magnitude of Effect	Construction Effect	Significance of Effect WY1	Significance of Effect SY15
SLQs of LLTNP: SLQs of the LLTNP are very high sensitivity (due to the LLTNP designation and the susceptibility is high as changes to the SLQs will likely result in undue consequences). During construction, there will be a direct effect on the A83, the OMR and the Rest and Be Thankful car park resulting from the construction work and an effect on the SLQs listed below. The changes would include addition of the DFS, retaining walls and associated DFS lighting, changes would include localised widening of the OMR and the introduction of additional man-made elements (HESCO barrier extension, bund to the south of the existing HESCO barrier and upgrades to culverts). Construction of the DFS and associated retaining walls and maintenance access, including lighting, would affect the SLQs. Construction of DFS and associated retaining walls and maintenance access, including lighting, would affect the SLQs. The magnitude is moderate during construction on the SLQs as they will remain well-known, wild and rugged and accessible, the forests will not be changed and the peaks will remain unaffected. During operation the changes would not be very different than the existing baseline scenario for these SLQs. The focus of the view would not be compromised. The magnitude of effect is minor. This applies to the following SLQs: • *World-renowned landscape;* • *Wild and rugged highlands containing pastoral lowland;* • *Easily accessible landscape splendour;* • *A land of forests and trees;* • *Arrochar's mountains and distinctive peaks; and* • *A variety of glens.*	Moderate adverse	Slight adverse (as the new elements would not affect the SLQs from the baseline scenario, with the exception of introducing lighting to the DFS)	Slight adverse (as the new elements would not affect the SLQs from the baseline scenario, with the exception of introducing lighting to the DFS)

Landscape Receptor, Sensitivity, Description, Magnitude of Effect	Construction Effect	Significance of Effect WY1	Significance of Effect SY15
Landscape Legislation, Policy and Plans: The sensitivity is considered to be high given the value of the landscape to which the legislation, policy and plans applies. The landscape assessment complies with NPF4 in that the objectives and integrity of the LLTNP is not compromised. The significant effect on SLQs has been identified where it may exist. The Proposed Scheme is complaint with NPF4 Policy 6, in that while there is some localised reduction in tree cover to facilitate the Proposed Scheme, existing tree cover is expanded, woodland improved, and there no effect on Ancient Woodland or trees of high biodiversity value. UK Forestry Standards edition 4 and 5 refer to forestry and woodland clearance; there is no forestry and woodland clearance as a result of the Proposed Scheme. Minor localised felling has been assessed. The Proposed Scheme also aligns with the Woodland Removal Policy which states there should be no removal or limited reduction. The overall tree balance is a net gain. The LLTNP Local Development Plan aims to safeguard visual amenity and important views and protect and enhance the landscape character. Natural Environment Policy 1 is to protect the SLQs of the LLTNP, woodland and trees and to provision of management. The Proposed Scheme does impact the SLQs as set out above. An Outline Landscape and Ecological Management Plan (OLEMP) has been produced. Natural Environment Policy 9 is to protect trees in relation to construction works. The BS 5837:201 is a commitment. The LLTNP Partnership Plan refers to woodland expansion areas. The woodland enhancement areas are considered in Volume 4, Appendix 4.1 Biodiversity Net Gain. The Argyll and Bute Local Development Plan concerns local landscape areas. The Argyll Area of Panoramic Quality has been assessed. The methodology for the LVIA is informed by the DMRB and GLVIA3. The magnitude of impact is no change to negligible.	Neutral	Neutral	Neutral

9.6. Mitigation

9.6.1. Mitigation falls into three categories - prevention, reduction and off-setting. Mitigation proposals have been developed in accordance with Transport Scotland's Fitting Landscapes: Securing more Sustainable Landscape (2014) and the SLQs of the LLTNP.

9.6.2. Embedded mitigation is set out in Section 9.4. Essential mitigation, mainly in the form of seeding and scattered trees is set out in the planting schedules and Figure 9.3 Landscape and Ecological Mitigation.

9.6.3. During the construction phase standard mitigation measures will be applied (LV1-LV7). However, some construction impacts may remain.

Table 9.2 - Mitigation Measures

Mitigation Reference	Mitigation Measures
LV1	Construction activity will be kept to the minimum practicable time to reduce the duration of impacts. Areas will be cleared for construction as close as possible to the works commencing, and topsoiling, reseeding and planting will be undertaken as soon as possible after the works are complete, allowing for the appropriate planting/seeding season.
LV2	Work compound and storage areas will, as far as practicable, be located where existing features can provide screening.
LV3	Construction areas will be kept tidy and free of litter and debris.
LV4	Work will be avoided during hours of darkness as far as is practicable and where necessary, directed lighting will be used to minimise glare.

