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Glossary

Application Site	The area within the red line planning boundary comprising the OnTW, as defined.
Original OnTW	The OnTW, as was granted planning permission in principle in September 2014, under ELC reference 14/00456/PPM.
Original OnTW ES	The Environmental Statement that was submitted to support the application for the Original OnTW in 2014.
Construction Compound	An indicative area within the Revised Application Site used to accommodate the temporary work site including; construction parking, construction welfare facilities, construction meeting room, construction laydown and storage area, construction security facilities (fenced area/gate and security access) and construction security lighting.
Landfall	Point where up to two Offshore Export Cables from ICOL's Offshore Wind Farm will be brought ashore.
Offshore Export Cable	The subsea, buried or protected electricity cables running from ICOL's Offshore Wind Farm offshore substation to the landfall and transmitting the electricity generated to the onshore cables for transmission onwards to the onshore substation and the electrical grid connection.
Onshore Export Cable Corridor	The area within the Application Site where the proposed Onshore Export Cables will be laid.
Onshore Export Cables	Electricity cables from the transition pits to the Onshore Substation and from the Onshore Substation to the grid connection point.
Onshore Substation	The proposed electrical substation comprising of all the equipment and associate infrastructure required to enable connection to the electrical transmission grid.
Onshore Substation Site/Substation Site	The indicative area within the Application Site where the proposed Onshore Substation and screening will be located.
Onshore Transmission Works (OnTW)	All proposed works within the Application Site, typically including the Onshore Substation, cables transition pits, cable jointing pits, underground electricity transmission cables connecting to the Onshore Substation and further underground cables required to facilitate connection to the national grid. This includes all permanent and temporary works required.

Abbreviations and Acronyms

AGLV	Area of Great Landscape Value
CAT	Countryside Around Towns
EIA	Environmental Impact Assessment
ELC	East Lothian Council
ELLP	East Lothian Local Plan
GDL	Inventory Gardens and Designed Landscapes
GLVIA3	Guidelines for Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment, 3 rd Edition
HES	Historic Environment Scotland
ICOL	Inch Cape Offshore Limited
LCA	Landscape Character Area
LCT	Landscape Character Type
LDP	Local Development Plan
LVIA	Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment
MLWS	Mean Low Water Springs
OnTW	Onshore Transmission Works
OS	Ordnance Survey
PPP	Planning Permission in Principle
SDP	Strategic Development Plan
SEsplan	The Strategic Development Planning Authority for Edinburgh and South East Scotland
SLA	Special Landscape Area
SNH	Scottish Natural Heritage
ZTV	Zone of Theoretical Visibility

8C LVIA Viewpoint Assessment

- 1 This Appendix contains the assessment of potential effects on landscape and visual receptors from representative viewpoints.

Representative viewpoints

- 2 Potentially significant effects to landscape and visual amenity were identified at the scoping stage and further informed by stakeholder responses within the Scoping Opinion.
- 3 The assessment of effects on landscape character and visual amenity is informed by consideration of predicted change as a result of the OnTW at a series of 11 viewpoints, the locations of which are shown on *Figure 8.1* (see *Appendix 8B: LVIA Figures*). These viewpoints have been selected to include representative landscape and visual receptors as well as locations of specific importance such as the recognised viewpoint for the Battle of Prestonpans, the settlements of Prestonpans, Cockenzie and Tranent as well as important routes such as the John Muir Way and the A1. The viewpoints have also been selected to include the main Landscape Character Types (LCTs) in the Study Area, as well as being at a range of different directions and distances from the Application Site.
- 4 The initial list of candidate viewpoints which was submitted in the Scoping Report is similar to that presented in *Table 8C.1* below. Following preparation of a draft visualisation and site visit to Viewpoint 8 on the north edge of Tranent identified in the Scoping Report, it was decided to drop this viewpoint from the detailed assessment due to the limited visibility of the OnTW from this location.
- 5 ELC suggested six alternative and additional viewpoints. Following consideration of these and the ability to gain safe and lawful access, and during a consultation meeting with ELC (30th October 2017), it was agreed to include three of the six ELC suggested viewpoints. These are identified at the foot of *Table 8C.1* and listed with the prefix 'A', as A10, A11 and A12.
- 6 The locations of some viewpoints identified in the Scoping Report were revised slightly to take account of conditions on-site. These variances are generally less than 30 m.
- 7 *Table 8C.1* below lists the viewpoints and provides information on their location, landscape and visual receptor type and distance from the nearest corner of the switchgear building. The assessment of predicted effects on landscape character and visual amenity has been informed by visualisations of the Onshore Substation desk study and field work. The visualisations showing predicted views of the Onshore Substation are presented in *Appendix 8B: LVIA Figures*, with the method by which these visualisations have been prepared presented in *Appendix 8A: Landscape and Visual Assessment Methodology*.
- 8 The assessment of effects on landscape and visual amenity takes account of the embedded landscape mitigation, as described in *Chapter 8, Section 8.5* and illustrated on *Figures 8.6a and 8.6b*.

Table 8C.1: Representative Viewpoints

ID	Ref	Landscape and Visual Receptors	Grid Ref	Approx. Distance from the switchgear building	Direction from the switchgear building	Elevation
1	B1348 (Edinburgh Road)	Urban Area Road users and pedestrians	339676 675436	184 m	North-east	5 m AOD
2	Cockenzie Harbour	Urban Area Tourists and recreational walkers	339772 675695	437 m	North-east	2 m AOD
3	John Muir Way	Urban Area Tourists and recreational walkers	339479 675684	290 m	North	2 m AOD
4	John Muir Way	Urban Area Tourists and recreational walkers	339190 675346	192 m	West	5 m AOD
5	B1348 (Edinburgh Road)	Urban Area Road users and pedestrians	339275 674989	361 m	South-west	9 m AOD
6	Top of Mound adjacent to Atholl View, Prestonpans	Urban Area Walkers	339343 674930	380 m	South	11 m AOD
7	Battle of Prestonpans Viewpoint	Coastal Margins Character Tourists and recreational walkers	340173 673959	1.5 km	South-east	56 m AOD
9	A199	Lowland Hills and Ridges Character Road users and residential	340558 673429	2.1 km	South	76 m AOD

ID	Ref	Landscape and Visual Receptors	Grid Ref	Approx. Distance from the switchgear building	Direction from the switchgear building	Elevation
A10	Preston Links	Urban Area Recreational walkers	339200 675309	365 m	East	5 m AOD
A11	Cockenzie Harbour	Urban Area Residents, tourists, recreational walkers and workers	339839 675711	494 m	South-west	4 m AOD
A12	John Muir Way	Urban Area Recreational walkers and tourists	339827 675536	215 m	South-west	8 m AOD

