

Chapter 6: Landscape and Visual Amenity

Chapter 6

Landscape and Visual Amenity

Introduction

6.1 This chapter presents the findings of the assessment of likely significant effects of the proposed Loch Liath Wind Farm (hereafter 'the Proposed Development') on the landscape and visual resources of the Site and the surrounding study area, during the construction and operational phases of the project.

6.2 Landscape character and resources are considered to be of importance in their own right and are valued irrespective of whether they are seen by people. Effects on views and visual amenity as perceived by people are clearly distinguished from, although closely linked to, effects on landscape character and resources. Landscape and visual assessments are therefore separate, although linked, processes.

6.3 The assessment methodology for the LVIA was developed in accordance with the Guidelines for Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment (Version 3, 2013) (GLVIA3), and is detailed in **Appendix 6.1: LVIA Methodology**. The assessment was undertaken by chartered Landscape Architects at LUC.

6.4 This chapter should be read in conjunction with the following chapters:

- **Chapter 3: Site Selection and Design Strategy;**
- **Chapter 4: Project Description;**
- **Chapter 8: Ecology;**
- **Chapter 10: Cultural Heritage;**
- **Chapter 13: Socio-Economics, Tourism and Recreation;** and
- **Chapter 14: Other Issues.**

6.5 This chapter is supported by figures contained in **Volume 2**, visualisations contained in **Volume 3a-b: NatureScot LVIA Visualisations** and **Volume 4a-b: The Highland Council (THC) LVIA Visualisations**, and the following Appendices contained in **Volume 5**:

- **Appendix 6.1: LVIA Methodology;**
- **Appendix 6.2: ZTV Mapping and Visualisation Methodology;**
- **Appendix 6.3: Assessment of Effects on Special Landscape Qualities of the Glen Affric National Scenic Area;**
- **Appendix 6.4: Wild Land Impact Assessment;** and
- **Appendix 6.5: Aviation Lighting Impact Assessment.**

Scope of the Assessment

Effects Assessed in Full

6.6 The following impacts were identified at the Scoping stage for consideration in this assessment and were assessed in full and the findings presented within this chapter:

- Effects on the physical landscape of the Application Site ('the Site'), during construction and operation of the Proposed Development;
- Effects on the perceived landscape character of Landscape Character Types (LCT) within a 15km radius from the outermost wind turbines of the Proposed Development;
- Effects which could be of relevance to the reasons for designation as described by the key characteristics/special qualities of nationally and locally designated landscapes within the Study Area, as well as the overall integrity of nationally designated areas, as required by policy set out in the National Planning Framework 4 (NPF4);

- Effects on visual receptors at representative viewpoints;
- Effects on visual receptors at settlements and routes in the Study Area; and
- Cumulative landscape and visual effects (including combined, successive and sequential visual effects).

6.7 Finally, the Highland Council (THC) Onshore Wind Supplementary Guidance (SG) sets out ten landscape and visual criteria that THC will use as a framework for assessing proposals. The criteria do not set absolute requirements but seek to ensure that Applicants are aware of key constraints to development, which should be taken account of when progressing the assessment and design of wind energy proposals. An assessment of the Proposed Development against the ten criteria is set out **Table 6.45**, and replicated in the Planning Statement which accompanies the Section 36 Application.

Effects Scoped Out

6.8 On the basis of the desk based and field survey work undertaken, the professional judgement of the EIA team, experience from other relevant projects and policy guidance or standards, and feedback received from consultees via the Scoping Opinion (dated 30 April 2021, detailed in **Appendix 2.1: Consultation Response Table** and summarised with reference to landscape and visual matters in **Table 6.1** below), the following topic areas were 'scoped out' of detailed assessment, as proposed in the Scoping Report:

- Effects on Landscape Character Types (LCTs) beyond a 15km radius of the Site with no intervisibility, where it is judged that potential significant effects are unlikely to occur;
- Effects on all NSAs within the Study Area with the exception of the Glen Affric NSA, from where potential significant effects on key characteristics and/or special qualities, or views are judged unlikely to occur;
- Effects on all SLAs within the Study Area with the exception of the Loch Ness and Duntelchaig SLA, from where potential significant effects on key characteristics and/or special qualities, or views are judged unlikely to occur;
- Effects on all WLAs within the Study Area with the exception of the Central Highlands WLA, from where potential significant effects on wild land qualities, or views are judged unlikely to occur;
- Effects upon residential visual amenity, in the form of a detailed RVAA, given the nearest residential properties are located c. 3.5km from the nearest turbine; and
- Effects arising from decommissioning of the Proposed Development, given the baseline against which to assess likely significant decommissioning effects cannot be easily predicted, and the approach to decommissioning is not currently known.

Assessment Methodology

6.9 The LVIA methodology was prepared in accordance with the principles contained within GLVIA3 and is described in detail in **Appendix 6.1**. **Appendix 6.1** should be referred to whilst reviewing the findings of this assessment to gain a clear understanding of how findings of significance were informed.

6.10 The key steps in the methodology for assessing both landscape and visual effects are as follows:

- The area from which the Proposed Development may theoretically be visible was established through creation of a ZTV covering a distance of up to 45km from the outermost wind turbines of the Proposed Development, refer to **Figures 6.2a-6.2c** for blade tip ZTV;
- The landscape of the Study Area was analysed, and landscape receptors identified;
- The visual baseline was recorded in terms of the places where people will be affected by views of the Proposed Development, and the nature of views and visual amenity, seen by different groups of people;
- Viewpoints were selected (including representative viewpoints, specific viewpoints and illustrative viewpoints), in consultation with THC and NatureScot; and
- Likely effects on landscape and visual resources were identified.

Legislation, Policy and Guidance

6.11 This assessment is carried out in accordance with the principles contained within the following documents:

Assessment Guidance

- The Electricity Works (Environmental Impact Assessment) (Scotland) Regulations 2017 (as amended) (hereafter referred to as ‘the Regulations’);
- Landscape Institute and the Institute of Environmental Assessment (2013). Guidelines for Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment, 3rd Edition (GLVIA3);
- NatureScot (2021). Assessing the cumulative impact of onshore wind energy developments;
- SNH (2018). A Handbook on Environmental Impact Assessment, Appendix 2: Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment, Version 5;
- SNH (2017). Visual Representation of Wind Farms, Version 2.2;
- The Highland Council (THC) (2016). Visualisation Standards for Wind Energy Developments;
- Landscape Institute (2019). Technical Guidance Note 06/19 Visual representation of development proposals;
- NatureScot (2020). Assessing impacts on Wild Land Areas - technical guidance; and
- SNH (unpublished, 2018). Guidance for Assessing Effects on Special Qualities and Special Landscape Qualities. Working Draft 11.

Design and Locational Guidance

- SNH (2017). Siting and Designing Wind Farms in the Landscape, Version 3;
- SNH (2009). Policy Statement No 02/02: Strategic Locational Guidance for Onshore Windfarms in Respect of the National Heritage;
- SNH (2015). Spatial Planning for Onshore Wind Turbines – natural heritage considerations, Guidance;
- SNH (2015). Good Practice During Windfarm Construction, Version 3;
- SNH (2015) Constructed Tracks in the Scottish Uplands, 2nd Edition;
- Scottish Government (2014). Scottish Planning Policy (SPP);
- Scottish Government (2017). Scottish Energy Strategy: The future of energy in Scotland; and
- Scottish Government (2003). Planning Advice Note (PAN) 68: Design Statements.

National Planning Policy, Local Development Plans and Supplementary Planning Guidance

- Scottish Government (2023). National Planning Framework 4 (NPF4);
- Scottish Government (2022). Onshore Wind Policy Statement 2022;
- The Highland Council (2015). Inner Moray Firth Local Development Plan;
- The Highland Council (2017). Onshore Wind Energy Supplementary Guidance, November 2016 (with addendum, December 2017);
- Cairngorms National Park (2015). Local Development Plan, Adopted 2015; and
- Cairngorms National Park (2019). Local Development Plan 2020, Proposed Plan.

Consultation

6.12 In undertaking the assessment, consideration was given to the Scoping Responses and other consultation as undertaken as detailed in **Table 6.1**:

Table 6.1: Consultation Responses

Consultee and Date	Scoping/Other Consultation	Issue Raised	Response/Action Taken
The Highland Council (THC)	Scoping Response (dated 24 th February 2021)	Photomontages should follow the Council’s Visualisation Standards; and Separate volumes of visualisations should be prepared to both Highland Council Standards and NatureScot guidance.	Visualisations produced to the Council’s standards are included in Volume 4a-b: The Highland Council (THC) LVIA Visualisations .
		“This assessment should include the expected impact of onsite borrow pits and access roads, despite the fact that the principal structures will be a primary concern”	LVIA considers construction and operational impacts of proposed wind turbines, site infrastructure, new access tracks and ancillary structures.
		“There are a number of similar applications in this area which are yet to be determined / concluded in the vicinity of this application, many of these have been identified in the Scoping Report, which may or may not help clarify the weight towards particular policy elements in the final planning balance”	Assessment of cumulative effects, including those resulting from the Proposed Development in combination with other proposed wind farms in the study area, is included within the LVIA.
		“As far as possible, the viewpoints should correspond with the viewpoints used for existing wind energy schemes within the area. The detailed location of viewpoints will be informed by site survey, mapping and predicted ZTVs.”	Viewpoints selected have taken into consideration those used for the Bhlaraidh Extension LVIA and Fiodhag Scoping Report, with some locations further refined following site survey and ZTV mapping. Further consultation was undertaken to agree the final list of assessment viewpoints.
		“The purpose of the selected and agreed viewpoints shall be clearly identified and stated in the supporting information.”	Reason for selection of viewpoints is set out in Table 6.5 .
		Suggested additional viewpoints: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Core Path around Loch Affric at NGR 214812, 822923 to provide further coverage of Glen Affric NSA ■ Culloden Battlefield ■ Ben Tee (Loch Lochy and Oich SLA) ■ Location within Ben Wyvis SLA 	VP15: Core Path at Loch Affric included in the LVIA. Given distance and intervening screening by vegetation, Culloden Battlefield is not included as a viewpoint in the LVIA. Per the overarching request from the Council to use viewpoints which “correspond with the viewpoints used for existing wind energy schemes within the area”, views from hill summits to the south of the Site will be represented by VP14: Meall Dubh. Given similarity in views of the Proposed Development from both Ben Tee and Meall Dubh, the closer proximity of Meall Dubh to the Site, and the use of Meall Dubh for Bhlaraidh

Consultee and Date	Scoping/Other Consultation	Issue Raised	Response/Action Taken	Consultee and Date	Scoping/Other Consultation	Issue Raised	Response/Action Taken
			and Bhlaraidh Extension Wind Farms, Ben Tee is not included as a viewpoint in the LVIA. Given the intervening distance, Ben Wyvis is not included as a viewpoint in the LVIA.			intermediate tower lights) on all wirelines from every viewpoint; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ A table which lists how many lit turbines will be visible from each viewpoint; ■ Written assessment based on fieldwork for all relevant viewpoints; and ■ Night-time visualisations from a limited number (we suggest two or three) of representative viewpoints. 	
		Suggested relocating Scoping VP 1: A831 near Milness to duplicate proposed Fiodhag VP (A831 near Upperton at NGR 238599, 831323)	Outward views from suggested Fiodhag VP appear to be screened by intervening woodland. Visibility from this part of the A831 was minimised through design-embedded mitigation with the blade tips of two turbines barely perceptible in glimpsed outward views. Scoping VP1 is therefore not included in the LVIA viewpoints.			Agree that Glen Affric NSA should be scoped into the assessment. <i>“When considering the effects on the special landscape qualities of the Glen Affric NSA we advise that the evolving draft methodology for assessing effects on Special Qualities helps to draw out the key issues.”</i>	Effects on the special landscape qualities of the Glen Affric NSA considered in Appendix 6.3 in line with the draft methodology ¹ .
		LCT 225 to be considered within the assessment, including “views towards Urquhart Castle from the Loch and from land based locations are identified as key Views in the Onshore Wind Energy Sensitivity Assessment” and key routes	Broad Steep-Sided Glen (LCT 225) considered in LVIA (Table 6.12)			Suggested relocating Scoping VP 17: Carn Ghluasaid to Sgurr nan Conbhairean (the highpoint on ridge)	Scoping VP17 relocated, see VP19: Sgurr nan Conbhairean.
		Loch Lochy and Oich SLA to be considered in the assessment	Based on the ZTV coverage and intervening distance between the Proposed Development and the Loch Lochy and Oich SLA, significant effects are considered unlikely, and the SLA has not been included in the scope of the LVIA.			<i>“Advise that as a minimum VP 10 Meall Mor, VP 11 Creag Dhubh and VP 16 Tom a Choinnich are included in the [aviation lighting] assessment so that the impacts on WLA 24 and the Glen Affric NSA can be assessed”</i>	Further consultation (via email, 25 th May 2021) resulted in agreement that two of the three listed viewpoints would suffice to illustrate effects of aviation lighting. Assessment of effects resulting from aviation lighting from VP18: Toll Creagach ² , VP10: Creag Dubh, the Glen Affric NSA and Central Highlands WLA included in Appendices 6.3, 6.4 and 6.5 .
	Further consultation undertaken via email, received 26 th October 2022	Agree with finalised cumulative list	Final list of other wind farms considered in the cumulative assessment included in Table 6.8 .			<i>“If the proposed Bhlaraidh Wind Farm Extension has been submitted prior to submission of Loch Liath Wind Farm then the lighting of both developments should be illustrated on a cumulative photomontage from the NSA/WLA viewpoints”</i>	Bhlaraidh Extension was consented on 30 th August 2022. No visible aviation lighting is proposed for Bhlaraidh Extension. The decision letter for Bhlaraidh Extension notes that “the CAA advised that the only lighting required would be “infra-red lights to MoD specification installed on the nacelles of perimeter turbines”. Visible aviation lighting for Bhlaraidh Extension has therefore not been modelled in the dusk/night-time visualisations included in Volume 3a-b: NatureScot LVIA Visualisations .
NatureScot	Scoping Response (dated 23 rd February 2021)	Aviation lighting effects to be assessed and mitigation employed wherever possible	Assessment of effects resulting from aviation lighting included in Appendix 6.5 . Mitigation is detailed in Appendix 14.2: Aviation Lighting and Mitigation Report for Loch Liath Wind Farm				
		LVIA-related lighting assessment should include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ information on the positions and intensity of lighting proposed; ■ ZTV map which shows areas from which nacelle/tower lights may be seen; ■ Annotation of the positions of turbine lighting (including 	Assessment of effects resulting from aviation lighting included in Appendix 6.5 Visualisations showing turbine aviation lighting are included in Volume 3a-b: NatureScot LVIA Visualisations .				

¹ SNH (unpublished, 2018). Guidance for Assessing Effects on Special Qualities and Special Landscape Qualities. Working Draft 11.

² The substitution of Toll Creagach for Tom a' Chòinnich was confirmed via email on 11th January 2023.

Consultee and Date	Scoping/Other Consultation	Issue Raised	Response/Action Taken	Consultee and Date	Scoping/Other Consultation	Issue Raised	Response/Action Taken
		Agree that Cairngorms National Park can be scoped out of the assessment	Assessment of effects on the special landscape qualities of Cairngorms National Park not included in the LVIA.		email, received 11 th January 2023		
		Agree that Central Highlands WLA 24 should be scoped into the assessment	VP20: Carn Dearg represents distant views of the Proposed Development from the Munro hill summit within the Cairngorms National Park.	Mountaineering Scotland	Scoping Response (dated 15 th January 2021)	“Carn Dearg is at 30km distance and visualisations are fairly useless at that distance so a wireline alone would be adequate.”	Visualisations for VP20: Carn Dearg included in Volume 3a-b: NatureScot LVIA Visualisations and Volume 4a-b: The Highland Council (THC) LVIA Visualisations .
	Further consultation undertaken via email, received 25 th May 2021	Agree with final list of 22 LVIA viewpoints to be included in assessment (subject to final design freeze layout)	Wild Land Impact Assessment of WLA 24 included in Appendix 6.4 .			Suggest viewpoint at Beinn a’ Bha’ach Ard to “represent the high ground northwest of the site”	VP12: Beinn a’ Bha’ach Ard included in LVIA.
		Advise that two viewpoints will be sufficient to inform assessment of effects of turbine lighting in the Glen Affric NSA and Central Highlands WLA 24. This will include Tom a’ Chòinich and Creag Dubh	Final list of viewpoints included in Table 6.5 – two viewpoints were omitted from final list of viewpoints (Scoping VP1 and VP9) as visibility was minimised through design-embedded mitigation from these viewpoints, with the blade tips of a small number of turbines appearing mostly screened by intervening landform in glimpsed views from these locations.			Comments on design: “Bhlaraidh + Bhlaraidh Extension would have a strong east-west orientation while the Loch Liath Scoping layout has a north-south axis. It is not clear from the Scoping Report why it is considered preferable to site turbines north of Carn Loch a’Mhuillin rather than in the southeast of the ‘developable area’, which in our judgement would provide a better fit and alignment with Bhlaraidh + Bhlaraidh Extension.”	The turbine layout of the Proposed Development was reduced from 26 turbines (Scoping Layout) to 13 turbines, with a key objective of the design strategy to reduce the horizontal (north-south) extent of turbines in views from Meall Fuar-Mhonaigh. The majority of the proposed turbines (excluding T13) are located to the south of Carn Loch a’Mhuillin. The turbine layout has been devised with respect to key landscape and visual design considerations, on balance with other environmental and technical constraints within the Site. The approach to the design is detailed further in Chapter 3 .
		Agree with the special qualities and wild land qualities scoped into the assessment by LUC, advise that further consultation is undertaken to inform scope and approach to these assessments	Assessment of effects resulting from aviation lighting from VP18: Toll Creagach, VP10: Creag Dubh, the Glen Affric NSA and Central Highlands WLA included in Appendices 6.3, 6.4 and 6.5 . Visualisations showing turbine aviation lighting from these VPs are included in Volume 3a-b: NatureScot LVIA Visualisations .	Glen Urquhart Community Council	Scoping Response (dated 30 th January 2021)	“Glen Strathfarrar NSA should not be scoped out due to its proximity to the site.”	Given the limited predicted visibility indicated by the ZTV along the boundaries of the Glen Strathfarrar NSA, effects on the special landscape qualities of the NSA are not considered within the LVIA.
	Further consultation undertaken via video call, 13 th July 2022	Discussion of scope and approach to assessment of special landscape qualities of the Glen Affric NSA and wild land qualities of WLA 24, and aviation lighting impact assessment.	Further consultation undertaken 13/07/2022 to inform scope and approach to assessment of special landscape qualities of the Glen Affric NSA and wild land qualities of WLA 24.			“Ben Wyvis SLA should not be scoped out as the ZTV suggests significant theoretical visibility. Ben Wyvis is a very accessible summit.”	Given intervening distance of approximately 36km between the SLA and the nearest proposed turbine, the Ben Wyvis SLA is not considered within the LVIA.
	Further consultation undertaken via email, received 14 th October 2022	Agree with finalised cumulative list and approach to cumulative assessment	Appendices 6.3-6.5 informed by consultation with NatureScot.			Suggested viewpoints: ■ Buntait (including dusk/night-time); ■ Corrimony Cairn; and ■ Beinn a’ Bha’ach Ard.	VP1: Affric Kintail Way, near Braefield included in LVIA to represent views experienced by recreational receptors on the Affric Kintail Way promoted long distance trail and similar views experienced from residential properties at Buntait. Dusk/night-time visualisation included in Volume 3a-b: NatureScot LVIA Visualisations .
	Further consultation undertaken via	Agree to change of location for representative viewpoint 18 (changed from Tom a’ Chòinich to Toll Creagach)	Final list of other wind farms considered in the cumulative assessment included in Table 6.8 . Approach to the cumulative assessment detailed in Appendix 6.1 .				VP12: Beinn a’ Bha’ach Ard included to represent views experienced by recreational
			Final list of viewpoints included in Table 6.5 .				

Consultee and Date	Scoping/Other Consultation	Issue Raised	Response/Action Taken
			receptors within the Glen Strathfarrar NSA and Central Highlands WLA. The ZTV on Figure 6.2a-c indicates no visibility from the Corrimony Cairn, therefore this location has not been included as a representative assessment viewpoint.
		<i>"We do not agree with the RVAA being scoped out for the houses higher up on north side of Glen Urquhart (Balbeg, Buntait etc)."</i>	Given the location of these properties approximately 5-8km to the north of the nearest proposed turbine, it was deemed that the 'Residential Visual Amenity Threshold' ³ will not be exceeded by the introduction of the Proposed Development and, as such, a detailed RVAA was deemed not to be essential. Potential visual effects experienced by the community of Balnain, including residential properties on the northern side of the glen, are considered within the LVIA. VP1: Affric Kintail Way, near Braefield is included in LVIA to represent views experienced from nearby residential properties at Buntait. VP3: Balbeg is included in the LVIA to represent views experienced from residential properties on the northern side of Glen Urquhart.
Fort Augustus and Glenmoriston Community Council	Scoping Response (dated 30 th August 2021)	<i>"The visual impact is a serious concern from locations all round the area including from the opposite side of Loch Ness."</i>	The turbine layout of the Proposed Development was reduced from 26 turbines (Scoping Layout) to 13 turbines, with the following key objectives of the design strategy: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ minimise potential effects on Glen Urquhart and sensitive visual receptors located in the Glen; ■ when seen alongside the operational Bhlaraidh turbines, minimise the spread of turbines across the horizon from key viewpoints, in particular Meall Fuar-mhonaidh and the B862 Suidhe scenic viewpoint; and ■ minimise the horizontal extent and prominence of turbines in views from the Glen Affric NSA. <p>Visibility of the Proposed Development from the opposite side of Loch Ness is limited to a relatively localised extent of the eastern shore,</p>

Consultee and Date	Scoping/Other Consultation	Issue Raised	Response/Action Taken
			and a short elevated section of the B862 south of Dores. The turbine layout was devised with respect to key landscape and visual design considerations, on balance with other environmental and technical constraints within the Site. The approach to the design is detailed further in Chapter 3 .
Strathglass Community Council	Scoping Response (dated 31 st January 2021)	<i>"There is no reference to the Glen Affric National Nature Reserve. As this NNR attracts over 150,000 visitors a year and is internationally recognised for its unique landscape, we feel that a rigorous visual impact assessment regarding Glen Affric is required"</i>	Assessment of the special landscape qualities of the Glen Affric NSA included in Appendix 6.3 . VP5: Coire Loch Trail, Glen Affric, VP9: Meall Mor, above Glen Affric, VP10: Creag Dhubh, VP15: Core Path at Loch Affric, VP18: Toll Creagach and VP19: Sgurr nan Conbhairan included in LVIA to represent views experienced from Glen Affric NSA. The majority of these VPS are also located within the Glen Affric NNR or near its boundary.
		<i>"Parts of Cannich village, the entrance to Glen Affric and a number of core paths (including the Affric Kintail Way) will be visually impacted."</i>	No visibility of the Proposed Development is indicated by the ZTV from Cannich village, with VP4: Affric Kintail Way, West of Cannich included in the LVIA to represent views from the Affric Kintail Way nearest Cannich.
Scotways	Scoping Response	To consider PRoW within recreational baseline and assessment	Potential effects on recreational routes are considered in Tables 6.40-6.42 .
		<i>"We ask that the cumulative impact of these proposed, and any consented developments is taken into account"</i>	Assessment of cumulative effects, including those resulting from the Proposed Development in combination with consented and proposed wind farms in the study area, is included.

Study Area

6.13 The study area for the assessment was defined as a 45km radius from the outermost turbines of the Proposed Development in all directions, as recommended in current guidance for turbines equal to or greater than 150m to blade tip⁴, and in agreement with statutory consultees NatureScot⁵ and THC). The Site is shown on **Figure 1.1: Site Location** and the study area is shown on **Figure 6.1: Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment Study Area**.

6.14 To consider cumulative effects of the Proposed Development in relation to other schemes in the wider area, wind farms within 45km of the Proposed Development were modelled and assessed, as agreed with NatureScot and THC. A review of the pattern of wind farm development is provided, extending to a 60km radius from the site, in accordance with guidance from NatureScot⁶. Other wind farms are shown on **Figure 6.7a: Other Wind Farm Developments – 60km** and **Figure 6.7b: Other Wind Farm Developments – 45km**.

³ The Landscape Institute (February 2019), Technical Guidance Note 2/19: Residential Visual Amenity Assessment (RVAA). [Online] Available at: <https://landscapewpstorage01.blob.core.windows.net/www-landscapeinstitute-org/2019/03/tgn-02-2019-rvaa.pdf> (Accessed 06/10/2020)

⁴ SNH (February 2017) Visual Representation of Wind Farms Guidance. Version 2.2

⁵ Scottish Natural Heritage (SNH) rebranded in August 2020 as NatureScot. Where relevant reference is still made to SNH within this chapter in respect of guidance which remains valid and is yet to be republished etc.

⁶ NatureScot (March 2021) Assessing the Cumulative Impact of Onshore Wind Energy Developments

Desk Based Research and Data Sources

6.15 The following data sources informed the assessment:

Landscape character and landscape capacity

- NatureScot (2019), Scottish Landscape Character Types Maps and Descriptions; and
- The Highland Council (2016), Onshore Wind Energy Supplementary Guidance, November 2016 (with addendum, December 2017).

Designated Areas

- SNH (2010), The special qualities of the National Scenic Areas, SNH Commissioned Report No.374;
- SNH (2006), Guidance on Local Landscape Designations;
- NatureScot and Historic Environment Scotland (2020), Guidance on Designating Local Landscape Areas; and
- The Highland Council and SNH (2011), Assessment of Highland Special Landscape Areas.

Wild Land

- SNH (2017), Scotland's Wild Land Area Descriptions: methodology;
- SNH (2017), Description of Wild Land Areas – Monadhliath Wild Land Area;
- SNH (2017), Descriptions of Wild Land Areas – Central Highlands Wild Land Area;
- SNH (2017), Descriptions of Wild Land Areas – Kinlochourn – Knoydart – Morar Wild Land Area;
- SNH (2017), Description of Wild Land Areas – Braeroy – Glenshirra – Creag Meagaidh Wild Land Area;
- SNH (2017), Description of Wild Land Areas – Rannoch – Nevis – Mamores – Alder Wild Land Area;
- SNH (2017), Description of Wild Land Areas – Cairngorms Wild Land Area;
- SNH (2014), Core Areas of Wild Land 2013 Map – Advice to Government – 16th June 2014;
- NatureScot (2020), Assessing Impacts on Wild Land Areas – Technical Guidance;
- SNH (2014), Mapping Scotland's Wildness; and
- SNH (2003), Wildness in Scotland's Countryside, Policy Statement No. 02/03.

Data Sources

- Ordnance Survey (OS) Maps at 1:50,000 and 1:25,000 scales;
- OS Terrain@5 mid-resolution height data (DTM) (5m grid spacing, 2.5metres RMSE);
- Ordnance Survey 1:25,000 raster data;
- Ordnance Survey 1:50,000 raster data; and
- Ordnance Survey 1:250,000 raster data.

Cumulative Assessment

- Data from other wind farm applications for the cumulative assessment; and
- The Highland Council and the Energy Consents Unit (websites) to inform the cumulative assessment.

Field Survey

6.16 Field survey work was carried out during several visits under differing weather conditions between April 2021 and March 2023, and field notes and photographs were taken as a record. Field survey work included a visit to the Site, viewpoints and designated

landscapes and extensive travel around the Study Area to consider potential effects on landscape character and on experiences of views seen from specific viewpoints, settlements and routes.

Assessing Significance

6.17 The significance of the potential effects of the Proposed Development was classified by professional consideration of the sensitivity of the receptor and the magnitude of the potential effect.

Sensitivity of Receptors

6.18 The sensitivity of the baseline conditions, including the importance of environmental features on or near to the Site or the sensitivity of potentially affected receptors, was assessed in line with best practice guidance, legislation, statutory designations and / or professional judgement.

6.19 Judgements regarding the sensitivity of landscape or visual receptors require consideration of both the susceptibility of the landscape or visual receptor to the type of development proposed and the value attached to the landscape or visual receptor or view. Judgements were recorded as high, medium, low or negligible. Detailed information about the approach to assessment of sensitivity is provided in **Appendix 6.1**.

Magnitude of Change

6.20 The magnitude of change was identified through consideration of the Proposed Development, the degree of change to baseline conditions predicted as a result of the Proposed Development, the duration and reversibility of an effect and best practice guidance and legislation.

6.21 Judgements regarding the magnitude of landscape or visual change were recorded as high, medium, low or negligible and combine an assessment of the scale and geographical extent of the landscape or visual effect, its duration and reversibility. Detailed information about the approach to assessment of magnitude is provided in **Appendix 6.1**.

Significance of Effect

6.22 The sensitivity of the receptor and the magnitude of the predicted effects was used as a guide, in addition to professional judgement, to predict the significance of the likely effects.

6.23 **Appendix 6.1** provides full details of the criteria considered in judging the identified aspects of sensitivity (susceptibility and value) and magnitude of change (size/scale, geographical extent, duration and reversibility), and the grades used to describe each.

