Environmental Impact Assessment Report Volume 4:
Outline Landscape and Architectural Strategy

MarramWind Offshore Wind Farm

December 2025

MarramWind

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1. Introduction

1.1 Overview

1.1.1.1 MarramWind Offshore Wind Farm (hereafter referred to as 'the Project') is wholly owned by ScottishPower Renewables UK Limited (SPR). MarramWind Limited, a subsidiary of SPR, is the Applicant for the Project.

1.1.1.2 The Outline Landscape and Architectural Strategy (OLAS) has been produced along with the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Report with the aim of providing effective landscape mitigation for the onshore Project infrastructure (above ground) and to avoid and reduce significant and adverse landscape and visual effects. The OLAS supports an application for Planning Permission in Principle (PPiP) for the Project by providing a mitigation framework and indicative measures. Following any grant of PPiP, the detailed siting, design and implementation of these proposed measures would be addressed through post-consent conditions.

1.1.1.3 The OLAS is set out as follows:

- **Section 1**: Project background and landscape concept plan.
- **Section 2**: OLAS for the onshore substation zone:
  - **Section 1.3** Landscape concept plan;
  - **Section 2.2**: Landscape and architectural strategy; and
  - **Section 2.3**: Landscape implementation.
- **Section 3**: Outline landscape management plan:
  - **Section 3.2**: Outline landscape management plan for the onshore substation zone; and
  - **Section 3.3**: Outline landscape management plan for the landfall(s) and onshore export cable corridor.

1.1.1.4 The OLAS is supported by the following appendices and figures:

- **Appendix A: Supporting Figures**:
  - Figure 1: Indicative landscape design plan for onshore substation zone;
  - Figure 2: Existing utility corridors and indicative landscape design plan within the onshore substation zone;
  - Figure 3: Indicative landscape cross-sections for onshore substation zone;
  - Figure 4a: Landscape and architectural concept design;
  - Figure 4b: Architectural strategy, 1 of 3;
  - Figure 4c: Architectural strategy, 2 of 3;
  - Figure 4d: Architectural strategy, 3 of 3;
  - Figure 5: Landscape management: reinstatement plan sheets 1-4; and
  - Figure 6: Potential further mitigation areas.
- **Appendix B: Outline Landscape Maintenance Plan**.

1.2 Project background

1.2.1.1 The Project is a proposed floating wind farm located approximately 75km offshore in the North Sea, with a grid connection capacity of up to 3 gigawatts. A summary of the Project is provided in Section 1.2 of **Volume 1, Chapter 1: Introduction** and a comprehensive description of the Project is provided in **Volume 1, Chapter 4: Project Description** of the EIA Report.

1.2.1.2 The Project's onshore infrastructure, located landward of mean low water springs (MLWS) includes:

- landfall(s) – the infrastructure associated with landfall located above MLWS;
- underground onshore export cables running from the landfall(s) to the onshore substations;
- onshore substations;
- underground grid connection cables (connecting the onshore substations to the grid connection point at Scottish and Southern Electricity Networks (SSEN) Netherton Hub); and
- tie-in to grid connection point (SSEN substation at the SSEN Netherton Hub, which is a separate project and does not form part of the consenting applications which this EIA relates to).

1.2.1.3 The zonal locations of each of these are illustrated in **Volume 2, Figure 27.1a: LVIA study areas with Red Line Boundary** and **Volume 2, Figure 27.1b: LVIA study areas with Onshore Project Infrastructure**.

1.2.1.4 The EIA Report accompanies applications for offshore consents, licences and permissions for the Project to Marine Directorate - Licensing Operations Team (MD-LOT) under Section 36 (s.36) of the Electricity Act 1989, the Marine (Scotland) Act 2010 and the Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009, for the offshore infrastructure seaward of Mean High Water Springs (MHWS).

1.2.1.5 The EIA Report also accompanies an application to Aberdeenshire Council for planning permission in principle consent under The Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Act 1997, for the onshore infrastructure landward Mean Low Water Springs (MLWS).

1.2.1.6 There are four sets of EIA regulations applicable to the Project: the Electricity Works (EIA) (Scotland) Regulations 2017 for offshore generating stations requiring s.36 consent; the Marine Works (EIA) (Scotland) Regulations 2017 and the Marine Works (EIA) Regulations 2007 for marine licence applications within Scottish territorial waters (0-12 nautical miles) and offshore waters (12-200 nautical miles) respectively; and the Town and Country Planning (EIA) (Scotland) Regulations 2017 for planning applications submitted to Aberdeenshire Council for onshore infrastructure located landward of MLWS.

1.3 Landscape concept plan

1.3.1.1 In ‘landscape terms’ there are essentially two components of the onshore Project infrastructure with the potential to significantly and adversely affect the landscape and visual resource. These are shown in **Volume 2, Figure 27.1a** and **b** as follows:

- built development visible above ground:
  - onshore substation zone – contains the three onshore substations and the area of the indicative landscape design plan (**Appendix A, Figure 1**).

- development that is below ground or flush with the surface:
  - the landfall(s), onshore export cables and associated joint bays and transition joint bays would be below ground, although they would be accessible by surface level manholes; and
  - onshore export cable corridor – contains the onshore export cable corridor between the landfall(s) and onshore substations and between the onshore substations and the grid connection point at SSEN Netherton Hub.

1.3.1.2 Nationally important infrastructure, in this case the onshore substations, cannot be easily 'hidden' or screened from view. The landscape concept is simple in aiming to both screen where possible, and where this is not possible to create a 'new' and positive contribution to the landscape through the use of an architectural strategy governing the selection of materials and colours. By being 'seen' the Project has the opportunity to positively influence landscape character whilst performing the function of embedded mitigation to avoid and reduce significant and adverse landscape and visual effects.

1.3.1.3 The Project also brings opportunities to consider positive change to the landscape through 'place' and 'nature creation', which are important landscape components governing the environment and wider aspects of 'local identity'. The OLAS has been constructed to align with the **Nature Positive Plan** and considers aspects such as the use of native species within the indicative landscape design plan with ensuing habitat or nature creation benefits.

1.3.1.4 As noted previously, following any grant of PPiP, the detailed siting, design and implementation of these proposed measures would be addressed through post-consent conditions.

1.3.1.5 **Volume 1, Chapter 3: Site Selection and Consideration of Alternatives** of this EIA Report describes the reasonable alternatives that have been considered by the Applicant to date, and the reasons why the proposed design envelope has been chosen instead of the alternative locations and technologies.

1.4 Other related implementation plans

1.4.1.1 The OLAS was developed with consideration of the content and requirements of other relevant Implementation Plans set out in **Table 1.1** below.

Table 1.1 Other related implementation plans to the OLAS

Implementation plan	Licence / consent conditions	Linkage with OLAS
Outline Construction and Environmental Management Plan (CEMP)	*Approval of Matters Specified in Conditions*	Outlines the environmental management and control measures during the construction stage including construction programme and management plans related to surface water, drainage, soils, ecology / arboriculture and traffic.
Nature Positive Plan	*Approval of Matters Specified in Conditions*	This forms a separate planning application document outlining Nature Positive initiatives.

Implementation plan	Licence / consent conditions	Linkage with OLAS
		It does not form part of **Volume 1, Chapter 27: Landscape and Visual** and OLAS.

2. OLAS: onshore substation zone

2.1 Introduction

2.1.1.1 This Section of the OLAS applies of the onshore substation zone and contains the following information:

- OLAS for the onshore substation zone:
- landscape and architectural strategy; and
- landscape implementation.