- 9 The first step in the assessment of effects on the representative viewpoints is evaluation of the existing view, the sensitivity of the landscape and visual receptors and predicted visibility of the Onshore Substation.
- 10 As the assessment of potential effects of the OnTW is informed by analysis of predicted views at a series of viewpoints, consideration has also been given to potential cumulative effects at each viewpoint locations. As identified in *Section 3.6*, the only project which has been taken into account in the cumulative LVIA, is the Blindwells Settlement, of which Phase One was approved by ELC in March 2017. As explained in *Chapter 8, Section 8.9, Paragraph 199*, it is not anticipated that there will be any cumulative effects from the OnTW and the Blindwells Settlement development due to the fact that there is not predicted to be any intervisibility between Blindwells and the OnTW (see *Figure 8.1*) and due to the extent of intervening vegetation on the west side of the B6371. The Blindwells development will be close to Viewpoint 7, Prestonpans Battlefield Viewpoint, with higher parts of the consented new settlement area visible from the elevated Battlefield Viewpoint. However, only the upper part of the Onshore Substation will be visible and the magnitude of change arising from the Onshore Substation at this location is predicted to be negligible. It is therefore considered that no significant cumulative effect could occur from the Onshore Substation with Blindwells at this, or any other location in the study area. Accordingly, no further cumulative assessment has been carried out.

Viewpoint Assessment

- 11 Viewpoint assessments have been carried out for the operational phase of the OnTW on the basis that the existing landform in the wider landscape will remain in place. However, the continuing presence of these existing landforms, including the bunds next the housing estate

on the north eastern edge of Prestonpans and round the former Cockenzie Power Station Coal Store, is not within control of ICOL. (For further information on the potential landscape and visual effects of OnTW in the event that the bund round the north eastern edge of Prestonpans, see *Appendix 3D*.)

- 12 The tables below contain the findings of the viewpoint assessment and should be read in conjunction with the visualisations (*Figures 8.7 to 8.17*) in *Appendix 8B*. The photomontages have been prepared to include the following elements of the Embedded Landscape Mitigation described in *Section 8.5.2* and shown on *Figures 8.6a and 8.6b*:
- Retention of areas of existing maturing vegetation adjacent to the B1348 (Edinburgh Road) where practicable;
 - Formation of earth bunds within the Application Site which relate to the surrounding landform, particularly the existing mounds on Preston Links; and
 - Planting of tree stock and shrub species.
- 13 The visualisations illustrate two years' growth of the landscape mitigation structure planting (Year One of Operation) and after 15 years growth (Year 15). As the viewpoint photography was taken in early summer 2017, the proposed vegetation is illustrated in full leaf.
- 14 It should be noted that the Application Site has been subject to ongoing demolition and clearance works associated with the removal of the former Cockenzie Power Station throughout the assessment. Accordingly, the views as shown in the photography of the existing views for some of the closest viewpoints have changed slightly since the photography was taken. Mostly these changes relate to removal of security lighting and some other structures within the Application Site.

Viewpoint 1: B1348 (Edinburgh Road)

Figures 8.7 and 8.7a to 8.7c			
Grid Reference	339676, 675436	Direction of View	South-west
Distance	184 m	Elevation	5 m AOD
Landscape Receptor	Urban Area	Visual Receptor	Residents, tourists, other road users and pedestrians
<p>Viewpoint Location:</p> <p>The viewpoint is located approximately 184 m north-east of the switchgear building at an elevation of five metres on the public footpath adjacent to the B1348 (Edinburgh Road). The viewpoint illustrates the potential effect upon road users and pedestrians, including visitors to the area as well as those living and working nearby.</p>			
<p>Existing View:</p> <p>As shown by <i>Figure 8.7a</i>, the view towards the Application Site includes an area of roadside amenity grass with mature trees and native shrub species beyond. Beyond this, there are open views of the Application Site which has been cleared following demolition of the former Cockenzie Power Station. Grassed mounds of Preston Links are visible beyond this with the distant horizon formed by the Pentland Hills. The eastern edge of the settlement of Prestonpans is visible further along the B1348 road.</p>			
<p>Value attached to landscape receptor: Medium</p> <p>Having regard to the extensive development and absence of distinctive landscape characteristics, the majority of the Urban Area is considered of medium landscape/townscape value outside of the areas designated with Conservation Area status which are considered to be of high value. The viewpoint is not located in a Conservation Area and is not recognised by any current landscape designations. There is no proposed SLA at this location.</p> <p>Susceptibility of landscape receptor: Medium</p> <p>Close to the settlement edge, the landscape features a mixture of brownfield and amenity areas and there are industrial features nearby in the form of the existing Cockenzie substation on the south side of the Edinburgh Road, just to the left hand side of the photograph of the existing view towards the Application Site.</p> <p>Landscape Sensitivity: Medium</p>			
<p>Value attached to view: Medium</p> <p>The view is not a recognised viewpoint or associated with any heritage assets, although it provides visual interest in the form of open views to the Fife coast and the Pentland Hills.</p> <p>Susceptibility of visual receptor: High in relation to walkers and tourists (i.e. those travelling on Scotland's Golf Coast Road), medium for other road users.</p> <p>Visual Sensitivity: High in relation to walkers and tourists (i.e. those travelling on Scotland's Golf Coast Road), medium for other road users.</p>			

Figures 8.7 and 8.7a to 8.7c

Mitigation:

The colour of the switchgear building will reflect the background and nearby structures and so help to integrate the building with its surroundings. Screening walls will be constructed, in similar colour, to screen some of the external components of the Onshore Substation. Also, mounding will be formed to create a landform which relates to the existing mounding on Preston Links. It will also provide further screening of lower elements of the Onshore Substation and a mixture of trees and shrubs will be planted to further assist with screening.

Predicted View:

The Onshore Substation will be seen in close proximity and, as shown by the visualisations on *Figure 8.7b*, it will be a prominent feature at this location. The switchgear building will be seen above the skyline and, although partially screened by mounding adjacent to the building, external elements of the Onshore Substation will also be visible. The nature of the view obtained by pedestrians and road users is transient and the view will change as receptors move along the B1348.

Magnitude of Change at Year One: Substantial

Landscape Effect at Year One: Major / Moderate

Visual Effect at Year One: Major for walkers and tourists (i.e. those travelling on Scotland's Golf Coast Road), Major / Moderate for other road users.

Magnitude of Change at Year 15: Moderate

Mitigation planting will mature over time but it is recognised that the prevailing coastal conditions will result in slow growth and this is reflected in the scale of vegetation shown on *Figure 8.7c*. Nevertheless, visibility of fencing, some external elements of the Onshore Substation and the switchgear building will be less than at Year One.