6.24 Levels of effect were identified as negligible, minor, moderate or major. In terms of the direction of effects (positive or adverse), there is a wide spectrum of opinion with regard to wind energy development. To cover the worst-case scenario, effects are assumed to be adverse, unless stated otherwise.

6.25 This determination requires the application of professional judgement and experience to take on board the many different variables which need to be considered, and which are given different weight according to site-specific and location-specific considerations in every instance. Judgements are made on a case by case basis, guided by the principles set out in **Diagram 1** in **Appendix 6.1**.

6.26 A numerical or formal weighting system is not applied but consideration of the relative importance of each aspect is made to feed into the overall decision. Levels of effect were graded as negligible, minor, moderate or major, where moderate and major effects are considered significant in the context of the Regulations.

Assessment Limitations

6.27 No information gaps were identified during the preparation of baseline information or undertaking of the assessment, and it is considered that there was sufficient information to enable an informed decision to be taken in relation to the identification and assessment of likely significant effects on landscape, views and visual amenity.

Visualisation Methodology

6.28 The methodology for production of the visualisations was based on current good practice guidance as set out by NatureScot and THC. Detailed information about the approach to viewpoint photography, ZTV and visualisation production, including dusk/night-time visualisations, is provided in **Appendix 6.2**.

Existing Conditions

Landscape Baseline

6.29 This section presents an overview of the landscape baseline including current landscape character (including constituent landscape elements), landscape condition and any designations attached to the landscape. Wind farms and other development which is already present in the landscape and views is considered as part of the primary LVIA, including the potential cumulative interactions that the Proposed Development would have with it.

Site and Context

6.30 The Site context is described in **Chapter 3** and detailed information on the Proposed Development is provided in **Chapter 4**: and shown in **Figure 4.1**.

6.31 The Site is predominantly located within the Balmacaan Estate, with the access through Glenmoriston Estate, and occupies an upland area to the west of the Great Glen and Loch Ness, with Glen Urquhart to the north and Glen Moriston to the south. The area in which proposed wind turbines will be sited is located within the south-western extents of the Site. There are numerous steep-sided, rocky hills within the Site including Carn an Tuairneir (574m AOD) and Carn Tarsuinn (616m AOD). Meall Fuar-mhonaidh (699m Above Ordnance Datum (AOD)), a popular local hill with walkers from which views of the Great Glen are afforded to the north-east, east and south-east, is located approximately 5.5km to the east of the Site.

6.32 The Site comprises rolling moorland plateaux with occasional small rocky outcrop hills. There are numerous lochans within the Site, including Loch nam Meur and Loch na Ruighe Duibhe, which are connected by a series of burns which feed the River Coiltie to the north-east of the Site and the Allt Saigh to the south of the Site. The Coiltie drains into Loch Ness at Urquhart Bay, and the Allt Saigh drains into Loch Ness at Alltigh. The network of lochans and burns to the north-east of the Site is used for hydroelectric infrastructure⁷, with existing tracks along the Coiltie and Allt Saigh providing access.

6.33 Loch Ness lies to the east of the Site within the Great Glen. Due to the dramatic profile of the glen, views from the shores of Loch Ness are generally contained and focussed along the loch, with limited longer-distance views of the hills and plateaux to the east and west of the loch.

6.34 The Proposed Development is located immediately to the north-east of the operational Bhlaraidh Wind Farm (135m maximum blade tip height), and 3.2km east of operational Corrimony Wind Farm (100m maximum blade tip height). Access to the Site will be afforded via the A887, following the existing Bhlaraidh Wind Farm track, before accessing the Site.

Landscape of the Study Area

6.35 The Study Area, shown in **Figure 6.1**, extends to a 45km radius from the outermost wind turbines of the Proposed Development in all directions. The majority of the Study Area is within the Highland Council administrative area. The south-eastern periphery of the Study Area is within the Cairngorms National Park.

6.36 The landscape character of the Study Area and includes areas of rolling moorland plateau with occasional rocky outcrops contrasted with intimate glens and straths. The Great Glen runs on a north-east to south-west alignment approximately 8km to the east of the nearest wind turbine of the Proposed Development. The Great Glen is a defining landscape feature of the Study Area, forming a steep sided and deep fissure. Loch Ness and its wooded shorelines occupy the floor of the glen, from which the steep sides contain views to the east and west within the glen and along the glens which run perpendicular to the north-west, and generally screen longer-distance views to the elevated ground beyond.

6.37 Within the Study Area, forestry is a prominent feature on eastern and western slopes of the Great Glen, with open moorland located at higher elevations. Pockets of mixed woodland line the shoreline and lower slopes of the loch and adjoining glens.

Landscape Character Types

6.38 This section provides a description of landscape character (including constituent landscape elements) – drawing on published studies, supplemented with project specific research and field work where relevant.

6.39 The landscape character of the Site and the Study Area is described in the ‘Scottish Landscape Character Assessment’, published by SNH in 2019. Landscape Character Types (LCTs) across the Study Area are shown in **Figure 6.5a** and are shown overlaid with the ZTV in **Figure 6.5b**.

6.40 The Highland Council Onshore Wind SG includes a Landscape Sensitivity appraisal of Landscape Character Areas within a study area surrounding Loch Ness. The LCTs considered within this assessment are based on the SNH 2019 ‘Scottish Landscape Character Assessment’, however the findings of the SG Landscape Sensitivity appraisal were considered within the assessment.

6.41 The Site is located within the Rocky Moorland Plateau – Inverness Landscape Character Type (LCT 222). This is an area of gently rolling moorland plateau with occasional rocky outcrop hills, bogs and lochans. Land cover is patchy in texture. This LCT is relatively uninhabited and there are few signs of management or human artefacts, particularly within the interior of the plateau, which leads to a sense of remoteness. The existing Corrimony Wind Farm and Bhlaraidh Wind Farm are located within the Rocky Moorland Plateau LCT directly to the west and south of the Site respectively. These existing wind farms have a strong characterising effect on a proportion of this LCT, which in respect to the influence of the larger Bhlaraidh Wind Farm (32 turbines of 125m to 135m) includes the Site of the Proposed Development. The underlying physical characteristics of the LCT remain appreciable, however, the influence of the existing Bhlaraidh Wind Farm, and to a lesser extent the Corrimony Wind Farm (five turbines of 100m), is experienced across the extents of the LCT to the west of the Great Glen and south of Glen Urquhart. The Proposed Development would be located in this area and would add to the existing effects of the Bhlaraidh Wind Farm, and if constructed the consented Bhlaraidh Wind Farm Extension.

6.42 The LCTs within 45km of the Proposed Development are listed in **Table 6.2** below. The theoretical visibility of the Proposed Development from each LCT is described. The theoretical visibility of the Proposed Development (ZTV coverage) is used as a means of identifying which LCTs require further assessment, and which LCTs can be scoped out because they are unlikely to experience significant effects arising from the Proposed Development. Most LCTs beyond 15km from the Site and those with limited actual visibility within 15km of the Site are not considered further within the assessment.

Table 6.2: Landscape Character Types within the Study Area

LCT	Distance and Theoretical Visibility of Proposed Development
Within 15km	
Rocky Moorland Plateau – Inverness (LCT 222)	Host , <1km, widespread visibility indicated across the LCT. Considered within the assessment.
Wooded Glen – Inverness (LCT 226)	Host (access track) , visibility indicated across the LCT within 2.5km of the proposed turbines, considered within the assessment.
Broad Steep-Sided Glen (LCT 225)	Visibility indicated within 5km from limited extents of the glen sides and a small proportion of Loch Ness north-east of Drumnadrochit, considered within the assessment.
Rugged Massif – Inverness (LCT 220)	Visibility indicated across the LCT within 9km to the west, north-west and south of the Site, considered within the assessment.
Farmed and Wooded Foothills (LCT 224)	Visibility indicated from elevated landform across the LCT within 8km to the south-east, east and north-east of the Site, however actual visibility will be limited by intervening forestry. Not considered within the assessment.

⁷ Highland Hydroelectric Power web map - Coiltie Hydro Planning Reference: 15/02595/FUL

LCT	Distance and Theoretical Visibility of Proposed Development
Farmed Strath – Inverness (LCT 227)	Visibility indicated across the LCT within 9km to the north-west, south-east and east of the Site, considered within the assessment.
Rolling Uplands – Inverness (LCT 221)	Visibility indicated across the west of the LCT within 12km to the east, south-east and north-east of the Site, considered within the assessment.
Within 15-45km of the Site	
Interlocking Sweeping Peaks – Inverness (LCT 230)	Visibility indicated from elevated landform and hill summits throughout the LCT and within the Glen Affric NSA and Central Highlands WLA, at distances of 17-32km, considered within the assessment.
Urban (LCT 0)	Limited visibility along the eastern edge of the LCT at a distance of over 34km, not considered further.
Isolated Mountain Plateau (LCT 85)	Limited visibility indicated along the northern edge of the LCT at a distance of over 32km, not considered further.
Smooth Rounded Hills – Badenoch & Strathspey (LCT 86)	Limited visibility indicated along the southern edge of the LCT at a distance of 43km, not considered further.
Small Craggy Knolls and Hills (LCT 87)	No visibility indicated by ZTV, not considered further.
Loch and Glen (LCT 88)	Limited visibility at a distance of over 50km, not considered further.
Broad Loch and Glen (LCT 89)	No visibility indicated by ZTV, not considered further.
Smooth Rounded Hills – Cairngorms (LCT 123)	No visibility indicated by ZTV, not considered further.
Summits and Plateaux – Cairngorms (LCT 124)	Limited visibility at a distance of over 50km, not considered further.
Rolling Uplands – Cairngorms (LCT 125)	Limited visibility at a distance of 34km, not considered further.
Upland Glen – Cairngorms (LCT 126)	No visibility indicated by ZTV, not considered further.
Upland Strath (LCT 127)	Limited visibility at a distance of 36km, not considered further.
Flat Moorland Plateau with Woodland (LCT 223)	Visibility indicated across the LCT at a distance of 23km, not considered further.
Rolling Farmland and Woodland (LCT 228)	Visibility indicated from the north of the LCT at a distance of over 30km, not considered further.
Enclosed Farmland (LCT 229)	Limited visibility indicated in the south of the LCT at a distance of 18km, not considered further.
Upland Glen – Inverness (LCT 231)	No visibility indicated by ZTV, not considered further.
Broad Forested Strath (LCT 235)	Limited visibility indicated in the south of the LCT at a distance of 25km, not considered within the assessment.

LCT	Distance and Theoretical Visibility of Proposed Development
Smooth Moorland Ridges (LCT 236)	Limited visibility indicated in the north of the LCT at a distance of over 20km, not considered further.
Rocky Moorland – Lochaber (LCT 237)	Limited visibility indicated along the northern and southern boundaries of the LCT at a distance of over 25km, not considered further.
Rugged Massif – Lochaber (LCT 238)	Limited visibility from elevated summits at a distance of over 30km, not considered further.
Interlocking Sweeping Peaks – Lochaber (LCT 239)	Limited visibility indicated in the north of the LCT at a distance of over 27km, not considered further.
Coastal Farmlands – Moray & Nairn (LCT 284)	Visibility indicated across the LCT at a distance of over 40km, not considered further.
Open Rolling Upland (LCT 291)	Limited visibility indicated along the western edge of the LCT at a distance of 43km, not considered further.
Upland Valleys – Moray & Nairn (LCT 294)	No visibility indicated by ZTV, not considered further.
Rugged Mountain Massif – Ross & Cromarty (LCT 328)	Limited visibility indicated from limited elevated summits within the LCT at a distance of 45km, not considered further.
Rounded Mountain Massif (LCT 329)	Limited visibility indicated in the south of the LCT at a distance of over 38km, not considered further.
Rounded Hills and Moorland Slopes – Ross & Cromarty (LCT 330)	Limited visibility indicated from elevated summits in the centre and north of the LCT at a distance of over 46km, not considered further.
Rounded Rocky Hills – Ross & Cromarty (LCT 331)	Very limited visibility indicated from summits across the LCT at a distance of over 25km, not considered further.
Rocky Moorland and Rugged Hills (LCT 333)	No visibility indicated by ZTV, not considered further.
Wooded Glens and Rocky Moorland (LCT 335)	Very limited visibility in the north of the LCT at a distance of 35km, not considered further.
Inland Strath (LCT 339)	No visibility indicated by ZTV, not considered further.
Strath – Ross & Cromarty (LCT 340)	No visibility indicated by ZTV, not considered further.
Forest Edge Farming (LCT 341)	Very limited visibility indicated in the south of the LCT at a distance of 25km, not considered further.
Farmed River Plains (LCT 342)	Limited visibility indicated in the east of the LCT at a distance of over 26km, not considered further.
Coastal Shelf (LCT 343)	No visibility indicated by ZTV, not considered further.
Farmed and Forested Slopes – Ross & Cromarty (LCT 345)	Very limited visibility indicated in the south of the LCT at a distance of over 20km, not considered further.

LCT	Distance and Theoretical Visibility of Proposed Development
Open Farmed Slopes (LCT 346)	Very limited visibility indicated in the north of the LCT at a distance of over 20km, not considered further.
Open Steep Farmed Slopes (LCT 347)	Limited visibility indicated in the north of the LCT at a distance of 38km, not considered further.
Cliffs and Rocky Coasts – Ross & Cromarty (LCT 348)	Very limited visibility indicated in the north of the LCT at a distance of over 50km, not considered further.
Farmed and Settled Lowlands – Skye & Lochalsh (LCT 357)	No visibility indicated by ZTV, not considered further.
Rocky Moorland – Skye & Lochalsh (LCT 364)	No visibility indicated by ZTV, not considered further.
Rugged Massif – Skye & Lochalsh (LCT 365)	Very limited visibility indicated in the east of the LCT at a distance of over 20km, not considered further.
Interlocking Sweeping Peaks – Skye & Lochalsh (LCT 369)	Limited visibility at a distance of over 32km, not considered further.

Designated Landscapes

6.43 The Site is not located within a locally designated landscape, however the Loch Ness and Duntelchaig Special Landscape Areas (SLA) is located approximately 3.5km to the east of the Site at its nearest point.

6.44 There are a number of designated landscapes within the 45km Study Area, including National Scenic Areas (NSAs), SLAs, and the Cairngorms National Park.

6.45 Designated Landscapes across the Study Area are shown in **Figure 6.6a** and are shown overlaid with the ZTV in **Figure 6.6b**. The theoretical inter-visibility with the Proposed Development (ZTV coverage) is used as a means of identifying which Designated Landscapes require further assessment.

6.46 The Proposed Development is not located within a nationally designated landscape but an assessment of effects on the Glen Affric National Scenic Area was undertaken with reference to the NatureScot guidance⁸. This assessment is contained in **Appendix 6.3** and was undertaken as a separate exercise because of the specific assessment guidance that applies, albeit that the findings of the LVIA are used to inform it. **Table 6.3** below shows the designated landscapes within the study area.

Table 6.3: Designated Landscapes within the Study Area

Designated Landscape	Distance and Theoretical Visibility of Proposed Development
National Park	
Cairngorms National Park	Limited visibility indicated from elevated summits within the Cairn Gorm massif at a distance of over 50km. Not considered within assessment.
National Scenic Area (NSA)	
Glen Affric NSA	Visibility indicated from the glen sides and limited extents of the floor of the glen within 11km to the west, considered within assessment.

Designated Landscape	Distance and Theoretical Visibility of Proposed Development
Glen Strathfarrar NSA	Very limited visibility indicated along the northern and southern boundaries at a distance of over 11km to the north. Not considered within assessment.
Kintail NSA	Very limited visibility indicated along the eastern boundary of the NSA and on the summit of Sgurr Fhuaran, at a distance of over 35km to the west. Not considered within assessment.
Wester Ross NSA	Very limited visibility indicated from limited extents in the south of the NSA at a distance over 55km to the north-west. Not considered within assessment.
Knoydart NSA	No visibility indicated by ZTV, not considered within assessment.
Special Landscape Area (SLA)	
Loch Ness and Duntelchaig SLA	Theoretical visibility indicated from elevated landform and local hill summits within the west of the SLA (approximately 7km east of the nearest proposed turbine), elevated landform within the east of the SLA (within 13-25km to the south-east and north-east of the Site), and a localised section of the loch and eastern shores of the loch to the south of Dores (within 18-21km to the north-east of the Site). Considered within assessment.
Strathconon, Monar and Mullardoch SLA	Theoretical visibility indicated from elevated landform and hill summits within the south-east and centre of the SLA within 10-30km of the Site. However, areas of theoretical visibility within the SLA are also located within the Central Highlands WLA 24. Given the similarities between the Special Qualities of the SLA and the Wild Land Qualities of WLA 24, a separate assessment of effects on the SLA has not been undertaken. See Appendix 6.4 for the Wild Land Impact Assessment of WLA 24.
Loch Lochy and Loch Oich SLA	Limited visibility indicated from elevated landform in the north and east of the SLA at a distance of over 20km to the south. Not considered within assessment.
Moidart, Morar and Glen Shiel SLA	Limited visibility indicated from elevated landform and summits along the eastern boundary of the SLA, at a distance of over 21km to the south-west. Not considered within assessment.
Ben Alder, Laggan and Glen Banchor SLA	Very limited visibility indicated from summits in the south of the SLA at a distance of over 45km to the south. Not considered within assessment.
Ben Wyvis SLA	Visibility indicated in the south of the SLA at a distance of over 37km to the north. Not considered within assessment.

⁸ SNH (unpublished, 2018). Guidance for Assessing Effects on Special Qualities and Special Landscape Qualities. Working Draft 11.

Designated Landscape	Distance and Theoretical Visibility of Proposed Development
Drynachan, Lochindorb and Dava Moors SLA	Very limited visibility indicated along the western boundary of the SLA at a distance of over 42km to the north-east. Not considered within assessment.
Fannichs, Beinn Dearg and Glen Calvie SLA	Very limited visibility indicated from elevated summits within the SLA, at a distance of over 45km to the north. Not considered within assessment.
Sutors of Cromarty, Rosemarkie and Fort George SLA	Visibility indicated in the east of the SLA at a distance of over 49km to the north-east. Not considered within assessment.

Wild Land

6.47 Wild Land Areas (WLA) are not designated but their importance is recognised in NPF4. Each WLA has an accompanying WLA descriptions published by SNH in January 2017⁹. NPF4¹⁰ sets out that “development proposals for wind farms in National Parks and National Scenic Areas will not be supported” (Page 53). It also outlines that “effects of development outwith wild land areas will not be a significant consideration” (NPF4, Policy 4, Page 41).

6.48 There are nine areas of Wild Land located within the 45km Study Area, as shown on **Figures 6.6a-6.6b**, the closest of which is WLA 24 Central Highlands located 9.3km to the west of the nearest proposed turbine. The Wild Land Areas within the Study Area are listed in **Table 6.4**.

6.49 The Proposed Development is not located within a WLA but an assessment of effects on areas of wild land closest to the Proposed Development was undertaken with reference to the NatureScot guidance¹¹. This assessment is contained in **Appendix 6.4** and was undertaken as a separate exercise because of the specific assessment guidance that applies, albeit that the findings of the LVIA are used to inform it.

Table 6.4: Wild Land Areas within the Study Area

WLA	Distance and Theoretical Visibility of Proposed Development
Central Highlands WLA 24	Theoretical visibility indicated from elevated landform and hill summits within the east, centre and south-west of the WLA within approximately 9.3-30km of the Site. Considered within assessment.
Monadhliath WLA 20	Visibility indicated from limited extents of elevated landform in the south of the WLA at a distance of over 20km to the south-east. Not considered within assessment.
Braeroy – Glenshirra – Creag Meagaidh WLA 19	Visibility indicated from elevated landform in the north and south of the WLA at a distance of over 20km to the south. Not considered within assessment.
Kinlochhourn – Knoydart – Morar WLA 18	Limited visibility indicated from elevated landform and summits in the east of the WLA at a distance of over 32km to the south-west. Not considered within assessment.

⁹ NatureScot (previously SNH) (2017) WLA descriptions [Online] Available at: <https://www.nature.scot/doc/wild-land-areas-map-and-descriptions-2014>

¹⁰ Scottish Government (2022) National Planning Framework 4 Revised Draft [Online] Available at: <https://www.gov.scot/binaries/content/documents/govscot/publications/advice-and-guidance/2022/11/national-planning-framework-4-revised-draft/documents/national-planning-framework-4-revised-draft/govscot%3Adocument/national-planning-framework-4-revised-draft.pdf>

WLA	Distance and Theoretical Visibility of Proposed Development
Rhiddoroch – Beinn Dearg – Ben Wyvis WLA 29	Visibility indicated from elevated landform and summits in the south of the WLA at a distance of over 38km to the north. Not considered within assessment.
Rannoch – Nevis – Mamores – Alder WLA 14	Limited visibility indicated from elevated landform and summits in the north of the WLA at a distance of over 43km to the south. Not considered within assessment.
Fisherfield – Letterewe – Fannichs WLA 28	Very limited visibility indicated from elevated landform and summits in the south-east of the WLA at a distance of over 44km to the north. Not considered within assessment.
Coulin & Ledgowan Forest WLA 26	No visibility indicated by ZTV, not considered within assessment.
Cairngorms WLA 15	Limited visibility indicated from summits in the north of the WLA at a distance of over 53km to the south-east. Not considered within assessment.

Gardens and Designed Landscapes

6.50 There are no Gardens and Designed Landscapes (GDL) within the Site. The closest GDL is Beaufort Castle which lies approximately 20.6km to the north-east of the nearest proposed turbine and is not within the ZTV. There are also designated and previously recorded undesignated cultural heritage assets within the Study Area. Further information on these is provided in **Chapter 10**.

Visual Baseline

6.51 This section describes the extent of theoretical visibility of the Proposed Development and identifies visual receptors that are assessed within the visual assessment of the LVIA. This section also introduces the viewpoints that are used as representative points from which to assess effects on visual receptors (people) and particular views, including reasons for their selection.

The Study Area

6.52 The closest settlements are Balnain, approximately 6.6km to the north and Invermoriston, approximately 5km to the south of the nearest turbine. Drumnadrochit is located approximately 11.7km to the north-east of the nearest turbine on the western shore of Loch Ness. Individual and small clusters of residential properties are found scattered along the glens to the north, east, south and north-west, and particularly along Glen Urquhart to the north.

6.53 Key transportation routes include the A831, which passes through Glen Urquhart approximately 4km to the north of the nearest turbine, and the A887, which runs along the foot of Glen Moriston approximately 4.4km to the south. The A833 connects Drumnadrochit and Beauly, connecting to the A831 approximately 10km north-east of the Proposed Development. The A82 runs alongside the western shore of Loch Ness with the Great Glen approximately 6.1km to the east of the nearest turbine, and the B862 follows the eastern shore of Loch Ness, approximately 10.9km to the east.

6.54 The Great Glen Way is a long-distance path, promoted as one of Scotland’s Great Trails, and connects the west and east coast of Scotland passing through the Highlands. The walking path follows the western shore of Loch Ness approximately 4.5km east of the nearest turbine. The South Loch Ness Trail passes from Fort Augustus to Inverness, broadly following the eastern shore of Loch Ness

draft/documents/national-planning-framework-4-revised-draft/national-planning-framework-4-revised-draft/govscot%3Adocument/national-planning-framework-4-revised-draft.pdf

¹¹ NatureScot (September 2020). Assessing Impacts on Wild Land Areas – Technical Guidance. [Online] Available at: <https://www.nature.scot/assessing-impacts-wild-land-areas-technical-guidance> (Accessed 23/02/2021)

approximately 9.7km east of the nearest turbine. The Great Glen Way and South Loch Ness trail form the Loch Ness 360° Trail, a promoted circular route that circumnavigates Loch Ness. Recreational routes within the Study Area are shown on **Figure 6.2b**.

6.55 The Affric Kintail Way passes approximately 70km between Drumnadrochit and Morvich, passing west from the Great Glen Way through Glen Urquhart before passing on a north-east to south-west alignments through Glen Affric. The route formerly followed the A831 through Glen Urquhart, however in 2019 changes to the route were granted planning permission, with plans to implement realignment of the route in phases. The route will be realigned to follow the lower slopes of the glen, where it will pass through forestry to the north-east of Buntait before crossing the A831 near Millness towards forestry at Kerrow Wood. The route passes through Glen Urquhart 3.6km north of the nearest turbine.

6.56 The Caledonia Way cycle route runs from Campbeltown to Inverness and passes to the east of Loch Ness approximately 9.8km east of the nearest turbine.

6.57 A number of THC Core Paths are located within the Study Area, primarily clustered around the communities and settlements within the Great Glen and smaller glens to the north and south of the Site.

6.58 There are many hills, including Munro hill summits, which are popular with hill walkers and other recreational users (e.g. mountain bikers) within the Study Area. This includes the Munros of Tom a' Chòinich and Carn Ghluasaid in the west of the Study Area, and the local hill summit of Meall Fuar-mhonaidh, located 5.5km to the east of the nearest turbine.

6.59 The Great Glen Canoe Trail is a water-based route connecting Fort William to Inverness via the Caledonian Canal, Loch Lochy, Loch Oich and Loch Ness. The route is considered one of Scotland's Great Trails¹² and passes approximately 7km to the east of the nearest turbine on a south-west to north-east alignment through Loch Ness. Boat cruises and tours also bring recreational receptors and visitors to the waters of Loch Ness.

6.60 There are several existing large scale wind farms located within the Study Area. The pattern of existing wind farm development in the Study Area comprises discrete clusters of development in the remote and elevated plateau landscapes, generally found to the south and east of the Site and located away from the settled glens, including the Great Glen. The Proposed Development is located immediately to the north-east of the operational Bhlairaidh Wind Farm (135m maximum blade tip height), and 3.2km east of operational Corrimony Wind Farm (100m maximum blade tip height). The operational cluster of Millennium, Beinneun and Beinneun Extension Wind Farms is located on elevated ground between Glen Moriston and Glen Garry, approximately 17-23km to the south-west of the Proposed Development. Development to the east of the Great Glen is similarly located in remote plateau and comprises clusters of wind farms with perceptible gaps between. The operational Stronelairg, Corriegarth and Dunmaglass wind farms are located on the opposite side of the Great Glen, approximately 20-24km to the east of the Proposed Development. The operational Farr and Kyllachy Wind Farms are located approximately 33km to the north-east.

6.61 A full list of operational and under construction wind farms is provided in **Table 6.8** and shown on **Figures 6.7a-6.7b**.

Analysis of Visibility of the Proposed Development

6.62 **Figures 6.2a-6.2c, 6.3a-6.3b** illustrate the theoretical visibility of the wind turbines of the Proposed Development to maximum blade tip height (180m-200m) and hub height (102.5m-122.5m) respectively. Within 5km of the outermost turbines of the Proposed Development, relatively widespread visibility is indicated from elevated rolling moorland plateau and hill summits. However, intervening landform limits visibility from lower-lying areas within 5km of the outermost turbines, including along the River Enrick to the west of the Site, the northern slopes of Glen Moriston to the south of the Site, the southern slopes of Glen Urquhart to the north of the Site and the steep western slopes of the Great Glen.

6.63 Within 10-15km of the Proposed Development, theoretical visibility is more localised, and is generally indicated from elevated landform and hill summits including:

- the northern slopes of Glen Urquhart, including localised extents of the Affric Kintail Way, within approximately 6-15km to the north;
- some localised lower-lying extents and the northern slopes of Glen Affric within approximately 10-15km to the west;
- elevated landform and hill summits to the east of the Great Glen, including elevated sections of the Caledonia Way cycle route, the South Loch Ness trail and the B862 near the promoted Suidhe viewpoint within approximately 14km to the south-east;

- elevated landform to the west of Strathglass, including localised extents of the Affric Kintail Way, within approximately 9-12km to the north-west of the Proposed Development, however coniferous forestry will reduce actual visibility; and

- the southern slopes of Glen Moriston within approximately 7-15km to the south and south-west, however coniferous forestry will limit actual visibility.

6.64 Visibility is also indicated from a localised part of the eastern shore of Loch Ness, south of Dores, approximately 18km to the north-east of the Proposed Development.

6.65 Beyond 15km of the outermost turbines of the Proposed Development, theoretical visibility is mostly indicated from elevated landform and hill summits including:

- south-facing slopes, elevated landform and hill summits within the Glen Affric NSA within approximately 15km-33km to the west;
- elevated landform and hill summits within the Central Highlands WLA within approximately 15-33km to the south-west, west and north-west;
- localised elevated extents of the B862 south of Dores within approximately 22km to the north-east;
- elevated landform and hill summits to the east of the Great Glen, including Carn na Saobhaidhe (810m AOD), Carn Dearg (945m AOD), Beinn Bhreac Mhor (807m AOD) and Carn Odhar (798m AOD); and
- elevated landform and hill summits to the south of the Proposed Development including Meall Dubh (787m AOD) and Ben Tee (901m AOD).

Key Visual Receptors

6.66 Potential visual receptors include:

- Residents, including views from isolated properties, scattered communities or defined settlements;
- Road users (including tourists);
- Those engaged in recreational activities (e.g. hill walkers and cyclists); and
- People at their place of work, including agricultural workers.

Selection of Viewpoints for Assessment

6.67 This section sets out the viewpoints that are used to represent and assess the visual effects of the Proposed Development. The viewpoint list is a representative selection of locations; it is not an exhaustive list of locations from which the Proposed Development will be visible.