2.2 Landscape and architectural strategy

2.2.1.1 The OLAS would be developed into the detailed LAS to provide further details for approval by Aberdeenshire Council. This process will secure continued detailed design evolution of the embedded environmental measures, maintaining or advancing the current standard of design and reviewing opportunities to optimise the design within the maximum design parameters.

2.2.1.2 The principal aim of the OLAS is to provide 'best fit' and integration of the onshore substations with their landscape setting. The scale and height of the onshore substations mean that the landscape and visual effects cannot be fully mitigated by conventional approaches such as screen planting and therefore the OLAS includes alternative approaches such as architectural design solutions. As noted previously, by being 'seen' the Project has the opportunity to positively influence landscape character whilst performing the function of embedded mitigation to avoid and reduce significant and adverse landscape and visual effects.

2.2.2 Design principle 1: controlling scale and form

2.2.2.1 **Volume 1, Chapter 4: Project Description** explains that a 'maximum design envelope' or 'Rochdale Envelope' has been developed based on a maximum design scenario, which allows flexibility to make design decisions in the future that cannot be finalised at the time of submission of the application for planning consent.

2.2.2.2 At this stage a decision has not been made on whether the electrical components and equipment necessary to connect the electricity generated by the Project to the national electricity transmission network would be fully housed in buildings (fully enclosed onshore substations) or whether this equipment would be partially placed outdoors (partially enclosed onshore substations).

2.2.2.3 In landscape terms, the maximum design scenario has been interpreted in three dimensions as two cuboid 'blocks' that would contain all of the onshore substation scenarios (including the options for either 'fully enclosed' or 'partially enclosed' within buildings) based on the maximum length, width and height of each onshore substation(s) development. This has allowed a spatial and temporal understanding of the maximum scale and form of the onshore substations' development represented as two maximum design scenario envelopes comprising a 'northern block' and a 'southern block'. Examples of how these large-scale blocks have been used to consider how this development would appear within the landscape are illustrated in the visualisations and annotated photographs provided in **Volume 3, Appendix 27.2, Viewpoint Assessment, Appendix A: Viewpoint Figures, Figures 5-18**.

2.2.2.4 Considering the landscape character of Landscape Character Type (LCT) 17a: Coastal Agricultural Plain and LCT17b: A950 / Longside Airfield (as assessed in **Volume 1, Chapter 27: Landscape and Visual**) and the distribution and number of visual receptors, the northern edge of the onshore substation zone is the most visually sensitive, due to the presence of the A950 and associated residential properties and numbers of road users (see **Volume 1, Chapter 26 Traffic and Transport)**. This northern edge of the onshore substation zone is also constrained by the position of the connecting onshore export cable corridor and several existing underground utilities which limit the extent and efficacy of landscape mitigation by, for example, limiting areas of tree planting. Conversely the southern and western boundaries are less sensitive due to the lower numbers of minor road users and residents. The eastern boundary adjacent to the bio-fuels development is least sensitive due to the industrial land use and associated visual receptors (people at work).

2.2.2.5 The following design principles have been adopted to best integrate the Project into its landscape setting by considering how the scale and form of the development could be minimised:

- positioning of the maximum design scenario - northern and southern blocks centrally within the onshore substation zone would allow landscape mitigation to be applied to all sides of the development and ensure 'in the round' that the onshore substations are positioned a maximum distance from the boundary and nearest landscape and visual receptors;
- maximum design scenario - northern block – onshore substations' scenarios within this northern block have a maximum height of 18.25m above the indicative platform level and positioning the northern block to the north would reduce the visual profile of the development when viewed from the northern boundary of the onshore substation zone1; and
- maximum design scenario - southern block – onshore substations scenarios within this southern block have a maximum height of 30.75m above the indicative platform level and positioning the southern block to the south of the northern block, would allow the northern block to screen the southern block. An example of this is illustrated in **Volume 3, Appendix 27.2, Viewpoint Assessment, Appendix A: Viewpoint Figures, Figures 5a-d**, where because of perspective, the northern and southern blocks appear to be the same apparent height, with the northern block completely screening the southern block.

2.2.3 Design principle 2: architectural design strategy

2.2.3.1 A detailed architectural strategy is to be developed by architects' post consent in collaboration with the landscape architect, and other technical and environmental disciplines according to the choice of either 'fully enclosed' or 'partially enclosed' onshore substation options post consent. Subject to detailed design, a fully enclosed option is likely to have the greatest scope for architectural mitigation whereas a partially enclosed option may limit the scope for architectural design to a reduced number of buildings and appropriate choice of colour and materials. In either case the architectural design strategy would review potential opportunities to avoid and reduce significant and adverse landscape and visual effects within the maximum design parameters as follows:

- positioning of the built form and hard surfaced areas to be designed to consider both the functional requirements and the need to reduce visual impact and best integrate the onshore substations within their landscape setting;

[1] Note: the platform level for the northern block has been set at 48.37m AOD in all figures to reflect the worst-case scenario within the maximum design parameters with the exception of **Volume 3, Appendix 27.2, Figures 1-4** where the Phase 1 onshore substation was set at a platform height of 46.98m AOD and 48.37m for Phase 2 onshore substation.

- the architectural form of buildings and rooflines are to be designed to consider both the functional requirements and visual appearance in order to 'soften' and reduce the visual impact of the onshore substations from nearby receptors;
- choice of colour scheme for the onshore substation zone to consider the colour of buildings façades, roofs and related built form and detailing, including the colour / material choice of non-security gates and fencing to be colour coordinated to reduce contrast with existing features in surrounding views and help integrate the onshore substations into its landscape setting;
- choice of materials pallet and rendering of the building façades and roofs to consider details of shadow lines, profile, fenestration, and resistance to weathering / ease of maintenance to best integrate the onshore substations into their landscape setting; and
- security gates and security fence design to be considered for its aesthetic and visual qualities along with its functional requirements. Appropriate positioning and coordinated material and colour could be used to reduce visual effects of security fencing on nearby receptors and best integrate the onshore substations into their landscape setting.

2.2.3.2 **Appendix A, Figures 4a-d** illustrate some landscape and architectural design concepts related to the built form and choice of colour and material pallet.

Lighting design

2.2.3.3 Monitoring of the onshore substations would be undertaken remotely using closed-circuit television technology and other remote monitoring equipment. Lighting during operation and maintenance (O&M) activities is therefore expected to be minimal for essential security and safety requirements including scheduled maintenance (usually scheduled during daylight hours) or emergency repair purposes. The external lighting would be directed downward to reduce glare outside the facility and its design would account for the potential effects on people (residents and road users) and bats and would consider the principles of lighting design informed by the joint guidance from the Bat Conservation Trust and Institution of Lighting Professionals (2023).

2.2.4 Design principle 3: landscape design plan

2.2.4.1 Onsite mitigation within the onshore substation zone is part of the Project's embedded mitigation. An indicative landscape design plan for the onsite mitigation planting is illustrated in **Appendix A, Figure 1**. A detailed landscape design plan would be developed by landscape architects in collaboration with other technical and environmental disciplines post consent.

Design principle 3a: vegetation retention and removal

2.2.4.2 All existing vegetation beyond the maximum design scenario footprint of the onshore substations, permanent access roads and associated temporary construction compound would be retained as indicated in **Appendix A, Figure 2** and **Volume 3, Appendix 23.11: Figure 1 Tree Removal and Protection Plan**.