Landscape Effect at Year 15: Moderate

Visual Effect at Year 15: Major / Moderate for walkers and tourists (i.e. those travelling on Scotland's Golf Coast Road), Moderate for other road users.

Viewpoint 2: Cockenzie Harbour

Figure 8.8 and 8.8a to 8.8c			
Grid Reference	339772, 675695	Direction of View	South-west
Distance	437 m	Elevation	2 m AOD
Landscape Receptor	Urban Area	Visual Receptor	Residents, tourists, recreational walkers and workers
<p>Viewpoint Location:</p> <p>The viewpoint is located on the harbour wall approximately 437 m north-east of the switchgear building at an elevation of two metres. The viewpoint illustrates the potential effect upon tourists, recreational walkers and other visitors to the harbour as well as those living or working nearby.</p>			
<p>Existing View:</p> <p>As shown by the view on <i>Figure 8.8a</i>, the view towards the Application Site includes the western harbour wall with rough grass and a security fence beyond. There are mature trees, security lighting, vehicles and industrial equipment within the security fence. Above the security fencing, there are buildings within the settlement of Prestonpans visible with woodland between Prestonpans and Musselburgh forming a skyline beyond. To the right of the view, the Pentland Hills are a distant skyline feature and the existing Cockenzie substation can be seen to the left of the view. Some of the security lighting and structures within the security fencing have been removed since the photography of the existing view was taken.</p>			
<p>Value attached to landscape receptor: High</p> <p>The landscape at the viewpoint is not recognised by any current landscape designations, but it is within the Cockenzie and Port Seton Conservation Area and would be included in the proposed Port Seton to North Berwick Coast SLA. The harbour is a notable and interesting feature, with a distinctive scenic quality and so value is considered high.</p> <p>Susceptibility of landscape receptor: Medium</p> <p>The landscape around this viewpoint features a mixture of some residential properties, light industry, brownfield and amenity areas and there are further industrial features nearby in the form of the existing Cockenzie substation.</p> <p>Landscape Sensitivity: High</p>			
<p>Value attached to view: High</p> <p>The view is not a recognised viewpoint but occurs within the Cockenzie and Port Seton Conservation Area, and provides visual interest in the form of views of the harbour, towards the Firth of Forth and the Pentland Hills.</p> <p>Susceptibility of visual receptor: High in relation to nearby residents, walkers and tourists, low for those working in nearby buildings.</p> <p>Visual Sensitivity: High in relation to nearby residents, walkers and tourists, low for workers in nearby buildings.</p>			

Figure 8.8 and 8.8a to 8.8c

Mitigation:

The colour of the switchgear building will reflect the background and nearby structures and so help to integrate the building with its surroundings. Also, mounded landforms will be used to screen lower elements of the Onshore Substation and a mixture of trees and shrubs will be planted to assist with screening.

Predicted View:

As shown by the visualisations on *Figure 8.8b and 8.8c*, the Onshore Substation will be visible from this viewpoint. Primarily, visibility will result from the eastern façade of the switchgear building although some external elements of the Onshore Substation will also be visible. The top of the switchgear building will appear below the tops of the existing tree canopies and security lighting at a similar point in the view. Although prominent, the Onshore Substation will not appear out of scale with its surroundings from this location. Also, the cladding material of the switchgear building will be similar to that of the existing Cockenzie substation.

Magnitude of Change at Year One and Year 15: Slight

The Onshore Substation will impact the view from this location reducing the current extent of the available view to the varied built forms on the eastern edge of Prestonpans. It will be seen in an area already associated with electrical infrastructure and industrial type buildings (particularly in the form of the existing Cockenzie substation). The addition of the switchgear building will not introduce a new element to the landscape and the building design will help to integrate it with its surroundings.

Although earth mounding with associated planting mitigation will be provided adjacent to the Onshore Substation, there will be limited visibility of the mitigation from this viewpoint location. The magnitude of change is therefore unchanged between Year One and Year 15.

Landscape Effect at Year One and Year 15: Moderate

Visual Effect at Year One and Year 15: Moderate for residents, walkers and tourists, Minor for workers in nearby buildings.

Viewpoint 3: John Muir Way

Figure 8.9 and 8.9a to 8.9c			
Grid Reference	339479, 675684	Direction of View	South
Distance	290 m	Elevation	2 m AOD
Landscape Receptor	Urban Area	Visual Receptor	Tourists and recreational walkers
<p>Viewpoint Location:</p> <p>The viewpoint is located on the John Muir Way, adjacent to the Firth of Forth coast and east of the existing pier. It is approximately 290 m north of the switchgear building. The viewpoint illustrates potential views for tourists and recreational walkers on the John Muir Way as well as those accessing the pier.</p>			
<p>Existing View:</p> <p>As shown by the view on <i>Figure 8.9a</i>, the existing view includes a palisade security fence with demolition and clearance work ongoing within the site of the former Cockenzie Power Station beyond. Beyond the security fencing round the site of the former Cockenzie Power Station, the Tranent ridge forms the skyline with wooded farmland, overhead electrical transmission lines and a communication tower at Falside Hill visible.</p>			
<p>Value attached to landscape receptor: Medium</p> <p>The landscape at the viewpoint is not recognised by any landscape designations or notable features although it does allow for appreciation of the East Lothian and Fife coastlines as well as the Pentland Hills and Arthur's Seat, which provide it with scenic quality. The viewpoint location would not be included in any of the proposed SLAs.</p> <p>Susceptibility of landscape receptor: Medium</p> <p>The landscape features a mixture of seascape to the north, as well as brownfield and amenity areas and industrial features nearby in the form of the existing Cockenzie substation. Although clearance works were underway within the site of the former Cockenzie Power Station at the time the assessment was carried out, it is anticipated that the character and susceptibility of the area will continue to be influenced by most of these features.</p> <p>Landscape Sensitivity: Medium</p>			
<p>Value attached to view: Medium</p> <p>This viewpoint is located on the John Muir Way, a recognised long distance recreational route. However, the view inland across the site of the former Cockenzie Power Station where the Onshore Substation will be located is not considered to be of high value visual amenity. The key views here are along the coast and out across the Firth of Forth.</p> <p>Susceptibility of visual receptor: High in relation to tourists and recreational walkers.</p> <p>Visual Sensitivity: High in relation to tourists and recreational walkers.</p>			
<p>Mitigation:</p> <p>The colour of the switchgear building will reflect the background and nearby structures and so help to integrate the building with its surroundings. Also, mounded landforms will be used to screen lower elements of the Onshore Substation and a mixture of trees and shrubs will be planted to assist with screening.</p>			

Figure 8.9 and 8.9a to 8.9c

Predicted View:

It is anticipated that ongoing clearance works will be completed with the removal of security lighting and other elements associated with the former Cockenzie Power Station. As shown by the visualisations on *Figure 8.9b and 8.9c*, as part of the mitigation design for the OnTW, earth mounding will be created and this will help to screen views to the switchgear building and external components of the Onshore Substation. However, some external elements will be visible, albeit behind the existing security fence, and the top of the switchgear building will be seen breaking the skyline and obscuring part of the Tranent Ridge.