Mitigation Reference	Mitigation Measures
LV5	To protect soil quality: • uncontaminated topsoil for re-use shall be stored in un-compacted mounds up to 2m in height separate from subsoil material • stripped topsoil shall be used in areas of the same vegetation type and • subsoil in proposed planting areas shall be replaced after construction and ripped to a depth agreed with the Environmental Clerk of Works, landscape architect or soil scientist, as appropriate, prior to topsoiling and planting.
LV6	Minimise loss of all existing vegetation as far as practicable. Retained existing trees and vegetation shall be incorporated with new planting proposals. Trees shall only be removed where it can be demonstrated that this is required for construction or safety purposes.
LV7	Fence off existing trees and shrubs not affected by construction with a suitable type of protective fencing which shall extend to the root zone of the tree canopy and remain in situ until works are completed. Adhere to BS 5837:2012 trees in relation to design, demolition or construction.

Mitigation Reference	Mitigation Measures
LV8	Earthworks/Rock cut proposals will: • use retaining walls where appropriate to avoid extensive cuttings into slopes or large embankments which increase land disturbance • where rock cuttings are required, create formations which are varied and reflect the structure of the rock • rock cutting shall incorporate embayments, vary the height of ledges, and utilise bunds in the crest of benches to contain rockfall, either alone or in combination, to achieve an irregular and naturalistic appearance • the use of mesh shall be avoided and • sensitive grading of earthworks to integrate with surrounding landform and/or reduce requirement for/extent of felling.
LV9	Earthworks will be steepened at the maintenance access to the DFS area to reduce felling.
LV10	Lighting will be minimised and designed to be as contained as possible within the confines of its purpose for safety.
LV11	Rest and Be Thankful car park – materials used, road surfacing treatment, and road markings will respect the landscape setting of the Rest and Be Thankful Stone (Category C Listed Building)

Mitigation Reference	Mitigation Measures
LV12	Mitigation planting to replace trees lost during the construction of the Proposed Scheme. Planting shall aid integration with the landscape character maintaining open views up and down the glen and be based on native species established in the area. Planting density shall be light to align with landscape character or to afford open or glimpsed views of landscape features. Species-rich mixes used for the majority of grass verges with the aim of integrating these into the wider landscape character. The exception to this will be the use of low nutrients and suitable low growing, local grass species in areas associated with visibility splays which are capable of withstanding regular cutting. Please refer to Volume 3, Figure 9.3 Landscape and Ecological Mitigation.
LV13	The detail of any required mammal fencing shall be designed to minimise landscape and visual impact.
LV14	The detail of the lighting shall utilise luminaires selected to avoid upward light.

9.7. Residual Effects

Residual Effects – Construction

9.7.1. Effects remaining after mitigation is in place are termed residual effects. The following landscape receptors Loch Lomond and The Trossachs National Park; Upland Glen LCT No. 252 (LLTNP); and Highland Summits LCT No. 251 have been identified as having likely significant residual effects. This would be for the construction period as set out in Table 9.3. Even with mitigation applied during construction (mitigation references LV1-7) it is predicted that there would be residual significant effects due to the nature, scale and duration of the construction period.

Table 9.3 - Residual Effects Construction

Reference	Pre-Mitigation Effect Magnitude	Pre-Mitigation Effect Significance	Mitigation Measures	Post-Mitigation Effect Magnitude	Post-Mitigation Effect Significance
Loch Lomond and The Trossachs National Park	Minor	Moderate adverse	LV2, LV3, and LV4 will ensure construction impacts are avoided. LV7 will prevent damage to trees. LV5 and LV6 will reduce the impact within its banding criteria though it will remain minor.	Minor	Moderate adverse

Reference	Pre-Mitigation Effect Magnitude	Pre-Mitigation Effect Significance	Mitigation Measures	Post-Mitigation Effect Magnitude	Post-Mitigation Effect Significance
Argyll Forest Park (Northern Area)	Negligible	Slight adverse	LV1-7 LV2, LV3, and LV4 will ensure construction impacts are avoided. LV7 will prevent damage to trees. LV5 and LV6 will reduce impact within its banding criteria though overall it will remain minor.	Negligible	Slight adverse