Design principle 3b: earthworks

2.2.4.3 The indicative landscape design plan (**Appendix A, Figure 1**) has been developed with the assumption that there would be no surplus soil from cut and fill exercise to prepare the onshore substations' platforms and foundations. There may be some surplus fill from the excavation of Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems (SuDS) ponds within the onshore substation zone. Subject to this material proving acceptable for use in landscape works and

tree planting, it may be used to form gently raised areas of planting to 'lift' landscape planting and increase screening. The location and design of earthworks would be provided in the detailed Landscape and Architectural Strategy and supporting Landscape Design Plan.

Design principle 3c: security fencing and other landscape fencing

2.2.4.4 The indicative landscape design plan (**Appendix A, Figure 1**) has adopted a design principal for two types of fencing (security fencing and other landscape fencing).

2.2.4.5 Where possible security fencing should be located around the perimeter of the onshore substations and beyond perimeter landscape planting when viewed from external areas. This would allow ground-based infrastructure and the security fencing to be screened by perimeter landscape planting.

2.2.4.6 Where possible other landscape fencing such as screening / close-boarded fencing, post and rail fencing and / or post and wire fencing or similar should be used to delineate the boundary of the onshore substation zone and assimilate with the surrounding agricultural landscape character. The design of fencing would be a matter for detailed design post consent, although generally combinations of post and rail fencing and / or post and wire fencing would apply to the outer east, west and southern boundaries of the onshore substation zone. Landscape fencing could be used as both a design feature separating new planting from areas of construction and controlling the grazing / movement of wildlife along with other measures as part of detailed design.

Design principle 3d: indicative landscape design plan

2.2.4.7 The indicative landscape design plan is illustrated in **Appendix A, Figures 1-3**. The principal aim of the plan is to maximise screening of the onshore substations and in particular, low-level infrastructure of 'visual clutter' and provide an enhanced landscape setting and means of integrating the onshore substations into the surrounding landscape and views. The implementation of this design principle is described for each of the north, east, south and west areas of the indicative landscape design plan in design principles 3e-h.

2.2.4.8 The landscape components of the indicative landscape design plan include:

- native species woodland planting of trees and shrubs;
- native species 'wet' woodland planting focused on SuDS attenuation basins and the riparian zone along the western watercourse boundary;
- native and mixed species hedge planting;
- native shrub planting (low-level and mid-level heights);
- grassland areas comprising native grass and wetland native grass areas; and
- management of existing hedges to increase height and provide infill planting of gaps.

2.2.4.9 As the Project would be built out in three phases, with each phase including the construction of an onshore substation within the onshore substation zone, the implementation of the detailed Landscape Design Plan (**Appendix A, Figure 1)** would also proceed on a phased basis including some 'advance' planting where possible. The siting and design of landscape elements would consider the wider delivery of other onshore substations and infrastructure required within the onshore substation zone. All landscape planting should become established in five years and would be maintained for ten years to allow for any failed planting to be replaced and maintained to establishment as described in **Appendix B**.

Thereafter, the landscape areas of the onshore substation zone would be subject to a period of adaptive management throughout the O&M stage as described in **Section 2**.

Design principle 3e: northern part of indicative landscape design plan

2.2.4.10 The northern boundary of the onshore substation zone is the 'leading elevation' of the onshore substations' development, due to the higher number and distribution of visual receptors (residents and road users) and the position of the main site access to the 'front' or northern edge of the development. An indicative visualisation of the northern elevation is provided in **Volume 3, Appendix 27.2, Viewpoint Assessment, Appendix A: Viewpoint Figures, Figures 1a-r: Onshore Substation Viewpoint 1 A950 Track to Downiehills**. This area is also constrained by corridor requirements for underground utilities, including the onshore export cable corridor, the main access road and attendant visibility splays and sightlines (**Appendix A, Figure 2**). This area is also assisted by the onshore export cable corridor trenchless crossing (CRA109) (**Volume 2, Appendix 4.1 Crossing Register**) which should allow landscape works to be completed early in construction Phase 1 along with the main site access road, subject to planting seasons. The absence of a trenchless crossing in this area would require an open cut trench that would prohibit landscape planting.

2.2.4.11 The Land agreement secured by utility providers ('utility corridors') preclude planting of certain tree / shrub species and the indicative landscape design plan seeks to avoid utility corridors as outlined in **Section 3.3.2** and the National Grid's Notes for Guidance – Tree Planting Restrictions on Pipelines (NJUG 10) and GTC-UK's Tree Planting Guidelines Notes for Guidance – Tree Planting Restrictions on or near Utility Apparatus (BK-ENV-IG-0018 Rev 4). A detailed landscape design plan would be developed to account for all utility corridor requirements as confirmed by utility providers and their respective guidance. Due to the constraints related to the scale of the development (maximum design scenario envelope - northern block) and the limitations on tree planting due to underground utilities and main site access visibility splays (shown in **Appendix A, Figure 2**), a conscious design decision has been taken to 'accept' visibility of the development and control the design and appearance of the northern elevation through the provision of landscape and architectural mitigation. The following design principles have therefore been proposed as one example of how the landscape design could integrate the onshore substations into their landscape setting when viewed from the northern boundary. These proposals would be subject to detail design evolution following any grant of PPiP and post-consent conditions:

- the indicative design approach would provide a visually enriched and interesting northern elevation through the use of landscape and architectural design techniques as illustrated in the indicative landscape design plan (**Appendix A, Figure 1**) and described below:
  - a pallet of linear landscape elements (e.g. hedges / landscape fencing) would be positioned and aligned between, and in parallel to, the underground utilities, to provide 'layering' of visual interest and low-level screening (in the absence of tree planting);
  - linear landscape elements would be provided, comprising of grass strips, close boarded fencing, and strips of low-growing, mass-planted native shrubs. An existing, overgrown drystone wall is present along the northern boundary and where possible the wall / and or its materials could be included in the design and / or recycled;
  - a linear row of columnar feature trees would be positioned to align with the utility corridor requirements for underground utilities and emphasise the architectural strategy;

- provision of enhanced entrance site signage and integrated gate / fencing and site access to provide a coordinated and attractive site entrance; and
- where underground utilities allow perimeter hedge, tree and / or woodland planting could be provided to screen the lower levels of the onshore substations.

Design principle 3f: eastern part of indicative landscape design plan

2.2.4.12 The eastern boundary of the onshore substation zone faces on to the adjacent bio-fuels development on Howemuir Road and a strong, yet simple, landscape design approach is proposed to avoid visual clutter and clearly demark boundaries. A simple hierarchy of grass verge (incorporating necessary road junction sightlines and underground utility corridors as shown in **Appendix A, Figure 2**), landscape fencing, perimeter hedge and woodland tree planting would be established as shown in the cross-section 'Eastern boundary with Howemuir Road (B-B) on **Appendix A, Figure 3**.

2.2.4.13 This concept is continued to the northeastern and southern boundary of the residential property at Howemuir to reinforce the existing perimeter hedge planting and provide maximum screening of views from this closest residence. Woodland planting along the southern boundary of the Howemuir residence has been provided with a set-back from the property and allows for a grassed maintenance access (native grass).

Design principle 3g: southern part of indicative landscape design plan

2.2.4.14 The southern boundary of the onshore substation zone faces on to a minor road with a group of properties at Denholm. The minor road has an existing, gappy hedge and is further constrained by underground utility corridors as shown in **Appendix A, Figure 2**. To avoid the utilities and provide maximum screening, a simple landscape design approach is proposed to provide a grass verge (incorporating utility wayleaves), landscape fencing, perimeter hedge and woodland tree planting as shown in the cross-section 'Southern boundary with Denholm Road (C-C)' on **Appendix A, Figure 3**.