Magnitude of Change at Year One and Year 15: Slight

The Onshore Substation will impact the available view inland from this location seen in an area already associated with electrical infrastructure and industrial type buildings (particularly in the form of the existing Cockenzie substation). The addition of the switchgear building will not introduce a new element to the landscape and the building design will help to integrate it with its surroundings. The palisade fence in the foreground, if retained, will largely screen the majority of the switchgear building and combined with the proposed earth mounding and associated planting, will result in limited visibility of the Onshore Substation. The upper part of the switchgear building will be visible above the palisade fence but will not occupy a large part of the available view. The foreground in the view beyond the palisade fence will be restored to grass ground cover extending over the proposed earth mounding. The OnTW will not interrupt the available panoramic views across the Firth of Forth.

Although it is proposed that planting mitigation be provided adjacent to the Onshore Substation, its location is such that, from this viewpoint, it will not alter the magnitude of change as it matures. The magnitude of change is therefore unchanged between Year One and Year 15.

Landscape Effect at Year One and Year 15: Moderate/minor

Visual Effect at Year One and Year 15: Moderate for recreational walkers and tourists.

Viewpoint 4: John Muir Way

Figure 8.10 and 8.10a to 8.10c			
Grid Reference	339220, 675368	Direction of View	East
Distance	192 m	Elevation	5 m AOD
Landscape Receptor	Urban Area	Visual Receptor	Tourists and recreational walkers
<p>Viewpoint Location:</p> <p>The viewpoint is located on the John Muir Way, between the Firth of Forth coast and Preston Links. It is approximately 192 m west of the switchgear building. The viewpoint illustrates potential views for tourists and recreational walkers.</p>			
<p>Existing View:</p> <p>As shown by the view on <i>Figure 8.10a</i>, the existing view includes the brownfield site of the demolished former Cockenzie Power Station where clearance works were ongoing at the time this assessment was carried out. There is security fencing, lighting and industrial activity in the foreground currently associated with this site. Beyond the site of the former Cockenzie Power Station, the Whin Park Industrial Estate and existing Cockenzie substation can be seen with overhead electrical transmission lines extending across the skyline. The western edge of the settlement of Cockenzie is also visible. Further south, i.e. to the right of the existing Cockenzie substation, tall bunding around the former Cockenzie Coal Store can be seen.</p>			
<p>Value attached to landscape receptor: Medium</p> <p>The landscape at the viewpoint is not recognised by any current landscape designations although it would be included in the proposed Prestonpans Coast SLA. Its elevated location within an open part of the Urban Area allows for appreciation of the East Lothian and Fife coastlines, and its value is considered medium.</p> <p>Susceptibility of landscape receptor: Medium</p> <p>The landscape features a mixture of brownfield and amenity areas and there are industrial features nearby in the form of the Whin Park Industrial Estate and the existing Cockenzie substation. Clearance works on the site of the former Cockenzie Power Station were underway at the time the assessment was carried out and, while it is anticipated that these will be completed, the character and susceptibility of the area will continue to be influenced by the industrial estate and existing Cockenzie substation.</p> <p>Landscape Sensitivity: Medium</p>			
<p>Value attached to view: Medium</p> <p>Although part of a recognised long distance recreational route, the view inland in the direction of the Onshore Substation is not considered to be of high value visual amenity. Key views here are generally out across the Firth of Forth.</p> <p>Susceptibility of visual receptor: High in relation to tourists and recreational walkers.</p> <p>Visual Sensitivity: High in relation to tourists and recreational walkers.</p>			

Figure 8.10 and 8.10a to 8.10c

Mitigation:

The colour of the switchgear building will reflect the background and nearby structures and so help to integrate the building with its surroundings. Also, mounded landforms will be used to screen lower elements of the Onshore Substation, and relating to the existing landform at Preston Links, and a mixture of trees and shrubs will be planted to assist with screening.

Predicted View:

As shown by the visualisations on *Figure 8.10a and 8.10b*, the proposed earth mounding with associated grass and groups of shrubs and trees will occur in the foreground of the view inside the existing security fence and will provide some screening to the switchgear building and related external components. These elements will be seen in front of the existing Cockenzie substation, finished with similar materials and colours, and will not introduce new elements to the view but will intensify an existing effect.

Magnitude of Change at Year One and Year 15: Substantial

The Onshore Substation, with related mitigation earth mounding and associated planting, will occupy the fore and middle ground of the view, transforming the existing cleared site of the former Cockenzie Power Station. The switchgear building will not introduce a new element to the landscape, being similar in appearance and function to the existing Cockenzie substation, in front of which it will be seen. The proposed landscape mitigation will extend the landforms with associated vegetation cover of Preston Links into the Application Site.

Although the proposed planting will mature to form established groups of trees and shrubs associated with the earth mounding, primarily due to proximity to the Onshore Substation, the magnitude of change from the existing view is considered to remain substantial at Year 15.

Landscape Effect at Year One and Year 15: Major / Moderate

Visual Effect at Year One and Year 15: Major

Viewpoint 5: B1348 (Edinburgh Road)