6.68 A total of 20 viewpoints were selected through desk study, field work and consultation with statutory consultees (as detailed in **Table 6.1**). The viewpoints are all publicly accessible as advocated by GLVIA3¹³ and include:

- locations selected to represent the experience of different types of receptor;
- locations at different distances to provide a representative range of viewing angles and distances (i.e. short, medium and long distance views);
- locations which illustrate key cumulative interactions with other existing, consented and/or proposed wind farms (i.e. either in-combination or successive views);
- locations which represent a range of viewing experiences (i.e. static views and points along sequential routes);
- specific viewpoints selected because they represent promoted views or viewpoints within the landscape; and
- illustrative viewpoints chosen specifically to demonstrate a particular visual effect or specific issue (which could include restricted visibility in particular locations).

¹² <https://www.scotlandsgreattrails.com/trail/great-glen-canoe-trail/>

¹³ The selection of viewpoints for LVIA should take account of the factors listed in Paragraph 6.20 of GLVIA3.

6.69 The viewpoints used to assess the visual effects are listed in Table 6.5 below and their locations are shown on Figure 6.2a.

Table 6.5: Assessment Viewpoints

VP	Viewpoint Name	Grid Reference (NGR)		Distance ¹⁴	Reason for selection
1	Affric Kintail Way, near Braefield	240594	830432	5.8km	Represents views experienced by recreational receptors on the Affric Kintail Way promoted long distance trail and similar views experienced from residential properties at Buntait.
2	Meall Fuar-mhonaidh	245705	822209	7.1km	Represents views experienced by recreational receptors at popular local hill summit within the Loch Ness and Duntelchaig Special Landscape Area (SLA).
3	Balbeg	244713	831254	8.9km	Represents views experienced by residential receptors within Glen Urquhart.
4	Affric Kintail Way, West of Cannich	232532	831570	9.4km	Represents views experienced by recreational receptors on promoted long distance trail.
5	Coire Loch Trail, Glen Affric	229330	828255	9.4km	Represents views experienced by recreational receptors within Glen Affric National Scenic Area (NSA) and Strathconon, Monar and Mullardoch SLA.
6	B862 near Whitebridge	249265	816161	12.8km	Represents views experienced by road users, recreational receptors (NCN Route 1) and nearby residential receptors.
7	A833 near Balnagrantach	249825	832423	13.7km	Represents views experienced by road users and nearby residential receptors.
8	B862 Suidhe Viewpoint	244958	810548	13.9km	Represents views experienced by road users and recreational receptors at popular promoted viewpoint within the Loch Ness and Duntelchaig SLA.
9	Meall Mor, above Glen Affric	224928	828045	13.3km	Represents views experienced by recreational receptors within the Glen Affric NSA, Central Highlands Wild Land Area (WLA), and Strathconan, Monar and Mullardoch SLA.
10	Creag Dhubh	222497	821647	15.1km	Represents views experienced by recreational receptors within the Central Highlands WLA, with views afforded across the Glen Affric NSA.
11	Carn na Leitire	254693	834470	18.9km	Represents views experienced by recreational receptors from popular local hill summit.

VP	Viewpoint Name	Grid Reference (NGR)		Distance ¹⁴	Reason for selection
12	Beinn a' Bha'ach Ard	236056	843483	18.6km	Represents views experienced by recreational receptors within the Glen Strathfarrar NSA and Central Highlands WLA.
13	B852 Erchite Wood, east of Loch Ness (picnic area)	257717	831590	20.4km	Represents views experienced by road users and recreational receptors within the Loch Ness and Duntelchaig SLA.
14	Meall Dubh	224538	807873	19.7km	Represents views experienced by recreational receptors from Corbett summit.
15	Core Path at Loch Affric	217092	823063	20.4km	Represents views experienced by recreational receptors within the Glen Affric NSA and Central Highlands WLA.
16	B862 South of Dores	259368	832481	22.3km	Represents views experienced by road users, including tourists within the Loch Ness and Duntelchaig Special Landscape Area (SLA).
17	Carn na Saobhaidhe	259881	814377	23.0km	Represents views experienced by recreational receptors from Corbett summit.
18	Toll Creagach	219446	828294	18.6km	Represents views experienced by recreational receptors from Munro summit within Glen Affric NSA, Central Highlands WLA and Strathconan, Monar and Mullardoch SLA.
19	Sgurr nan Conbhairean	212991	813895	26.1km	Represents views experienced by recreational receptors from Munro summit within Glen Affric NSA, Central Highlands WLA and Moidart Morar and Glen Shiel SLA.
20	Carn Dearg	263547	802414	32.5km	Represents views experienced by recreational receptors from Munro summit within the Cairngorms National Park and Monadhliath WLA.

Settlements

6.70 Settlements are those defined as such within the Highland Council Inner Moray Firth Local Development Plan (2015), West Highlands and Islands Local Development Plan (2019) and the Cairngorms National Park Local Development Plan (2021). The broad pattern of settlement within the Study Area is generally concentrated within the glens and straths, located along key transportation routes. Outside of settlements, scattered residential properties and farmsteads follow a similar pattern of development.

6.71 The Highland Council Inner Moray Firth Local Development Plan, which covers the central extents of the Study Area, identifies a hierarchy of settlements including city centres, town centres, local centres and other settlements. The Cairngorms National Park Local Development plan, which covers the western and south-western peripheries of the Study Area, identifies a hierarchy of settlements including strategic, intermediate and rural settlements. Settlements in Table 6.6 below are identified in accordance with the settlement hierarchy used in the LDPs.

6.72 There are no settlements located within 5km of the outermost turbines of the Proposed Development.

¹⁴ Distance between viewpoint and the nearest wind turbine of the Proposed Development.

6.73 Theoretical visibility of the Proposed Development from settlements across the 45km radius Study Area is illustrated by **Figure 6.2b** with potential views from settlements described below.

6.74 The ZTV does not take account of any screening or filtering of views by built form or vegetation, which will substantially reduce visibility from the majority of settlements. In order to focus on potentially significant effects, settlements from which there is no theoretical visibility are not considered further in this assessment. Settlements with limited visibility over a longer-distance i.e. beyond 15km from the outermost turbines of the Proposed Development; or where views of the surrounding landscape (including the Site) are not important to its setting, and where it is unlikely that significant effects could occur, are not considered further in the assessment.

Table 6.6: Settlements

Settlement	Distance and Theoretical Visibility of Proposed Development
Within 15km	
Drumnadrochit (town centre)	Limited visibility indicated from northern settlement edge at a distance of over 14km to the north-east, however actual visibility will be limited by intervening landform and vegetation. Not considered further.
Balnain (other settlement)	Visibility indicated across settlement at a distance of 7-10km to the north and north-east. Considered within assessment.
Fort Augustus (town centre)	No visibility indicated by ZTV, not considered further.
Dores (local centre)	Limited visibility indicated at a distance of over 20km to the north-east, however actual visibility will be limited by intervening landform and vegetation. Not considered further.
Invermoriston (other settlement)	No visibility indicated by ZTV, not considered further.
Tomich (other settlement)	No visibility indicated by ZTV, not considered further.
Cannich (other settlement)	No visibility indicated by ZTV, not considered further.
Struy (other settlement)	No visibility indicated by ZTV, not considered further.
Foyers (other settlement)	No visibility indicated by ZTV, not considered further.
Whitebridge (other settlement)	Limited visibility indicated at a distance of over 12km to the south-east, however actual visibility will be limited by intervening vegetation. Not considered further.
Gorthleck (other settlement)	No visibility indicated by ZTV, not considered further.
Abriachan (other settlement)	No visibility indicated by ZTV, not considered further.
Kiltarlity (local centre)	No visibility indicated by ZTV, not considered further.
Within 15-45km	
Croachy (other settlement)	Limited visibility indicated at a distance of over 25km to the north-east. Not considered further.
Farr (other settlement)	Limited visibility indicated at a distance of over 30km to the north-east. Not considered further.
Inverarnie (other settlement)	No visibility indicated by ZTV, not considered further.
Tomatin (local centre)	No visibility indicated by ZTV, not considered further.
Daviot (other settlement)	No visibility indicated by ZTV, not considered further.
Dochgarroch (other settlement)	No visibility indicated by ZTV, not considered further.

Settlement	Distance and Theoretical Visibility of Proposed Development
Inchmore (local centre)	No visibility indicated by ZTV, not considered further.
Kirkhill (local centre)	Limited visibility indicated at a distance of over 25km to the north. Not considered further.
Beaully (town centre)	No visibility indicated by ZTV, not considered further.
Kilmorack (other settlement)	No visibility indicated by ZTV, not considered further.
Muir of Ord (town centre)	Limited visibility indicated from eastern and southern settlement edge at a distance of over 25km to the north. Not considered further.
Marybank (other settlement)	No visibility indicated by ZTV, not considered further.
Tornagrain (town centre)	Limited visibility indicated at a distance of over 45km to the north-east. Not considered further.
Contin (local centre)	No visibility indicated by ZTV, not considered further.
Strathpeffer (local centre)	No visibility indicated by ZTV, not considered further.
Garve (other settlement)	No visibility indicated by ZTV, not considered further.
Dingwall (town centre)	Limited visibility indicated from eastern settlement edge at a distance of over 35km to the north north-east. Not considered further.
Maryburgh (local centre)	No visibility indicated by ZTV, not considered further.
Conon Bridge (local centre)	Limited visibility indicated at a distance of over 30km to the north-east. Not considered further.
Culbokie (local centre)	Limited visibility indicated at a distance of over 35km to the north-east. Not considered further.
Evanton (local centre)	Limited visibility indicated at a distance of over 40km to the north north-east. Not considered further.
Fortrose (town centre)	Limited visibility indicated at a distance of over 40km to the north-east. Not considered further.
Easter Kinkwell (other settlement)	Limited visibility indicated at a distance of over 35km to the north-east. Not considered further.
Mulbuie (other settlement)	Limited visibility indicated at a distance of over 30km to the north-east. Not considered further.
Kilcoy (other settlement)	Limited visibility indicated at a distance of over 30km to the north-east. Not considered further.
Tore (local centre)	Limited visibility indicated at a distance of over 30km to the north-east. Not considered further.
North Kessock (local centre)	No visibility indicated by ZTV, not considered further.
Avoch (local centre)	No visibility indicated by ZTV, not considered further.
Munlochry (local centre)	Limited visibility indicated at a distance of over 35km to the north-east. Not considered further.

Settlement	Distance and Theoretical Visibility of Proposed Development
Kingussie (Intermediate Settlement)	No visibility indicated by ZTV, not considered further.
Newtownmore (Intermediate Settlement)	No visibility indicated by ZTV, not considered further.
Laggan (Rural Settlement)	No visibility indicated by ZTV, not considered further.
Dalwhinnie (Rural Settlement)	No visibility indicated by ZTV, not considered further.
Invergarry (Growing Settlement)	No visibility indicated by ZTV, not considered further.
Spean Bridge and Roybridge (Main Settlement)	No visibility indicated by ZTV, not considered further.

Routes

6.75 Visibility from a route is rarely uniform along its entire length. This is because views of the surrounding landscape change as one moves along a route depending on the surrounding landform, the presence of built form, structures, tree cover and vegetation along a route. Theoretical visibility of the Proposed Development from routes across the Study Area is illustrated by **Figure 6.2b**. They include a hierarchy of roads and recreational routes (promoted long distance footpaths, core paths and cycle routes). Road routes tend to use low lying areas or glens and passes, but walking routes are more variable and can pass over hills and along ridges often offering open and longer-distance views.

6.76 Based on an analysis of theoretical visibility and potential views **Table 6.7** provides information on which routes were carried forward for detailed assessment. Due to the lower susceptibility of receptors typically using roads and railways, those beyond 15km from the outermost wind turbines of the Proposed Development were scoped out of the assessment. Promoted long distance footpaths and cycle routes were included at up to 20km from the outermost wind turbines of the Proposed Development. Where there is limited theoretical visibility, or where actual visibility from a route is likely to be limited due to localised screening, these routes were not considered further in this LVIA, as the likelihood for significant sequential effects is limited.

Table 6.7: Routes

Route	Distance and Theoretical Visibility of Proposed Development
Major Roads	
A82	Limited visibility indicated from approximately 1.5km of the road (within 15km to the north-east of the Proposed Development) with actual visibility further reduced by intervening woodland and vegetation. Not considered further.
A887	No visibility indicated by ZTV, not considered further.
A831	Limited visibility of turbine blade tips indicated from approximately 4.5km of the road (within 5.5km to the north and north-west of the Proposed Development) with actual visibility further reduced by intervening woodland and vegetation. Not considered further.
A833	Limited visibility indicated from approximately 1.7km of the road (within 13km to the north-east of the Proposed Development) with actual visibility further reduced by intervening woodland and vegetation. Not considered further. Glimpsed views from the road are considered within the assessment of VP7: A833 near Balnagrantach.

¹⁵ The Great Glen Way forms part of the Loch Ness 360 route between Fort Augustus and Inverness via Invermoriston and Drumnadrochit.

Route	Distance and Theoretical Visibility of Proposed Development
B862	Theoretical visibility indicated from approximately 6km of the road, within approximately 12-13km of the nearest turbine of the Proposed Development. Considered within assessment.
B851	Theoretical visibility limited to localised sections of the road at distances exceeding 20km to the east of the nearest turbine. Not considered further.
B852	Theoretical visibility indicated from approximately 4km of the road to the south of Dores, at distances exceeding 18km of the Proposed Development, with actual visibility further reduced by intervening woodland and vegetation. Not considered further. Glimpsed views from the road are considered within the assessment of VP13: B852 Erchite Wood, east of Loch Ness (picnic area).
Recreational Routes	
The Caledonia Way cycle route	Theoretical visibility indicated from approximately 7km of the route, within 12km to the south-east of the Site near the promoted Suidhe viewpoint on the B862, and within 20km to the north-east of the Site as the route passes along eastern shore of Loch Ness. Considered within assessment in combination with the South Loch Ness Trail.
Great Glen Way ¹⁵	Theoretical visibility indicated from approximately 800m of the route within 15km to the north-east of the Proposed Development and approximately 7km of the route at distances exceeding 19km to the north of the Proposed Development. Not considered further.
Affric Kintail Way	Theoretical visibility indicated from approximately 13km of the route within 6km to the north and 8.5km to the north-west of the Site. Actual visibility will be reduced by intervening forestry. Considered within assessment.
Great Glen Canoe Trail	Theoretical visibility indicated from a localised section of approximately 3km of the route at distances exceeding 17km to the north-east of the Proposed Development. Not considered further.
South Loch Ness Trail ¹⁶	Theoretical visibility indicated from approximately 7km of the route, within 12km to the south-east of the Site near the promoted Suidhe viewpoint on the B862, and within 20km to the north-east of the Site as the route passes along eastern shore of Loch Ness. Considered within assessment in combination with the Caledonia Way cycle route.
Trail of the Seven Lochs (following Core Paths IN25.02, IN17.10, IN17.06, IN17.01, IN12.05, IN12.02 and IN12.06)	Theoretical visibility indicated from approximately 12km of the route at distances exceeding 16km to the north-east of the Proposed Development, with coniferous forestry further reducing actual visibility. Not considered further. Glimpsed views from the route are considered within the assessment of VP16: B862 South of Dores.
Other rights of way within 5km of the Site (Other Route - H/HI53/1; Recorded)	Theoretical visibility indicated from intermittent extents of Route HI/HI67/1 within 3.6km of the Proposed Development, from intermittent extents of Route HI/HI53/1 within 3.9km of the Proposed Development, from intermittent extents of HI/HI71/1 within 2.2km of the

¹⁶ The South Loch Ness Trail forms part of the Loch Ness 360 route between Fort Augustus and Inverness via Whitebridge, Foyers, Inverfarigaig and Dores.

Route	Distance and Theoretical Visibility of Proposed Development
Right of Way HI/HI67/1; Other Route HI/HI71/1; HI/HI170/1 ¹⁷)	Proposed Development and from intermittent extents of HI/HI70/1 within 3.3km of the Proposed Development. Considered within assessment.
THC Core Path Corrimony to Tomich by River Enrick (IN05.02)	Limited visibility indicated of turbine blade tips from approximately 1.5km of the route within 3.6km to the north-west of the Proposed Development. Visibility also indicated from approximately 3km of the route within 3.5km to the west of the Proposed Development, however intervening coniferous forestry limits outward views from this section of the route. Not considered further.
THC Core Path Dog Falls/ Coire Loch circuit (IN05.01) and Carn Fiarblach circuit (IN05.09)	Visibility indicated from localised extents (500m) of IN 05.01 at distances of 9.5km to the west of the Proposed Development, with intervening woodland reducing actual visibility. Outward views from IN05.09 are limited by intervening woodland and coniferous forestry. Glimpsed views from the routes are considered within the assessment of VP5: Coire Loch Trail, Glen Affric. Not considered further.

Other Wind Farm Development

Existing Wind Farm Development

6.77 There are a number of operational wind farms and wind farms under construction located across the Study Area, as listed in **Table 6.8** below and shown on **Figures 6.7a-6.7b**. Operational wind farms and those under construction are included as part of the baseline for the LVIA and considered as part of the primary LVIA assessment.

Identification of Potential Future Developments to be included

6.78 In line with NatureScot guidance¹⁸, the scope for the assessment of potential future cumulative landscape and visual effects (i.e. beyond those with existing projects which are already determined as part of the primary LVIA) included other wind farm proposals within an initial 60km radius search area from the Proposed Development. The distribution of wind energy development in the wider area, including both existing and proposed, is shown on **Figure 6.7a**.

6.79 Wind farms within the 45km Study Area¹⁹ are listed in **Table 6.8** and shown on **Figure 6.7b** and the wireframes in **Figures 6.14 – 6.36** to illustrate the wider context. The assessment of effects focuses on developments that are likely to give rise to significant cumulative effects, and concentrates on the relationship between the Proposed Development and other operational, consented and proposed developments (i.e. developments with a valid application or awaiting determination following appeal/public inquiry). In this instance the assessment focuses on schemes within 20km of the Proposed Development, because of the limited scope for significant cumulative effects beyond this distance.

6.80 Single turbines were given consideration where it was judged that potential interactions with the Proposed Development may give rise to significant cumulative effects; this was judged to be within 5km of the Proposed Development. Proposals that had not yet progressed beyond Scoping stage were not considered within the assessment.

6.81 Wind energy developments located within the 45km radius Study Area, which are considered likely to give rise to significant cumulative effects were selected as follows:

- All wind turbines within a 5km radius of the proposed outermost wind turbines; and
- Wind farms (e.g. clusters of two or more wind turbines) with wind turbines of ≥80m maximum blade tip height within a 45km radius of the proposed outermost wind turbines.

6.82 Consented wind farms and wind farms currently in the planning system, are considered as part of the assessment of potential future cumulative effects, as they give rise to different potential future baseline scenarios.

6.83 A cut-off date of 27th October 2022 was applied for the inclusion of other developments. These are listed in **Table 6.8** below and shown on **Figures 6.7a-6.7b**.

Table 6.8: Other Wind Farms

Name	Status	Number of Turbines	Maximum Blade Tip Height (m)	Distance (km) ²⁰
Bhlaraidh Extension	Consented	15	180m	0.2km
Bhlaraidh	Operational	32	125m - 135m	0.5km
Corrimony	Operational	5	100m	3.2km
Tomchrasky	Application Submitted	14	185m	14.7km
Millennium	Operational	26	125m	17.0km
Millennium South	Consented	10	132m	17.4km
Dell	Consented ²¹	14	130.5m	19.9km
Corriegarth 2	Appeal/Public Inquiry	14	149.9m	19.9km
Corriegarth	Operational	23	120m	20.1km
Cloiche	Application Submitted	29	149.9m	20.4km
Beinneun Extension	Operational	7	136m	20.9km
Stronelairg	Operational	67	135m	20.9km
Beinneun	Operational	25	132m	22.5km
Dunmaglass	Operational	33	125m	24.0km
Bunloinn	Application Submitted	10	230m	24.9km
Aberarder	Under Construction	12	130m	25.4km
Auchmore Extension (Gaoth)	Operational	1	79m	25.4km
Auchmore	Operational	1	79m	25.6km
Fairburn	Operational	20	100m	26.9km
Kyllachy	Operational	20	110m	32.9km
Farr	Operational ²²	40	101m	33.1km
Lochluchart	Operational	17	125m	40.9km

¹⁷ Scottish Hill Tracks and Heritage Paths information provided by ScotWays 16th February 2021.

¹⁸ NatureScot (2021). Assessing the cumulative impact of onshore wind energy developments.

¹⁹ As recommended in current guidance (SNH (February 2017) Visual Representation of Wind Farms Guidance. Version 2.2) for turbines equal to or greater than 150m to blade tip.

²⁰ Approximate distance between the outermost turbines of the Proposed Development and other wind farms.

²¹ A scoping request for a revised proposal comprising 9 wind turbines at 200m maximum blade tip height was submitted to ECU in March 2022 (ECU planning reference: ECU00003440). However, given the early stage and associated uncertainty of this proposal, the previously consented application is considered within the cumulative assessment.

²² A planning application to extend the operational period of Farr Wind Farm from 25 years to 35 years (ECU reference: ECU00002123) was consented on 23rd March 2021.

Name	Status	Number of Turbines	Maximum Blade Tip Height (m)	Distance (km) ²⁰
Moy	Operational	20	125m	41.0km
Kirkan	Appeal/Public Inquiry	17	175m	41.5km
Corriemoillie	Operational	17	125m	41.6km
Lochluichart Extension	Operational	6	125m	43.1km
Lochluichart Extension II	Application Submitted	5	149.9m	44.2km

6.84 The baseline situation is constantly changing, and there may be changes to the status or list of wind energy developments considered between carrying out the assessment and the determination of the application. Unless there are substantial changes to proposals that will materially alter the pattern of development (such as the addition of a large wind farm located within a 10km radius of the Proposed Development), it is considered that the cumulative assessment undertaken for the relevant landscape and visual receptors will remain relevant.

6.85 Given the varied status, and therefore certainty, associated with un-built wind farms across the Study Area the cumulative assessment is structured so as to report on two potential development scenarios, beyond that reported upon in the primary assessment (i.e. consideration of relationship of the Proposed Development with existing developments):

- Scenario 1: higher level of certainty: the addition of the Proposed Development to a landscape with operational, under construction and consented wind farms; and
- Scenario 2: lower level of certainty: the addition of the Proposed Development to a landscape with operational, under construction, consented and undetermined valid planning applications.

6.86 The cumulative assessment focuses on the assessment of 'additional' effects, i.e. the additional effects that would arise from adding the Proposed Development to a more speculative baseline, which as well as of other built wind farms, also considered other proposed wind farms, under Scenario 1 and Scenario 2. The additional effects may vary under different scenarios, e.g. because another proposed wind farm could either result in screening of turbines (potentially reducing the effects), or may result in effects being exacerbated (i.e. made more severe).

6.87 Combined ZTVs (Figures 6.8-6.13) for other wind farms were prepared to show where ZTVs overlap and where cumulative effects may arise. This includes (in-combination) views – two wind farms seen at the same time in a similar direction - and successive views - two wind farms seen from the same location but in different directions.

General Observations – Current Baseline (Operational and Under Construction Developments)

6.88 This section describes existing and proposed patterns of development, noting for example where the presence of multiple other wind farm developments associated with particular areas, or landscape types may give rise to combined landscape and visual effects. The following sections comment on the evolving patterns that may occur in the future.

6.89 The pattern of existing wind farm development in the 45km Study Area comprises discrete clusters of development in the remote and elevated plateau landscapes, generally found to the south and east of the Site and located away from the settled glens, including the Great Glen. General observations on the location, pattern and scale of existing wind energy development across the Study Area are summarised below:

- The Proposed Development is located immediately to the north-east of the operational Bhlaraidh Wind Farm (135m maximum blade tip height), and 3.2km east of operational Corrimony Wind Farm (100m maximum blade tip height), both of which are located within the Rocky Moorland Plateau – Inverness (LCT 222).
- The operational cluster of Millennium (125m maximum blade tip height), Beinneun (133.5m maximum blade tip height) and Beinneun Extension (136m maximum blade tip height) Wind Farms is located on elevated ground between Glen Moriston and Glen Garry, approximately 17-23km to the south, south-west of the Proposed Development within the Rugged Massif – Inverness (LCT 220).

- Existing wind farm development to the east of the Great Glen is similarly located in remote plateau and comprises clusters of wind farms with perceptible gaps between, including the operational Stronelairg (135m maximum blade tip height), Corriegarth (120m maximum blade tip height), Dunmaglass (125m maximum blade tip height), Farr (101m maximum blade tip height), Kyllachy (110m maximum blade tip height) and under construction Aberarder (130m maximum blade tip height) Wind Farms located within the Rolling Uplands – Inverness (LCT 221) at distances exceeding 20km to the east of the Proposed Development.

6.90 As such, when considering the combined effects of all wind farm development across the study area, it is apparent that the Rocky Moorland Plateau – Inverness (222) LCT, Rugged Massif (220) LCT, and Rolling Uplands – Inverness (221) LCT are already associated with existing wind farms and characterised by it to a degree. Existing wind farm development is largely absent from other LCTs across the Study Area, with only limited effects arising as a result of views of wind turbines experienced from these LCTs.

6.91 The cumulative ZTV in Figure 6.8 illustrates where only the Proposed Development is theoretically visible, where only other operational and under construction wind farms within 45km are theoretically visible, and where both are theoretically visible together. The ZTV indicates that the Proposed Development will be visible from similar locations as operational wind turbines. Within 5km, the Proposed Development will introduce small areas of visibility within the Site and to the north within Glen Urquhart near Balbeg, Braefield and near Shenval, though intervening woodland and forestry will limit some visibility. Beyond 5km, the ZTV indicates introduced visibility from a small area of Loch Ness to the north-east of Drumnadrochit and approximately 1.6km of the eastern shore of Loch Ness near Erchite Wood. There will also be small areas of introduced visibility to the south of Drumnadrochit, the western slopes of Strathglass to the west of Cannich, very localised areas of Stratherrick and to the east of Fort Augustus near Borlum Hill, however intervening woodland and forestry will limit visibility. To the west of the Site, the ZTV indicates small areas of introduced visibility near Loch Affric, and a very localised section of the Affric-Kintail Way near Alltbeithe.

General Observations – Consented Developments (Operational, Under Construction, plus Consented Developments)

6.92 Consented wind farm development in the Study Area generally comprises extensions to clusters of operational wind farm development. General observations on the location, pattern and scale of existing and consented wind energy development across the Study Area are summarised below:

- The consented Bhlaraidh Extension Wind Farm (180m maximum blade tip height) will increase the extent of the operational Bhlaraidh Wind Farm further north-east and is located directly south of the Proposed Development within the Rocky Moorland Plateau – Inverness (LCT 222).
- The consented Millennium South Wind Farm (132m maximum blade tip height) is located 17.4km south-west of the Proposed Development within the cluster of development formed by operational Millennium, Beinneun and Beinneun Extension Wind Farms within the Rugged Massif – Inverness (LCT 220).
- The consented Dell Wind Farm (130.5m maximum blade tip height)²¹ will increase the extent of the operational Stronelairg Wind Farm further north, and is located 19.9km to the south-east of the Proposed Development within the Rolling Uplands – Inverness (LCT 221).

6.93 As such, when considering the future combined effects of all wind farm development across the study area (assuming a Scenario 1 baseline), it is apparent that the Rocky Moorland Plateau – Inverness (222) LCT, Rugged Massif (220) LCT, and Rolling Uplands – Inverness (221) LCT which are already associated with existing wind farm of development and characterised by it to a degree, will be changed further through the construction of further consented wind farms located in these LCTs. The existing influence and pattern wind farm developments within these LCTs will be intensified under Scenario 1, and they will continue to be strongly associated with wind energy development. Other LCTs will continue to remain largely absent of wind farm development within Scenario 1.

6.94 The cumulative ZTV in Figure 6.9 illustrates where only the Proposed Development is theoretically visible, where only other operational, under construction and consented wind farms within 45km are theoretically visible, and where both are theoretically visible together. Similar to areas of visibility of operational development, the Proposed Development will result in very limited areas of introduced visibility. Compared to Figure 6.8, areas of introduced visibility resulting from the Proposed Development will be slightly reduced, given the indicated visibility of the consented Dell Wind Farm from small areas of Loch Ness to the north-east of Drumnadrochit, where the Proposed Development and Dell Wind Farm will be seen in successive views. Areas of introduced visibility resulting from the Proposed Development will also be slightly reduced near Stratherrick and Borlum Hill, where the Proposed Development will be seen in combined views with Bhlaraidh Extension.