2.2.4.15 The existing hedgerow vegetation would be retained to provide habitat and could become a 'fat' hedge, with the new planting growing to integrate with this vegetation.

Design principle 3h: western part of indicative landscape design plan

2.2.4.16 The western boundary of the onshore substation zone follows a minor watercourse flowing from East Dens, north to the River Ugie. This area is also constrained by sloping ground with reduced elevation and underground utility corridors as shown in **Appendix A, Figure 2** and **Figure 3** 'Western boundary from adjacent field Road (A-A)'. The Indicative Landscape Design Plan in this area exploits the opportunity to further extend native riparian woodland planting along the eastern side of the minor watercourse with fast growing native wetland species, whilst avoiding the utility corridors. Further native woodland planting would be established on slightly higher ground, beyond the intervening utility corridors (including the onshore export cable corridor). The utility corridors would be seeded to create native grassland interspersed with shallow rooted native shrubs to enhance biodiversity.

2.2.5 Design principle 4: potential further mitigation for onshore substations

2.2.5.1 'Offsite' or potential further mitigation is proposed in response to residual, significant and adverse landscape and visual effects resulting from the size and scale of the onshore substations and is not part of the embedded mitigation. The area of the potential further mitigation is illustrated in **Appendix A, Figure 6.** The potential further mitigation would seek

to positively manage, create, reinforce / reinstate woodland and hedgerows within the area surrounding the onshore substations to increase screening and / or enhance landscape settings to better integrate the development within its landscape context.

2.2.5.2 The Applicant set up an Amenity Fund to fund the installation of hedgerows and / or other suitable landscaping measures outwith the onshore substation zone. This will be developed with Aberdeenshire Council at the detailed design stage to identify the scope and effective administering of the fund to ensure mitigation benefits are effectively delivered. No commitment would be made for upkeep or stewardship of these measures following funding of installation.

2.2.5.3 The details of potential further mitigation will be finalised in the detailed Landscape and Architectural Strategy, subject to landowner agreement, and would comply with road safety and utility corridor requirements to be deliverable. The detailed Landscape and Architectural Strategy would be consecutively reviewed following the detailed design of each phase of the onshore substations.

2.2.5.4 All potential further mitigation would seek to also provide additional benefits of locally enhanced landscape character, improved biodiversity, habitat creation, and agricultural benefits (e.g. field enclosure and / or stock shelter).

2.3 Implementation of the Landscape Strategy

2.3.1.1 The detailed Landscape Strategy for the onshore substation zone and any agreed potential further mitigation would include 'contract ready' landscape planting plans, schedules and specification / method statements describing the landscape implementation works including, where appropriate, habitat creation and vegetation reinstatement along the onshore export cable corridors.

2.3.1.2 The detailed Landscape Strategy would also include:

- landscape specification:
  - site clearance, ground preparation / cultivation and appropriate soil management;
  - provision of landscape protection including rabbit / deer / stock proof fencing and gates where required;
  - planting and provision of tree stakes, ties, guards etc;
  - planting procurement, delivery and planting of native plants; and
  - provision of watering, water retention granules, fertiliser and / or mulch where required.
- specification of hard landscape features including stock fencing (post and rail / post and wire fencing) gates, stiles, hard surfacing and other boundary features including walls and retaining elements, where required; and
- plant schedule - detailing number of plants / density / size and species. Native trees and shrubs planted would be a range of sizes (including transplants, whips, feathered trees, light standards through to extra heavy standards and semi-mature trees) to ensure that there is a good structure and rapid establishment.

2.3.1.3 Reference would be made, but not limited to the following British Standards (BS) and revisions:

- BS 5837:2021 – trees in relation to design, demolition and construction (British Standards Institution (BSI), 2012);

- BS 8545:2014 trees: from nursery to independence in the landscape – Recommendations (BSI, 2014); and
- BS 3998:2010 tree work: recommendations (BSI, 2010).

2.3.2 Species selection

2.3.2.1 All plant species included in the planting schedule and plans would be native to this part of Scotland, with species mixes confirmed as part of the detailed Landscape and Architectural Strategy.

2.3.3 Landscape programme

2.3.3.1 A programme of landscape implementation works for the onshore substation zone ('onsite' planting) and any potential further mitigation would be provided as part of the detailed Landscape and Architectural Strategy to align with the construction stage programmes. Landscape implementation would be undertaken during the earliest available planting season within Phase 1 of the construction programme, to ensure early establishment and mitigation.

2.3.4 Landscape maintenance

2.3.4.1 All landscape areas for the onshore substation zone ('onsite' planting) would be subject to ten years maintenance and monitoring to ensure successful establishment as described in **Appendix B**.

3. Outline Landscape Management Plan

3.1 Introduction

3.1.1.1 This Section describes the Outline Landscape Management Plan for the following two areas of the Project:

- landscape management of the onshore substation zone during the O&M stage; and
- landscape management of the landfall(s) and the onshore export cable corridor, covering the retention and reinstatement of vegetation within these areas during the construction and O&M stages.

3.1.1.2 This part of the OLAS is supported by the **Appendix A: Figure 5 sheets 1-4**.

3.2 Landscape management plan: onshore substation zone

3.2.1.1 During the O&M stage and after completion of the ten-year landscape maintenance period, the onshore substation zone would pass into a period of adaptive landscape management and periodic monitoring on an annual basis.

3.2.1.2 The management and monitoring would be carried out by a suitably qualified and experienced landscape / ecological clerk of works responsible for identifying the need for removal of litter / fallen trees, disease control, woodland thinning or pruning for example.

3.2.1.3 A detailed Landscape Management Plan for the onshore substation zone would be prepared and submitted to Aberdeenshire Council post consent.

3.3 Landscape management plan: landfall(s) and onshore export cable corridor

3.3.1.1 The onshore export cable corridor would be required to cross features such as roads, watercourses, utilities, paths and landscape elements (such as trees, woodland and hedges). These 'crossing points' are shown on plans in **Volume 3, Appendix 4.1 Crossings Register**, each with a unique reference ID.

3.3.1.2 Otherwise landscape elements (notably linear treelines / hedges, water features etc.) along the onshore export cable corridor are detailed in **Volume 3, Appendix 23.10 Arboricultural Impact Assessment**, **Volume 3, Appendix 23.2 Habitats and Vegetation Survey Report** and **Volume 3, Appendix 23.10, Figure 1: Tree Removal and Protection Plan**). Each of the landscape elements have been identified for removal or protection as follows:

- landscape elements removed due to opencut trenches (where they cannot be avoided or mitigated by a reduced working width or coppicing / pruning) would be reinstated at the first available planting season as described in **Section 3.3.2**; and
- landscape elements crossed by trenchless means would be retained, unless removal is required for temporary construction access or other reason.

3.3.1.3 This OLAS has considered vegetation restrictions within close proximity to utilities which would also apply to the onshore export cable corridor for the Project. The minimum distance for planting trees close to underground utilities (including electrical and telecommunications cables, water and gas pipelines) is 6m which is based on industry guidance comprising National Grid's Notes for Guidance – Tree Planting Restrictions on Pipelines (NJUG 10)

(National Grid, n.d.) and GTC-UK's Tree Planting Guidelines Notes for Guidance – Tree Planting Restrictions on or near Utility Apparatus (BK-ENV-IG-0018 Rev 4) (GTC-UK, n.d.).