Figure 8.11 and 8.11a to 8.11c			
Grid Reference	339275, 674989	Direction of View	North-east
Distance	361 m	Elevation	9 m AOD
Landscape Receptor	Urban Area	Visual Receptor	Residents, Tourists, other road users and pedestrians
<p>Viewpoint Location:</p> <p>The viewpoint is located approximately 360 m south-west of the switchgear building at an elevation of nine metres on the public footpath adjacent to the B1348 (Edinburgh Road). The viewpoint illustrates the potential effect upon road users and pedestrians, including visitors to the area as well as those living and working nearby.</p>			
<p>Existing View:</p> <p>As shown by <i>Figure 8.11a</i>, views on either side of the B1348 from this location are limited by landscape elements such as mounding on Preston Links and the existing Cockenzie substation building. The view south is further limited by mounding adjacent to housing at Atholl View (see Viewpoint 6). Looking along the road, buildings on the western edge of Cockenzie can be seen.</p>			
<p>Value attached to landscape receptor: Medium</p> <p>The landscape at the viewpoint is not recognised by any current landscape designations although the B1348 would form the southern boundary of the proposed Prestonpans Coast SLA. It occurs within a more open part of the Urban Area with the landscape area of Preston Links to the north and open ground to the south. The landscape value is considered medium.</p> <p>Susceptibility of landscape receptor: Medium</p> <p>Close to Prestonpans' settlement edge, the landscape incorporates amenity areas with housing nearby. There are also industrial features nearby in the form of the existing Cockenzie substation on the south side of the Edinburgh Road.</p> <p>Landscape Sensitivity: Medium</p>			
<p>Value attached to view: Medium</p> <p>The view is not a recognised viewpoint or associated with any heritage assets and, while relatively open and comprising amenity space, it provides limited visual interest.</p> <p>Susceptibility of visual receptor: High in relation to walkers, medium for road users.</p> <p>Visual Sensitivity: High in relation to walkers and tourists (i.e. those travelling on Scotland's Golf Coast Road), medium for other road users.</p>			
<p>Mitigation:</p> <p>The colour of the switchgear building will reflect the background and nearby structures and so help to integrate the building with its surroundings. Also, mounded landforms will be used to screen some external components of the Onshore Substation and part of the switchgear building, and relating to the existing adjacent landform at Preston Links. A mixture of trees and shrubs will be planted to assist with screening.</p>			

Figure 8.11 and 8.11a to 8.11c

Predicted View:

As shown by the visualisations on *Figure 8.11b and 8.11c*, part of the western façade of the proposed switchgear building will be visible between one of the existing mounds on Preston Links and mature vegetation at the side of the B1348. This landform and vegetation screening will limit visibility of the other elements of the Onshore Substation and the cladding of the switchgear building will help to integrate it with its surroundings. Additional mounding within the Application Site, provided as part of the mitigation proposals, will also help to screen the Onshore Substation.

Magnitude of Change at Year One and Year 15: Slight

The Onshore Substation will impact the available view here but it will be seen in an area already associated with electrical infrastructure, most notably the existing Cockenzie substation. The addition of the switchgear building will not introduce a new element to the landscape and the building design which will incorporate similar materials and colour as the existing substation, will help to integrate it with its surroundings. It will occupy a small part of the available view and will be flanked by foreground elements in the landscape.

Although it is proposed that planting mitigation be provided adjacent to the Onshore Substation its screening effect as seen from this location will not change the magnitude of change between Year One and Year 15.

Landscape Effect at Year One and Year 15: Moderate / Minor

Visual Effect at Year One and Year 15: Moderate for walkers and tourists (i.e. those travelling on Scotland's Golf Coast Road), Moderate / Minor for other road users.

Viewpoint 6: Top of Mound adjacent Atholl View, Prestonpans

Figure 8.12 and 8.12a to 8.12c			
Grid Reference	339343, 674930	Direction of View	North
Distance	380 m	Elevation	11 m AOD
Landscape Receptor	Coastal Margins Character	Visual Receptor	Recreational walkers
<p>Viewpoint Location:</p> <p>The viewpoint is located on a man-made bund which forms the boundary to an area of housing on the north-eastern edge of Prestonpans. There is a well-used footpath atop this bund. The viewpoint is approximately 380 m south of the switchgear building and at an elevation of 11 m. The viewpoint serves to illustrate the potential view for those using the footpath and shows, from its relatively elevated position, some of the landscape context adjacent to the Application Site.</p>			
<p>Existing View:</p> <p>As shown by the view on <i>Figure 8.12a</i>, the existing view extends across the site of the former Cockenzie Power Station with ongoing demolition works. The view includes the Firth of Forth and long-range views along the East Lothian coast as well as across to the Fife coastline. The existing Cockenzie substation can be seen at the right of the view. There is an open grassed area close to the viewpoint with the B1348 (Edinburgh Road) beyond and the open amenity area of Preston Links on the other side. The mounded landform and mature vegetation visible here serves as a potential screen to the Application Site from several locations.</p>			
<p>Value attached to landscape receptor: Medium</p> <p>The landscape at the viewpoint is not recognised by any current landscape designations and it would not be included in any of the proposed SLAs. However, it does have some recreational value and it allows for appreciation of the East Lothian and Fife coastlines.</p> <p>Susceptibility of landscape receptor: Medium</p> <p>The landscape features a mixture of industrial structures, brownfield and amenity areas. Although clearance works are underway within the brownfield area, it is anticipated that the character and susceptibility of the area will continue to be influenced by this mix of features.</p> <p>Landscape Sensitivity: Medium</p>			
<p>Value attached to view: Medium</p> <p>The location is not a recognised viewpoint and is not associated with any heritage assets although it does provide visual interest with extensive views of the Firth of Forth and a variety of landscape features.</p> <p>Susceptibility of visual receptor: High in relation to recreational walkers.</p> <p>Visual Sensitivity: High in relation to recreational walkers.</p>			

Figure 8.12 and 8.12a to 8.12c

Mitigation:

The colour of the switchgear building will reflect the background and nearby structures and so help to integrate the building with its surroundings and screening walls will also be constructed, in similar colour, to screen external elements of the Onshore Substation. Also, mounded landforms will be used to screen lower elements of the Onshore Substation, relating to the existing adjacent landform at Preston Links, and a mixture of trees and shrubs will be planted to assist with screening.

Predicted View:

As shown by the visualisations on *Figure 8.12b and 8.12c*, the Onshore Substation will be visible within the current brownfield site. The switchgear building will be seen alongside outdoor electrical components. These elements will be seen in the context of the existing Cockenzie substation and although the design of the OnTW, e.g. selected cladding materials, will help to connect the Onshore Substation with its surroundings, it is likely that they will be prominent due to their proximity in this elevated view.

Magnitude of Change at Year One and Year 15: Substantial

The Onshore Substation will impact the view from this location due to the elevated nature of this nearby location. It will be seen in an area already associated with electrical infrastructure and industrial type buildings (particularly in the form of the existing Cockenzie substation). The addition of the switchgear building will not introduce a new element to the landscape and the building design will help to integrate it with its surroundings.

Although it is proposed that planting mitigation be provided adjacent to the Onshore Substation, from this viewpoint, it will not reduce the magnitude of change as it matures when seen from this elevated viewpoint. The magnitude of change is therefore unchanged between Year One and Year 15.

Landscape Effect at Year One and Year 15: Major / Moderate

Visual Effect at Year One and Year 15: Major in relation to recreational walkers.