General Observations – Proposed Developments at Application

6.95 General observations on the location, pattern and scale of existing, consented and proposed wind energy development across the 45km Study Area are summarised below:

- Tomchrasky Wind Farm (185m maximum blade tip height, application submitted) is located 14.7km to the south-west of the Proposed Development and will increase the influence of development within the Rugged Massif – Inverness (LCT 220) to the north of Glen Moriston.
- Corriegarth 2 Wind Farm (149.9m maximum blade tip height, at public inquiry) is located 19.9km to the south-east of the Proposed Development and will slightly increase the extent of the operational Corriegarth Wind Farm further north, east and south.
- Cloiche Wind Farm (149.9m maximum blade tip height, application submitted) is located 20.4km to the south-east of the Proposed Development and will increase the extent of the Stronelairg (operational) and Dell (consented) Wind Farm cluster further west and east.
- Bunloinn Wind Farm (230m maximum blade tip height, application submitted) is located 24.9km to the south-west of the Proposed Development and will extend the influence of development within the Rugged Massif – Inverness (LCT 220) further west.
- Kirkan Wind Farm (175m maximum blade tip height, at public inquiry) is located 41.5km to the north of the Proposed Development and will increase the extent of the operational cluster formed by Lochluichart, Lochluichart Extension and Corriemollie Wind Farms further east.
- Lochluichart Extension II (149.9m maximum blade tip height, application submitted) is located 44.2km to the north of the Proposed Development and will increase the extent of the operational cluster formed by Lochluichart, Lochluichart Extension and Corriemollie Wind Farms further north.

6.96 As such, when considering the future combined effects of all wind farm development across the study area (assuming a Scenario 2 baseline), it is apparent that the Rocky Moorland Plateau – Inverness (222) LCT, Rugged Massif (220) LCT, and Rolling Uplands – Inverness (221) LCT which are already associated with existing and consented wind farm development and characterised by it to a degree, will be changed further through the construction of further proposed wind farms located in these LCTs. The existing influence and pattern wind farm developments within these LCTs will be intensified under Scenario 2, and they will continue to be strongly associated with wind energy development. Other LCTs will continue to remain largely absent of wind farm development within Scenario 2.

6.97 The cumulative ZTV in **Figure 6.10** illustrates where only the Proposed Development is theoretically visible, where only other operational, consented and proposed wind farms within 45km are theoretically visible, and where both are theoretically visible together. Similar to areas of visibility of operational and consented development, the Proposed Development will result in very limited areas of introduced visibility. Compared to **Figures 6.8** and **6.9**, areas of introduced visibility resulting from the Proposed Development will be slightly reduced, given the indicated visibility of the proposed Cloiche Wind Farm from small areas of Loch Ness to the north-east of Drumadrochit, where the Proposed Development and Cloiche Wind Farm will be seen in successive views.

Implications of Climate Change

6.98 For the north of Scotland, the UK Climate Change Projections 2018 (UKCP18) projects that temperatures are projected to increase, particularly in summer, and winter rainfall is projected to increase whilst summer rainfall is most likely to decrease. The Landscape Institute's "*Landscape for 2030*"²³ acknowledges that changes in average temperatures, precipitation and extreme weather events will have an effect on the landscape. However, whilst a change in rainfall and rising temperatures are anticipated, it is not considered that this will appreciably change the baseline landscape conditions. Mitigation associated with reducing climate change is likely to be a more noticeable change in the landscape.

Future Baseline in the Absence of the Proposed Development

6.99 In the absence of the Proposed Development, it is likely that the land will continue under the same land use and the character of the Site is unlikely to change notably. However, the landscape and visual amenity of the Study Area is likely to be influenced by

'forces for change' including further wind energy development. Forces for change are those factors affecting the evolution of the landscape and which may, consequently, affect the perception of the Study Area in the near or distant future. Although prediction of these is necessarily speculative, those of relevance are discussed briefly below.

6.100 Wind farm development is a clear force for change within this area of the Scottish Highlands and is likely to continue with further wind energy proposals emerging. **Figures 6.7a-6.7b** illustrate the location and extent of operational, consented and proposed wind farms within the wider Study Area.

6.101 Agriculture is expected to continue within the Study Area, including upland land management practices, grazing and some more limited arable farming. The expansion of woodland, including commercial forestry plantations, is also likely to remain an important land use.

Design Considerations

6.102 The design of the Proposed Development aims to achieve a coherent and balanced turbine layout, in line with guidance provided by NatureScot²⁴. The rationale behind the design strategy and documentation of the iterative design process in response to the technical and environmental constraints is identified in **Chapter 3**. The objective in designing the wind farm was to develop a layout that responds to its setting in terms of landform and pattern, and which presents a simple visual image, avoiding the clustering of turbines and the isolation of outlying turbines in views from key locations and views from sequential routes seen by a range of different receptors (people) of varying sensitivity, on balance with environmental and technical constraints.

6.103 The design of the Proposed Development also considers its interaction in both landscape and visual terms with other existing and proposed wind farms, including the adjacent operational wind farms located within the Rocky Moorland Plateau LCT and other operational and consented wind farms within the vicinity of the Great Glen. The design of the turbine layout took into consideration compatibility in scale and composition with adjacent wind energy developments as far as practical, including those currently at application stage. The appearance of the Proposed Development in views from Glen Urquhart, Meall Fuar-mhonaigh, the B862 Suidhe scenic viewpoint, and the Glen Affric NSA also formed a key consideration in the design development.

6.104 The THC Onshore Wind Energy Supplementary Guidance (November 2016) includes ten landscape and visual criteria against which development proposals will be assessed by the Council. The criteria do not set absolute requirements but seek to ensure that developers are aware of key constraints to development, which should be taken account of when progressing assessment and design of wind energy proposals. An assessment of the Proposed Development against the ten criteria is set out in **Table 6.45**.

Micrositing

6.105 Prior to construction, micrositing may take place to allow adjustment within a defined radius of the proposed turbine locations, and a similar tolerance either side of indicative access track locations. The micrositing allowance for turbines and associated infrastructure is 50m, as set out in **Chapter 4**. This will ensure that the final position of the turbines and associated infrastructure are not varied to such a degree as to cause a notable change in the predicted environmental effects but allows flexibility should unfavourable or unforeseen ground conditions be encountered. The assessment of effects will remain valid despite micrositing, should it be required.

Good Practice Measures

6.106 Landscape and visual considerations, including the appearance of the Proposed Development from key viewpoints, played a key role in the progression of the wind farm design. Consideration was given to the location of the turbines, as well as all ancillary infrastructure. Best practice guidance, including Siting and Designing Wind Farms in the Landscape (SNH, 2017) was considered throughout the design process. The development of the wind farm design is discussed in detail in **Chapter 3**. Further commitments which are made to reduce landscape and visual effects, such as the protection of vegetation and restoration of disturbed areas after construction are detailed in the Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP), Outline Peat Management Plan (Outline PMP), and Outline Restoration and Enhancement Plan (OREP).

6.107 No further additional mitigation measures were identified, and no monitoring of landscape and visual effects is proposed.

²³ https://landscapewpstorage01.blob.core.windows.net/www-landscapeinstitute-org/2021/04/12510-LANDSCAPE-2030_v6.pdf

²⁴ SNH (August 2017) Siting and Designing Wind Farms in the Landscape. Version 3a.

Assessment of Effects

6.108 The assessment of effects is based on the project description as outlined in **Chapter 4**. Unless otherwise stated, potential effects identified are considered to be negative.

6.109 The assessment of landscape and visual effects follows the methodology summarised in this chapter and set out in detail in **Appendix 6.1** and is based upon the project description outlined in **Chapter 4**. The LVIA reports on construction and operational effects separately.

Construction Effects

Sources of Effects during Construction

6.110 During the proposed 18 months construction phase, there will be potential short-term landscape effects arising from the presence of partially constructed infrastructure and construction activities on the Site (as described in **Chapter 4**). Effects occurring during the construction phase are considered to be reversible unless otherwise stated.

6.111 The construction phase for the Proposed Development will consist of the following principal activities, as outlined in **Chapter 4**:

- Construction of temporary security compound and car parking;
- The working of the borrow pit;
- Concrete batching;
- Construction of the control building and substation;
- The upgrading/creation of Site access tracks, including passing places, turning heads, junctions and drainage;
- Construction of turbine foundations and crane hardstandings at each turbine location;
- Excavation of trenches and laying of electrical and control cables adjacent to the Site tracks connecting the turbines to the control building;
- Delivery to Site and erection of wind turbines and anemometer mast (including the installation of aviation warning lighting);
- Testing and commissioning of Site equipment including wind turbines; and
- Site restoration and implementation of habitat management measures.

Landscape Effects during Construction

6.112 In terms of landscape effects during the construction phase, beyond those experienced at the Site level where construction activity will directly affect the landscape character of the Site, these will largely relate to indirect effects on landscape character resulting from views of tall cranes and turbine construction experienced from the wider Study Area. These effects will be transient and change throughout the construction period as wind turbines are gradually constructed in sections. As such, landscape effects beyond the Site during the construction phase are unlikely to exceed the level of effect associated with operational landscape effects and are not assessed separately. Potential effects on the landscape character and resources of the Site during construction are set out in **Table 6.9** below.

Table 6.9: Construction Effects on the Site

Construction Effects on the Site	
Location and baseline description:	The Site is described in detail in Site and Context section.
Sensitivity	The Site forms part of a wider upland area located to the west of the Great Glen with a relatively simple pattern of upland moorland and occasional steep-sided rocky hills. The Highland Council Onshore Wind Energy SG considers the sensitivity of LN10: Separation of Glen Urquhart and Glen Moriston, Rocky Moorland Plateau to be medium-low due to existing presence of wind farms. The

Construction Effects on the Site	
	<p>Site is located within the plateau interior of LN10, with landform to the east of the Site forming part of the distinctive skyline which contains and forms the background of views west from the Great Glen. Given this intervening landform the Site is relatively well-screened in views from the Great Glen. Whilst human influence within the Site is limited, operational wind farms within close proximity exert some influence.</p> <p>The Site access route, which utilises the existing access route for Bhlairaidh Wind Farm, is located within LN2: Glen Moriston, Wooded Glen of the Highland Council Onshore Wind Energy SG. The SG considers the sensitivity of LN2 to access infrastructure to be low, given the landscape is “<i>heavily influenced by human activity and habitation</i>”. On balance, susceptibility of the Site is judged to be medium.</p> <p>A small area in the south-east of the Site is located within the locally-designated Loch Ness and Duntelchaig SLA. The Site is inter-visible with the Glen Affric NSA, located 10.2km to the west. Overall, the landscape value of the Site is judged to be medium.</p> <p>Considering the judgements of susceptibility and value, overall sensitivity is judged to be medium.</p>
Assessment of Landscape Effects	<p>Construction activities will result in direct effects on the landscape of the Site. The main construction activities with the potential to affect the Site include excavations and track construction; the presence of tall cranes and partially built towers whilst turbines are being erected; and the movement of construction vehicles and plant. There will be large-scale changes within the Site relating to construction activity. The construction works are expected to last approximately 18 months, so will be temporary and short-term.</p> <p>The level of reversibility will be varied, from fully reversible changes associated with ground disturbances (albeit that vegetation will take some time to recover) to longer lasting effects associated with infrastructure that forms part of the operational scheme. Overall, the magnitude of change is judged to be high.</p> <p>Overall, the effect of construction on the Site will be significant (major), however these effects will be temporary and largely contained within the geographical extent of the Site. Most effects will cease following the 18-month construction period.</p>
Assessment of Cumulative Effects	<p>There are currently no other consented or proposed wind farms located within the Site therefore significant cumulative effects on the landscape of the Site during construction are considered unlikely.</p> <p>As such no significant additional cumulative landscape effects are predicted under either cumulative assessment scenario.</p>

Visual Effects during Construction

6.113 In terms of visual effects during the construction phase, beyond those experienced at the Site level where low level construction activity will be apparent in certain views, these will largely relate to views of tall cranes and turbine construction experienced from the wider Study Area. These effects will be transient and change throughout the construction period as wind turbines are gradually constructed in sections. As such, visual effects during the construction phase are unlikely to exceed the level of effect associated with operational visual effects and are not assessed separately.

Proposed Mitigation

6.114 Measures such as arrangements for vegetation and soil removal, storage and replacement and the restoration of disturbed areas after construction are detailed in a Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP) produced following consent and prior to construction, which will also include reference to Construction Method Statements (CMS).

Residual Construction Effects

6.115 The assessment of effects above assumes all construction related, best practice, mitigation measures are implemented, therefore the residual effects arising from construction will remain significant (major) and temporary.

Decommissioning

6.116 An assessment of effects during the decommissioning phase has not been undertaken in the EIA as the baseline against which to assess likely significant decommissioning effects cannot be easily predicted, and the approach to decommissioning is not currently known. However, a method statement will be prepared and agreed with the relevant statutory consultees prior to decommissioning of the Proposed Development. A draft method statement is included in the Outline CEMP which is included as **Appendix 4.1: Outline Construction and Environmental Management Plan (CEMP)**.

Operational Effects

Sources of Effects during Operation

6.117 The main likely effects of the Proposed Development on landscape and visual amenity once operational will be associated with the presence of the wind turbines, turbine transformers and ancillary infrastructure including access tracks, steel lattice anemometer mast, onsite substation and site access track as described in **Chapter 4** and shown on **Figure 4.1a-c**.

6.118 The key components of the Proposed Development of relevance to this assessment include:

- Up to 13 wind turbines (three [T1, T6 and T7] will have maximum blade tip heights of up to 180m and ten [T2, T3, T4, T5, T8, T9, T10, T11, T12 and T13] will have a maximum blade tip height of up to 200m).
- It is anticipated that six of the turbines (T1, T4, T7, T10, T12 and T13) will be fitted with visible aviation warning lights;
- Foundations supporting each wind turbine;
- Associated crane hardstandings and adjacent laydown areas at each turbine location;
- Approximately 9.3km of new access tracks which includes 8.2km standard/cut track and 1.1km of floating track;
- A total of nine new watercourse crossings and a further seven drain crossings (16 crossings in total) and associated infrastructure i.e. box or bottomless culverts;
- A network of onsite underground electrical cables and cable trenches to connect the turbines to the onsite substation;
- One permanent steel lattice anemometer mast of up to 122.5m in height;
- Vehicle turning heads;
- Onsite substation and control building;
- Onsite passing places (location and size to be determined by the turbine supplier);
- Site signage; and
- A Restoration and Enhancement Area (further details provided in **Appendix 8.5: OREP**).

Predicted Operational Effects

Table 6.10: Operational Effects on the Site

Operational Effects on the Site	
Location and baseline description	The Site is described in detail in the Site and Context section.
Sensitivity	See Table 6.9 above. Overall sensitivity is judged to be medium .

Operational Effects on the Site	
Assessment of Landscape Effects	There will be large-scale changes to the Site relating to the introduction of new features including 13 turbines and associated infrastructure (including access roads and turning areas, hard standings, and a substation) which will change the character of the Site from moorland to moorland with a wind farm. The change will be experienced within a relatively small geographical extent, limited to the west of the Site which forms a relatively small area within the wider area of moorland plateau.
Effect and Significance	The overall magnitude of change is judged to be high and taking account of the medium sensitivity will result in a major (adverse) and significant effect on the landscape of the Site.
Assessment of Cumulative Effects	There are currently no other consented or proposed wind farms located within the Site therefore significant cumulative effects on the landscape of the Site are considered unlikely. As such no significant additional cumulative landscape effects are predicted under either cumulative assessment scenario.

Operational Effects on Landscape Character Types (LCTs)

6.119 LCTs within 45km of the Proposed Development are illustrated on **Figure 6.5a**, with theoretical visibility from those LCTs located within 20km indicated by the ZTV shown on **Figure 6.5b**. The assessment describes the potential effects on landscape character resulting from the introduction of the Proposed Development during the proposed 35-year operational lifespan. It considers potential cumulative landscape effects arising in conjunction with other existing, consented and/or proposed wind farms. The assessment focuses on those LCTs where potentially significant effects are considered likely, as detailed in **Table 6.2**.

Table 6.11: Rocky Moorland Plateau – Inverness (LCT 222)

Rocky Moorland Plateau – Inverness (LCT 222), host	
Location and baseline description	<p>Within the Study Area, this LCT covers two relatively large areas of plateau, located to the north and south of Glen Urquhart. The Site is located within this LCT.</p> <p>Key characteristics include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ <i>“Open, gently rolling moorland plateaux with distinct edges descending to adjoining straths and glens or rising to merge with Rugged Massif.</i> ■ <i>Plateau with a patchy texture of small rocky outcrop hills, bogs and lochans in no clear hierarchy or discernible pattern.</i> ■ <i>Hilltops and upper slopes dominated by rocky heather moorland, except in the north east where extensive, contrasting conifer forests dominate.</i> ■ <i>Regenerating trees and scrub in glens with rivers and sheltered lower hillsides.</i> ■ <i>Strong contrast in landcover and settlement between the plateau and adjoining straths and glens.</i> ■ <i>Sparsely inhabited and little evidence of active landuse.</i> ■ <i>A few historic sites indicating past settlement and land use.</i> ■ <i>Orientation is difficult due to the lack of hierarchy, pattern and foci in the landform and landcover.</i> ■ <i>Within the plateau distance and scale are generally difficult to perceive due to the lack of elements of known size.</i> ■ <i>Distinct edges isolate the plateau from adjacent areas and give the sense of a vast, remote, upland moor.</i> ■ <i>At the plateau edges, expansive views over inhabited straths and glens create surprise.</i> ■ <i>Eastern areas have a semi-exposed character with occasional views of distant hills framed by the distinct edges of conifer forests.</i>

Rocky Moorland Plateau – Inverness (LCT 222), host	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ <i>Perception of remoteness on the open plateau, from the rugged patchy texture and absence of obvious human artefacts.</i> <p>The operational Bhlaraidh (32 turbines at 125m - 135m maximum blade tip height) and Corrimony (five turbines at 100m maximum blade tip height) Wind Farms are located within the LCT to the south-west and west of the Proposed Development, respectively. These operational developments characterise the centre and north-west of the LCT to the west of the Great Glen, south of Glen Urquhart and north of Gen Moriston, and influence the sense of scale, distance and remoteness. The physical characteristics of the LCT are still appreciable, however the presence of these existing wind turbines within the LCT exerts a combined influence on the perceptual qualities of the wider LCT including the area of the Proposed Development.</p>
THC Onshore Wind SG (2017) LCAs	<p>The LCT is identified as 'LN10: Separation of Glen Urquhart and Glen Moriston, Rocky Moorland Plateau' in the Highland Council SG. LN10 shares the same boundary as LCT 222.</p> <p>LN10 is noted as contributing to the sense of vastness, with Meall Fuar-mhonaidh forming a key location from which the Loch Ness and Duntelchaig SLA can be appreciated.</p> <p>The SG considers the LCA to be of medium-low sensitivity due to the potential for degradation caused by encirclement of the LCA by wind farms.</p>
Sensitivity	<p>The simple pattern, large scale landform and existing presence of wind farms indicate a lower susceptibility, whilst the sense of remoteness indicates a higher susceptibility to wind energy development of the type and scale proposed.</p> <p>Limited extents of the eastern edge of the LCT are located within the Loch Ness and Duntelchaig SLA. Overall, the landscape value is considered to be medium.</p> <p>Discrete areas of the LCT in which operational wind farms is located are judged to be of lower sensitivity. However, considering the judgements of susceptibility and value, overall sensitivity is judged to be medium.</p>
Assessment of Landscape Effects (Primary assessment)	<p>Direct operational effects will arise from the introduction of up to 13 wind turbines and associated infrastructure. The Site is located within the central extents of the LCT, comprising an area of gently rolling rocky moorland with scattered lochans. The Site is located directly north of the operational Bhlaraidh Wind Farm. The introduction of the Proposed Development will result in the loss of approximately 20HA of moorland vegetation.</p> <p>Figure 6.5b indicates extensive visibility from the LCT within 5km of the turbines of the Proposed Development, from elevated landform throughout the Site and to the west. Beyond 5km, visibility is indicated from elevated landform including the summit and west-facing slopes of Meall Fuar-mhonaidh in the east of the Site. Some visibility is indicated from lower-lying areas along the River Coiltie in the north-east of the Site, however the rolling nature of topography limits visibility more broadly from lower-lying areas within the LCT.</p> <p>Visibility of the turbines with visible lighting (T1, T4, T7, T10, T12, T13) will extend from dusk into the night-time within the LCT, with visibility of the turbine lighting evident across the areas indicated by Appendix 6.5, Figure A6.5.2.</p> <p>There is an evident presence of existing wind farms within the LCT, including Bhlaraidh and Corrimony Wind Farms. As indicated by the comparative ZTVs in Figure 6.8, the Proposed Development will often be seen in combination with these operational developments, with relatively limited extents of introduced visibility within the LCT indicated within the Site, directly east of the Site and to the north of Glen Urquhart. Where the wind turbines of the Proposed Development will introduce visibility of wind farms within the LCT, the Proposed Development will result in a medium scale change, indirectly affecting the sense of remoteness, lack of scale indicators and absence of</p>

Rocky Moorland Plateau – Inverness (LCT 222), host	
	<p>human influence within the LCT. However, the geographical extent of these effects is considered to be relatively small.</p> <p>Given the presence of other existing wind farms within the LCT, including the operational Bhlaraidh and Corrimony Wind Farms, the Proposed Development will often be seen in the context of existing wind farms, resulting in a medium scale change to the landscape features of the LCT.</p>
Effect and Significance	<p>The magnitude of change is judged to be medium locally, reducing to low for the LCT as a whole. Taking account of the medium sensitivity, this will result in a moderate (adverse) and significant landscape effect locally, reducing to minor (adverse) and not significant for the LCT as a whole.</p>
Assessment of Cumulative Effects under alternative baselines (Scenario 1 and 2)	<p>Scenario 1: In addition to operational wind farms which already characterise parts of this LCT, the consented Bhlaraidh Extension Wind Farm will be located within this LCT, to the south-east of the Proposed Development. Corrimony, Bhlaraidh, Bhlaraidh Extension and the Proposed Development in combination will extend across the majority of the plateau interior of the LCT. The Proposed Development and the consented Bhlaraidh Extension Wind Farm will increase the extent of the LCT affected by wind turbines, however both developments will appear as relatively small extensions to the operational scheme. The introduction of the Proposed Development under this scenario will result in a medium scale of change to relatively localised extents within the centre of the LCT. The magnitude of change will remain medium locally, reducing to low for the LCT as a whole.</p> <p>The level of effect under this scenario, which includes all consented developments, will remain minor (adverse) and not significant for the LCT as a whole.</p> <p>Scenario 2: There are currently no other proposed wind farms located within or in proximity to this LCT, however views of wind farms in adjacent LCTs will be afforded from localised extents of the LCT. The proposed Tomchrasky Wind Farm will be located within relatively close proximity to the LCT and will be evident in outward views, particularly from elevated areas in the south-west of the LCT near Dundreggan Forest. In elevated views from the LCT, the proposed Bunloinn, Corriegarth 2 and Cloiche Wind Farms will be seen in distant successive views, in a different direction of view as the Proposed Development. Whilst this will increase the extent of outward views occupied by wind turbines, other proposed wind farms will appear as relatively distant features in the view. The magnitude of change will remain medium locally, reducing to low for the LCT as a whole.</p> <p>The level of effect under this scenario, which includes all consented and proposed developments, will remain minor (adverse) and not significant for the LCT as a whole.</p>

Table 6.12: Broad Steep-Sided Glen (LCT 225)

Broad Steep-Sided Glen (LCT 225)	
Location and baseline description	<p>Within the Study Area, this LCT covers a relatively narrow linear area comprising the floor and lower slopes of the Great Glen between Aberchalder and Lochend. A small area along the eastern Site boundary is located within this LCT.</p> <p>Key characteristics include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ <i>“A clearly defined, broad, linear, steep sided, v-shaped glen and deep loch cutting through mountains and hills, with limited areas of flatter ground.</i> ■ <i>Large-scale conifer forests with small areas of open moorland covering most of the glen sides, particularly the lower slopes.</i> ■ <i>Small patches of broad leaved woodlands, mostly in side glens and close to the shore.</i> ■ <i>Agricultural land on less steep slopes, glen intersections and alluvial plains.</i>

Broad Steep-Sided Glen (LCT 225)	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ A few settlements, with a well-defined core, located at glen intersections and on gentler slopes, separated by long stretches of relatively uninhabited land. ■ Contrast between the busy trunk road and larger settlements on the west side and the quiet minor road on east side which has fewer settlements separated by large undeveloped areas. ■ Strong evidence of past settlement in the number and diversity of archaeological and historic sites from prehistoric times to the 20th Century. ■ Contrast between the visual and seasonal diversity of broadleaf woodland and bright, open pockets of farmland and the forested and moorland surroundings. ■ Contrast between the smaller scale landscapes of settled, lower slopes and the large scale moorland and forested backdrop. ■ A simple linear and enclosed visual composition of bands of land, water and sky, with long skylines of even height, and the glen and loch as unifying features. ■ Visual focus directed along the linear route of the glen or across the water to the opposite shore and up to the skyline.” <p>There are no existing wind farms within this LCT.</p>
THC Onshore Wind SG (2017) LCAs	<p>The LCT is identified as ‘LN19: Area directly around Loch Ness, Broad Steep-Sided Glen’ in the Highland Council SG. LN19 shares the same boundary as LCT 225.</p> <p>LN19 is noted as providing “the immediate setting of Loch Ness and Urquhart Castle” and forms the heart of the Loch Ness and Duntelchaig SLA.</p> <p>The SG considers the LCA to be of high sensitivity to change due to its importance in forming the setting in Key Views around Loch Ness and its location within the Loch Ness and Duntelchaig SLA.</p>
Sensitivity	<p>The dramatic scale and landform, distinctive skylines and absence of modern development indicate a high susceptibility to wind energy development of the type and scale proposed.</p> <p>The LCT is located within the Loch Ness and Duntelchaig SLA. The landscape value is therefore considered to be high.</p> <p>Considering the judgements of susceptibility and value, overall sensitivity is judged to be high.</p>
Assessment of Landscape Effects (Primary assessment)	<p>The Proposed Development will be located entirely outside of this LCT, therefore any effects will be limited to indirect effects experienced through views of the Proposed Development from within the LCT.</p> <p>Within 15-25km of the nearest turbine of the Proposed Development, Figure 6.5b indicates limited theoretical visibility from a relatively localised extent of Loch Ness to the north-east of Drumnadrochit and the eastern shore of the loch south of Dores. The wooded character of the eastern loch shore will limit actual visibility of the Proposed Development. Theoretical visibility is also indicated within 12-16km of the Proposed Development to the north and south of Drumnadrochit, however the presence of coniferous forestry within these areas will limit actual visibility.</p> <p>Visibility of the turbines with visible lighting (T1, T4, T7, T10, T12, T13) will extend from dusk into the night-time across a small proportion of this LCT, with visibility of the turbine lighting evident across the areas indicated by Appendix Figure A6.5.2.</p> <p>Where outward views south-west are afforded from the eastern shore of Loch Ness (represented by VP13), turbines of the Proposed Development will form a relatively distant feature, partially screened by elevated landform which forms the steeply-sided western slopes of the glen. In more elevated views from the east of the LCT (represented by VP16), the proposed turbines will appear slightly more visible but within a similar angle of the view as the operational Bhlaraidh Wind Farm. The</p>

Broad Steep-Sided Glen (LCT 225)	
	<p>proposed turbines will be seen against the skyline, however the scale of the turbines will not overwhelm the scale of the containing landform, and will not detract from the linear focus of the view along the loch.</p> <p>The geographical extent of similar views, and of resultant indirect landscape effects, is considered to be small. The introduction of the Proposed Development will result in a small scale change to the landscape of the LCT.</p>
Effect and Significance	<p>The overall magnitude of change is judged to be low and taking account of the high sensitivity, this will result in a minor (adverse) and not significant landscape effect.</p>
Assessment of Cumulative Effects under alternative baselines (Scenario 1 and 2)	<p>Scenario 1: There are no consented wind farms located within or in proximity to the LCT. The introduction of the consented Bhlaraidh Wind Farm will result in some areas of the LCT with additional visibility of wind turbines, though these will be relatively localised. The magnitude of change to this LCT resulting from the introduction of the Proposed Development under this scenario, which considers all consented developments, will be low and the landscape effects will be minor (adverse) and not significant.</p> <p>Scenario 2: There are currently no other proposed wind farms located within or in proximity to the LCT, and no other farms will be perceptible in views from this LCT. Therefore, no additional cumulative effects are predicted to occur for this cumulative assessment scenario. The level of effect will remain as for Scenario 1.</p>

Table 6.13: Wooded Glen – Inverness (LCT 226)

Wooded Glen – Inverness (LCT 226), host (access track)	
Location and baseline description	<p>The Site access track, which follows the existing access track for Bhlaraidh Wind Farm, will be located within this LCT. Within the Study Area, this LCT is relatively common and covers discrete narrow extents located within Glen Urquhart, Glen Moriston, Glen Strathfarrar, Glen Affric and Glen Cannich.</p> <p>Key characteristics include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ “Long glens set within uplands and mountains, divided into upper and lower glens by a cross-cutting narrow farmed strath. ■ Lower glens broader, with steep upper slopes, undulating lower slopes and a narrow floor mostly occupied by river terraces; upper glens are narrower and more rugged, influenced by the surrounding mountains. ■ Rivers, water bodies (lochs and sometimes reservoirs), river flats and areas of wetland in valley floors. ■ Balance between open and enclosed space formed by the diverse mix of landscape patterns, land uses, conifer forests, woodlands and fields. ■ Distinctive mix of rugged hillsides, extensive Caledonian pine forest and lochs in the upper glens. ■ Actively farmed and relatively settled lower glen floors, with small clusters of houses near roads, and farms and crofts in open areas at the base of slopes. ■ Contrast between the settled and farmed floor of lower glens and their open heather moorland and forests of the upper slopes. ■ Sparse settlement in upper glens, limited to a few farms and crofts, isolated lodges and clusters of estate buildings usually sheltered by trees or woodland.