3.3.1.4 The industry guidance advises that only hedge plants may be planted over the underground utilities cables and that within 6m of the cable only shallow rooted, native species may be planted. Following the planting of these species, it is possible to create a mature hedge up to 5m wide and up to 5m tall, subject to maintenance and management.

3.3.1.5 Beyond the 6m buffer, most native trees and shrubs can be allowed except for willows (Salix sp.) and poplars (Populus sp.) which are not to be planted within 10m of the underground utilities, due to their invasive roots. The landfall(s) do not cross any substantial hedges / treelines / water features, although some landscape elements within the search areas are identified for protection in **Appendix 23.10, Figure 1**.

3.3.1.6 A detailed Landscape Management Plan for the reinstatement of vegetation unavoidably removed as a consequence of the landfall(s) and the onshore export cable corridor would be prepared and submitted to Aberdeenshire Council post consent. The plan would seek mitigation as follows:

- consideration of further mitigation to avoid or reduce extent of vegetation removed from the landfall(s) and the onshore export cable corridor;
- confirm and revise details of vegetation retained or unavoidably removed from the landfall(s) and the onshore export cable corridor; and
- provide a detailed Landscape Management Plan for the reinstatement of vegetation at the earliest available planting season and subsequent maintenance and monitoring for ten years.

3.3.2 Reinstatement strategy and management options

3.3.2.1 The reinstatement of vegetation removed from along the onshore export cable corridor needs a managed approach to consider the quantity of vegetation removed, the condition of each of the hedgerows as a whole and the overall role of the vegetation in terms of landscape character, habitat provision and function.

3.3.2.2 For example, the coastal nature of LCT12: Beaches, Dunes and Links – Aberdeenshire, classified by NatureScot's Landscape Character Assessment (NatureScot, 2019), means that landscape elements are often more limited and comprise incomplete Hawthorn hedges or small trees, which are not a key characteristic of the coastal landscape character.

3.3.2.3 The LCT 17a: Coastal Agricultural Plain, classified by NatureScot's Landscape Character Assessment (NatureScot, 2019) and LCT 17b: River Ugie sub-type tends to have generally heathier and more complete landscape elements, which make a more meaningful contribution in terms of their function and their role in the landscape and provision of habitat. Landscape elements within the LCT 17c: A950 / Longside Airfield character sub-type tends to appear more eroded with greater opportunity for enhancement.

3.3.2.4 In broad terms two alternative options should be considered as part of the detailed design as follows:

- **Vegetation Reinstatement Management Option 1 - Non-reinstatement** – in some cases a decision may be taken not to reinstate landscape elements, particularly were there are isolated fragments that could struggle to re-establish and do not make a positive contribution to the simple and open nature of the underlying landscape character. Examples of this include areas 1a-e as indicated in **Appendix A: Figure 5 Sheets 1-4**. In these cases, field boundaries would be completed with post and wire fencing or similar and compensatory planting or landscape enhancement work

undertaken elsewhere within the Onshore Red Line Boundary and agreed with the relevant landowner and Aberdeenshire Council.

- **Vegetation Reinstatement Management Option 2 - Complete reinstatement** – as far as possible each hedgerow would be reinstated as a complete field boundary (rather than reinstated as incomplete / fragmented hedgerows which may struggle to establish over the longer term). This would have greater environmental and biodiversity benefits in establishing a complete landscape element and wildlife corridor. Suggested locations include areas VR2a-y as indicated in **Appendix A: Figure 5 Sheets 1-4**.

3.3.2.5 The locations of the two alternative options are indicated in **Appendix A: Figure 5 Sheets 1-4**. In this manner an overarching approach to landscape management is more likely to achieve long-term and neutral / beneficial effects on landscape character through the O&M stage.

4. References

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5. Glossary of Terms and Abbreviations

5.1 Abbreviations

Acronym	Definition
BS	British Standards
BSI	British Standards Institution
EIA	Environmental Impact Assessment
LCT	Landscape Character Type
MLWS	Mean Low Water Springs
MHWS	Mean High Water Springs
O&M	Operation and Maintenance
OLAS	Outline Landscape and Architectural Strategy
PPiP	Planning Permission in Principle
SuDs	Sustainable Urban Drainage System
SSEN	Scottish and Southern Electricity Networks

5.2 Glossary of terms

Term	Definition
Advance planting	Planting / landscaping works carried out during the planting season in advance of construction works or early within the construction stage (Phase 1) to ensure plants can become established and grow to mitigate landscape and visual effects early.
Landscape architect	Chartered member of the Landscape Institute.
Onshore	Pertaining to the landward side of MLWS.
Onsite mitigation or planting	Landscape mitigation planting within the Onshore Red Line Boundary and onshore substation zone to provide mitigation of significant landscape and visual effects resulting from the onshore substations.
Potential further mitigation	Landscape planting outwith the onshore substation zone, undertaken as part of voluntary agreement with landowners to provide potential further mitigation of significant adverse landscape and visual effects resulting from the onshore substations.

Term	Definition
Reinstatement planting	Reinstatement planting within the Onshore Red Line Boundary to replace landscape elements (trees, woodland or hedges) removed during the construction phase in accordance with the detailed Landscape Management Plan.
Visibility splay	Area at road junctions to be maintained clear of vegetation for safety reasons in order that drivers and other road users can maintain a clear sightline or line of sight to see oncoming traffic prior to making a turn.
Utility corridors	Distance between utilities and vegetation (trees / shrubs) to be maintained clear of particular plant species that might otherwise adversely affect the utility function.

Appendix A
Supporting Figures

Figure 1: Indicative landscape design plan for onshore substation zone

Figure 2: Existing utility corridors and indicative landscape design plan within the onshore substation zone

Figure 3: Indicative landscape cross-sections for onshore substation zone

Figure 4a: Landscape and architectural concept design

Figure 4b: Architectural Strategy 1 of 3

Figure 4c: Architectural Strategy 2 of 3

Figure 4d: Architectural Strategy 3 of 3

Figure 5: Landscape management: reinstatement plan sheets 1-4

Figure 6: Potential further mitigation areas.

Northern perimeter and main access - Landscape design provides maximum screening and visual interest with entrance creation, signage, feature trees and zones of native shrub and woodland planting to create visual interest, place and identity whilst also allowing for visibility splays, existing underground utilities and onshore export cables.

Existing woodland to be retained.

SUDS pond, planted with wet native woodland mix.

Indicative wet grassland mix and native shrub planting mosaic compatible with utility corridors for the onshore grid connection cable corridor.

SUDS pond, planted with wet native woodland mix.

Eastern access with landscaping to allow for visibility splays, gates and provision of maximum screening.

Optional area to be planted with native woodland planting mix post completion of Phase 3.

Indicative native woodland planting mix.

Existing hedgerow and trees to be retained.

Indicative native wet woodland planting mix along perimeter watercourse.

Indicative native shrub planting mosaic compatible with underground utility corridors.

SUDS pond, planted with wet grassland mix.

Indicative hedgerow and temporary screen fencing to bolster and reinforce existing broken hedgerow, whilst allowing for underground utilities.

