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Updated Summary of Compliance with 2017 Aberdeenshire Local Development Plan

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It has been noted that the HVDC Cable Infrastructure Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR) has, in some instances, referred to the 2012 Aberdeenshire Local Development Plan (LDP). However, this LDP has since been superseded by the 2017 Aberdeenshire LDP. The chapters affected by this update are as follows:

- Chapter 9: Air Quality;
- Chapter 10: Water Quality (Onshore); and
- Chapter 12: Archaeology and Cultural Heritage.

The relevant policies referred to by the above chapters of the EIAR are broadly similar between the 2012 and 2017 LDPs. This notwithstanding, a table is provided below outlining the current relevant local planning policies, as set out in the 2017 Aberdeenshire LDP. A brief explanation of how the proposed NorthConnect HVDC Cable Infrastructure Development complies with these policies is also provided in the table for completeness.



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2017 Aberdeenshire LDP Planning Policies Relevant to Chapters 5, 10 and 12 of the HCDC Cable Infrastructure EIAR.

EIAR Chapter	LDP Policy	Relevant Policy Content	Description of Compliance
9: Air Quality	Policy P4: Hazardous and potentially polluting developments and contaminated land.	Any proposed development which could have a significant detrimental impact on air quality, including the exacerbation of existing air quality issues, must provide appropriate mitigation measures.	There are no known existing air quality issues. Groundworks during enabling and cable installation works could give rise sources of dust. A Dust Management Plan (DMP) will be developed and included within the Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP).
10: Water Quality (Onshore)	Policy PR1: Protecting important resources	New development, including aquatic engineering works, which will generate discharges or other impacts on existing water bodies, or which could affect the water quality, quantity, flow rate, ecological status, riparian habitat, protected species or flood plains of water bodies (including their catchment area) must not prejudice water quality or flow rates, or their ability to achieve or maintain good ecological status. And; Any aquatic engineering works must be capable of being consented under Controlled Activities Regulations (CAR).	The Installation of the onshore HVDC cable infrastructure will be subject to a Construction Site Licence under the CAR legislation for surface water run off due to the scale of the works. The temporary access track and cable route crosses a number of small watercourses. These aquatic engineering works will fall under the CAR general binding rules. Implementation of industry best practice guidance will ensure these works do not result in significant water quality impacts. A Pollution Prevention Plan will be developed. This will prevent pollution of water bodies through releases of hazardous substances. Surface water management measures will be implemented during construction, in accordance with industry best practice and the CAR legislation. This will prevent silt laden water entering water bodies. No impacts on water quality are anticipated during the operation of the development.



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EIAR Chapter	LDP Policy	Relevant Policy Content	Description of Compliance
10: Water Quality Policy C4: Flooding (Onshore)		Flood risk assessments will be required for development in the medium to high category of flood risk of 0.5%-10% annual probability (1 in 200 years to 1:10 years). Assessment may also be required in areas of lower annual probability (0.25-0.5%) in circumstances where other factors indicate a potentially heightened risk. Assessment should include an allowance for climate change and freeboard. Development should avoid areas of medium to high risk, functional floodplain or other areas where the risks are otherwise assessed as heightened or unacceptable. And; We will not approve development that may contribute to flooding	No areas within the onshore Red Line Boundary were identified as having a medium to high risk of flooding. One watercourse in the vicinity of the development is assessed as having a 1 in 200-year risk of flooding, but this does not extend into the development site. The nature of the proposed development was not found to contribute to flood risk during either the construction or operation phases.
We will not approve development that may contribute to flooding issues elsewhere. We will protect all listed buildings contained on the statutory list of Buildings of Special Architectural or Historic Interest for Aberdeenshire, archaeological sites and scheduled monuments. We will encourage their protection, maintenance, enhancement, appropriate active use and conservation. We will not allow development that would have a negative effect on the character, integrity or setting of listed buildings, or scheduled monuments, or other archaeological sites. And; Development on nationally or locally important monuments or archaeological sites, or on their setting, will only be allowed if there are imperative reasons of overriding public interest, including those of a social or economic nature, and there is no alternative site. It is the developer's responsibility to provide information on the nature and location of the archaeological features prior to determination of the planning application and either mitigate impacts or, where		We will protect all listed buildings contained on the statutory list of Buildings of Special Architectural or Historic Interest for Aberdeenshire, archaeological sites and scheduled monuments. We will encourage their protection, maintenance, enhancement, appropriate active use and conservation. We will not allow development that would have a negative effect on the character, integrity or setting of listed buildings, or scheduled monuments, or other archaeological sites. And; Development on nationally or locally important monuments or archaeological sites, or on their setting, will only be allowed if there are imperative reasons of overriding public interest, including those of a social or economic nature, and there is no alternative site. It is the developer's responsibility to provide information on the nature and location of the archaeological features prior to determination	No designated historic assets were identified within the vicinity of the proposed development, hence, no direct or indirect impacts on designated historic sites are expected. The disused Boddam Branch railway will be crossed by the development, and is assessed as regionally important. However, the design of both the permanent and temporary works, specifically the use of horizontal directional drilling, means that no significant impacts on this asset are expected.



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EIAR Chapter	LDP Policy	Relevant Policy Content	Description of Compliance
12: Archaeology and Cultural Heritage	Policy HE2: Protecting historic and cultural areas.	We will not allow development, including change of use or demolition, that would not preserve or enhance the character or appearance of a conservation area. This applies both to developments within the conservation area and proposals outwith that would affect its setting. And; Development on or outwith a battlefield, designated historic garden or designed landscape will only be permitted if the proposal would not have an adverse impact that compromises the objectives of the designation or the overall integrity, character and setting of the designated area, or any significant adverse effects are outweighed by long-term social or economic benefits of overriding public importance and there is no alternative site for the development.	No historic or cultural areas have been identified in the vicinity of the development.