Reference	Pre-Mitigation Effect Magnitude	Pre-Mitigation Effect Significance	Mitigation Measures	Post-Mitigation Effect Magnitude	Post-Mitigation Effect Significance
Upland Glen LCT No. 252 (LLTNP)	Major	Very large adverse	LV1-7 LV2, LV3, and LV4 will ensure construction impacts are avoided. LV7 will prevent damage to trees. LV5 and LV6 will reduce impact. Despite the mitigation, the nature of the works would still result in a major impact as set out in the magnitude criteria methodology banding.	Major	Very large adverse
Highland Summits LCT No. 251 (LLTNP)	Minor	Moderate adverse	LV1, will ensure impacts are reduced. LV2 and LV4 mitigation will ensure construction impacts from works compounds and lighting are avoided	Minor	Moderate adverse

Reference	Pre-Mitigation Effect Magnitude	Pre-Mitigation Effect Significance	Mitigation Measures	Post-Mitigation Effect Magnitude	Post-Mitigation Effect Significance
Steep Ridges and Mountains LCT No.34	Minor	Slight adverse	LV1 will ensure impacts are reduced. LV2 and LV4 mitigation will ensure construction impacts from works compounds and lighting are avoided. Despite the mitigation, the nature of the works would still result in a minor impact as set out in the magnitude criteria methodology banding.	Minor	Slight adverse

Reference	Pre-Mitigation Effect Magnitude	Pre-Mitigation Effect Significance	Mitigation Measures	Post-Mitigation Effect Magnitude	Post-Mitigation Effect Significance
Rugged Mountains LCT No.35	Negligible	Slight adverse	LV will ensure impacts are reduced. LV2 and LV4 - Mitigation will ensure construction impacts from works compounds and lighting are avoided. Despite the mitigation, the nature of the works would still result in a negligible impact as set out in the magnitude criteria methodology banding.	Negligible	Slight adverse

Reference	Pre-Mitigation Effect Magnitude	Pre-Mitigation Effect Significance	Mitigation Measures	Post-Mitigation Effect Magnitude	Post-Mitigation Effect Significance
Steep Ridges and Hills LCT No.250	Negligible	Slight adverse	LV1 will ensure impacts are reduced. LV2 and LV4 - Mitigation will ensure construction impacts from works compounds and lighting are avoided. Despite the mitigation, the nature of the works would still result in a negligible impact as set out in the magnitude criteria methodology banding.	Negligible	Slight adverse

Reference	Pre-Mitigation Effect Magnitude	Pre-Mitigation Effect Significance	Mitigation Measures	Post-Mitigation Effect Magnitude	Post-Mitigation Effect Significance
SLQ Tranquillity	Major	Very large adverse	LV1-LV4 and LV6 will help to reduce impacts on tranquillity though construction works will still have a major impact. Despite the mitigation, the nature and scale of the works would still result in a major impact as set out in the magnitude criteria methodology banding.	Major	Very large adverse
SLQ Famous through routes	Major	Very large adverse	LV1-7 will help to reduce impacts on the SLQ though construction works will still have a major impact	Major	Very large adverse
SLQ Dramatic Pass Rest and Be Thankful	Major	Very large adverse	LV1-7 will help to reduce impacts on the SLQ though construction works will still have a major impact.	Major	Very large adverse

Reference	Pre-Mitigation Effect Magnitude	Pre-Mitigation Effect Significance	Mitigation Measures	Post-Mitigation Effect Magnitude	Post-Mitigation Effect Significance
SLQs *World-renowned landscape;* *Wild and rugged highlands containing pastoral lowland;* *Easily accessible landscape splendour;* *A land of forests and trees;* *Arrochar's mountains and distinctive peaks; and* *A variety of glens.*	Moderate	Moderate adverse	LV1-7 Mitigation will reduce the impact but the SLQs will still be impacted	Moderate	Moderate adverse

Reference	Pre-Mitigation Effect Magnitude	Pre-Mitigation Effect Significance	Mitigation Measures	Post-Mitigation Effect Magnitude	Post-Mitigation Effect Significance
Legislation, Policy and Plans	No change to negligible	Neutral	LV1-7 Despite the mitigation, the nature of the works would still result in a negligible impact as set out in the magnitude criteria methodology banding.	No change to negligible	Neutral

Residual Effects – Operation

9.7.2. Only one landscape receptor (Upland Glen LCT No. 252 (LLTNP) has been identified as having likely significant residual effects for the operation period, as shown in Table 9.4.