2

1

3

A

A

D

D

B

B

C

C

N

0 100m

SCALE 1:2000

KEY

- Red Line Boundary
- Existing woodland/vegetation retained
- Onshore substations' maximum design scenario envelope'
- Indicative security fence
- Indicative stone feature wall or similar linear feature
- Indicative timber board fence (2m in height) or similar
- Indicative post and rail fence (1.8m in height) or similar
- Vehicular/Maintenance access gate
- Indicative feature trees
- Indicative native hedgerow
- Indicative native woodland planting
- Indicative Phase 3 native woodland planting
- Indicative wet woodland planting
- Indicative feature shrub strip
- Indicative native shrub/understorey planting
- Indicative native grassland seeding
- Indicative native wetland grass seeding
- Water feature and drainage ditch (Max 1:3 Slope)
- Existing drainage ditch

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P03	10/10/2025	CB	Updated following OLAS comments.	RR	RR
P02	22/09/2025	CB	Updated following comments.	RR	RR
P01	21/08/2025	CB	First Issue - For Planning	RR	RR

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TITLE: FIGURE 1: INDICATIVE LANDSCAPE DESIGN PLAN FOR ONSHORE SUBSTATION ZONE

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Existing stone wall to be removed and stone to be reused on site.

Existing access point to the field to be removed.

2

1

3

Existing vegetation to be removed to accommodate proposed visibility splay.

KEY

- Red Line Boundary
- Existing feature/hedgerow removed
- Existing utility
- Existing utility corridor
- Indicative onshore export cable corridor of the Project
- Overhead powerline (current position)

Note: existing and indicative planting areas are illustrated in Figure 1. They are overlaid with existing utility corridors in this figure for reference

N

0 100m

SCALE 1:2000

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P03	10/10/2025	CB	Updated following OLAS comments.	RR	RR
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TITLE: FIGURE 2: EXISTING UTILITY CORRIDORS AND INDICATIVE LANDSCAPE DESIGN PLAN WITHIN THE ONSHORE SUBSTATION ZONE

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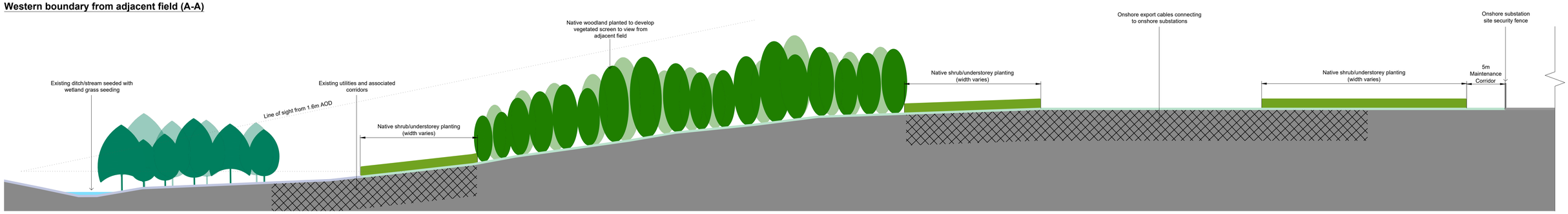
JV REFERENCE No: MAR-GEN-ENV-MAP-WSP-000580 REV 4

Western boundary from adjacent field (A-A)



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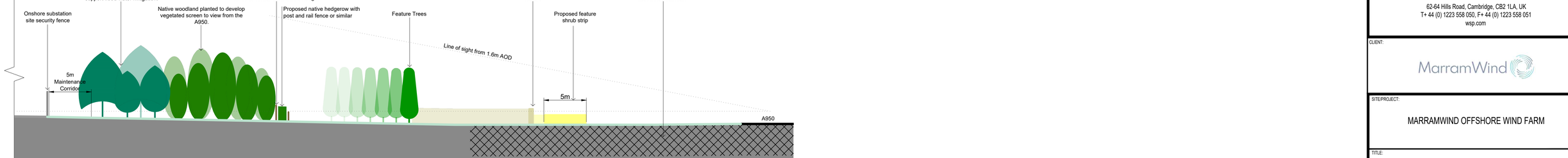
Eastern boundary with Howemuir Road (B-B)



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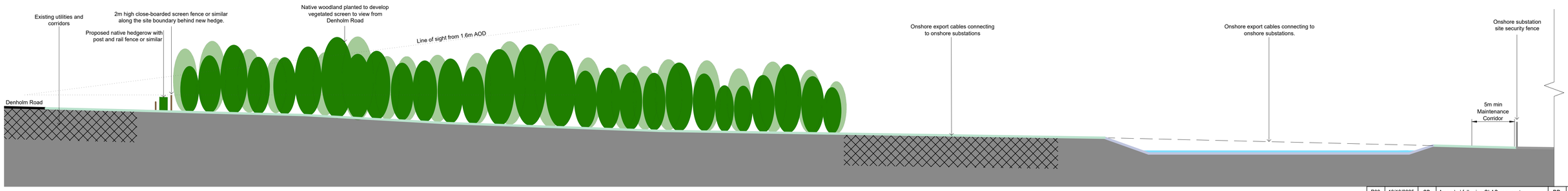
Southern boundary with Denholm Road (C-C)



Scale 1:250 @ A1

Northern boundary with A950 (D-D)

Scale 1:250 @ A1

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TITLE: FIGURE 3: INDICATIVE LANDSCAPE CROSS-SECTIONS FOR ONSHORE SUBSTATION ZONE

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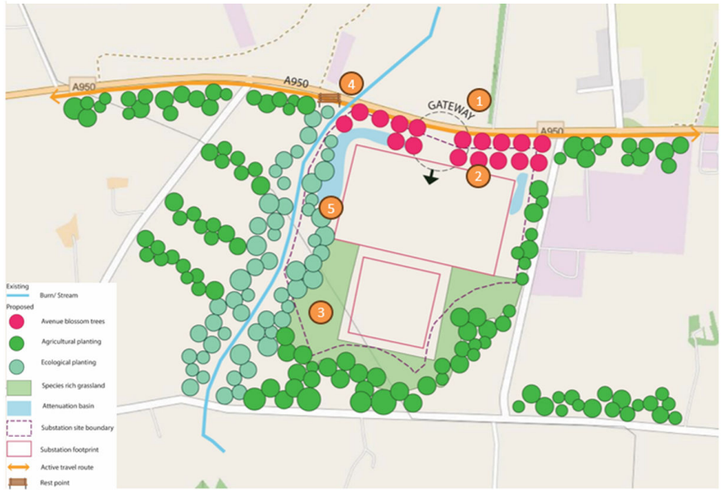
Indicative substation concept plan



1 Gateway / signage features

2 Avenue blossom trees

3 Species rich grassland

4 Take a Break

5 SUDs

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Indicative design concept 2

CONTEXTUAL DESIGN

Contextual Design:

- Introducing more materials such as glass.
- Dynamic forms.
- The local material granite could be used in features of the building such as entrance signs, framing views and footpaths.

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Indicative design concept 3

SIMPLE CONSTRUCTION

Simple Construction:

- One or two cost-effective materials that can link to the wind farm, Peterhead town or the landscape setting.
- Maintain a simple form.
- The design is focused on the front of house.

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Indicative design concept 4

CONTEXTUAL DESIGN / SUBSTATIONS

Amsterdam:

Slovenia:

Munich:

Existing Substations:

- **Amsterdam Substation**: The bricks used are made from at least 60% waste. The varying brick patterns also provide a nice aesthetic to the building.
- **Slovenia Substation:** The patina green alongside the varying sizes of slanted cladding emulated the colour of the Soca river nearby.
- **Munich Substation:** The design is based around the function of the building. Copper has been used a feature material throughout this building.