Wooded Glen – Inverness (LCT 226), host (access track)	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Central, major through-road in lower glens, with minor roads along the glen sides which are integrated with the landform and settlement pattern. Single track road along the base of the upper glens, terminating at the upper edge of the glen. Large number and range of archaeological remains in the lower glens. Strong sense of history in upper glens created by the Caledonian pinewood stands. Intimate, semi-enclosed landscape within the glen floor with limited visibility, due to the screening effect of trees and landform. Distant views along the glens from open hill ground creating a feeling of openness and exposure. Increasing sense of naturalness and remoteness traversing the upper glens into mountainous interior.” <p>There are no existing wind farms within this LCT.</p>
THC Onshore Wind SG (2017) LCAs	<p>The LCT is split into two LCAs within the Highland Council SG – ‘LN1: Glen Urquhart, Wooded Glen’ located to the north of the Site and ‘LN 2: Glen Moriston, Wooded Glen’ located to the south of the Site.</p> <p>Both LN1 and LN2 are noted as transitional corridors, with LN1 contributing to a “gateway sense of arrival” at Drumnadrochit.</p> <p>The SG considers the LCAs to be of high sensitivity due to the intimate scale of the landscape and proximity of human settlement.</p>
Sensitivity	<p>The diverse landscape pattern, small scale and sense of remoteness indicate a high susceptibility to wind energy development of the type and scale proposed.</p> <p>The LCT is not located within a designated landscape. The landscape value is therefore considered to be medium.</p> <p>Considering the judgements of susceptibility and value, overall sensitivity is judged to be high.</p>
Assessment of Landscape Effects (Primary assessment)	<p>The proposed access to the Site will use the existing access track for Bhlaraidh Wind Farm, which is located within this LCT. The proposed turbines will be located entirely outside of this LCT, therefore any effects during the operational of the Proposed Development will be limited to indirect effects experienced through views of the Proposed Development from within the LCT.</p> <p>The ZTV on Figure 6.5b indicates visibility from the northern slopes of Glen Urquhart, within 6-15km of the nearest turbine of the Proposed Development. The extent of visibility will be limited by the presence of coniferous forestry. Theoretical visibility is also indicated within 7-16km of the Proposed Development from the southern slopes of Glen Moriston, however the presence of coniferous forestry within these areas will limit actual visibility. Theoretical visibility is also indicated from localised parts of the northern slopes and south-eastern slopes of Glen Affric and limited lower-lying extents within the west of the glen, within 10-30km of the Proposed Development.</p> <p>Visibility of the turbines with visible lighting (T1, T4, T7, T10, T12, T13) will extend from dusk into the night-time across a small proportion of this LCT, with visibility of the turbine lighting evident across the areas indicated by Appendix 6.5, Figure A6.5.2.</p> <p>Where outward views towards the Site are afforded from the northern slopes of Glen Urquhart, the proposed turbines will appear beyond intervening elevated landform formed by rolling moorland within the northern of the Site. Proximate existing blocks of coniferous forestry will be seen in a similar angle of the view on the lower slopes of the glen below the Proposed Development, and exert an existing human influence beyond the smaller scale settlement within the lower glen floors. In views from</p>

Wooded Glen – Inverness (LCT 226), host (access track)	
	<p>lower-lying locations within Glen Affric, the proposed turbines will appear partially screened in distant views east, beyond the operational Corrimony turbines.</p> <p>The scale of turbines in views from LCT 226 will not overwhelm that of the containing landform. Whilst the proposed turbines will be seen against the skyline in views from the LCT, the Proposed Development will occupy a relatively small proportion of the view. The geographical extent of similar views, and of resultant indirect landscape effects, is considered to be small.</p> <p>The introduction of the Proposed Development will result in a small scale change to the landscape of the LCT.</p>
Effect and Significance	<p>The overall magnitude of change is judged to be low and taking account of the high sensitivity will result in a minor (adverse) and not significant landscape effect.</p>
Assessment of Cumulative Effects under alternative baselines (Scenario 1 and 2)	<p>Scenario 1: There are currently no consented wind farms located within or in proximity to the LCT, however views of wind farms in adjacent LCTs will be afforded from localised extents of the LCT. The consented Bhlaraidh Extension Wind Farm will be seen in outward views from elevated sides of Glen Moriston and Glen Affric and will appear in combined views with the operational Bhlaraidh Wind Farm and the Proposed Development. In combination, these developments will appear as relatively distant features, partially screened by intervening landform. The magnitude of change to this LCT resulting from the introduction of the Proposed Development under this scenario, which considers all consented developments, will be low and the landscape effects will be minor (adverse) and not significant.</p> <p>Scenario 2: There are currently no other proposed wind farms located within or in proximity to the LCT, however views of wind farms in adjacent LCTs will be afforded from localised extents of the LCT. The proposed Tomchrasky Wind Farm will be located within relatively close proximity of the LCT to the north of Glen Moriston and will be evident as a skyline feature in views from the west of the glen. The proposed Bunloinn Wind Farm will also be evident as a skyline feature in views from the western extent of Glen Moriston. However, the Proposed Development is screened by intervening landform in these views. The magnitude of change to this LCT resulting from the introduction of the Proposed Development under this scenario, which considers all consented and proposed developments, will be low and the landscape effects will be minor (adverse) and not significant.</p>

Table 6.14: Rugged Massif – Inverness (LCT 220)

Rugged Massif – Inverness (LCT 220)	
Location and baseline description	<p>This LCT is located across a broad upland area to the south-west, west and north-west of the Site. This wider area is incised by lower-lying wooded glens (LCT 226) which define the area into more discrete extents.</p> <p>Key characteristics include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> “Parallel ranges of massive mountains of irregular landform divided by deep glaciated valleys. Mainly broad, sometimes rounded rugged summits connected by long ridges and relatively few individual mountain peaks, particularly in the east. Steep terrain with many mountain-side burns and occasional lochans in corries and depressions. Landcover of rock outcrops, glacial debris, deer-grazed heather and rough grassland create a smooth surface with mottled texture, with alpine habitats on high land to the west. Almost uniform texture and cover from lower to upper levels in the east makes the size of the hills difficult to perceive.

Rugged Massif – Inverness (LCT 220)	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ <i>Tracts of Caledonian pinewoods and occasional small patches of open birch woodland add colour, texture and seasonal diversity.</i> ■ <i>Largely uninhabited, few signs of human activity or human artefacts in the interior, and sparse archaeological evidence.</i> ■ <i>Hill ranges combine to create a fairly even undulating skyline and a sense of enclosure when viewed from straths.</i> ■ <i>Views from the hill tops at the edges of the massif offer expansive views of the adjacent straths and surrounding landscape character types.</i> ■ <i>A sense of remoteness and wildness which is particularly strong within the interior”</i> <p>The operational Millennium, Beinneun and Beinneun Extension Wind Farms are located within this LCT.</p>
THC Onshore Wind SG (2017) LCAs	<p>The LCT is identified as ‘LN5: Ridge between Fort Augustus and Glen Moriston, including Beinn Loinne and slopes above Tomchrasky, Rugged Massif’ in the Highland Council SG. LN5 shares the same boundary as LCT 220, with the exclusion of the area comprising Millennium Wind Farm in the south of the LCT.</p> <p>The SG considers the LCA to be of high sensitivity due to a high degree of intervisibility of the landscape within designated landscapes to the west.</p>
Sensitivity	<p>The complex topography, varied landscape texture and sense of remoteness indicate a high susceptibility to wind energy development of the type and scale proposed.</p> <p>Limited extents of the LCT are located within the Glen Affric NSA. Overall, the landscape value is considered to be medium.</p> <p>Considering the judgements of susceptibility and value, overall sensitivity is judged to be high.</p>
Assessment of Landscape Effects (Primary assessment)	<p>The Proposed Development will be located entirely outside of this LCT, therefore any effects will be limited to indirect effects experienced through views of the Proposed Development from within the LCT.</p> <p>The ZTV in Figure 6.5b indicates theoretical visibility from elevated landform and summits within 7km-25km to the north, west and south of the Proposed Development.</p> <p>Visibility of the turbines with visible lighting (T1, T4, T7, T10, T12, T13) will extend from dusk into the night-time across a small proportion of this LCT, with visibility of the distant turbine lighting evident across the areas indicated by Appendix 6.5, Figure A6.5.2.</p> <p>The Proposed Development will appear as a relatively distant feature in views with an existing presence of wind turbines, including the operational Bhlaraidh, Corrimony, Beinneun and Millennium Wind Farms in addition to more distant operational wind farms. In elevated views from the LCT, the Proposed Development will appear within a similar angle of the view as the operational Bhlaraidh Wind Farm. In views from the LCT to the west of the Proposed Development, the proposed turbines will increase the horizontal extent of the operational Bhlaraidh Wind Farm, however other operational wind farms including Corrimony and the more distant Dunmaglass also occupy parts of the view. The geographical extent of similar views, and of resultant indirect effects, is considered to be medium.</p> <p>Whilst the Proposed Development will result increase the horizontal extent of wind farms in some views from the LCT, the existing presence of operational wind farms in outward views from the LCT influences expansive views and the sense of remoteness. The Proposed Development will form a relatively distant feature in outward views from the LCT. The introduction of the Proposed Development will result in a small scale change to the landscape of the LCT.</p>

Rugged Massif – Inverness (LCT 220)	
Effect and Significance	The overall magnitude of change is judged to be low and taking account of the high sensitivity will result in a minor (adverse) and not significant landscape effect.
Assessment of Cumulative Effects under alternative baselines (Scenario 1 and 2)	<p>Scenario 1: In addition to operational wind farms whose combined effects already characterise parts of this LCT, the consented Beinneun Extension Wind Farm will be located within this LCT. It will appear as part of the cluster of turbines formed by the operational Beinneun and Millennium Wind Farms. In elevated outward views from the LCT, the Proposed Development will appear as a relatively distant feature, separate to the consented Beinneun Extension but in combination with the consented Bhlaraidh Extension. The magnitude of change to this LCT resulting from the introduction of the Proposed Development under this scenario, which includes all consented developments, will be low and the landscape effects will be minor (adverse) and not significant.</p> <p>Scenario 2: In addition to operational and consented wind farms whose combined effects already characterise parts of this LCT, the proposed Bunloinn Wind Farm (at application) proposed within this LCT and will increase the extent of wind farms further west within the LCT. The proposed Tomchrasky Wind Farm (at application) is also located within this LCT and will increase the influence of wind farms in areas of the LCT to the north-west of Glen Moriston. Where combined or successive views of these developments with the Proposed Development are afforded, the Proposed Development will appear as a relatively distant and separate feature. The magnitude of change to this LCT resulting from the introduction of the Proposed Development under this scenario, which includes all consented and proposed developments, will be low and the landscape effects will be minor (adverse) and not significant.</p>

Table 6.15: Farmed Strath – Inverness (LCT 227)

Farmed Strath – Inverness (LCT 227)	
Location and baseline description	<p>Within the Study Area, this LCT is located within the lower lying straths located to the west and north-west of the Site, and to the east of the Great Glen within Strath Errick and Strathnairn.</p> <p>Key characteristics include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ <i>“Linear to sinuous channels cut through uplands, with a central meandering river located in a flat or gently undulating strath floor, edged by the steep, rocky, side slopes.</i> ■ <i>Pronounced and dynamic river meanders of Strathglass, emphasised by riparian trees, oxbow lakes and curved wetland features.</i> ■ <i>Small scale broadleaf woodlands and small blocks of conifer forest within Strathnairn/Stratherrick strath floor which do not override openness of the strath.</i> ■ <i>A few small settlements located on the strath floor or sides and infrequent small farms, crofts, estate buildings or groups of houses.</i> ■ <i>Roads which generally relate well to landform, with a limited number of river crossing points.</i> ■ <i>Many archaeological sites in Strathnairn dating from a range of periods.</i> ■ <i>Contrast between the open, inhabited and agricultural landscape of the straths, the side slopes cloaked in alternating broadleaf woodlands, conifer forests and heather moorland, and the setting of adjacent rugged, remote uplands.</i> ■ <i>Diversity of colour and texture added by river meanders, wetlands, damp pastures and thin bands of woodland.</i> ■ <i>An overall sense of linear enclosure, which directs distant views along the strath and allows uninterrupted views of the flanking hill slopes.”</i>

Farmed Strath – Inverness (LCT 227)	
	There are no existing wind farms within this LCT.
THC Onshore Wind SG (2017) LCAs	The LCT is identified as 'LN15: Farmed Straths, Stratherrick and Strath Nairn' in the Highland Council SG. LN15 shares the same boundary as LCT 227. The SG notes the small scale of the LCA, with views contained by landform. The sensitivity of the LCA to wind energy development of the type and scale proposed is considered to be high.
Sensitivity	The smaller scale, complex landscape pattern and presence of small scale settlement indicate a higher susceptibility. Overall susceptibility to wind energy development of the type and scale proposed is considered to be high. Limited extents in the south-west and west of the LCT are located in the Loch Ness and Duntelchaig SLA. However, the overall landscape value is considered to be medium. Considering the judgements of susceptibility and value, overall sensitivity is judged to be high .
Assessment of Landscape Effects (Primary assessment)	The Proposed Development will be located entirely outside of this LCT, therefore any effects will be limited to indirect effects experienced through views of the Proposed Development from within the LCT. The ZTV on Figure 6.5b indicates theoretical visibility from localised extents of the western side slopes of Strathglass, within 8-10km to the west of the nearest turbine of the Proposed Development, and localised extents of Stratherrick within 12-27km to the east of the nearest turbine of the Proposed Development. However, the presence of coniferous forestry will limit actual visibility from these areas. Visibility of the turbines with visible lighting (T1, T4, T7, T10, T12, T13) will extend from dusk into the night-time across a small proportion of this LCT, with visibility of the distant turbine lighting evident across the areas indicated by Appendix 6.5, Figure A6.5.2 . In views from the LCT to the west of the Site (illustrated by VP4 and VP5), the Proposed Development will be partially screened by intervening landform. The Proposed Development will be seen in the same angle of the view as operational turbines of Corrimony and Bhlaraidh Wind farm, although the proposed turbines will slightly increase the prominence of turbines in the view. The steel lattice towers and conductors of the Beauly-Denny 400kv overhead line will also be seen in a similar angle of the view as the Proposed Development from some locations within the LCT. Whilst the Proposed Development will result increase the horizontal extent of wind farms in some views from the LCT, the proposed turbines will not result in a new focal feature which detracts from the focused linear views along the strath or undermine the scale of the containing side slopes of the strath. The introduction of the Proposed Development will result in a small scale change to the landscape of the LCT.
Effect and Significance	The overall magnitude of change is judged to be low and taking account of the high sensitivity will result in a minor (adverse) and not significant landscape effect.
Assessment of Cumulative Effects under alternative baselines (Scenario 1 and 2)	Scenario 1: There are currently no consented wind farms located within or in proximity to the LCT, however views of wind farms in adjacent LCTs will be afforded from localised extents of the LCT. The consented Bhlaraidh Extension will be seen in outward views from localised extents of the LCT. The consented turbines of Bhlaraidh Extension will appear slightly more prominent than the turbines of the Proposed Development. In combination, both wind farms will increase the horizontal extent of the operational Bhlaraidh Wind Farm. However, the Proposed Development will appear as a relatively discrete feature beyond the consented Bhlaraidh Extension. The magnitude of change under this scenario, which includes all consented developments, will be low and the landscape effect will be minor (adverse) and not significant .

Farmed Strath – Inverness (LCT 227)	
	Scenario 2: There are currently no other proposed wind farms located within or in proximity to the LCT, however views of wind farms in adjacent LCTs will be afforded from localised extents of the LCT. The proposed Corriegarth 2 Wind Farm (at PLI) will be glimpsed in partially screened outward views from localised extents of the LCT and will slightly increase the horizontal extent of the operational Corriegarth Wind Farm. The Proposed Development will appear as a separate development in a different angle of the view and at a greater intervening distance in outward views from the LCT. The magnitude of change under this scenario, which includes all consented and proposed developments, will be low and the landscape effect will be minor (adverse) and not significant .

Table 6.16: Rolling Uplands – Inverness (LCT 221)

Rolling Uplands – Inverness (LCT 221)	
Location and baseline description	Within the Study Area, this LCT covers a broad area of elevated landform to the east of the Great Glen. Key characteristics include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ “A series of large scale, smooth, rounded hills with summits of similar height forming broad, undulating upland plateaux containing occasional steep-sided straths. ■ Open heather moorland dominates, the uniform colour and texture accentuating the landform. ■ Straths floors contain inbye pastures, trees and small patches of woodland. ■ Conifer forests limited to the lower edges of uplands and strath sides. ■ Settlement limited to a few isolated farms in remote straths. ■ A few mainly single track roads, integrated within the landform. ■ Uninhabited interior, largely inaccessible to vehicles. ■ Archaeological evidence of settlement and farming from prehistoric times to the 19th century. ■ Striking colour and textural contrast between strath floors and moorland vegetation above. ■ Expansive views from the hill tops and plateaux create a strong sense of openness and exposure. ■ Scale and distance difficult to judge. ■ Few signs of active management in the interiors, creating a strong perception of remoteness, although this is affected by a number of large wind farm developments.” <p>The operational Stronelairg, Dunmaglass and Farr Wind Farms, and under construction Aberarder Wind Farm are located within this LCT.</p>
THC Onshore Wind SG (2017) LCAs	The LCT is identified as 'LN6: Monadhliath ridge and tops, Rolling Uplands' in the Highland Council SG. LN6 shares the same boundary as LCT 221. The SG notes that LN6 is the “most extensive landscape in the Study Area” and “although the LCA is large, it forms a strong contrast to the Rugged and Rocky LCTs which oppose it across the Great Glen”. The SG considers the LCA to be of medium sensitivity to wind energy development of the type and scale proposed due to the existing density of wind farm development and the potential for coalescence between clusters of development.

Rolling Uplands – Inverness (LCT 221)	
Sensitivity	<p>The large scale, simple landform and presence of existing wind farms indicate a low susceptibility to wind energy development of the type and scale proposed.</p> <p>Limited extents along the western edge of the LCT are located within the Loch Ness and Duntelchaig SLA and limited extents along the northern edge of the LCT are located within the Drynachan, Lochindorb and Dava Moors SLA. The eastern extents of the LCT cover a proportion of the WLA 20: Monadhliath. Overall, the landscape value is considered to be medium.</p> <p>Discrete areas of the LCT in which operational wind farms are located are judged to be of lower sensitivity. However, considering the judgements of susceptibility and value, overall sensitivity is judged to be medium.</p>
Assessment of Landscape Effects (Primary assessment)	<p>The Proposed Development will be located entirely outside of this LCT, therefore any effects will be limited to indirect effects experienced through views of the Proposed Development from within the LCT.</p> <p>The ZTV on Figure 6.5b indicates theoretical visibility from elevated landform in the west of the LCT, within 14-20km of the nearest turbine of the Proposed Development, with more localised theoretical visibility indicated from more distant summits within 25-35km of the nearest turbine of the Proposed Development.</p> <p>Visibility of the turbines with visible lighting (T1, T4, T7, T10, T12, T13) will extend from dusk into the night-time across a small proportion of this LCT, with visibility of the distant turbine lighting evident across the areas indicated by Appendix 6.5, Figure A6.5.2.</p> <p>In views from elevated landform along the western edge of the LCT (illustrated by VP8), the Proposed Development will appear as an extension to the operational Bhlaraidh Wind Farm, with turbines appearing against the skyline in relatively distant views. The Proposed Development will increase the horizontal extent of turbines in the view and in combination with the Bhlaraidh Wind Farm, existing and proposed turbines will be seen across a medium angle of distant views, increasing the number of scale indicators in outward views west from the LCT. In views from the western edge of the LCT, the Proposed Development will result in a small scale change. However, similar views within the LCT will be relatively localised and experienced from a small geographical extent.</p> <p>In more distant views from hill tops and plateau within the LCT (illustrated by VP17), the Proposed Development will appear as a distant feature in a view with an existing presence of wind farms. Given the presence of existing wind farms and distant nature of the proposed turbines in these views, the Proposed Development will lead to minimal influence on the expansive views which are characteristic of the LCT. Similar views from hill tops and plateau within the LCT will be experienced from a medium geographical extent. Overall, given the small proportion of distant views occupied by the Proposed Development from summits and plateau within the interior of the LCT, the Proposed Development will result in a small scale change to the landscape of the LCT.</p>
Effect and Significance	<p>The overall magnitude of change is judged to be low and taking account of the medium sensitivity will result in a minor (adverse) and not significant landscape effects.</p>
Assessment of Cumulative Effects under alternative baselines (Scenario 1 and 2)	<p>Scenario 1: In addition to operational wind farms whose combined effects already characterise parts of this LCT, the consented Dell Wind Farm will be located within this LCT and will slight increase the influence of the operational Stronelairg Wind Farm. The Proposed Development will be seen in combined and successive outward views with the consented Dell Wind Farm; however, each wind farm will appear as a separate scheme given the distance between the developments. Outward views of other consented schemes, including Bhlaraidh Extension and Millennium South Wind Farms, will be afforded from elevated areas of the LCT. However, these other consented wind farms will appear as relatively distant features. The magnitude of change under this scenario, which includes all</p>

Rolling Uplands – Inverness (LCT 221)	
	<p>consented developments, will be low and the landscape effect will be minor (adverse) and not significant.</p> <p>Scenario 2: In addition to operational and consented wind farms whose combined effects already characterise parts of this LCT, the proposed Corriegarth 2 (at PLI) and Cloiche (at application) Wind Farms will be located within this LCT. These developments will slightly increase the influence of operational schemes located within the LCT (Corriegarth and Stronelairg Wind Farms, respectively). However, the Proposed Development will appear as a separate and distant wind farm in outward combined and successive views from elevated areas of the LCT. Outward views of other proposed schemes, including Bunloinn and Tomchrasky Wind Farms, will be afforded from elevated areas of the LCT. However, these other proposed wind farms will appear as relatively distant features. The magnitude of change under this scenario, which includes all consented and proposed developments, will be low and the landscape effect will be minor (adverse) and not significant.</p>

Table 6.17: Interlocking Sweeping Peaks – Inverness (LCT 230)

Interlocking Sweeping Peaks – Inverness (LCT 230)	
Location and baseline description	<p>Within the Study Area, this LCT covers an area of elevated plateau and hill summits located to the west of the Site.</p> <p>Key characteristics include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ <i>“Glaciated mountainous landscapes with pyramidal rock peaks.</i> ■ <i>Sweeping, concave slopes with screes plunging directly into deep glens or lochs.</i> ■ <i>Mountain peaks and slopes often seen as repetitive elements within a group, appearing to interlock and overlap when viewed along glens and fjords.</i> ■ <i>No overall hierarchy of peaks, which tend to be connected by high level ridges aligned either side of central, u-shaped valleys.</i> ■ <i>Elegant profile due to the greater vertical to horizontal emphasis.</i> ■ <i>Sparse vegetation and few native trees.</i> ■ <i>Fragments of broadleaf woodland along watercourses and the coast, naturally relating to landscape form.</i> ■ <i>Banded landcover of rocky summits and lower slopes of grassland and heather.</i> ■ <i>Infrequent but prominent coniferous woodland plantations on accessible foot-slopes.</i> ■ <i>Largely uninhabited and few roads or structures.</i> ■ <i>Extensive high level views of peaks and ridgelines, and over to opposing sides of glens.</i> ■ <i>Expansive views of the vast mountainous interior, and the large scale pattern of glens and summits.</i> ■ <i>Low level views are enclosed, directed upwards or along glens and fjords.</i> ■ <i>Upward views dominated by the steep slopes and towering summits which reveal the vertical scale of mountains.</i> ■ <i>Wild character in the interior due to remoteness from roads and settlements, lack of evidence of modern human use, dominance of natural landforms, and vast scale of the mountain landscape.”</i> <p>There are no operational wind farms located within this LCT.</p>

Interlocking Sweeping Peaks – Inverness (LCT 230)	
THC Onshore Wind SG (2017) LCAs	The LCT is located outside of the Loch Ness Landscape Sensitivity study area in the Highland Council SG.
Sensitivity	<p>The complex landform, distinctive skylines and sense of remoteness indicate higher susceptibility, whilst the large scale and relatively simple landscape pattern indicate lower susceptibility to wind energy development of the type and scale proposed.</p> <p>The LCT is located within the Glen Affric NSA, Strathconon, Monar and Mullardoch SLA, Moidart, Morar and Glenshiel SLA, and the Central Highlands WLA. The landscape value is considered to be high.</p> <p>Considering the judgements of susceptibility and value, overall sensitivity is judged to be high.</p>
Assessment of Landscape Effects (Primary assessment)	<p>The Proposed Development will be located entirely outside of this LCT, therefore any effects will be limited to indirect effects experienced through views of the Proposed Development from within the LCT.</p> <p>The ZTV on Figure 6.5b indicates theoretical visibility from elevated landform and hill summits within 17-32km of the nearest turbine of the Proposed Development, primarily focused in the centre of the LCT (north of Glen Affric), with occasional localised visibility from elevated landform and hill summits in the north and south of the LCT.</p> <p>Visibility of the turbines with visible lighting (T1, T4, T7, T10, T12, T13) will extend from dusk into the night-time across a small proportion of this LCT, with visibility of the distant turbine lighting evident across the areas indicated by Appendix 6.5, Figure A6.5.2.</p> <p>In views from elevated landform in the centre of the LCT (similar views illustrated by VP18: Toll Creagach), the Proposed Development will appear as an extension to the north of the operational Bhlaraidh wind farm, with a slight gap between the two developments. The Proposed Development will increase the horizontal extent of turbines in views looking east, however the proposed turbines will appear as distant features occupying a small proportion of the available view, which is influenced by existing operational wind farms.</p> <p>In views from the south of the LCT (VP19: Sgurr nan Conbhairean), the Proposed Development will appear as an extension to the north of the operational Bhlaraidh wind farm. The Proposed Development will increase the horizontal extent of turbines in views looking north-east, however the proposed turbines will appear as distant features occupying a small proportion of the available view, which is influenced by existing operational wind farms.</p> <p>The introduction of the Proposed Development will result in a small scale change to views from the LCT. Similar views within the LCT will be experienced from a medium geographical extent.</p>
Effect and Significance	The magnitude of change is judged to be low for the LCT as a whole. Taking account of the high sensitivity, this will result in a minor (adverse) and not significant landscape effect.
Assessment of Cumulative Effects under alternative baselines (Scenario 1 and 2)	Scenario 1: There are currently no other consented wind farms located within or in proximity to the LCT, however views of wind farms in adjacent LCTs will be afforded from localised extents of the LCT. The consented Bhlaraidh Extension Wind Farm will appear in combined views with the Proposed Development and the operational Bhlaraidh Wind Farm, with all three developments typically appearing as one continuous development in outward views from the LCT. The consented Dell Wind Farm will appear as a barely perceptible feature in distant views south-east, beyond the operational Stronelaig Wind Farm. The consented Millennium South Wind Farm will appear as a distant and relatively discrete feature, beyond the operational Millennium Wind Farm. Given the distant nature of views of other consented developments, the cumulative magnitude of change will be low and the landscape effect will be minor (adverse) and not significant .

Interlocking Sweeping Peaks – Inverness (LCT 230)	
	Scenario 2: There are currently no other proposed wind farms located within or in proximity to the LCT, however views of wind farms in adjacent LCTs will be afforded from localised extents of the LCT. The proposed Bunloinn Wind Farm (at application) and Tomchrasky Wind Farm (at application) will appear relatively evident in outward views south-east from the elevated southern extents of the LCT near Sgurr nan Conbhairean and Aonach Shasuinn. The Proposed Development will appear as a separate and more distant scheme in successive views with the proposed Bunloinn and Tomchrasky Wind Farms. Outward views of other proposed schemes, including Corriegarth 2 Wind Farm (at PLI) and Cloiche Wind Farm (at application), will be afforded from elevated areas of the LCT. However, these other consented wind farms will appear as relatively distant features. The cumulative magnitude of change will be low, and the landscape effect will be minor (adverse) and not significant .

Visual Effects

6.120 This section presents the findings of the assessment of likely significant effects of the Proposed Development on views and visual amenity for receptors identified across the study area.

Effects on Visual Receptors at Viewpoints

6.121 The assessment of visual effects from the 20 viewpoints selected to represent views of the Proposed Development is set out below (as listed in **Table 6.5** above and shown on **Figures 6.2a-6.2c**). This assessment assumes that all effects are long-term, during the proposed 35-year operational lifespan of the Proposed Development, and reversible, unless stated otherwise.

6.122 Accompanying visualisations for each assessment viewpoint are contained in **Volume 3a-b: NatureScot LVIA Visualisations** and **Volume 4a-b: The Highland Council (THC) LVIA Visualisations** of the EIA Report prepared in accordance with the methodology set out in **Appendix 6.2**.

