

A96 Dualling Programme
Strategic Environmental Assessment
Post Adoption Statement

Appendix C - Tier 2 Environmental Report
Inconsistencies and Associated Errata

February 2016

Appendix C – Tier 2 Environmental Report Inconsistencies and Associated Errata

Note: A thorough review of the Tier 2 ER has been undertaken following receipt of comments from the SEA Consultation Authorities and in preparing this PAS. This review confirmed that whilst there were some minor inconsistencies in some of the reporting within the detailed assessment matrices (which were included as appendices of the ER), correction of these would not have changed the key findings of the SEA, therefore no material changes are considered to be necessary to the assessment findings set out in the published ER and it is not proposed to re-issue an updated version of the report.

The published Appendix J of the ER included a formatting error which resulted in a discrepancy between the findings in the appendix and those within the main text of the ER. The updated version of Appendix J is attached to this report as Appendix D and will supersede Appendix J on Transport Scotland's website.

The table below details inconsistencies identified following review and provides an SEA comment by way of errata.

Issue	ER Location	SEA Response
A formatting error on the biodiversity sensitivity row (repetition of the same text across options) which resulted in inconsistencies between the appendix and the (accurate) findings listed in the Report (Section 6).	Appendix J	The findings in the Tier 2 Environmental Report are accurate and as such no change is required to the body of the Report. The correct version of Appendix J is included in Appendix D of this Post Adoption Statement to ensure consistency across the final documents, and will supersede Appendix J on Transport Scotland's website.
A formatting error on the summary row resulted in inconsistencies between topic specific findings and the summaries presented.	Appendix J	The findings in the Tier 2 Environmental Report are accurate and as such no change is required to the body of the Report. The correct version of Appendix J is included in Appendix D of this Post Adoption Statement to ensure consistency across the final documents, and will supersede Appendix J on Transport Scotland's website.
Incorrect risk of effect identified on landscape row for Inverurie B Inner. Should read 'minor' as stipulated in the Report (Section 6 page 67).	Appendix J	The findings in the Tier 2 Environmental Report are accurate and as such no change is required to the body of the Report. The correct version of Appendix J is included in Appendix D of this Post Adoption Statement to ensure consistency across the final documents, and will supersede Appendix J on Transport Scotland's website.
Typo within population and human health constraint row in Forres B North. Constraint should be 'Medium' rather than 'Medium/High'.	Environmental Report – Section 6 (p49)	No amendment is proposed to the Tier 2 Environmental Report as the summary of assessment findings and the risk of effect within this section of the Environmental Report and Appendix J are accurate.
Typo within landscape section of Option Inverurie B Inner. The first bullet point reads 'potential for significant adverse permanent effects'. This is incorrect however the correct findings are listed in the remaining bullet points and the significance and risk of effect identified within the assessment snapshot are correct.	Environmental Report – Section 6 (p67)	No amendment is proposed to the Tier 2 Environmental Report as the assessment findings within the snapshot, the remaining text within the landscape section of Option Inverurie B Inner and Appendix J, are all accurate.

Issue	ER Location	SEA Response
Did not consider Brodie Castle GDL and Darnaway Castle GDL in the assessment of Section 3 – West Option B of the Landscape Review.	Appendix G – Landscape Review Section 3 – West Option B (pG-8)	After a review of the Landscape Assessment, it is considered that the extent and location of these two GDLs within the segment could potentially increase the 'Indicative Landscape Sensitivity' and 'Risk of Effect' from low/ minor to medium/ moderate. This potential increase however, does not change the findings for the overall Option B and therefore no changes are proposed to the Tier 2 Environmental Report.
Did not consider Darnaway Castle GDL and Grant Park & Cluny Hill GDL in the assessment of Section 3 – Forres Option B North of the Landscape Review.	Appendix G – Landscape Review Section 3 – Forres Option B North (pG-9)	After a review of the Tier 2 Landscape Assessment, it is considered that there would be no change to the findings as a result of this. A small area of Darnaway GDL lies at South West of the segment and as such there is significant potential to avoid. Similarly the outer edge of Grant Park & Cluny Hill GDL is located within the segment and has significant avoidance potential.
Did not consider Darnaway Castle GDL in the assessment of Forres Option B South and Forres Option N within the Landscape Review.	Appendix G – Landscape Review Section 3 – Forres Option B South (pG-10) Section 3 – Forres Option N (pG-11)	After a review of the Tier 2 Landscape Assessment, it is considered that there would be no change to the findings as a result of this. A small area of outer edge of Darnaway GDL lies at the South West of both segments and as such there is significant potential to avoid.
Did not consider Gordon Castle GDL in the assessment of Section 5 – West Option B within the Landscape Review.	Appendix G – Landscape Review Section 5 – West Option B (pG-17)	After a review of the Tier 2 Landscape Assessment, it is considered that the extent and location of the GDL within the segment could potentially increase the 'Indicative Landscape Sensitivity' and 'Risk of Effect' from medium/ moderate to major/ high. This potential increase however, does not change the findings for the overall Option B and therefore no changes are required to the Environmental Report.
Did not consider Glens of Foudland Windfarm in the assessment of Section 8 – West Option B.	Appendix G – Landscape Review Section 8 – West Option B (pG-26)	After a review of the Tier 2 Landscape Assessment, it is considered that there would be no change to the findings as a result of this. Although this windfarm may reduce the sensitivity of the landscape, other landscape considerations within the segment including the Dummuies Windfarm, maintain the 'Indicative Landscape Sensitivity' and 'Risk of Effect' as originally noted.
Only considered pylons/ power lines in the assessment of segments within Section 9.	Appendix G – Landscape Review	After a review of the Tier 2 Landscape Assessment, it is considered that there would be no change to the findings as a result of this. Although pylons/ power lines may reduce the sensitivity of the landscape other landscape considerations within the segments maintain the 'Indicative Landscape Sensitivity' and 'Risk of Effect' as originally noted.



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