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PROJECT TITLE

MarramWind Offshore Wind Farm

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Figure 4a Landscape and architectural concept design

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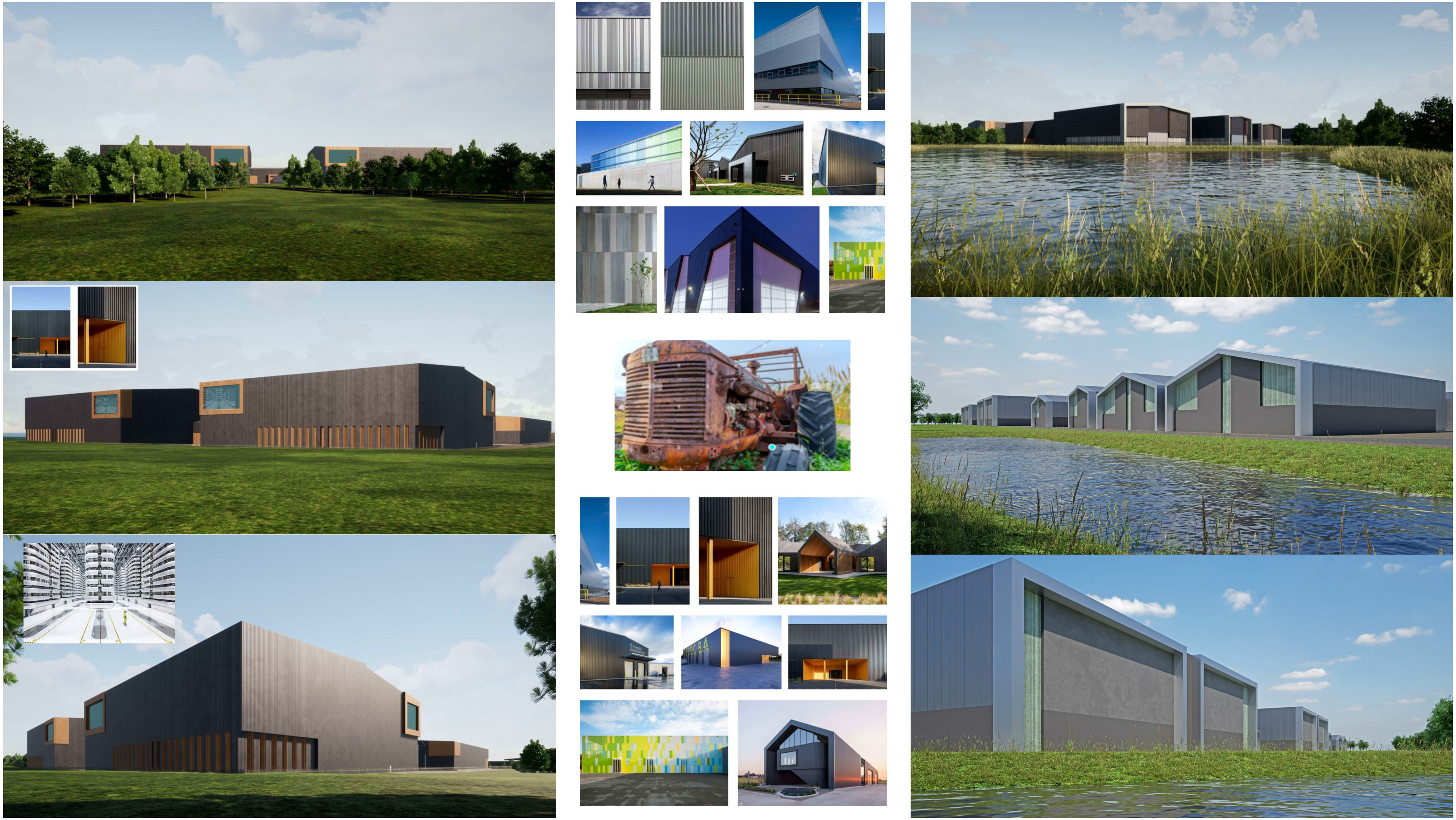

Indicative architectural strategies and concept designs

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MarramWind DRAWING NUMBER	MAR-GEN-ENV-MAP-WSP-000583

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Figure 4b Architectural strategy 1 of 3

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Indicative architectural strategies and concept designs

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1	22/09/2025	LT	AMc	RR	NC

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Figure 4c Architectural strategy 2 of 3

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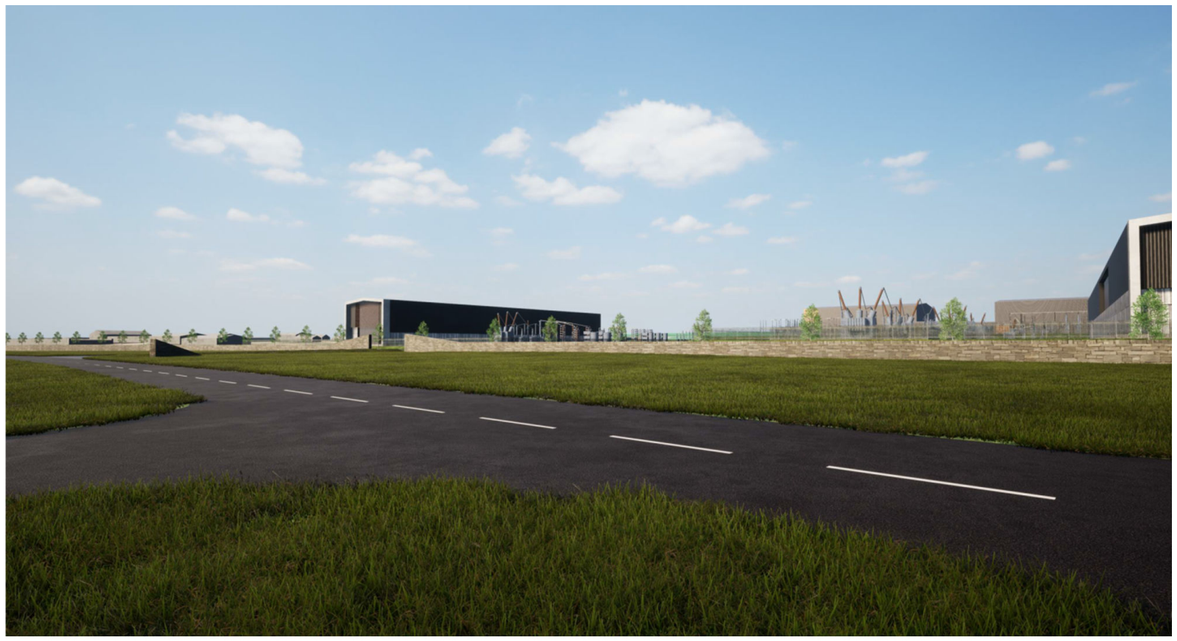

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Figure 4d Architectural strategy 3 of 3

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KEY

- Red Line Boundary
- Existing tree/hedgerow removed
- Onshore substations' maximum design scenario envelope'
- Existing woodland/vegetation retained within wider site area
- Vegetation Reinstatement - Management Option 1
- Vegetation Reinstatement - Management Option 2

Note: Refer to Outline Landscape and Architectural Plan (OLAS) for details.