Table 9.4 - Residual Effects Operation

Reference	Pre-Mitigation Effect Magnitude	Pre-Mitigation Effect Significance	Mitigation Measures	Post-Mitigation Effect Magnitude	Post-Mitigation Effect Significance
Loch Lomond and The Trossachs National Park	WY1 Negligible	WY1 Slight adverse	LV8-14 Mitigation will ensure impacts are reduced. Despite the mitigation, the scale of the additional elements would still result in a negligible impact as set out in the magnitude criteria methodology banding.	WY1 Negligible	WY1 Slight adverse
Loch Lomond and The Trossachs National Park	SY15 Negligible	SY15 Slight adverse	LV8-14 Mitigation will ensure impacts are reduced. Despite the mitigation, the scale of the additional elements would still result in a negligible impact as set out in the magnitude criteria methodology banding.	SY15 Negligible	SY15 Slight adverse

Reference	Pre-Mitigation Effect Magnitude	Pre-Mitigation Effect Significance	Mitigation Measures	Post-Mitigation Effect Magnitude	Post-Mitigation Effect Significance
Northern Area Argyll Forest Park	WY1 Negligible	WY1 Slight adverse	LV8-14 Mitigation will ensure impacts are reduced. Despite the mitigation, the scale of the additional elements would still result in a negligible impact as set out in the magnitude criteria methodology banding.	WY1 Negligible	WY1 Slight adverse
Northern Area Argyll Forest Park	SY15 Negligible	SY15 Slight adverse	LV8-14 Mitigation will ensure impacts are reduced. Despite the mitigation, the scale of the additional elements would still result in a negligible impact as set out in the magnitude criteria methodology banding.	SY15 Negligible	SY15 Slight adverse

Reference	Pre-Mitigation Effect Magnitude	Pre-Mitigation Effect Significance	Mitigation Measures	Post-Mitigation Effect Magnitude	Post-Mitigation Effect Significance
Upland Glen LCT No. 252 (LLTNP)	WY1 Moderate	WY1 Moderate adverse	LV8-14 Mitigation will ensure impacts are reduced. Despite the mitigation, the scale of the additional elements would still result in a moderate impact as set out in the magnitude criteria methodology banding.	WY1 Moderate	WY1 Moderate adverse
Upland Glen LCT No. 252 (LLTNP)	SY15 Moderate	SY15 Moderate adverse	LV8-14 Mitigation will ensure impacts are reduced. Despite the mitigation the scale of the additional elements would still result in a moderate impact as set out in the magnitude criteria methodology banding.	SY15 Moderate	SY15 Moderate adverse

Reference	Pre-Mitigation Effect Magnitude	Pre-Mitigation Effect Significance	Mitigation Measures	Post-Mitigation Effect Magnitude	Post-Mitigation Effect Significance
Highland Summits LCT No. 251 (LLTNP)	WY1 Negligible	WY1 Slight adverse	LV8-13 will reduce the impacts. LV14 will avoid upward lighting. Despite the mitigation, the scale of the additional elements would still result in a negligible impact as set out in the magnitude criteria methodology banding.	WY1 Negligible	WY1 Slight adverse
Highland Summits LCT No. 251 (LLTNP)	SY15 Negligible	SY15 Slight adverse	LV8-13 will reduce the impacts. LV14 will avoid upward lighting. Despite the mitigation, the scale of the additional elements would still result in a negligible impact as set out in the magnitude criteria methodology banding.	SY15 Negligible	SY15 Slight adverse

Reference	Pre-Mitigation Effect Magnitude	Pre-Mitigation Effect Significance	Mitigation Measures	Post-Mitigation Effect Magnitude	Post-Mitigation Effect Significance
Steep Ridges and Mountains LCT No.34	WY1 Negligible	WY1 Neutral	LV8-13 will reduce the impacts. LV14 will avoid upward lighting. Despite the mitigation, the scale of the additional elements would still result in a negligible impact as set out in the magnitude criteria methodology banding.	WY1 Negligible	WY1 Neutral
Steep Ridges and Mountains LCT No.34	SY15 Negligible	SY15 Neutral	LV8-13 will reduce the impacts. LV14 will avoid upward lighting. Despite the mitigation, the scale of the additional elements would still result in a negligible impact as set out in the magnitude criteria methodology banding.	SY15 Negligible	SY15 Neutral