Viewpoint 7: Battle of Prestonpans Viewpoint

Figure 8.13 and 8.13a to 8.13c			
Grid Reference	340173, 673959	Direction of View	North-west
Distance	1.5 km	Elevation	56 m AOD
Landscape Receptor	Coastal Margins Character	Visual Receptor	Tourists and recreational walkers
<p>Viewpoint Location:</p> <p>The viewpoint is located approximately 1.5 km south-east of the switchgear building at an elevation of 56 m on top of the viewpoint mound at Meadowhill. This is known as the Battle of Prestonpans viewpoint and is marked by a flag.</p> <p>The pyramidal mound provides a viewpoint location from which to appreciate the site of the Battle of Prestonpans. It was constructed from a former bing consisting of waste material from local coal mining activities and features interpretation boards which describe the Battle.</p>			
<p>Existing View:</p> <p>The viewpoint provides 360 degree panoramic views, with extensive views of the Firth of Forth to the north-west towards the Application Site. The coastline of Fife forms the distant skyline.</p> <p>As shown by the view on <i>Figure 8.13a</i>, in views towards the Application Site the grassed slope of the mound on which the viewpoint is located descends towards mature woodland. This screens views of the East Coast Railway line and the B1361.</p> <p>Two overhead electrical transmission lines extend southward towards the viewpoint from close to the Application Site. These pass to the east before turning south-west and are prominent features within the view.</p> <p>The existing Cockenzie substation adjacent to the Application Site is seen above the tree canopy and buildings within the settlements of Prestonpans and Cockenzie are also visible.</p> <p>The area of ground associated with the Battle of Prestonpans is visible to the right hand side of the existing view illustrated on <i>Figure 8.13a</i>.</p>			
<p>Value attached to landscape receptor: Medium</p> <p>The landscape at the viewpoint is not covered by any current or currently proposed landscape designation and does not have any particular landscape quality. The man made feature provides extensive views over the surrounding landscape with a historic focus on the Battle of Prestonpans which took place to the north-east of the viewpoint.</p> <p>Susceptibility of landscape receptor: Medium</p> <p>Taking account of the expansive views, encompassing the Fife coast to the north and hills to the south as well as the existing settlement pattern and presence of industrial structures, the landscape is considered to be of medium susceptibility to the OnTW.</p> <p>Landscape Sensitivity: Medium</p>			

Figure 8.13 and 8.13a to 8.13c

Value attached to view: High

The viewpoint location is identified and signposted as the Battle of Prestonpans viewpoint and provides elevated views across the historic battlefield as well as the surrounding area.

Susceptibility of visual receptor: High in relation to visitors.

Visual Sensitivity: High

Mitigation:

The colour of the switchgear building will reflect the background and nearby structures and so help to integrate the building with its surroundings.

Predicted View:

As shown by the visualisations on *Figure 8.13b and 8.13c*, only the upper part of the switchgear building will be visible above the existing tree canopy which lines the disused railway line in the middle ground of the existing view. The OnTW will occupy ground to the north-west (i.e. to the left from this viewpoint) of the existing Cockenzie substation building. The switchgear building will be smaller in scale than the existing substation building. It will have limited visibility from this location and will not reduce visibility of the Firth of Forth coastline.

Magnitude of Change at Year One and Year 15: Negligible

The upper part of switchgear building will affect a very small portion of the panoramic view available from this location, and it will be seen in an area already associated with electrical infrastructure and industrial type buildings (in the form of the existing Cockenzie substation and related overhead transmission lines). The addition of an industrial type of building (i.e. the switchgear building) will not introduce a new element to the landscape and the building design will help to integrate it with its surroundings. The OnTW will not be prominent in the view which accommodates various landscape and man-made features. The magnitude of change will be limited by the containment of the facility below the Firth of Forth coastline and the screening of lower parts of the Onshore Substation by intervening existing trees alongside the railway line.

Although it is proposed that planting mitigation will be provided adjacent to the Onshore Substation, owing to its location and the degree of screening provided by existing intervening woodland, the planting mitigation will not be seen from this viewpoint. The magnitude of change therefore will be unchanged between Year One and Year 15.

Landscape Effect at Year One and Year 15: Negligible – due to limited extent of predicted visibility.

Visual Effect at Year One and Year 15: Minor / Negligible – due to limited extent of predicted visibility.

Viewpoint 9: A199

Figure 8.14 and 8.14a to 8.14c			
Grid Reference	340558, 673429	Direction of View	North
Distance	2.1 km	Elevation	76 m AOD
Landscape Receptor	Lowland Hills and Ridges Character	Visual Receptor	Residents, Pedestrians and other road users
<p>Viewpoint Location:</p> <p>The viewpoint is located approximately 2.1 km from the switchgear building at an elevation of 76 m on the Core Path 152 next to the A199 on the western boundary of the settlement of Tranent.</p>			
<p>Existing View:</p> <p>The viewpoint provides panoramic views from the Tranent ridge across the Firth of Forth with the Fife coastline forming the distant skyline.</p> <p>As shown by the view on <i>Figure 8.14a</i>, there are large arable fields in the foreground of the view which slope down towards the A1, a section of which is visible. Two rows of high voltage overhead electrical transmission lines extend to the north-east of the viewpoint. The area under the transmission lines is covered by dense vegetation that screens most of the road network.</p> <p>Coastal settlement extends across much of this view with several prominent buildings including Bankton House (in terracotta coloured stone), Mercat Gate Centre (white, adjacent to cricket field) and the existing Cockenzie substation (green and grey).</p>			
<p>Value attached to landscape receptor: Medium</p> <p>The landscape is not recognised by any current or proposed landscape designation and is without any particular rarity. It would not be included in the proposed SLA but it does provide elevated, open views across the Firth of Forth, albeit that the scenic quality of these views is affected by overhead transmission lines and prominent industrial elements.</p> <p>Susceptibility of landscape receptor: Medium</p> <p>Due to the large scale landscape combined with the prominence of modern housing development, roads and industrial features, the landscape is considered to be of medium susceptibility to the OnTW.</p> <p>Landscape Sensitivity: Medium</p>			
<p>Value attached to view: Medium</p> <p>The location is not a recognised viewpoint and is not associated with any heritage assets although it does provide visual interest with extensive views of the Firth of Forth and a wide variety of landscape features.</p> <p>Susceptibility of visual receptor: High in relation to nearby residents and similar open views, and walkers, medium for road users.</p> <p>Visual Sensitivity: High for nearby residents and walkers, medium for road users.</p>			
<p>Mitigation:</p> <p>The colour of the switchgear building will reflect the background and nearby structures and so help to integrate the building with its surroundings.</p>			

Figure 8.14 and 8.14a to 8.14c

Predicted View:

As shown by the visualisations on *Figure 8.14b and 8.14c*, the upper part of the switchgear building will be visible beyond existing built development and close to the existing Cockenzie substation. The switchgear building will be smaller in scale than the existing substation building and will not reduce visibility of the Firth of Forth coastline. The Onshore Substation will occupy a very limited part of the available view and will not be conspicuous or prominent in the view.