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P04	10/10/2025	CB	Amended following OLAS comments.	RR	RR
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P02	22/09/2025	CB	Mitigation planting & key amended.	RR	RR
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TITLE: FIGURE 5: LANDSCAPE MANAGEMENT - REINSTATEMENT PLAN (Sheet 1 of 4)

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VR1c
VR2a
VR2b
VR2c
VR2d
VR1d
VR1e
VR2e

KEY

- Red Line Boundary
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KEY

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TITLE: FIGURE 5: LANDSCAPE MANAGEMENT - REINSTATEMENT PLAN (Sheet 3 of 4)

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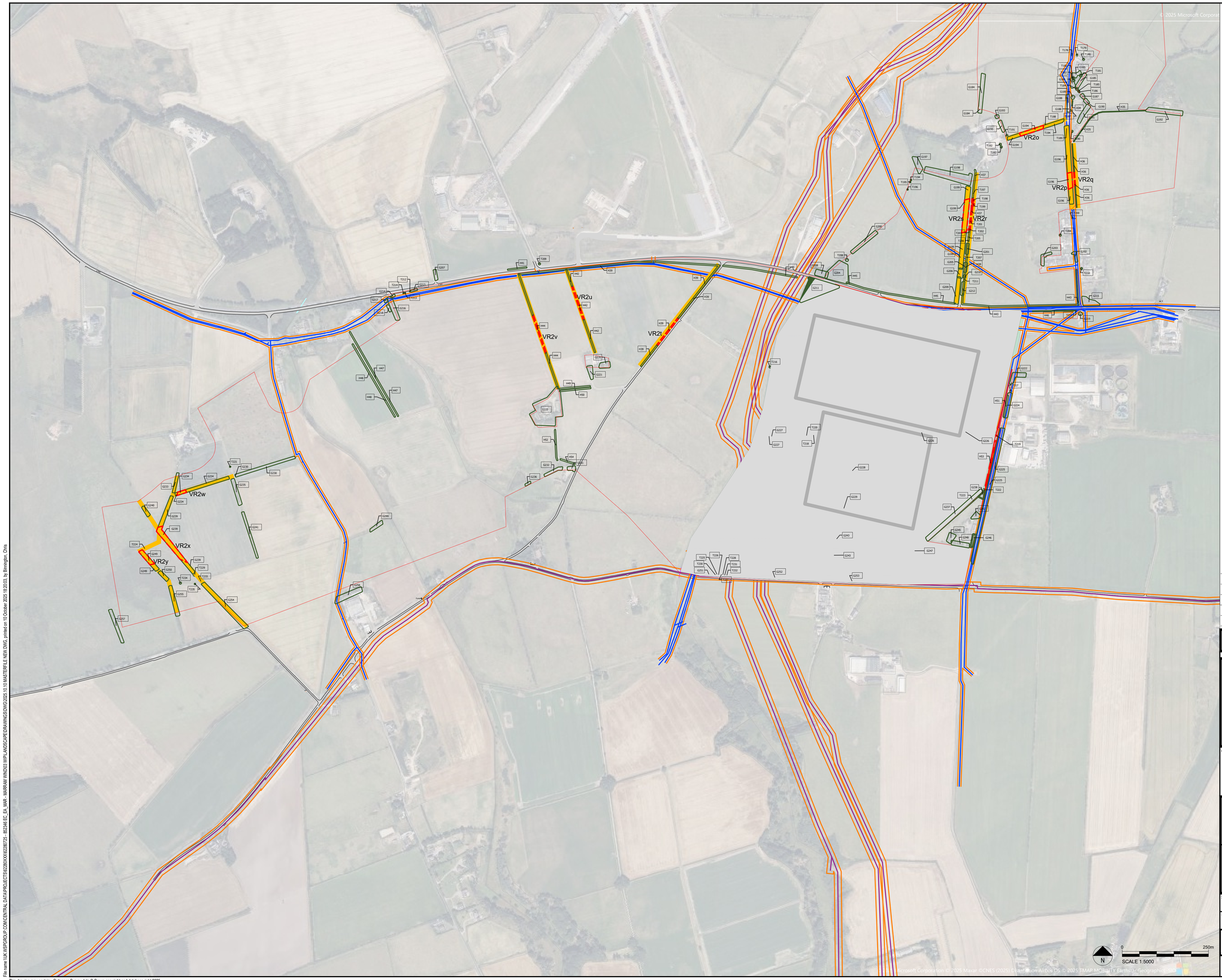

KEY

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- Existing tree/hedgerow removed
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- Existing woodland/vegetation retained within wider site area
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Note: Refer to Outline Landscape and Architectural Plan (OLAS) for details.

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KEY

- Red Line Boundary
- Onshore substations' maximum design scenario envelope'
- Potential further mitigation planting areas
- Viewpoints
  1) A950 track to Downiehills
  2) Minor road south of Forehill House
  3) Stockbridge east
  4) A950 junction at airfield
  5) Downieshill Cottage
  6) Toddlehills (quarry)
  7) Cowsrieve

REV	DATE	BY	DESCRIPTION	CHK	APP
P07	05/11/2025	CB	Drawing title and key changed.	RR	RR
P06	04/11/2025	CB	Scale amended following comments	RR	RR
P05	10/10/2025	CB	Drawing amended following OLAS comments.	RR	RR
P04	24/09/2025	CB	Key amended.	RR	RR
P03	22/09/2025	CB	Graphics amended following feedback.	RR	RR
P02	29/08/2025	CB	Mitigation planting & key amended.	RR	RR
P01	27/08/2025	CB	For Planning	RR	RR

DRAWING STATUS: FOR ISSUE

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CLIENT: MarramWind

SITE/PROJECT: MARRAMWIND OFFSHORE WIND FARM

TITLE: FIGURE 6: POTENTIAL FURTHER MITIGATION AREAS

SCALE @ A1:	CHECKED:		APPROVED:
1:7500	RR		RR
PROJECT NO:	DESIGNED:	DRAWN:	DATE:
62280725	CB	CB	November 25

DRAWING No: 62280725_WSP_XX_XX_DR_LA_0009 REV: P07

JV REFERENCE No: MAR-GEN-ENV-MAP-WSP-000586 Rev 3

File name =UK:\WSPCROUP.COM\CENTRAL DATA\PROJECTS\62280\XX\62280725 - 85234 EC_EA_MAR - MARRAM WIND\03 WIP\LANDSCAPE\DRAWINGS\DWG\2025.10.13 MASTERFILE NEW.DWG, printed on 05 November 2025 17:39:04, by Bennington, Chris

Appendix B
Outline Landscape Maintenance Plan

Introduction

All areas of landscape planting within the onshore substation zone, and new or reinstated planting within the landfall(s) zone and the onshore export cable corridor zone would be subject to ten years maintenance and monitoring to ensure successful establishment of the landscape proposals.

Landscape specification and maintenance programme

A detailed Landscape Maintenance Plan with specification and programme of maintenance works would be submitted to Aberdeenshire Council, covering items such as weeding / screening / mulching, watering, repair to plant protection and replacement of failed plants, as required. Weed control would seek to be achieved via non-chemical means (for example, mulches, weed mats etc.) in the first instance, however, the use of weed killing chemicals cannot be ruled out in the case of non-native invasive species, should these be encountered.

Monitoring requirements

Monitoring would be required to identify any failures (for example, dead / dying plants or excessive weed growth) and implement appropriate remedial action in the first available season (for example, replacement of failed plants in the next available planting season or additional weed control during the growing season). A monitoring programme would be carried out as follows:

- years 0-5: Newly planted or translocated vegetation would be monitored bi-annually with at least one visit in spring / summer; and
- years 5-10: Establishing vegetation would be monitored annually, during the summer.

A suitably qualified and experienced landscape / ecological clerk of works would be responsible for:

- identifying failures and organising resolution and implementation of adaptive management measures for example, additional weed control, fencing installation / repair, tree guard removal / replacement; and
- completing monitoring survey reports for provision to Aberdeenshire Council within six weeks of the monitoring visit having taken place, and any adaptive management measures would be discussed with them prior to implementation.

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