Reference	Pre-Mitigation Effect Magnitude	Pre-Mitigation Effect Significance	Mitigation Measures	Post-Mitigation Effect Magnitude	Post-Mitigation Effect Significance
Rugged Mountains LCT No.35	WY1 Negligible	WY1 Neutral	LV8-13 will reduce the impacts. LV14 will avoid upward lighting. Despite the mitigation, the scale of the additional elements would still result in a negligible impact as set out in the magnitude criteria methodology banding.	WY1 Negligible	WY1 Neutral
Rugged Mountains LCT No.35	SY15 Negligible	SY15 Neutral	LV8-13 will reduce the impacts. LV14 will avoid upward lighting. Despite the mitigation, the scale of the additional elements would still result in a negligible impact as set out in the magnitude criteria methodology banding.	SY15 Negligible	SY15 Neutral

Reference	Pre-Mitigation Effect Magnitude	Pre-Mitigation Effect Significance	Mitigation Measures	Post-Mitigation Effect Magnitude	Post-Mitigation Effect Significance
Steep Ridges and Hills LCT No.250	WY1 None	WY1 Neutral	LV8-13 will reduce the impacts. LV14 will avoid upward lighting. Despite the mitigation, the scale of the additional elements would still result in a negligible impact as set out in the magnitude criteria methodology banding.	WY1 None	WY1 Neutral
Steep Ridges and Hills LCT No.250	SY15 None	SY15 Neutral	LV8-13 will reduce the impacts. LV14 will avoid upward lighting,	SY15 None	SY15 Neutral

Reference	Pre-Mitigation Effect Magnitude	Pre-Mitigation Effect Significance	Mitigation Measures	Post-Mitigation Effect Magnitude	Post-Mitigation Effect Significance
SLQ Tranquillity	WY1 Minor	WY1 Slight adverse	LV14 will avoid upward lighting. LV10 and LV11 will reduce impacts on tranquillity. Despite the mitigation, the scale of the additional elements would still result in a minor impact as set out in the magnitude criteria methodology banding.	WY1 Minor	WY1 Slight adverse
SLQ Tranquillity	SY15 Minor	SY15 Slight adverse	LV14 will avoid upward lighting. LV10 and LV11 will reduce impacts on tranquillity Despite the mitigation, the scale of the additional elements would still result in a minor impact as set out in the magnitude criteria methodology banding.	SY15 Minor	SY15 Slight adverse

Reference	Pre-Mitigation Effect Magnitude	Pre-Mitigation Effect Significance	Mitigation Measures	Post-Mitigation Effect Magnitude	Post-Mitigation Effect Significance
SLQ Famous through routes	WY1 Moderate	WY1 Large adverse	LV8-14 will help to reduce the impacts though the changes to the SLQ will remain significant as despite the mitigation, the scale of the additional elements would still result in a moderate impact as set out in the magnitude criteria methodology banding.	WY1 Moderate	WY1 Large adverse

Reference	Pre-Mitigation Effect Magnitude	Pre-Mitigation Effect Significance	Mitigation Measures	Post-Mitigation Effect Magnitude	Post-Mitigation Effect Significance
SLQ Famous through routes	SY15 Moderate	SY15 Large adverse	LV8-14 will help to reduce the impacts though the changes to the SLQ will remain significant as despite the mitigation, the scale of the additional elements would still result in a moderate impact as set out in the magnitude criteria methodology banding.	SY15 Moderate	SY15 Large adverse

Reference	Pre-Mitigation Effect Magnitude	Pre-Mitigation Effect Significance	Mitigation Measures	Post-Mitigation Effect Magnitude	Post-Mitigation Effect Significance
SLQ Dramatic Pass Rest and Be Thankful	WY1 Moderate	WY1 Moderate adverse	LV8-14 will help to reduce the impacts though the changes to the SLQ will remain significant as despite the mitigation, the scale of the additional elements would still result in a moderate impact as set out in the magnitude criteria methodology banding.	WY1 Moderate	WY1 Moderate adverse

Reference	Pre-Mitigation Effect Magnitude	Pre-Mitigation Effect Significance	Mitigation Measures	Post-Mitigation Effect Magnitude	Post-Mitigation Effect Significance
SLQ Dramatic Pass Rest and Be Thankful	SY15 Moderate	SY15 Moderate adverse	LV8-14 will help to reduce the impacts though the changes to the SLQ will remain significant as despite the mitigation, the scale of the additional elements would still result in a moderate impact as set out in the magnitude criteria methodology banding.	SY15 Moderate	SY15 Moderate adverse