Table 6.18: Viewpoint 1: Affric Kintail Way, near Braefield

Viewpoint 1: Affric Kintail Way, near Braefield			
Grid Reference (NGR)	240594	830432	Figure Number Figure 6.14
LCT	Wooded Glen – Inverness (LCT 226)	Landscape Designation or Wild Land Area	None
Direction of view	South	Distance to nearest turbine	5.8km
Number of hubs theoretically visible	1	Number of turbines with blades theoretically visible	6
Viewpoint location and existing view	<p>This viewpoint is located on the Affric Kintail Way, on a section of the route that has been recently realigned along tracks north of the A831 and passes through mixed woodland and forestry between Braefield and Buntait. The viewpoint represents views experienced by recreational receptors on the Affric Kintail Way and similar views experienced from nearby residential properties.</p> <p>The foreground of the view looking south is formed by an area of felled forestry with occasional scrub and grassland. Glen Urquhart extends through the middle distance of the view from south-east to south-west and relatively small clusters of residential properties are seen scattered along the floor of the glen. The forested southern slopes of the glen are seen beyond. Landform located along the northern Site boundary, including Suidhe Ghuirmain, Carn na h-Imrich and Carn Macsna forms the background and skyline of views south. The distant summits of Sgurr na Lapaich, Mam Sodhail, Tom a'Choinich and Toll Creagach in Glen Affric form the skyline of views south-west. Views north-west to east are foreshortened by woodland and forestry in the middle distance of the view.</p> <p>There are no views of existing wind farms from this location.</p>		

Viewpoint 1: Affric Kintail Way, near Braefield	
Sensitivity	<p>Recreational receptors, whose attention is focused on their surroundings, and residential receptors are considered to be of high susceptibility to changes in the view.</p> <p>The viewpoint is not located within a designated landscape or a recognised stopping point or promoted view. The value of the view is considered to be medium.</p> <p>On balance, taking account of the judgements of susceptibility and value, overall sensitivity of receptors at this viewpoint is judged to be high.</p>
Assessment of Visual Effects (Primary assessment)	<p>The hub and blade tips of one turbine and the partial blade tips of a further five turbines will be seen against the skyline in the middle distance of views looking south. Turbines will be partially screened by the ridgeline formed by elevated rolling moorland in the north of the Site, with turbine T12 forming an evident feature against the skyline. The blade tips of other visible turbines will be less apparent beyond intervening landform. Ancillary infrastructure and tracks will be screened by intervening landform. Given screening of the Proposed Development by intervening landform, wind turbines will occupy a relatively small proportion of the view looking south from this location. However, the Proposed Development will introduce wind turbines above the horizon of the enclosing southern slopes of the glen.</p> <p>Visibility of the turbines with visible lighting (T12 and potentially T13 in close proximity to the viewpoint) will be evident from this location as indicated by Appendix 6.5, Figure A6.5.2. Turbines T12 and T13 will have visible lighting at between 14.5 cd and 13.8cd under clear conditions.</p> <p>Similar views, in which the Proposed Development will be perceived to introduce wind turbines into the view, will be experienced from localised extents of the north-western slopes of Glen Urquhart near this viewpoint location, and from a relatively short section of the Affric Kintail Way as the route passes north of the A831 towards forestry to the north-east of Buntait. The operational Corrimony Wind Farm will be seen in views from extents of the minor road and nearby residential properties approximately 600m to the north-west of the viewpoint location. In views from sections of the road in which the operational Corrimony Wind Farm is visible, visibility of the Proposed Development is limited to the partially screened blade tips of three or four turbines. In views from the lower-lying extents of Glen Urquhart, the enclosing southern slopes of the glen, woodland and coniferous forestry screen and filter views towards the Site. The geographical extent of similar views is therefore considered to be small.</p> <p>The introduction of the Proposed Development will result in a medium scale change to the view, primarily resulting from the skyline feature formed by Turbine T12.</p>
Effect and Significance	The overall magnitude of change is judged to be low and taking account of the high sensitivity will result in a moderate (adverse) and significant visual effect.
Assessment of Cumulative Effects under alternative baselines (Scenario 1 and 2)	No other consented or proposed wind energy developments will be perceptible in views from this location therefore no additional cumulative visual effects are predicted to occur for either cumulative assessment scenario. The level of effect will therefore remain as identified in the primary assessment.

Table 6.19: Viewpoint 2: Meall Fuar-mhonaidh

Viewpoint 2: Meall Fuar-mhonaidh			
Grid Reference (NGR)	245705	822209	Figure Number
LCT	Rocky Moorland Plateau – Inverness (LCT 222)		Figure 6.15
Direction of view	North-west	Landscape Designation or Wild Land Area	Loch Ness and Duntelchaig SLA
		Distance to nearest turbine	7.1km

Viewpoint 2: Meall Fuar-mhonaidh			
Number of hubs theoretically visible	13	Number of turbines with blades theoretically visible	13
Viewpoint location and existing view	<p>This viewpoint is located on the western cairn at the summit of Meall Fuar-mhonaidh (699m AOD), a popular hill summit within the Loch Ness and Duntelchaig SLA. The viewpoint represents views experienced by recreational receptors.</p> <p>From this location, the foreground of the view north-west comprises rolling moorland plateau with occasional rocky outcrops and lochans, which extend from the foreground to the middle distance of the view. More distant summits within the Central Highlands WLA form the background of long-distance views north-west. Given the elevated nature of this viewpoint and its proximity to the Site, direct views into the Site are afforded from this location.</p> <p>Looking south-east to north-east, landform descends to Loch Ness in the middle distance of the view. Views of the loch directly east are screened by intervening localised landform, however forested elevated landform at Carn Dearg (298m AOD) is seen in the middle-distance of the view, with views afforded of Stratherrick beyond. Loch Mhor is seen in the base of the strath in longer-distance views at the western base of Carn Choire Riabhaich and Carn na Glaice Moire. More distant rolling landform of the Monadhliath Mountains forms the background of views south-east.</p> <p>Turbine hubs and blade tips of Bhlaraidh Wind Farm are seen backclothed in views south-west. Turbine hubs and blade tips of the Millennium and Beinneun Wind Farms are seen partially against the skyline in longer-distance views to the south, south-west across Glen Moriston. On the opposite side of the Great Glen, Corriegarth Wind Farm is seen in longer-distance views south-east from this location. Turbine hubs and blade tips of the operational Dunmaglass Wind Farm are seen partially against the skyline in long-distance views further north, north-east. Wind turbines of Farr and Moy Wind Farms form relatively distant features in longer-distance views further north. Blade tips of the operational Stronelairg Wind Farm are seen partially screened beyond intervening landform in longer-distance views south-east.</p>		
Sensitivity	<p>Recreational receptors, whose attention is focused on their surroundings, are considered to be of high susceptibility to changes in the view.</p> <p>This viewpoint is located on a popular summit within the Loch Ness and Duntelchaig SLA. The value of the view is therefore considered to be high.</p> <p>On balance, taking account of the judgements of susceptibility and value, overall sensitivity of receptors at this viewpoint is judged to be high.</p>		
Assessment of Visual Effects (Primary assessment)	<p>The hubs and blade tips of all thirteen turbines will be seen extending across the middle distance of views looking north-west, backclothed by more distant landform. The Proposed Development will appear to the north of the operational Bhlaraidh Wind Farm and will increase the horizontal extent of turbines in the view, with a slight gap between the two developments. Proposed turbines will appear perceptibly closer in the view than the operational Bhlaraidh Wind Farm turbines, however the proposed turbines will appear evenly spaced with a balanced composition across the cluster. The Proposed Development will occupy a large proportion of the view looking north-west from this location. Ancillary infrastructure, including the met mast, substation, hardstandings and onsite access tracks will be visible in the middle distance of views, though occasionally screened by intervening landform.</p> <p>Visibility of the turbines with visible lighting will be evident from this location as indicated by Appendix 6.5, Figure A6.5.2 and Appendix 6.5, Annex A. Turbine T1, T4, T7, T10, T12 and T13 will have visible lighting at between 245.2cd and 237.9cd under clear conditions.</p> <p>Similar views will be experienced from relatively localised extents of the hill summit and its west-facing slopes. Views of the Proposed Development are largely screened by intervening landform in</p>		

Viewpoint 2: Meall Fuar-mhonaidh	
	<p>the approach to the hill summit from the north-east. The geographical extent of similar views is therefore considered to be small.</p> <p>The Proposed Development will appear in elevated panoramic views with an existing presence of wind farms. However, the proposed turbines will appear more prominently and closer in the view than existing turbines. The introduction of the Proposed Development will result in a large scale change to the view.</p>
Effect and Significance	The overall magnitude of change is judged to be high and taking account of the high sensitivity will result in a major (adverse) and significant visual effect.
Assessment of Cumulative Effects under alternative baselines (Scenario 1 and 2)	<p>Scenario 1: The consented Bhlaraidh Extension will be seen in combined middle-distance views with the Proposed Development and operational Bhlaraidh Wind Farm. The consented Bhlaraidh Extension will bring turbines perceptibly closer in the view and will appear slightly more prominent than the turbines of the Proposed Development. In combination, Bhlaraidh, Bhlaraidh Extension and the Proposed Development will appear as a cluster of development extending across a wide angle of the view. Turbines will be backclothed by more distant landform. Other more distant wind farms will increase the influence of wind farms in the panoramic views afforded from this location. The consented Millennium South Wind Farm will be seen in long-distance successive views south-west in combination with the operational Millennium and Beinneun Wind Farms. Wind turbines will form a relatively distant feature with some hubs and blade tips seen against the skyline. The consented Dell Wind Farm will be seen in long-distance successive views south, south-east in combination with the operational Stronelairg Wind Farm. Under this scenario, the Proposed Development will appear as an extension to the operational Bhlaraidh Wind Farm and consented Bhlaraidh Extension Wind Farm. The addition of the Proposed Development to this scenario, which includes all consented developments, will result in a medium scale change. The magnitude of change to views under Scenario 1 will be medium and the visual effect will be moderate (adverse) and significant.</p> <p>Scenario 2: Tomchrasky Wind Farm (at application) will be seen in long-distance successive views south-west. Turbines will slightly increase the horizontal extent of the operational Bhlaraidh Wind Farm, though appearing as a more distant and separate development. Bunloinn Wind Farm (at application) will be seen in long-distance successive views south-west. Turbines will appear as relatively distant features and will introduce turbines into the angle of the view between Bhlaraidh Wind Farm and Beinneun Wind Farm. Cloiche Wind Farm (at application) will be seen in long-distance successive views south-east. Turbines will appear as relatively distant features, however the development will extend across a wide angle of the view and will increase the horizontal extent of development beyond the operational Stronelairg Wind Farm and consented Dell Wind Farm. Corriegarth 2 (at PLI) will be seen in long-distance successive views east, slightly increasing the horizontal extent of the operational Corriegarth Wind Farm. These proposed developments will appear in a different angle of view as the Proposed Development. The addition of the Proposed Development to this scenario, which includes all consented and proposed developments, will increase the proportion of successive panoramic views occupied by wind turbines. However, other proposed wind farms will appear in a separate angle of the view as the Proposed Development and the consented Bhlaraidh Extension Wind Farm. The magnitude of change to views under Scenario 2 will remain medium and the visual effect will be moderate (adverse) and significant, as for Scenario 1.</p>

Table 6.20: Viewpoint 3: Balbeg

Viewpoint 3: Balbeg			
Grid Reference (NGR)	244713	831254	Figure Number
			Figure 6.16

Viewpoint 3: Balbeg			
LCT	Wooded Glen – Inverness (LCT 226)	Landscape Designation or Wild Land Area	None
Direction of view	South-west	Distance to nearest turbine	8.9km
Number of hubs theoretically visible	0	Number of turbines with blades theoretically visible	3
Viewpoint location and existing view	<p>This viewpoint is located at a cluster of residential properties at Balbeg, on the lower northern slopes of Glen Urquhart. The viewpoint represents views experienced by residential receptors from slightly elevated locations within Glen Urquhart.</p> <p>The foreground of the view south-west comprises rolling rough grazing fields bound by post and wire fencing. Scattered residential properties are seen extending across the middle distance and longer-distance views. The floor of the glen and Loch Meiklie is glimpsed in views south-west in between dips in intervening rolling landform and woodland. The skyline is formed by partially forested landform which contains the glen to the south. Distant views to the east, west and north are foreshortened by intervening vegetation and localised landform.</p> <p>Elevated landform within the north of the Site, including the ridgeline between Suidhe Guimain and Carn na h-Imrich forms part of the skyline in views south-west and screens views into the interior of the Site.</p> <p>There are no views of existing wind farms from this location.</p>		
Sensitivity	<p>Residential receptors are considered to be of high susceptibility to changes in the view.</p> <p>The viewpoint is not located within a designated landscape or a recognised stopping point or promoted view. The value of the view is considered to be medium.</p> <p>On balance, taking account of the judgements of susceptibility and value, overall sensitivity of receptors at this viewpoint is judged to be high.</p>		
Assessment of Visual Effects (Primary assessment)	<p>The partial blade tips of three turbines will be seen against the skyline in the middle distance of views looking south-west. Turbines will be mostly screened by the ridgeline formed by elevated rolling moorland in the north of the Site. The blade tips of two of the three visible turbines will be barely perceptible beyond intervening landform. The proposed turbines will occupy a relatively small proportion of views looking south-west; however, the Proposed Development will introduce wind turbines into the view. Ground-level ancillary infrastructure and tracks will be screened by intervening landform. The top of the steel lattice anemometer mast will be glimpsed beyond intervening landform, though barely perceptible given the intervening distance (approximately 9km).</p> <p>No visibility of the turbines with visible lighting will be evident from this location as indicated by Appendix 6.5, Figure A6.5.2 and Appendix 6.5, Annex A.</p> <p>Similar views, in which the Proposed Development will be perceived to introduce wind turbines into the view, will be experienced from localised extents of the north-eastern slopes of Glen Urquhart to the north-east of Loch Meiklie. In views from the lower-lying extents of Glen Urquhart, the enclosing southern slopes of the glen, woodland and coniferous forestry screen and filter views towards the Site. The geographical extent of similar views is therefore considered to be small.</p> <p>Given the screening of the Proposed Development by intervening landform and the small proportion of the view which will be occupied by the proposed turbines, the introduction of the Proposed Development will result in a small scale change to the view.</p>		
Effect and Significance	The overall magnitude of change is judged to be low and taking account of the high sensitivity will result in a minor (adverse) and not significant visual effect.		

Viewpoint 3: Balbeg	
Assessment of Cumulative Effects under alternative baselines (Scenario 1 and 2)	No other consented or proposed wind energy developments will be perceptible in views from this location therefore no additional cumulative visual effects are predicted to occur for either cumulative assessment scenario. The level of effect will therefore remain as identified in the primary assessment.

Table 6.21: Viewpoint 4: Affric Kintail Way West of Cannich

Viewpoint 4: Affric Kintail Way West of Cannich			
Grid Reference (NGR)	232532	831570	Figure Number Figure 6.17
LCT	Farmed Strath – Inverness (LCT 227)	Landscape Designation or Wild Land Area	None
Direction of view	South-east	Distance to nearest turbine	9.4km
Number of hubs theoretically visible	1	Number of turbines with blades theoretically visible	4
Viewpoint location and existing view	<p>This viewpoint is located on the Affric Kintail Way to the south-west of Cannich. The viewpoint represents views experienced by recreational receptors.</p> <p>This section of the Affric Kintail Way passes on a minor road and tracks through forestry at Comar Wood. The foreground of the view south-east comprises recently felled forestry, which has opened views to the south-east and south from this location. Intervening landform screens views into Strath Glass, however mixed woodland and forestry on the lower slopes near Kerrow are seen in longer-distance views. Landform on the opposite side of Strath Glass, including Carn Bingally and Carn na Doire Leithe form the skyline of views south-east. Views into the Site are partially screened by intervening landform along the western Site boundary, including Carn Bingally.</p> <p>Views north, south and south-west are foreshortened by coniferous forestry in the middle distance of the view. Intervening localised landform partially foreshortens views north.</p> <p>The Beaully-Denny 400kv overhead line is seen extending across successive views south-east to north-east, and is seen against the skyline in views north-east. Turbine blade tips of the operational Bhlaraidh Wind Farm are barely perceptible beyond intervening landform in views south-east. The blade tips of two turbines of the operational Corrimony Wind Farm are seen partially screened beyond intervening landform in views south-east.</p>		
Sensitivity	<p>Recreational receptors, whose attention is focused on their surroundings, are considered to be of high susceptibility to changes in the view.</p> <p>The viewpoint is not located within a designated landscape or a recognised stopping point or promoted view. The value of the view is considered to be medium.</p> <p>On balance, taking account of the judgements of susceptibility and value, overall sensitivity of receptors at this viewpoint is judged to be high.</p>		
Assessment of Visual Effects (Primary assessment)	<p>The hubs and blade tips of one turbine (T13) and the partial blade tips of a further three turbines will be seen against the skyline in views looking south-east. The ridgeline formed by elevated rolling moorland along the western Site boundary will partially screen turbines. The Proposed Development will be seen to the north of Carn Bingally, with blade tips of the operational Bhlaraidh and Corrimony Wind Farms glimpsed beyond intervening landform to the south of Carn Bingally. The Proposed Development will be seen in a similar angle of the view as steel lattice towers and conductors of the Beaully-Denny 400kv overhead line, which passes on the lower sides of the strath below the proposed turbines. The proposed turbines will occupy a relatively small proportion of views looking</p>		

Viewpoint 4: Affric Kintail Way West of Cannich	
	<p>south-east, though slightly increasing the prominence of turbines in the view. Ancillary infrastructure and tracks will be screened by intervening landform.</p> <p>Visibility of the only turbine (T13) with visible lighting will be evident from this location as indicated by Appendix 6.5, Figure A6.5.2 and Appendix 6.5, Annex A. Turbine T13 will have visible lighting 21.2cd under clear conditions.</p> <p>Similar views will be experienced from limited extents of the Affric Kintail Way as it passes to the west of Strathglass, given the presence of coniferous forestry which screens outwards views from much of this section of the route. The geographical extent of similar views is therefore considered to be small.</p> <p>Given the screening of the Proposed Development by intervening landform and the small proportion of the view which will be occupied by the proposed turbines, the introduction of the Proposed Development will result in a small scale change to the view.</p>
Effect and Significance	The overall magnitude of change is judged to be low and taking account of the high sensitivity will result in a minor (adverse) and not significant visual effect.
Assessment of Cumulative Effects under alternative baselines (Scenario 1 and 2)	No other consented or proposed wind energy developments will be perceptible in views from this location therefore no additional cumulative visual effects are predicted to occur for either cumulative assessment scenario. The level of effect will therefore remain as identified in the primary assessment.

Table 6.22: Viewpoint 5: Coire Loch Trail, Glen Affric

Viewpoint 5: Coire Loch Trail, Glen Affric			
Grid Reference (NGR)	229330	828255	Figure Number Figure 6.18
LCT	Farmed Strath – Inverness (LCT 227)	Landscape Designation or Wild Land Area	Strathconan, Monar and Mullardoch SLA
Direction of view	South-east	Distance to nearest turbine	9.4km
Number of hubs theoretically visible	5	Number of turbines with blades theoretically visible	13
Viewpoint location and existing view	<p>This viewpoint is located on the Coire Loch Trail in the Glen Affric National Nature Reserve. The viewpoint represents views experienced by recreational receptors within Glen Affric.</p> <p>Outward views from the trail are often screened by intervening woodland, however distant framed outward views east and south-east are afforded from this location due to a break in intervening vegetation. The foreground of the view comprises descending landform. Coire Loch is seen at lower elevation in the middle distance of the view. Rising landform with mixed woodland and forestry is seen on the opposite side of the loch, partially forming the skyline in views to the south-east. Views into the Site are screened by the ridgeline between Suidhe Germain and Meall a'Chrathaich along the western Site boundary, which forms the skyline in views south-east from this location.</p> <p>Turbine hubs and blade tips of the operational Corrimony Wind Farm are seen against the skyline in views south-east. Coniferous forestry, which forms part of the skyline, partially screens the southernmost turbines of Corrimony Wind Farm. However, the northernmost turbines of Corrimony Wind Farm form evident skyline features. The existing visible turbine lighting on Corrimony Wind Farm is evident from this viewpoint.</p>		

Viewpoint 5: Coire Loch Trail, Glen Affric	
	The Beaully-Denny 400kv overhead line is seen extending across distant views to the south-east to north-east. Steel lattice towers are mostly backclothed by more distant landform, with one tower breaking the skyline in views north-east.
Sensitivity	<p>Recreational receptors, whose attention is focused on their surroundings, are considered to be of high susceptibility to changes in the view.</p> <p>The viewpoint is located within the Strathconan, Monar and Mullardoch SLA. The value of the view is therefore considered to be high.</p> <p>On balance, taking account of the judgements of susceptibility and value, overall sensitivity of receptors at this viewpoint is judged to be high.</p>
Assessment of Visual Effects (Primary assessment)	<p>The hubs and blade tips of five turbines and the partial blade tips of a further eight turbines will be seen against the skyline in views looking south-east. The ridgeline formed by elevated rolling moorland along the western Site boundary will partially screen turbines. The Proposed Development will be seen in a similar direction of the view as existing turbines of the operational Corrimony Wind Farm, however, the Proposed Development will increase the horizontal extent of wind turbines across a medium proportion of the view. Turbines of the Proposed Development (T3, T6) will appear to fill in an existing gap between the operational Corrimony turbines, although with some overlapping of the proposed turbines. The Proposed Development will also be seen beyond steel lattice towers and conductors of the Beaully-Denny 400kv overhead line, which passes at lower elevation below the proposed turbines. Given containment and screening by intervening landform along the western Site boundary, turbines of the Proposed Development will appear comparable in vertical scale as the turbines of the operational Corrimony Wind Farm. Ancillary infrastructure and tracks will be screened by intervening landform.</p> <p>Visibility of the turbines with visible lighting will be evident from this location as indicated by Appendix 6.5, Figure A6.5.2 and Appendix 6.5, Annex A. Turbine T1, T7, T10 and T12 will have visible lighting at between 30.9cd and 23.9cd under clear conditions.</p> <p>The presence of forestry and woodland limits outward views from the eastern extents of Glen Affric and the Coire Loch Trail. Similar views will be experienced from a relatively short, elevated section of the trail from which framed outward views south-east are available. The geographical extent of similar views is therefore considered to be small.</p> <p>Given the Proposed Development will increase the horizontal extent of turbines across a medium proportion of the view, the introduction of the Proposed Development will result in a medium scale change to the view.</p>
Effect and Significance	The overall magnitude of change is judged to be medium and taking account of the high sensitivity will result in a moderate (adverse) and significant visual effect.
Assessment of Cumulative Effects under alternative baselines (Scenario 1 and 2)	<p>Scenario 1: The blade tips of two turbines of the consented Bhlaraidh Extension will be barely glimpsed beyond intervening landform and will therefore have limited interaction with the Proposed Development. The magnitude of change under this scenario, which includes all consented developments, will remain medium, resulting in a moderate (adverse) and significant visual effect.</p> <p>Scenario 2: No other proposed wind energy developments will be perceptible in views from this location therefore no additional cumulative visual effects are predicted to occur for this cumulative assessment scenario. The level of effect will therefore remain as identified for Scenario 1.</p>

Table 6.23: Viewpoint 6: B862 near Whitebridge

Viewpoint 6: B862 near Whitebridge			
Grid Reference (NGR)	249265	816161	Figure Number Figure 6.19
LCT	Farmed Strath – Inverness (LCT 227)	Landscape Designation or Wild Land Area	Loch Ness and Duntelchaig SLA
Direction of view	North-west	Distance to nearest turbine	12.8km
Number of hubs theoretically visible	0	Number of turbines with blades theoretically visible	9
Viewpoint location and existing view	<p>This viewpoint is located on the B862 in Stratherrick, to the north of the small settlement of Whitebridge. The viewpoint represents views experienced by road users, recreational receptors (NCN Route 1) and nearby residential receptors.</p> <p>The foreground of the view north-west comprises rough grazing fields bound by post and wire fencing. Woodland associated with the River Foyers and a small block of coniferous forestry near Dell Farm is seen in the middle distance of the view. Rolling landform at Creag Mhor and forested landform at Carn Dearg are seen in more distant views. Landform on the opposite side of the Great Glen, including Meall Fuar-mhonaidh, Creag Chearg and Meall na Sroine, forms the skyline in more distant views west and north-west.</p> <p>Views to the east are foreshortened by intervening localised landform and vegetation.</p> <p>Blade tips of the operational Bhlaraidh Wind Farm are barely perceptible beyond intervening landform in views west, north-west.</p>		
Sensitivity	<p>Residential and recreational receptors are considered to be of high susceptibility to changes in the view. Road users are considered to be of low susceptibility to changes in the view.</p> <p>This viewpoint is located to the east of the boundary of the Loch Ness and Duntelchaig SLA, however views are not considered to be distinctive or display key characteristics of the SLA. The value of the view is considered medium.</p> <p>On balance, taking account of the judgements of susceptibility and value, overall sensitivity of receptors at this viewpoint is judged to be high.</p>		
Assessment of Visual Effects (Primary assessment)	<p>The partial blade tips of nine turbines will appear against the skyline, though mostly screened by intervening landform in distant views north-west. Blade tips of the operational Bhlaraidh Wind Farm are screened by forested landform which rises in the middle distance of the view. The Proposed Development will be perceived to introduce wind turbines into the view, however the proposed turbines will occupy a small proportion of the view with many blade tips appearing barely perceptible beyond intervening landform. Ancillary infrastructure and tracks will be screened by intervening landform.</p> <p>No visibility of the turbines with visible lighting will be evident from this location as indicated by Appendix 6.5, Figure A6.5.2 and Appendix 6.5, Annex A.</p> <p>Similar views, in which the Proposed Development will be perceived to introduce wind turbines into the view, will be experienced from a very localised section of the B862 near the viewpoint. Outward views north-east from other parts of Stratherrick towards the Site are limited by intervening landform and coniferous forestry. The geographical extent of similar views is therefore considered to be small.</p> <p>Given the screening of the Proposed Development by intervening landform and the small proportion of the view which will be occupied by the proposed turbines, the introduction of the Proposed Development will result in a small scale change to the view.</p>		

Viewpoint 6: B862 near Whitebridge	
Effect and Significance	The overall magnitude of change is judged to be low and taking account of the high sensitivity will result in a minor (adverse) and not significant visual effect.
Assessment of Cumulative Effects under alternative baselines (Scenario 1 and 2)	<p>Scenario 1: The consented Bhlaraidh Extension will be seen in combined views with the Proposed Development, with turbine blade hubs and blade tips appearing against the skyline beyond intervening landform. The consented turbines of Bhlaraidh Extension will appear more prominent than the turbines of the Proposed Development and will increase the horizontal extent of the operational Bhlaraidh Wind Farm. The Proposed Development will appear as a relatively discrete feature beyond the consented Bhlaraidh Extension. The magnitude of change to views under Scenario 1, which includes all consented developments, will remain low and the visual effect will remain minor (adverse) and not significant.</p> <p>Scenario 2: Views east towards the proposed Corriegarth 2 Wind Farm (at PLI) will be screened by intervening woodland. No other proposed wind energy developments will be perceptible in views from this location therefore no additional cumulative visual effects are predicted to occur for this cumulative assessment scenario, which includes all consented and proposed developments. The level of effect will therefore remain as identified for Scenario 1.</p>

Table 6.24: Viewpoint 7: A833 near Balnagrantach

Viewpoint 7: A833 near Balnagrantach			
Grid Reference (NGR)	249825	832423	Figure Number Figure 6.20
LCT	Wooded Glen – Inverness (LCT 226)	Landscape Designation or Wild Land Area	None
Direction of view	South-west	Distance to nearest turbine	13.7km
Number of hubs theoretically visible	2	Number of turbines with blades theoretically visible	8
Viewpoint location and existing view	<p>This viewpoint is located on the A833, approximately 700m north of Balnagrantach. The viewpoint represents views experienced by road users and nearby residential receptors.</p> <p>Views south-west are glimpsed from a relatively short section of the road in between intervening roadside vegetation. The foreground of the view south-west comprises rolling heather moorland with occasional pockets of mixed woodland. A trident wood pole overhead electricity line crosses the middle distance of the view. Distant partially forested landform, including Carn na h-Imrich, Carn Macsna, Sron Dubh and Glas-bheinn Mhor, forms the skyline of views.</p> <p>Views west to north-west and east are foreshortened by localised landform and roadside vegetation. The A833 extends from the foreground to middle distance of views north and south.</p> <p>There are no views of existing wind farms from this location. Views of the operational Corriegarth, Dunmaglass and Stronelairg wind farms are screened by intervening vegetation.</p>		
Sensitivity	<p>Residential receptors are considered to be of high susceptibility to changes in the view. Road users are considered to be of low susceptibility to changes in the view.</p> <p>The viewpoint is not located within a designated landscape or a recognised stopping point or promoted view. The value of the view is considered to be medium.</p> <p>On balance, taking account of the judgements of susceptibility and value, overall sensitivity of receptors at this viewpoint is judged to be medium.</p>		