Magnitude of Change at Year One and Year 15: Negligible

The Onshore Substation will affect a very small part of the panoramic view available from this location, and it will be seen in an area already associated with electrical infrastructure and industrial type buildings (in the form of the existing Cockenzie substation and related overhead transmission lines). The addition of an industrial type of building (i.e. the switchgear building) will not introduce a new element to the landscape and the building design will help to integrate it with its surroundings. The Onshore Substation will not be prominent in this landscape which accommodates a wide range of landscape and man-made features.

Although it is proposed that planting mitigation is provided adjacent to the Onshore Substation, owing to the viewpoint location and the degree of screening provided by existing woodland, this will not be seen from this viewpoint. The magnitude of change is therefore unchanged between Year One and Year 15.

Landscape Effect at Year One and Year 15: Negligible – due to the limited extent of predicted visibility.

Visual Effect at Year One and Year 15: Minor / Negligible for residents and walkers, Negligible for road users – due to the limited extent of predicted visibility.

ELC Additional VP10: Preston Links

Figure 8.15 and 8.15a to 8.15c			
Grid Reference	339200, 675309	Direction of View	East
Distance	365 m	Elevation	5 m AOD
Landscape Receptor	Urban Area	Visual Receptor	Recreational Walkers
<p>Viewpoint Location:</p> <p>The viewpoint is atop a mound on Preston Links, on the informal recreation space between the Firth of Forth coast and the B1348. It is approximately 365 m west of the switchgear building. The viewpoint illustrates potential views for recreational walkers and other visitors to the amenity area.</p>			
<p>Existing View:</p> <p>The viewpoint is elevated and affords 360° views which include the Firth of Forth with the Fife coast opposite and the East Lothian coast at Gosford and Gullane with North Berwick Law visible on the skyline beyond to the east. The settlements of Cockenzie and Prestonpans are visible nearby with the urban edges of Portobello and Leith further west. The view extends to a backdrop of Arthur's Seat with the Pentland Hills forming the western skyline.</p> <p>As shown by the view on <i>Figure 8.15a</i>, the existing view includes the brownfield site of the demolished former Cockenzie Power Station where clearance works were ongoing at the time this assessment was carried out. There is security fencing and industrial activity in the foreground currently associated with this site. Beyond the site of the former Cockenzie Power Station, Whin Park Industrial Estate and the existing Cockenzie substation can be seen with overhead electrical transmission lines extending across the skyline. The western edge of the settlement of Cockenzie is also visible. Further south, i.e. to the right of the existing Cockenzie substation, tall bunding around the former Cockenzie Coal Store can be seen along with housing on the eastern edge of Prestonpans with the Tranent Ridge forming the skyline beyond to the south.</p>			
<p>Value attached to landscape receptor: Medium</p> <p>The landscape at the viewpoint is not recognised by any current landscape designations although it would be included in the proposed Prestonpans Coast SLA. Its elevated location within an open part of the Urban Area allows for appreciation of the East Lothian and Fife coastlines, and its value is considered medium.</p> <p>Susceptibility of landscape receptor: Medium</p> <p>The landscape features a mixture of brownfield and amenity areas and there are industrial features nearby in the form of the existing Cockenzie substation and Whin Park Industrial Estate. Although clearance works on the site of the former Cockenzie Power Station were underway at the time the assessment was carried out, it is anticipated that the character and susceptibility of the area will continue to be influenced by these features.</p> <p>Landscape Sensitivity: Medium</p>			

Figure 8.15 and 8.15a to 8.15c

Value attached to view: Medium

Although part of a recognised long distance recreational route, the view inland in the direction of the OnTW is not considered to be of high value visual amenity. The key views here are generally along the coast and out across the Firth of Forth.

Susceptibility of visual receptor: High in relation to tourists and recreational walkers.

Visual Sensitivity: High in relation to recreational walkers.

Mitigation:

The colour of the switchgear building will reflect the background and nearby structures and so help to integrate the building with its surroundings. Also, mounded landforms will be used to provide some screening to lower elements of the Onshore Substation, relating to the existing adjacent landform at Preston Links, and a mixture of trees and shrubs will be planted to assist with screening.

Predicted View:

As shown by the visualisations on *Figure 8.15a and 8.15b*, the proposed earth mounding with associated grass and groups of shrubs and trees will occur in the foreground of the view inside the existing security fence. At Year 1, this will provide some screening to external components of the Onshore Substation. By Year 15, planting will have matured and the degree of screening to the switchgear building and related external components will be greater. The switchgear building will be seen in front of the existing Cockenzie substation, finished with similar materials and colours, and will not introduce new elements to the view but will intensify an existing effect.

Magnitude of Change at Year One and Year 15: Substantial

The Onshore Substation, with its related mitigation earth mounding and associated planting, will occupy the fore and middle ground of the view, transforming the existing cleared site of the former Cockenzie Power Station. The switchgear building will not introduce a new element to the landscape, being similar in appearance and function to the existing Cockenzie substation, in front of which it will be seen. The proposed landscape mitigation will extend the landforms with associated vegetation cover of Preston Links into the Application Site.

Although the proposed planting will mature to form established groups of trees and shrubs associated with the earth mounding, primarily due to proximity to the Onshore Substation, the magnitude of change from the existing view is considered to remain substantial at Year 15.