Reference	Pre-Mitigation Effect Magnitude	Pre-Mitigation Effect Significance	Mitigation Measures	Post-Mitigation Effect Magnitude	Post-Mitigation Effect Significance
SLQs *World-renowned landscape;* *Wild and rugged highlands containing pastoral lowland;* *Easily accessible landscape splendour;* *A land of forests and trees;* *Arrochar's mountains and distinctive peaks; and* *A variety of glens.*	WY1 Minor	WY1 Slight adverse	LV8-14 will help to reduce the impacts to non-significant. Despite the mitigation, the scale of the additional elements would still result in a minor impact as set out in the magnitude criteria methodology banding.	WY1 Minor	WY1 Slight adverse

Reference	Pre-Mitigation Effect Magnitude	Pre-Mitigation Effect Significance	Mitigation Measures	Post-Mitigation Effect Magnitude	Post-Mitigation Effect Significance
SLQs *World-renowned landscape;* *Wild and rugged highlands containing pastoral lowland;* *Easily accessible landscape splendour;* *A land of forests and trees;* *Arrochar's mountains and distinctive peaks; and* *A variety of glens.*	SY15 Minor	SY15 Slight adverse	LV8-14 will help to reduce the impacts to non-significant. Despite the mitigation, the scale of the additional elements would still result in a minor impact as set out in the magnitude criteria methodology banding.	SY15 Minor	SY15 Slight adverse
Legislation, Policy and Plans	No change to negligible	Neutral	LV8-14 mitigation helps align with legislation, policy and plans	No change to negligible	Neutral

Compliance with Planning Policy

9.7.3. Effects on legislation, plans, policies and guidance related to landscape (as set out in full Appendix 9.1) have been considered. NPF4 concerns the objectives and integrity of the National Park as well as any significant effects on the SLQs. While the overall objectives and integrity of the LLTNP is not likely to be compromised at operation, construction will have a significant adverse effect. The SLQs of the LLTNP have been assessed.

9.7.4. The NPF4 Policy 6 states that existing trees and woodland should be protected, expanded and/or improved and that there should be no ancient woodland loss or loss of individual trees of high value. The woodland loss has been minimised, with no loss of ancient woodland, or individual trees of high value. The overall threshold of woodland gain is 0.41 Ha excluding the enhancement areas.

9.7.5. The UK Forestry Strategy 4th and 5th editions are concerned with proposed forestry creation or forest clearance. Neither apply as a result of the Proposed Scheme. There is some felling to facilitate the Proposed Scheme. As required, the visual impact resulting from this has been assessed.

9.7.6. Woodland Removal Policy, 2009 advocates for no woodland removal and limited reduction. The Proposed Scheme complies with this. The gain is 0.41 Ha excluding the enhancement areas.

9.7.7. The Proposed Scheme is not fully compliant with the LLTNP Local Development Plan 2017-2021 Policy 2 as there is some effect on visual amenity and the landscape character of Glen Croe (Upland Glen LCT). It complies with Policy 2 in terms of protecting important views and the landscape character of the wider study area. Natural Environment Policy 1 concerns the SLQs as well as woodland and trees and their management. The SLQs have been assessed for any likely significant effect upon them as a result of the Proposed Scheme. The trees and woodland are protected by the recommended British Standard BS 5837:2012 Trees in relation to design demolition or construction. An Outline Landscape and Environmental Management Plan has been produced.

9.7.8. The Loch Lomond and the Trossachs Partnership Plan 2024 -2029 identifies a Woodland Expansion Priority Area. The overall gain in area of tree planting is 0.41 Ha excluding the enhancement areas.

9.7.9. The conclusion of the landscape assessment as a result of construction and operation of the Proposed Scheme is compliant with the relevant legislation and policies identified in Volume 4, Appendix 9.1 Landscape Legislation, Policy and Guidance with the exception of LLTNP Local Development Plan 2017-2021 Policy 2. This is due to slight adverse residual effects on the LLTNP, the NAAFP, the Upland Glens and Highland Summits LCTs and most of the SLQs and a moderate adverse effect on the dramatic pass of the Rest and Be Thankful SLQ and large effect on the famous through routes SLQ.

9.7.10. Mitigation, and monitoring if applicable, is set out in Chapter 21: Schedule of Environmental Commitments.