Viewpoint 7: A833 near Balnagrantach	
Assessment of Visual Effects (Primary assessment)	<p>The hubs and blade tips of two turbines and the partial blade tips of a further six turbines will be seen against the skyline in distant views south-west. The ridgeline formed by elevated rolling moorland along the north-eastern Site boundary will partially screen turbines. In views from this location, operational wind farms located to the east and south-east are screened by intervening vegetation. The Proposed Development will be perceived to introduce turbines into a small proportion of the view looking south-west, and will be seen beyond an existing trident wood pole distribution line. Views from this location will be glimpsed in oblique views experienced by road users in between occasional breaks in the vegetation which lines the road.</p> <p>Visibility of the turbines with visible lighting will be evident from this location as indicated by Appendix 6.5, Figure A6.5.2 and Appendix 6.5, Annex A. Turbine T10, T12 and T13 will have visible lighting 57.6cd under clear conditions.</p> <p>Outward views from the road looking south-west towards the Site are often screened by intervening vegetation and localised landform. Similar views will be experienced from relatively localised extents of the road near the viewpoint. The geographical extent of similar views is therefore considered small.</p> <p>Given the screening of the Proposed Development by intervening landform, the small proportion of the view which will be occupied by the proposed turbines and the glimpsed nature of the view from this location, the introduction of the Proposed Development will result in a small scale change to the view.</p>
Effect and Significance	The overall magnitude of change is judged to be low and taking account of the high sensitivity will result in a minor (adverse) and not significant visual effect.
Assessment of Cumulative Effects under alternative baselines (Scenario 1 and 2)	<p>Scenario 1: The consented Dell Wind Farm will be screened by intervening vegetation in views from this location. No other consented wind energy developments will be perceptible in views from this location therefore no additional cumulative visual effects are predicted to occur for this cumulative assessment scenario. The level of effect will therefore remain as identified in the primary assessment.</p> <p>Scenario 2: Views south-east towards Corriegarth 2 Wind Farm (at PLI) and Cloiche Wind Farm (at application) will be screened by intervening vegetation. No other proposed wind energy developments will be perceptible in views from this location therefore no additional cumulative visual effects are predicted to occur for this cumulative assessment scenario. The level of effect will therefore remain as identified in the primary assessment.</p>

Table 6.25: Viewpoint 8: B862 Suidhe Viewpoint

Viewpoint 8: B862 Suidhe Viewpoint			
Grid Reference (NGR)	244958	810548	Figure Number Figure 6.21
LCT	Rolling Uplands – Inverness (LCT 221)	Landscape Designation or Wild Land Area	Loch Ness and Duntelchaig SLA
Direction of view	North-west	Distance to nearest turbine	13.9km
Number of hubs theoretically visible	12	Number of turbines with blades theoretically visible	13
Viewpoint location and existing view	<p>This viewpoint is located on General Wade's Military Road (B862) near the promoted viewpoint and stopping area. Carn an t-Suidhe (450m AOD) is located approximately 700m to the south-west, with a short path leading to the summit from this location. The viewpoint represents views experienced by</p>		

Viewpoint 8: B862 Suidhe Viewpoint	
	<p>road users, tourists, and recreational receptors on the Caledonia Way cycle route and within the Loch Ness and Duntelchaig SLA.</p> <p>The foreground of the view looking north-west comprises rough grassland bound by post and wire fencing and rolling landform, which screens views of Loch Ness. Occasional pockets of mixed woodland and blocks of forestry are seen across the middle distance of the view and longer-distance views of the western slopes of the Great Glen. Loch Knockie is seen in the middle distance of the view north-west. The rocky localised landform of Carn an t-suidhe foreshortens views to the south-west. Rolling landform to the west of the Great Glen, including Meall Fuar-Mhonaigh, Glas Bheinn Mhor, Carn Mor and Carn Loch an t-Sionnaich forms the background and skyline of longer-distance views north-west.</p> <p>Views north are channelled along the B862 corridor looking towards Stratherrick and Loch Mhor. Views north-east comprise rough grassland, rolling landform with occasional rocky outcrops and rocky moorland summits.</p> <p>In longer-distance views north-west, turbine blade tips and hubs of Bhlaraidh Wind Farm are seen partially against the skyline. Turbines in the centre and south of the development are screened by the intervening landform of Carn an-t Suidhe in the middle-distance of the view. Turbine hubs and blade tips of the operational Corriegarth Wind Farm are seen in a dip between landform to the south of Beinn Mheadhoin in longer-distance successive views north-east. Turbine hubs and blade tips of the operational Dunmaglass Wind Farm form a distant feature seen against the skyline in longer-distance views north-east.</p>
Sensitivity	<p>Road users are considered to be of low susceptibility to changes in the view. Tourists and recreational receptors are considered to be of high susceptibility to changes in the view.</p> <p>This viewpoint is located at a popular and promoted viewpoint within the Loch Ness and Duntelchaig SLA. The value of the view is therefore considered to be high.</p> <p>On balance, taking account of the judgements of susceptibility and value, overall sensitivity of receptors at this viewpoint is judged to be high.</p>
Assessment of Visual Effects (Primary assessment)	<p>The hubs and blade tips of twelve turbines and the blade tips of one further turbine will be seen against the skyline in distant views north-west, with the bases of turbine towers partially screened by intervening landform. The Proposed Development will appear to the north of the operational Bhlaraidh Wind Farm and will increase the horizontal extent of turbines in the view. In combination, the existing and proposed turbines will be seen across a medium angle of distant views. Other operational wind farms, including Corriegarth and Dunmaglass Wind Farms, will be seen in distant successive views north-east. The turbines of the Proposed Development will appear relatively evenly spaced with a balanced composition across the cluster, though slightly larger in scale than the turbines of the operational Bhlaraidh Wind Farm. Ancillary infrastructure and tracks will be screened by intervening landform.</p> <p>Visibility of the turbines with visible lighting will be evident from this location as indicated by Appendix 6.5, Figure A6.5.2 and Appendix 6.5, Annex A. Turbine T1, T4, T7, T10, T12 and T13 will have visible lighting at between 108.7cd and 90.2cd under clear conditions.</p> <p>Similar views will be afforded from a relatively short, elevated section of the B862 near and to the north-east of the promoted viewpoint before the road descends into Stratherrick. Intervening landform and vegetation foreshorten views from lower-lying sections of the road. The geographical extent of similar views is therefore considered small.</p> <p>Screening by intervening landform will reduce visibility of turbines, however all thirteen turbines of the Proposed Development will appear against the skyline, increasing the horizontal extent of</p>

Viewpoint 8: B862 Suidhe Viewpoint	
	turbines in views north-west. The Proposed Development will result in a medium scale change to the view.
Effect and Significance	The overall magnitude of change is judged to be medium and taking account of the high sensitivity will result in a moderate (adverse) and significant visual effect.
Assessment of Cumulative Effects under alternative baselines (Scenario 1 and 2)	<p>Scenario 1: The Proposed Development, with hubs and blade tips appearing against the skyline will be seen behind the consented Bhlaraidh Extension Wind Farm. Bhlaraidh Extension will appear slightly more prominently and across a slightly wider horizontal extent than the Proposed Development. Bhlaraidh Extension will increase the horizontal extent of the operational Bhlaraidh Wind Farm, occupying a medium proportion of the view looking north-west. The Proposed Development will appear as a relatively discrete feature beyond the consented Bhlaraidh Extension and will result in a small scale change to the view. The magnitude of change to views under Scenario 1, which includes all consented developments, will be low and the visual effect will be minor (adverse) and not significant.</p> <p>Scenario 2: Corriegarth 2 Wind Farm (at PLI) will be seen in distant successive views north-east, slightly increasing the horizontal extent and prominence of the operational Corriegarth Wind Farm. The Proposed Development and Corriegarth 2 Wind Farm will appear as two separate and distinct developments in different angles of successive views, with both developments appearing as relatively distant features. The magnitude of change to views under this scenario, which includes all consented and proposed developments, will remain low and the visual effect will be minor (adverse) and not significant, as for Scenario 1.</p>

Table 6.26: Viewpoint 9: Meall Mor, Glen Affric

Viewpoint 9: Meall Mor, Glen Affric			
Grid Reference (NGR)	224928	828045	Figure Number Figure 6.22
LCT	Rugged Massif – Inverness (LCT 220)	Landscape Designation or Wild Land Area	Glen Affric NSA, Strathconan, Monar and Mullardoch SLA and Central Highlands WLA
Direction of view	East	Distance to nearest turbine	13.3km
Number of hubs theoretically visible	13	Number of turbines with blades theoretically visible	13
Viewpoint location and existing view	<p>This viewpoint is located at the summit of Meall Mor (694m AOD), on the boundary between the Glen Affric NSA and Strathconan, Monar and Mullardoch SLA and along the eastern boundary of the Central Highlands WLA. The viewpoint is located with the Glen Affric National Nature Reserve. The viewpoint represents views experienced by recreational receptors.</p> <p>Outward views from this location are relatively open looking north-east to south-east and are focused overlooking Glen Affric. The foreground of the view looking east comprises the descending rocky moorland landform of the glen sides, with occasional blocks of conifer forestry and woodland. Loch Beinn a' Mheadhoin is seen beyond, including hydroelectric infrastructure seen on the north-eastern end of the loch. Landform along the western Site boundary forms a ridgeline in distant views looking east, with more distant landform forming the skyline beyond. The skyline of views looking west and south-west are formed by the hill summits of Toll Creagach, Mam Sodhail and the Five Sisters of Kintail.</p> <p>The operational Corrimony Wind Farm is seen in relatively distant views with turbines backclothed by landform, beyond the steel lattice towers of the Beaully-Denny 400kV overhead line. The existing visible turbine lighting on Corrimony Wind Farm is evident from this viewpoint. The operational</p>		

Viewpoint 9: Meall Mor, Glen Affric	
	Bhlaraidh Wind Farm is seen in relatively distant views south-east, with turbines backclothed by landform. More distant operational wind farms, including Farr, Kyllachy, Dunmaglass, Corriegarth and Stronelairg Wind Farms, are seen in distant views looking north-east to south-east, with the tops of some turbines of Dunmaglass Wind Farm forming distant skyline features. The operational Beinneun and Millennium Wind Farms are seen in distant views south, beyond Glen Affric, with some of the turbines of Millennium Wind Farm forming distant skyline features.
Sensitivity	<p>Recreational receptors, whose attention is focused on their surroundings, are considered to be of high susceptibility to changes in the view.</p> <p>Given the location of the viewpoint between the boundaries of the Glen Affric NSA and Strathconan, Monar and Mullardoch SLA and within the Central Highlands WLA, the value of the view is considered to be high.</p> <p>Taking account of the judgements of susceptibility and value, overall sensitivity of receptors at this viewpoint is judged to be high.</p>
Assessment of Visual Effects (Primary assessment)	<p>The hubs and blade tips of all thirteen turbines will be seen in distant views east, mostly backclothed by more distant landform. The bases of turbine towers will be partially screened by intervening landform. Proposed turbines will appear beyond the operational Corrimony wind farm and will extend between the more distant Dunmaglass and Corriegarth wind farms. The operational Bhlaraidh Wind Farm will appear further south, with a slight gap between the developments; however, in combination Bhlaraidh Wind Farm and the Proposed Development will extend across a wide angle of the view. Other more distant operational wind farms will be seen in successive panoramic views, including Stronelairg, Millennium, Beinneun, Farr and Kyllachy. The proposed turbines will appear slightly larger in scale than the operational Corrimony and Bhlaraidh turbines. Ancillary infrastructure and tracks will be screened by intervening landform.</p> <p>Visibility of the turbines with visible lighting will be evident from this location as indicated by Appendix 6.5, Figure A6.5.2 and Appendix 6.5, Annex A. Turbine T1, T4, T7, T10, T12 and T13 will have visible lighting at between 233cd and 225.8cd under clear conditions.</p> <p>Similar views will be experienced from the elevated sides of the north-east of Glen Affric within 13-17km of the Proposed Development. The geographical extent of similar views is considered to be small.</p> <p>The introduction of the Proposed Development will result in a medium scale change to the view.</p>
Effect and Significance	The overall magnitude of change is judged to be medium and taking account of the high sensitivity will result in a moderate (adverse) and significant visual effect.
Assessment of Cumulative Effects under alternative baselines (Scenario 1 and 2)	<p>Scenario 1: The consented Bhlaraidh Extension Wind Farm will appear in distant views, slightly increasing the horizontal extent and prominence of Bhlaraidh Wind Farm. The consented Dell Wind Farm will be seen in more distant views south-east in combination with the operational Stronelairg Wind Farm and will appear separately to the Proposed Development. The Proposed Development will increase the horizontal extent of Bhlaraidh and Bhlaraidh Extension. The introduction of the Proposed Development under this scenario, which includes all consented developments, will result in a medium scale change to the view. Given the angle of the view which will be occupied by the Proposed Development in combination with Bhlaraidh (operational) and Bhlaraidh Extension (consented) Wind Farms, the magnitude of change to views under this scenario, which includes all consented developments, will remain medium and the visual effect will remain moderate (adverse) and significant.</p> <p>Scenario 2: The proposed Corriegarth 2 Wind Farm (at PLI) will be seen in distant views east, appearing beyond the Proposed Development, the operational Bhlaraidh Wind Farm and the consented Bhlaraidh Extension Wind Farm. The proposed Cloiche Wind Farm (at application) will be</p>

Viewpoint 9: Meall Mor, Glen Affric	
	seen in distant views south-east, increasing the horizontal extent of the operational Stronelairg Wind Farm and consented Dell Wind Farm. The proposed Bunloinn Wind Farm (at application) and one blade tip of the proposed Tomchrasky Wind Farm (at application) will be seen in distant views south-west and will increase the horizontal extent of turbines in this direction of the view. However, other proposed wind farms will appear separately to the Proposed Development and the consented Bhlaraidh Extension Wind Farm. The magnitude of change to views will remain medium and the visual effect will remain moderate (adverse) and significant , as for Scenario 1.

Table 6.27: Viewpoint 10: Creag Dhubh

Viewpoint 10: Creag Dhubh			
Grid Reference (NGR)	222497	821647	Figure Number Figure 6.23
LCT	Rugged Massif – Inverness (LCT 220)	Landscape Designation or Wild Land Area	Central Highlands WLA
Direction of view	East	Distance to nearest turbine	15.1km
Number of hubs theoretically visible	13	Number of turbines with blades theoretically visible	13
Viewpoint location and existing view	<p>This viewpoint is located on the local hill summit of Creag Dubh (539m AOD) on the southern boundary of the Glen Affric NSA and within the Central Highlands WLA 24. The viewpoint is located with the Glen Affric National Nature Reserve. The viewpoint represents views experienced by recreational receptors.</p> <p>Outward views from this location are relatively open and panoramic, with rolling rocky moorland and occasional blocks of forestry seen extending across the foreground and middle distance of views looking north-east to south. The foreground of views looking east comprises the rolling moorland summit of Creag Dubh, with occasional rocky outcrops and small lochans. Occasional blocks of coniferous forestry are seen in middle and longer distance, with the elevated moorland ridgeline along the western Site boundary forming the background of the view. Views west and south-west look across Loch Beinn a' Mheadhoin and Glen Affric. Hill summits in middle and long distance views form the background, including Mam Sohail and Carn Eige to the west, Meall a'Chrathaich and Can nan Earb to the east, and distant views of Ben Nevis to the south.</p> <p>The operational Corrimony Wind Farm is seen in relatively distant views looking east, north-east, backclothed by landform. The existing visible turbine lighting on Corrimony Wind Farm is evident from this viewpoint. The operational Bhlaraidh Wind Farm forms a relatively distant skyline feature in views east, with the turbines of the operational Dunmaglass Wind Farm barely perceptible beyond. The operational Beinneun and Extension Wind Farms are seen in distant views south, backclothed by more distant landform.</p>		
Sensitivity	<p>Recreational receptors, whose attention is focused on their surroundings, are considered to be of high susceptibility to changes in the view.</p> <p>The viewpoint overlooks the Glen Affric NSA and is located within the Central Highlands WLA. The value of the view is therefore considered to be high.</p> <p>Taking account of the judgements of susceptibility and value, overall sensitivity of receptors at this viewpoint is judged to be high.</p>		
Assessment of Visual Effects (Primary assessment)	The hubs and blade tips of all thirteen turbines will be seen against the skyline in distant views east. The ridgeline formed by elevated rolling moorland along the western Site boundary will partially screen the bases of turbine towers. Turbines will be seen extending across the angle of the view between the operational Corrimony and Bhlaraidh turbines and will appear slightly larger in scale		

Viewpoint 10: Creag Dhubh	
	<p>than these operational turbines. There will be some overlapping or stacking of turbine blades. The operational Beinneun and extension wind farms are seen in successive views south, in a different direction of the view as the Proposed Development. Ground-level ancillary infrastructure and tracks will be screened by intervening landform. The top of the steel lattice anemometer mast will be glimpsed beyond intervening landform to the north of the northernmost turbine (T13), though barely perceptible given the intervening distance (approximately 15.6km). Given the Proposed Development will increase the horizontal extent of turbines across a medium proportion of the view, the introduction of the Proposed Development will result in a medium scale change to the view.</p> <p>Visibility of the turbines with visible lighting will be evident from this location as indicated by Appendix 6.5, Figure A6.5.2 and Appendix 6.5, Annex A. Turbine T1, T4, T7, T10, T12 and T13 will have visible lighting at between 172.1cd and 158.2cd under clear conditions.</p> <p>Similar views will be experienced from elevated landform and hill summits to the south-east of Glen Affric (along the boundary of the Glen Affric NSA) within 10-19km to the west and south-west of the nearest proposed turbine. However, forestry which covers much of this area will limit some outward views towards the Proposed Development. The geographical extent of similar views is considered small.</p> <p>The Proposed Development will increase the horizontal extent of turbines, appearing as features against the skyline across a medium proportion of the view. The introduction of the Proposed Development will result in a medium scale change to the view.</p>
Effect and Significance	The overall magnitude of change is judged to be medium and taking account of the high sensitivity will result in a moderate (adverse) and significant visual effect.
Assessment of Cumulative Effects under alternative baselines (Scenario 1 and 2)	<p>Scenario 1: The hubs and blade tips of the consented Bhlaraidh Extension will be seen beyond the operational Bhlaraidh Wind Farm, partially screened by intervening landform. The turbine blade tips of two of the consented turbines will slightly increase the horizontal extent of Bhlaraidh Wind Farm towards the Proposed Development, which may lead to the perception of one continuous development extending across the skyline. However, the consented Bhlaraidh Wind Farm will appear as a relatively discrete feature beyond the operational Bhlaraidh Wind Farm and will have limited interaction with the Proposed Development. The magnitude of change under this scenario, which includes all consented developments, will remain medium, resulting in a moderate (adverse) and significant visual effect.</p> <p>Scenario 2: The blade tips of the proposed Corriegarth 2 Wind Farm (at PLI) will be barely perceptible in a small proportion of the view in distant views east, glimpsed beyond intervening landform. One turbine of the proposed Tomchrasky Wind Farm (at application) will be glimpsed in between dips in landform in views south-west, and will slightly increase the horizontal extent of Beinneun and Beinneun Extension Wind Farms. The magnitude of change under this scenario, which includes all consented and proposed developments, will remain medium, resulting in a moderate (adverse) and significant visual effect.</p>

Table 6.28: Viewpoint 11: Carn na Leitire

Viewpoint 11: Carn na Leitire			
Grid Reference (NGR)	254693	834470	Figure Number Figure 6.24
LCT	LCT 222 – Rocky Moorland Plateau - Inverness		Landscape Designation or Wild Land Area None
Direction of view	South-west		Distance to nearest turbine 18.9km

Viewpoint 11: Carn na Leitire			
Number of hubs theoretically visible	13	Number of turbines with blades theoretically visible	13
Viewpoint location and existing view	<p>This viewpoint is located on the local hill summit located to the north-west of the Great Glen. The Great Glen Way passes within 1m to the south and west of the viewpoint. The summit is also accessed via the Abriachan Forest trails to the west and north-west. The viewpoint is representative of views experienced by recreational receptors.</p> <p>From this elevated location, open and panoramic views are afforded. The immediate foreground of views south-west comprises the moorland summit, with the summit of Meall na h-Eilrig (465m AOD) and occasional forestry seen extending through the middle distance of views. The floor of Glen Urquhart is screened by intervening landform, however the forested glen sides can be seen in longer-distance views south-west and west. The summit of Meall Fuar-mhonaidh (699m AOD) forms a distinguishable feature on the skyline, with more distant summits and ridgelines forming the skyline of views looking further west.</p> <p>Views into the northern extents of the Site are afforded from this location, and landform along the northern Site boundary, including Sron Dubh, Carn Macsna and Carn na h-Imrich forms part of the skyline in views south-west.</p> <p>Landform screens views of Loch Ness and the floor of the Great Glen to the east and south-east. Distant landform including the rolling uplands of the Monadhliath forms the skyline of views east and south-east. Distant summits of the Central Highlands WLA form the skyline of views west.</p> <p>The operational Bhlaraidh Wind Farm is seen in views south-west with turbine hubs and blade tips appearing partially against the skyline beyond intervening landform. One turbine blade tip of Millennium Wind Farm is barely perceptible beyond intervening landform in views south-west. Stronelairg Wind Farm is a distant feature in long-distance views south, extending across the upland slopes but largely backclothed by landform. Turbine hubs and blade tips of Corriegarth Wind Farm are seen partially against the skyline in views south-east. Turbine hubs and blade tips of the operational Dunmaglass Wind Farm are seen partially against the skyline and partially backclothed by landform in longer-distance views east south-east. Turbine hubs and blade tips of Farr are seen in longer-distance views east against the skyline. Turbine hubs and blade tips of Farr Wind Farm are seen against the skyline beyond intervening landform in distant views east. Turbine hubs and blade tips of Moy Wind Farm are seen against the skyline in longer-distance views east north-east. Turbine hubs and blade tips of Fairburn Wind Farm, and the twin turbine development at Auchmore and Auchmore Extension are seen in views north-west, backclothed by landform.</p>		
Sensitivity	<p>Recreational receptors, whose attention is focused on their surroundings, are considered to be of high susceptibility to changes in the view.</p> <p>The viewpoint is not located within a designated landscape however the summit is a promoted and popular viewpoint from which views are afforded across the Great Glen and the Loch Ness and Duntelchaig SLA. The value of the view is considered to be medium.</p> <p>On balance, taking account of the judgements of susceptibility and value, overall sensitivity of receptors at this viewpoint is judged to be high.</p>		
Assessment of Visual Effects (Primary assessment)	<p>The hubs and blade tips of all thirteen turbines will be seen against the skyline in distant views south-west. The bases of turbines in the south of the Site will be partially screened by intervening landform. The proposed turbines will appear as an extension to the north of the operational Bhlaraidh wind farm, and turbines in the south of the Site will appear in front of the operational Bhlaraidh turbines. The access tracks and hardstandings associated with the northernmost turbines (T10, T12 and T13) may be seen in views, however ground-level ancillary infrastructure will be largely imperceptible given the intervening distance. The steel lattice anemometer mast will be seen</p>		

Viewpoint 11: Carn na Leitire	
	<p>in distant views to the north of the northernmost turbine (T13), though barely perceptible given the intervening distance (approximately 19.1km).</p> <p>Whilst the Proposed Development will increase the horizontal extent of turbines in views looking south-west, the proposed turbines will appear as relatively distant features.</p> <p>Visibility of the turbines with visible lighting will be evident from this location as indicated by Appendix 6.5, Figure A6.5.2 and Appendix 6.5, Annex A. Turbine T1, T4, T7, T10, T12 and T13 will have visible lighting at between 144.3cd and 131.8cd under clear conditions.</p> <p>Similar views will be experienced from elevated south-facing slopes and hill summits between the A833 and A82, within 14-25km to the north-east of the nearest turbine. Similar views are afforded from a relatively short, elevated section of the Great Glen Way to the north of the Site near Carn na Leitire. However, visibility will be limited to localised sections of the route due to screening of outward views by intervening forestry in this area. The geographical extent of similar views is therefore considered to be medium.</p> <p>Given the existing presence of wind farms and the relatively small proportion of the view that the proposed wind turbines will occupy, the introduction of the Proposed Development will result in a small scale change to the view.</p>
Effect and Significance	The overall magnitude of change is judged to be low and taking account of the high sensitivity will result in a minor (adverse) and not significant visual effect.
Assessment of Cumulative Effects under alternative baselines (Scenario 1 and 2)	<p>Scenario 1: Turbine hubs and blade tips of the consented Bhlaraidh Extension will be seen in distant views south-west and will increase the horizontal extent and prominence of the operational Bhlaraidh Wind Farm. The consented turbines will appear similar in scale to the Proposed Development, and in combination the developments will appear as one continuous development extending across a medium proportion of relatively distant views. The consented Dell Wind Farm will form a distant feature in views south-east, in a similar angle of the view as the operational Stronelairg Wind Farm. The introduction of the Proposed Development under this scenario, which includes all consented developments, will result in a small scale change. The magnitude of change will remain low and the visual effect will remain minor (adverse) and not significant.</p> <p>Scenario 2: The proposed Corriegarth 2 Wind Farm (at PLI) and Cloiche Wind Farm (at application) will appear as distant features in views south, in a separate angle of the view as the Proposed Development. The magnitude of change under this scenario, which includes all consented and proposed developments, will remain low and the visual effect will remain minor (adverse) and not significant, as for Scenario 1.</p>

Table 6.29: Viewpoint 12: Beinn a' Bha'ach Ard

Viewpoint 12: Beinn a' Bha'ach Ard			
Grid Reference (NGR)	236056	843483	Figure Number Figure 6.25
LCT	Rugged Massif – Inverness (LCT 220)	Landscape Designation or Wild Land Area	Central Highlands WLA 24
Direction of view	South	Distance to nearest turbine	18.6km
Number of hubs theoretically visible	13	Number of turbines with blades theoretically visible	13
Viewpoint location and existing view	This viewpoint is located on the Corbett hill summit of Beinn a' Bha'ach Ard (862m AOD) to the north of Glen Strathfarrar. The viewpoint represents views experienced by recreational receptors within the Central Highlands WLA 12.		