Landscape Effect at Year One and Year 15: Major/Moderate

Visual Effect at Year One and Year 15: Major

ELC Additional VP11: Cockenzie Harbour

Figure 8.16 and 8.16a to 8.16c			
Grid Reference	339839, 675711	Direction of View	South-west
Distance	494 m	Elevation	4 m AOD
Landscape Receptor	Urban Area	Visual Receptor	Residents, tourists, recreational walkers and workers
<p>Viewpoint Location:</p> <p>The viewpoint is located on the harbour wall approximately 494 m north-east of the switchgear building at an elevation of four metres. The viewpoint illustrates the potential effect upon tourists, recreational walkers and other visitors to the harbour as well as those living or working nearby.</p>			
<p>Existing View:</p> <p>As shown by the view on <i>Figure 8.16a</i>, the view towards the Application Site includes the harbour wall, part of the main harbour area and the western harbour wall with rough grass and a security fence round the former Cockeszie Power Station beyond. There are mature trees, security lighting, vehicles and industrial equipment associated with the demolition works within the security fence and a further block of mature trees within the recreational area to the north of the B1348. Above the security fencing, there are buildings visible within the settlement of Prestonpans with woodland between Prestonpans and Musselburgh forming a skyline beyond. To the right of the view, the Pentland Hills are a distant skyline feature and the existing Cockenzie substation can be seen to the left of the view..</p>			
<p>Value attached to landscape receptor: High</p> <p>The landscape at the viewpoint is not recognised by any current landscape designations, but it is within the Cockenzie and Port Seton Conservation Area and would be included in the proposed Port Seton to North Berwick Coast SLA. The harbour is a notable and interesting feature, with a distinctive scenic quality and so value is considered high.</p> <p>Susceptibility of landscape receptor: Medium</p> <p>The landscape around this viewpoint features a mixture of some residential properties, small scale light industry, brownfield and amenity areas and there are further industrial features nearby in the form of the existing Cockenzie substation.</p> <p>Landscape Sensitivity: High</p>			
<p>Value attached to view: High</p> <p>The view is not a recognised viewpoint but occurs within the Cockenzie and Port Seton Conservation Area, and provides visual interest in the form of views of the harbour, towards the Firth of Forth and the Pentland Hills.</p> <p>Susceptibility of visual receptor: High in relation to nearby residents, walkers and tourists, low for those working in nearby buildings.</p> <p>Visual Sensitivity: High in relation to nearby residents, walkers and tourists, low for workers in nearby buildings.</p>			

Figure 8.16 and 8.16a to 8.16c

Mitigation:

The colour of the switchgear building will reflect the background and nearby structures and so help to integrate the building with its surroundings. Also, mounded landforms will be used to screen lower elements of the Onshore Substation and a mixture of trees and shrubs will be planted to assist with screening.

Predicted View:

As shown by the visualisations on *Figure 8.16b and 8.16c*, the Onshore Substation will be visible from this viewpoint. Primarily, visibility will result from the eastern façade of the switchgear building although some external elements will also be visible. The top of the building will appear well below the tops of the existing tree canopies. Although visible, the Onshore Substation will not appear out of scale with its surroundings from this location. Also, the cladding material of the switchgear building will be similar to that of the existing Cockenzie substation.

Magnitude of Change at Year One and Year 15: Slight

The Onshore Substation will impact the available view from this location reducing the current extent of the available view to the varied built forms interspersed with tree cover on the eastern edge of Prestonpans. It will be seen in an area already associated with electrical infrastructure and industrial type buildings particularly in the form of the existing Cockenzie substation. The addition of the switchgear building will not introduce a new element to the landscape and the building design will help to integrate it with its surroundings.

Although earth mounding with associated planting mitigation will be provided adjacent to the Onshore Substation, there will be limited visibility of the mitigation from this viewpoint location. The magnitude of change is therefore unchanged between Year One and Year 15.

Landscape Effect at Year One and Year 15: Moderate

Visual Effect at Year One and Year 15: Moderate for residents, walkers and tourists, Minor for workers in nearby buildings.

ELC Additional VP12: John Muir Way

Figure 8.17 and 8.17a to 8.17c			
Grid Reference	339827, 675536	Direction of View	South-west
Distance	215 m	Elevation	8 m AOD
Landscape Receptor	Urban Area	Visual Receptor	Residential, recreational walkers and tourists
<p>Viewpoint Location:</p> <p>The viewpoint is located approximately 215 m from the switchgear building at an elevation of 8 m on the John Muir Way, north of the B1348 and within a recreational area close to the western edge of Cockenzie.</p>			
<p>Existing View:</p> <p>The viewpoint is set in an open recreational area which includes amenity grass, sculptures, ornamental planting, benches and groups of mature trees. Sitting areas are generally positioned to make the most of open views across the Firth of Forth to the Fife coast beyond.</p> <p>As shown on <i>Figure 8.17a</i>, security fencing surrounding the site of the former Cockenzie Power Station can be seen in the direction of travel for those walking westward on the John Muir Way. Beyond this fencing, site clearance works were ongoing at the time the assessment was carried out. The B1348 is adjacent to the recreational area with open views along the road and there is nearby housing on the south side of the road facing towards the Firth of Forth. The distant skyline features the Pentland Hills and Arthur's Seat.</p>			
<p>Value attached to landscape receptor: High</p> <p>The landscape is not recognised by any current or proposed landscape designation although it is within the Cockenzie and Port Seton Conservation Area. It would not be included in a proposed SLA but it does provide open views across the Firth of Forth and is valued as a recreational resource.</p> <p>Susceptibility of landscape receptor: Medium</p> <p>The landscape features a mixture of brownfield and amenity areas and there are industrial features nearby in the harbour and at the existing Cockenzie substation, although this is not visible from the viewpoint location.</p> <p>Landscape Sensitivity: High</p>			
<p>Value attached to view: High</p> <p>The view is not a recognised viewpoint but occurs within the Cockenzie and Port Seton Conservation Area, and provides visual interest in the form of views towards the Firth of Forth and the Pentland Hills.</p> <p>Susceptibility of visual receptor: High in relation to nearby residents, recreational walkers and tourists.</p> <p>Visual Sensitivity: High for residents, recreational walkers and tourists; medium for road users.</p>			

Figure 8.17 and 8.17a to 8.17c

Mitigation:

The colour of the switchgear building will reflect the background and nearby structures and so help to integrate the building with its surroundings. Also, mounded landforms will be used to provide screening of lower elements on the Onshore Substation and a mixture of trees and shrubs will be planted to further assist with screening.

Predicted View:

As shown by the visualisations on *Figure 8.17b and 8.17c*, the switchgear building will be visible beyond the curve of the B1348 (Edinburgh Road) and it would obscure ecurrent views of the Pentland Hills. Despite this, it is not considered that the Onshore Substation would be conspicuous or prominent in the view because colour would help to integrate it with its surroundings and visual interest here is more focussed towards the Firth of Forth.

Magnitude of Change at Year One and Year 15: Moderate

The Onshore Substation will affect part of the panoramic view available from this location seen in close proximity, and obscuring current open views westward. It will not be prominent in this landscape which accommodates a wide range of man-made features.

Although it is proposed that planting mitigation is provided adjacent to the Onshore Substation, owing to the viewpoint location and the degree of screening provided by existing woodland, this will have a limited effect from this viewpoint. The magnitude of change is therefore unchanged between Year One and Year 15.

Landscape Effect at Year One and Year 15: Major/Moderate

Visual Effect at Year One and Year 15: Major / Moderate for residents, recreational walkers and tourists. Moderate for road users.