Viewpoint 12: Beinn a' Bha'ach Ard	
	<p>From this elevated location, relatively panoramic views are afforded. The foreground of the view looking south is formed by the descending plateau moorland summit. Layers of receding ridgelines, with occasional pockets of mixed woodland and blocks of coniferous forestry on lower slopes, extend across the middle distance and longer distance views. The western floor of Glen Urquhart is seen in distant views south-east. Distant hill summits including Beinn a'Chaorainn, Stob a'Choire Mheadhoin and Stob Coire Easain form the background and skyline of the view. Views east overlook Strathglass, with the Beaully Firth seen in more distant views north-east.</p> <p>The operational Bhlaraidh and Corrimony Wind Farms are seen in relatively distant views south, backclothed by more distant landform. The existing visible turbine lighting on Corrimony Wind Farm is evident from this viewpoint. The operational Stronelairg, Dunmaglass, Corriegarth, Farr, Kyllachy Wind Farms and the under construction Aberarder Wind Farm, are seen in distant successive views looking east to south-east. The two turbines of Auchmore and Auchmore Extension are relatively evident in views north-east. The operational Millennium, Beinneun and Beinneun Extension Wind Farms are seen in distant views south-west. Steel lattice towers of the Beaully-Denny 400kv overhead line extend across relatively distant views looking south-east.</p>
Sensitivity	<p>Recreational receptors, whose attention is focused on their surroundings, are considered to be of high susceptibility to changes in the view.</p> <p>The viewpoint overlooks the Glen Strathfarrar NSA and is located within the Central Highlands WLA. The value of the view is therefore considered to be high.</p> <p>Taking account of the judgements of susceptibility and value, overall sensitivity of receptors at this viewpoint is judged to be high.</p>
Assessment of Visual Effects (Primary assessment)	<p>The hubs and blade tips of all thirteen turbines will be seen backclothed by more distant landform in views south. The bases of turbine towers will be screened by intervening landform. The proposed turbines will appear as an extension to the north and north-east of the operational Bhlaraidh wind farm, which extends across a medium angle of the view. The proposed turbines in the west of the Site will appear in front of the operational Bhlaraidh turbines, with proposed turbines in the centre and east of the Site slightly increasing the horizontal extent of turbines in views looking south. However, the proposed turbines will appear as a discrete cluster forming a relatively distant feature across a small proportion of the view. The steel lattice anemometer mast and ground-level ancillary infrastructure (including access tracks and hardstandings) will be partially screened by intervening landform. Where visible, infrastructure will be barely perceptible given the intervening distance.</p> <p>Visibility of the turbines with visible lighting will be evident from this location as indicated by Appendix 6.5, Figure A6.5.2 and Appendix 6.5, Annex A. Turbine T1, T4, T7, T10, T12 and T13 will have visible lighting at between 245.2cd and 242.9cd under clear conditions.</p> <p>Similar views will be experienced from elevated south-facing slopes and hill summits within localised extents of the Strathconon, Monar and Mullardoch SLA, Central Highlands WLA, including hill summits which overlook the Glen Strathfarrar NSA, within 16-30km of the nearest proposed turbines. The geographical extent of similar views is therefore considered to be medium.</p> <p>Given the existing presence of wind farms, the distant nature of the view and the relatively small proportion of the view that the proposed wind turbines will occupy, the introduction of the Proposed Development will result in a small scale change to the view.</p>
Effect and Significance	The overall magnitude of change is judged to be low and taking account of the high sensitivity will result in a minor (adverse) and not significant visual effect.
Assessment of Cumulative Effects under alternative baselines	Scenario 1: The consented Bhlaraidh Extension will appear as a distant feature beyond the Proposed Development in views looking south. Bhlaraidh Extension will increase the horizontal extent of the Proposed Development and the operational Bhlaraidh Wind Farm. Turbines of the

Viewpoint 12: Beinn a' Bha'ach Ard	
(Scenario 1 and 2)	<p>Proposed Development and Bhlaraidh Extension will appear similar in scale and will both appear as extensions to the cluster of turbines formed by the operational Bhlaraidh and Corrimony Wind Farms. The consented Dell Wind Farm will form a distant feature, seen in combination with the operational Stronelairg Wind Farm. The consented Millennium South Wind Farm will form a distant feature beyond the operational Millennium Wind Farm. The introduction of the Proposed Development under this scenario, which includes all consented developments, will remain low and the visual effect will remain minor (adverse) and not significant.</p> <p>Scenario 2: The proposed Corriegarh 2 Wind Farm (at PLI) will form a distant feature, slightly increasing the horizontal extent of the operational Corriegarh Wind Farm in views south-east. The proposed Cloiche Wind Farm (at application) will form a distant feature in views south, south-east and will increase the horizontal extent of Stronelairg (operational) and Dell (consented) Wind Farms. The proposed Bunloinn Wind Farm (at application) will be barely perceptible beyond intervening landform in distant views south-west. The introduction of the Proposed Development under this scenario, which includes all consented and proposed developments, will remain low and the visual effect will remain minor (adverse) and not significant, as for Scenario 1.</p>

Table 6.30: Viewpoint 13: B852 Erchite Wood, east of Loch Ness (picnic area)

Viewpoint 13: B852 Erchite Wood, east of Loch Ness (picnic area)			
Grid Reference (NGR)	257717	831590	Figure Number Figure 6.26
LCT	Broad Steep-Sided Glen (LCT 225)	Landscape Designation or Wild Land Area	Loch Ness and Duntelchaig SLA
Direction of view	South-west	Distance to nearest turbine	20.4km
Number of hubs theoretically visible	8	Number of turbines with blades theoretically visible	12
Viewpoint location and existing view	<p>This viewpoint is located on the eastern shore of Loch Ness at one of the promoted picnic areas along the B852, approximately 3.7km south-west of Dores. The viewpoint represents views experienced by recreational receptors visiting the picnic areas within the Loch Ness and Duntelchaig SLA, and road users of the B852.</p> <p>The south-west to north-west is framed by woodland along the eastern shore of Loch Ness, with the waters of the loch extending through the foreground and middle distance of the view. The western shore of Loch Ness is seen beyond, with the forested landform of Cnoc Fhearchair and Meall na h-Eilrig forming the background of views west. Landform located along the eastern Site boundary, including Meall Fuar-mhonaigh, forms the background of views south-west. More distant landform, including Meall nan Dearcag, Meall na Teanga and Sron a'Choire Ghairbh, forms the skyline of views further south-west. Views into the interior of the Site are afforded looking south-west down Glen Coiltie. Views north, east and south are foreshortened by intervening woodland and landform.</p> <p>The blade tips of operational Bhlaraidh Wind Farm are barely perceptible beyond the intervening landform to the south of Glen Coiltie in views south-west.</p>		
Sensitivity	<p>Recreational receptors, whose attention is focused on their surroundings, are considered to be of high susceptibility to changes in the view. Road users are considered to be of low susceptibility to changes in the view.</p> <p>The viewpoint is located within the Loch Ness and Duntelchaig SLA. The value of the view is considered to be high.</p>		

Viewpoint 13: B852 Erchite Wood, east of Loch Ness (picnic area)	
	On balance, taking account of the judgements of susceptibility and value, overall sensitivity of receptors at this viewpoint is judged to be high .
Assessment of Visual Effects (Primary assessment)	<p>The hubs and blade tips of eight turbines and the blade tips of a further four turbines will be seen against the skyline in relatively distant views, partially screened by the rounded moorland summit of Carn an Tuairneir and partially forested landform at Sron Dubh. The Proposed Development will increase the prominence and horizontal extent of the barely perceptible blade tips of Bhlaraidh wind farm. The proposed turbines will form a new skyline feature in focused views looking into the Site along Glen Coiltie, however the proposed turbines will not overwhelm the scale of the containing landform to the east of the Great Glen and will be seen across a relatively small proportion of the view. Ground-level ancillary infrastructure and tracks will be screened by intervening landform.</p> <p>Visibility of the turbines with visible lighting will be evident from this location as indicated by Appendix 6.5, Figure A6.5.2 and Appendix 6.5, Annex A. Turbine T1, T4, T7 and T12 will have visible lighting at between 57.6cd and 48.4cd under clear conditions.</p> <p>Similar views will be experienced from very localised extents of Loch Ness (2.7-4.7km to the north-east of Strone Point) and localised extents of the eastern loch shore, within the Loch Ness and Duntelchaig SLA. Theoretical visibility is indicated from approximately 3.7km of the loch shore, however the wooded nature of the shore will reduce actual visibility. The geographical extent of similar views is considered to be small.</p> <p>Given the distant nature of the view and the relatively small proportion of the view that the proposed wind turbines will occupy, the introduction of the Proposed Development will result in a small scale change to the view.</p>
Effect and Significance	The overall magnitude of change is judged to be low and taking account of the high sensitivity will result in a minor (adverse) and not significant visual effect.
Assessment of Cumulative Effects under alternative baselines (Scenario 1 and 2)	<p>Scenario 1: The blade tip of Bhlaraidh Extension (consented) will be barely perceptible beyond intervening landform and will therefore have limited interaction with the Proposed Development. The magnitude of change under this scenario, which includes all consented developments, will remain low and the visual effect will remain minor (adverse) and not significant.</p> <p>Scenario 2: No other proposed wind energy developments will be perceptible in views from this location therefore no additional cumulative visual effects are predicted to occur for this cumulative assessment scenario. The level of effect will therefore remain as identified for Scenario 1.</p>

Table 6.31: Viewpoint 14: Meall Dubh

Viewpoint 14: Meall Dubh			
Grid Reference (NGR)	224538	807873	Figure Number Figure 6.27
LCT	Rugged Massif – Inverness (LCT 220)	Landscape Designation or Wild Land Area	None
Direction of view	North-east	Distance to nearest turbine	19.7km
Number of hubs theoretically visible	13	Number of turbines with blades theoretically visible	13
Viewpoint location and existing view	<p>This viewpoint is located on the Corbett hill summit of Meall Dubh (788m AOD) to the east of the Great Glen. The viewpoint is representative of views experienced by recreational receptors.</p> <p>From this elevated location, open and panoramic views are afforded. The foreground of views north-east comprises the rocky moorland summit and cairn, with landform descending to Glen Moriston</p>		

Viewpoint 14: Meall Dubh	
	<p>beyond. Blocks of conifer forestry extend through middle and long-distance views. With distant landform, including the summits of Meall Fuar-mhonaidh and Glas-Bhein Mhor and elevated landform along the south-western Site boundary forming the skyline of views in this direction.</p> <p>Turbines and some access tracks of the operational Bhlaraidh Wind Farm are seen in distant views north-east, with the tops of some turbines forming skyline features. The operational Millennium, Beinneun and Beinneun Extension Wind Farms form evident features in relatively close distance views, extending across a wide angle of views east and south-west. The blade tips of some of the Millennium Wind Farm turbines are seen against the skyline, although most turbines appear backclothed by landform. Other operational wind farms are seen in distant views east, beyond the operational Millennium Wind Farm, including Farr, Kyllachy, Dunmaglass, Corriegarth and Stronelairg Wind Farms.</p>
Sensitivity	<p>Recreational receptors, whose attention is focused on their surroundings, are considered to be of high susceptibility to changes in the view.</p> <p>The viewpoint is not located within a designated landscape or a recognised stopping point or promoted view. The value of the view is considered to be medium.</p> <p>On balance, taking account of the judgements of susceptibility and value, overall sensitivity of receptors at this viewpoint is judged to be high.</p>
Assessment of Visual Effects (Primary assessment)	<p>The hubs and blade tips of all thirteen turbines will be seen against the skyline in distant views north-east, beyond the operational Bhlaraidh wind farm, which extends across a medium angle of the view. Turbines in the west of the cluster are partially screened by intervening landform at Meall a Chrathaich. The proposed turbines will appear as a relatively discreet extension to the operational Bhlaraidh wind turbines across a small proportion of the view with an existing presence of wind farms. Proposed turbines will appear slightly larger in scale than the operational Bhlaraidh turbines. The steel lattice anemometer mast and ground-level ancillary infrastructure (including access tracks and hardstandings) will be partially screened by intervening landform. The proposed substation will be seen in distant views, in front of the proposed turbines. Where visible, infrastructure will be barely perceptible given the intervening distance.</p> <p>Visibility of the turbines with visible lighting will be evident from this location as indicated by Appendix 6.5, Figure A6.5.2 and Appendix 6.5, Annex A. Turbine T1, T4, T7, T10, T12 and T13 will have visible lighting at between 242.9cd and 237.9cd under clear conditions.</p> <p>A number of other operational wind farms are seen in elevated and panoramic views from this location, most notably the operational Millennium wind farm, which forms a prominent feature in successive views east from this location. The Proposed Development will appear as a separate and distinct development in a different direction of the view.</p> <p>Similar views will be experienced from elevated north-facing landform to the south of Glen Moriston, generally above the tree line, within 7-20km to the south and south-east of the nearest turbine. The geographical extent of similar views is considered medium.</p> <p>Given the distant nature of the view, the existing presence of operational wind farms in the view, and the relatively small proportion of the view that the proposed wind turbines will occupy, the introduction of the Proposed Development will result in a small scale change to the view.</p>
Effect and Significance	<p>The overall magnitude of change is judged to be low and taking account of the high sensitivity will result in a minor (adverse) and not significant visual effect.</p>
Assessment of Cumulative Effects under alternative baselines	<p>Scenario 1: The consented Millennium South Wind Farm will form a prominent feature, in combination with the operational Millennium Wind Farm, occupying a wide angle of close-distance views east to south-east. The hubs and blade tips of the consented Bhlaraidh Extension will be seen partially against the skyline in distant views north-east. Bhlaraidh Extension will slightly increase the</p>

Viewpoint 14: Meall Dubh	
(Scenario 1 and 2)	<p>horizontal extent of Bhlaraidh Wind Farm further south. Dell Wind Farm (consented) will form a distant feature in successive views east, beyond the prominent Millennium Wind Farm (operational). Dell Wind Farm will slightly increase the horizontal extent of the operational Stronelairg Wind Farm. The introduction of the Proposed Development under this scenario, which includes all consented developments, will result in a small scale change to the view. The magnitude of change to views will remain low and the visual effect will remain minor (adverse) and not significant.</p> <p>Scenario 2: The proposed Tomchrasky Wind Farm (at application) will be evident in views north, extending across a wide angle of the middle distance of the view and increasing the horizontal extent of turbines in the view. The proposed Bunloinn Wind Farm (at application) will be evident in the middle distance of views west. Bunloinn Wind Farm will appear in a similar direction of the view as the operational Beinneun and Beinneun Extension Wind Farms, however the proposed Bunloinn turbines will appear as a separate development. The proposed Corriegarth 2 Wind Farm (at PLI) will form a distant feature in views east, and will slightly increase the horizontal extent of the operational Corriegarth Wind Farm. The proposed Cloiche Wind Farm (at application) will form a distant feature in views east, south-east and will increase the horizontal extent of Stronelairg (operational) and Dell (consented) Wind Farms. These other proposed developments will appear separate to the Proposed Development. The cumulative magnitude of change to views under this scenario, which includes all consented and proposed developments, will remain low and the visual effect will be minor (adverse) and not significant, as for Scenario 1.</p>

Table 6.32: Viewpoint 15: Core Path at Loch Affric

Viewpoint 15: Core Path at Loch Affric			
Grid Reference (NGR)	217092 823063	Figure Number	Figure 6.28
LCT	Wooded Glen – Inverness (LCT 226)	Landscape Designation or Wild Land Area	Glen Affric NSA, Central Highlands WLA 24
Direction of view	East	Distance to nearest turbine	20.4km
Number of hubs theoretically visible	8	Number of turbines with blades theoretically visible	11
Viewpoint location and existing view	<p>This viewpoint is located on THC Core Path (IN05.06), which is a circular route that circumnavigates Loch Affric within the Glen Affric NSA and Central Highlands WLA. The viewpoint is located approximately 1.3km west of Affric Lodge to the north of Loch Affric and represents views experienced by recreational receptors within the Glen Affric NSA.</p> <p>The foreground of views east is formed by rolling moorland with occasional young coniferous trees and woodland. Loch Affric and Affric Lodge is glimpsed beyond intervening landform and woodland in the middle distance of views east. Mixed woodland is seen beyond, with the partially wooded summits of Meall Dubh and Creag Dubh forming the skyline and background of views south-east. The ridgeline between Suidhe Germain and Meall a'Chrathaich, which forms the western Site boundary, forms the skyline of distant views east. Views north and south are contained by rocky moorland summits and elevated landform on either side of glen, with focused views towards the hill summits of Carn a'Choire Ghairbh, Mullach Fraoch-Choire, Sgurr na Ciste Duibhe and Sgurr na Carnach afforded looking west down the glen.</p> <p>Turbines of the operational Corrimony Wind Farm are seen framed by a dip in between landform in views east. The existing visible turbine lighting on Corrimony Wind Farm is evident from this viewpoint.</p>		

Viewpoint 15: Core Path at Loch Affric	
Sensitivity	<p>Recreational receptors, whose attention is focused on their surroundings, are considered to be of high susceptibility to changes in the view.</p> <p>The viewpoint is located within the Glen Affric NSA and Central Highlands WLA. The value of the view is therefore considered to be high.</p> <p>Taking account of the judgements of susceptibility and value, overall sensitivity of receptors at this viewpoint is judged to be high.</p>
Assessment of Visual Effects (Primary assessment)	<p>The hubs and blade tips of eight turbines and the blade tips of a further three turbines will be seen against the skyline in distant views east. The ridgeline formed by elevated rolling moorland along the western Site boundary will partially screen turbines. Turbines will be seen beyond the operational Corrimony turbines, although the proposed turbines will appear perceptibly larger in scale and will slightly increase the horizontal extent of turbines in the view. There will be some overlapping of turbine blades. However, the Proposed Development will form a relatively distant feature across a small proportion of the view. Ground-level ancillary infrastructure and tracks will be screened by intervening landform.</p> <p>Visibility of the turbines with visible lighting will be evident from this location as indicated by Appendix 6.5, Figure A6.5.2 and Appendix 6.5, Annex A. Turbine T7, T10, T12 and T13 will have visible lighting at between 98.2cd and 90.2cd under clear conditions.</p> <p>Similar views will be experienced from relatively localised lower-lying extents of Glen Affric, within 19-25km to the west of the nearest proposed turbine, including approximately 2km of the core path which passes to the north of Loch Affric. Intervening landform will limit visibility of the proposed turbines from other sections of the core path as it passes through the glen. The geographical extent of similar views is considered small.</p> <p>Given the distant nature of the view, the existing presence of the operational Corrimony turbines in the view, and the relatively small proportion of the view that the proposed wind turbines will occupy, the introduction of the Proposed Development will result in a small scale change to the view.</p>
Effect and Significance	The overall magnitude of change is judged to be low and taking account of the high sensitivity will result in a minor (adverse) and not significant visual effect.
Assessment of Cumulative Effects under alternative baselines (Scenario 1 and 2)	No other consented or proposed wind energy developments will be perceptible in views from this location therefore no additional cumulative visual effects are predicted to occur for either cumulative assessment scenario.

Table 6.33: Viewpoint 16: B862 South of Dores

Viewpoint 16: B862 South of Dores			
Grid Reference (NGR)	259368	832481	Figure Number
LCT	Broad Steep-Sided Glen (LCT 225)	Landscape Designation or Wild Land Area	Figure 6.29 Loch Ness and Duntelchaig SLA
Direction of view	South-west	Distance to nearest turbine	22.3km
Number of hubs theoretically visible	13	Number of turbines with blades theoretically visible	13

Viewpoint 16: B862 South of Dores	
Viewpoint location and existing view	<p>This viewpoint is located on the B862 approximately 2.4km south of Dores. The viewpoint is representative of views experienced by road users on the B862 and similar views experienced from nearby residential properties.</p> <p>Views from this slightly elevated location are open and generally focused looking across Loch Ness and down the Great Glen. The foreground of the view looking south-west is formed by grazing fields bound by post and wire fencing. Landform gradually descends to the wooded shore of Loch Ness beyond. The loch extends through the middle distance of the view and settlement at Drumnadrochit is seen in distant views. The rising partially forested landform of Cnoc Fhearchair and Meall na h-Eilrig form the background of views west south-west. Landform located along the eastern Site boundary, including Meall Fuar-mhonaidh, forms the background of views south-west. More distant landform, including Meall nan Dearcag, Meall na Teanga and Sron a'Choire Ghairbh, forms the skyline of views further south. Direct views into the interior of the Site are afforded, with landform within the north-east and east of the Site partially screening views of the western and south-western extents of the Site.</p> <p>Turbine hubs and blade tips of the operational Bhlaraidh Wind Farm form a distant feature against the skyline in views south-west.</p>
Sensitivity	<p>Residential receptors are considered to be of high susceptibility to changes in the view. Road users are considered to be of low susceptibility to changes in the view.</p> <p>The viewpoint is located within the Loch Ness and Duntelchaig SLA. The value of the view is considered to be high.</p> <p>On balance, taking account of the judgements of susceptibility and value, overall sensitivity of receptors at this viewpoint is judged to be high.</p>
Assessment of Visual Effects (Primary assessment)	<p>The hubs and blade tips of all thirteen turbines will be seen against the skyline in distant views south-west. The rolling moorland summits of Carn an Tuairneir and Carn an t-Sluic Dhuibh will partially screen the bases of turbines. Turbines will appear as an extension to the north-east of the operational Bhlaraidh wind turbines, although the proposed turbines will increase the prominence and horizontal extent of turbines in the view. Turbines will not overwhelm the scale of the containing landform to the west of the Great Glen, and will appear relatively evenly spaced with a balanced composition across the cluster. The steel lattice anemometer mast and ground-level ancillary infrastructure (including access tracks and hardstandings) will be partially screened by intervening landform. The proposed substation will be seen in distant views, below the southernmost turbines. Where visible, infrastructure will be barely perceptible given the intervening distance.</p> <p>Visibility of the turbines with visible lighting will be evident from this location as indicated by Appendix 6.5, Figure A6.5.2 and Appendix 6.5, Annex A. Turbine T1, T4, T7, T10, T12 and T13 will have visible lighting at between 90.2cd and 82.2cd under clear conditions.</p> <p>Similar views will be experienced from relatively localised extents of approximately 2km of the B862, where the road passes at elevation across Ashie Moor to the south of Dores. The geographical extent of similar views is considered small.</p> <p>Given the distant nature of the view, the existing presence of the operational Bhlaraidh turbines in the view, and the relatively small proportion of the view that the proposed wind turbines will occupy, the introduction of the Proposed Development will result in a medium scale change to distant views.</p>
Effect and Significance	The overall magnitude of change is judged to be low and taking account of the high sensitivity will result in a minor (adverse) and not significant visual effect.

Viewpoint 16: B862 South of Dores	
<p>Assessment of Cumulative Effects under alternative baselines (Scenario 1 and 2)</p>	<p>Scenario 1: The hubs and blade tips of Bhlaraidh Extension (consented) will be seen against the skyline in distant views south-west, and will slightly increase the horizontal extent of the operational Bhlaraidh Wind Farm. Bhlaraidh, Bhlaraidh Extension and the Proposed Development will be seen in combined views, appearing as one continuous development. The turbine scale of the consented Bhlaraidh Extension and the Proposed Development will appear comparable, however both developments will increase the prominence of the operational Bhlaraidh Wind Farm. The introduction of the Proposed Development under this scenario will result in a medium scale change to distant views. The magnitude of change to views will remain low and the visual effect will remain minor (adverse) and not significant.</p> <p>Scenario 2: No other proposed wind energy developments will be perceptible in views from this location therefore no additional cumulative visual effects are predicted to occur for this cumulative assessment scenario. The level of effect will remain as for Scenario 1.</p>

Table 6.34: Viewpoint 17: Carn na Saobhaidhe

Viewpoint 17: Carn na Saobhaidhe			
Grid Reference (NGR)	259881	814377	Figure Number Figure 6.30
LCT	Rolling Uplands – Inverness (LCT 221)		Landscape Designation or Wild Land Area None
Direction of view	North-west		Distance to nearest turbine 23.0km
Number of hubs theoretically visible	13		Number of turbines with blades theoretically visible 13
Viewpoint location and existing view	<p>This viewpoint is located on the Corbett hill summit of Carn na Saobhaidhe (811m AOD), located to the east of the Great Glen. The viewpoint is representative of views experienced by recreational receptors.</p> <p>From this elevated location, open and panoramic views are afforded. The foreground of views north-west is formed by the relatively simple plateau moorland of the summit. Layers of receding ridgelines, with occasional blocks of conifer forestry on the lower slopes, extend through middle and long distance views looking north-west, with distant landform forming the skyline of the view. The Great Glen and Loch Ness are screened by intervening landform on either side of the glen, however Loch Mhor is glimpsed in between dips in landform in views west.</p> <p>The operational Bhlaraidh Wind Farm is seen in relatively distant views north-west, backclothed by more distant landform. The operational Corriegarth Wind Farm forms an evident feature in relatively close distance views south-west, with a steel lattice telecommunications tower and diesel generator seen in close distance views south. The operational Stronelaig Wind Farm is seen in more distant views south-west, partially screened by intervening landform. The operational Millennium, Beinneun and Beinneun Extension Wind Farms form distant features beyond Corriegarth Wind Farm in views west.</p>		
Sensitivity	<p>Recreational receptors, whose attention is focused on their surroundings, are considered to be of high susceptibility to changes in the view.</p> <p>The viewpoint is not located within a designated landscape or a recognised stopping point or promoted view. The value of the view is considered to be medium.</p> <p>On balance, taking account of the judgements of susceptibility and value, overall sensitivity of receptors at this viewpoint is judged to be high.</p>		

Viewpoint 17: Carn na Saobhaidhe	
<p>Assessment of Visual Effects (Primary assessment)</p>	<p>The hubs and blade tips of all thirteen turbines will be seen backclothed by landform in distant views north-west. The bases of turbines in the south of the Site will be partially screened by intervening landform. The proposed turbines will appear as an extension to the north of the operational Bhlaraidh wind farm. Whilst the Proposed Development will increase the horizontal extent of turbines in views looking north-west, the proposed turbines will appear as relatively distant features occupying a small proportion of the view. The steel lattice anemometer mast and ground-level ancillary infrastructure (including access tracks and hardstandings) will be partially screened by intervening landform. Where visible, infrastructure will be barely perceptible given the intervening distance. Where visible, infrastructure will be barely perceptible given the intervening distance.</p> <p>Visibility of the turbines with visible lighting will be evident from this location as indicated by Appendix 6.5, Figure A6.5.2 and Appendix 6.5, Annex A. Turbine T1, T4, T7, T10, T12 and T13 will have visible lighting at between 242.9cd and 237.9cd under clear conditions.</p> <p>A number of other operational wind farms are seen in panoramic views from this location, most notably Corriegarth Wind Farm, which forms a prominent feature extending across close to middle distance views. The Proposed Development will appear as a distinct and separate development to these schemes.</p> <p>Similar views will be experienced from elevated west-facing slopes and hill summits along the eastern edge of the Great Glen, within 20-30km to the east of the Site. The geographical extent of similar views is therefore considered to be medium.</p> <p>Given the existing presence of wind farms and the relatively small proportion of the view that the proposed wind turbines will occupy, the introduction of the Proposed Development will result in a small scale change to the view.</p>
Effect and Significance	<p>The overall magnitude of change is judged to be low and taking account of the high sensitivity will result in a minor (adverse) and not significant visual effect.</p>
<p>Assessment of Cumulative Effects under alternative baselines (Scenario 1 and 2)</p>	<p>Scenario 1: Bhlaraidh Extension (consented) will be seen in front of the operational Bhlaraidh Wind Farm and the Proposed Development, with the three developments appearing in combination as one continuous cluster in distant views north-west. Millennium South (consented) will be seen in successive distant views south-west and will appear as part of the cluster formed by the operational Millennium, Beinneun and Beinneun Extension wind farms. Dell Wind Farm (consented) will increase the prominence and horizontal extent of the operational Stronelaig Wind Farm in distant views south-west, with turbine hubs and blade tips seen against the skyline. However, Dell Wind Farm will be seen beyond the operational Corriegarth Wind Farm, which forms a prominent feature in close-distance views. These developments in combination with the introduction of the Proposed Development will result in a small scale change to the view, given the consented and proposed developments will be seen in the context of existing wind farms and in relatively distant views. The magnitude of change to views under this scenario, which includes all consented developments, will remain low and the visual effect will be minor (adverse) and not significant.</p> <p>Scenario 2: The proposed Corriegarth 2 Wind Farm (at PLI) will form a prominent feature, in combination with the operational Corriegarth Wind Farm, across a wide angle of close-distance views looking south-west to west. The proposed Cloiche Wind Farm (at application) will form a relatively distant feature in combination with Stronelaig and Dell Wind Farm in views south-west, beyond Corriegarth and Corriegarth 2 Wind Farms. The proposed Bunloinn Wind Farm (at application) and Tomchrasky Wind Farm (at application) will be barely perceptible beyond intervening landform in distant views west, beyond Corriegarth and Corriegarth 2 Wind Farms. The Proposed Development will appear as a separate development in a different angle of the view as other proposed wind farms. The magnitude of change to views under this scenario, which includes</p>

Viewpoint 17: Carn na Saobhaidhe	
	all consented and proposed developments, will remain low and the visual effect will be minor (adverse) and not significant , as for Scenario 1.

Table 6.35: Viewpoint 18: Toll Creagach

Viewpoint 18: Toll Creagach			
Grid Reference (NGR)	219446	828294	Figure Number Figure 6.31
LCT	Interlocking Sweeping Peaks – Inverness (LCT 230)	Landscape Designation or Wild Land Area	Glen Affric NSA (on boundary), Strathconan, Monar and Mullardoch SLA and Central Highlands WLA
Direction of view	East	Distance to nearest turbine	18.6km
Number of hubs theoretically visible	13	Number of turbines with blades theoretically visible	13
Viewpoint location and existing view	<p>This viewpoint is located on the Munro hill summit of Toll Creagach (1054m AOD) within the Strathconan, Monar and Mullardoch SLA and Central Highlands WLA, and near the boundary of the Glen Affric NSA. The viewpoint is representative of views experienced by recreational receptors.</p> <p>From this elevated location, open and panoramic views are afforded. The foreground of views east is formed by the rocky plateau moorland of the summit. Descending landform extends through the middle distance of the view, with the forested lower slopes of Glen Affric seen beyond. Intervening landform screens the floor of the glen and Loch Beinn a' Mheadhoin, though glimpsed views of more distant watercourses and lochans are afforded. Loch Mullardoch is seen in views north and north-west, with the distinctive summit of Sgurr na Lapaich seen beyond. Layers of receding ridgelines form the background and skyline of views in all directions, with hill summits becoming more dramatic and distinctive in successive views looking south to west.</p> <p>The Beauty-Denny 400kv overhead line is seen extending across successive middle-distance views looking south-east to north-east. The operational Corrimony and Bhlaraidh Wind Farms are seen extending across the middle distance of views beyond the overhead line, with turbines backclothed by landform. The existing visible turbine lighting on Corrimony Wind Farm may be evident in distant views from this viewpoint. The operational Farr, Kyllachy, Corriegarth and Dunmaglass Wind Farms are seen in more distant views, with some turbines appearing as skyline features. The operational Millennium, Beinneun and Beinneun Extension Wind Farms are seen in relatively distant views, backclothed by landform.</p>		
Sensitivity	<p>Recreational receptors, whose attention is focused on their surroundings, are considered to be of high susceptibility to changes in the view.</p> <p>The viewpoint is located within the Strathconan, Monar and Mullardoch SLA and Central Highlands WLA and overlooks the Glen Affric NSA. The value of the view is therefore considered to be high.</p> <p>On balance, taking account of the judgements of susceptibility and value, overall sensitivity of receptors at this viewpoint is judged to be high.</p>		
Assessment of Visual Effects (Primary assessment)	<p>The hubs and blade tips of all thirteen turbines will be seen backclothed by landform in distant views east. The bases of some turbines in the north and west of the Site will be partially screened by intervening landform. The proposed turbines will appear as an extension to the north of the operational Bhlaraidh wind farm, with a slight gap between the two developments and with the proposed turbines appearing evidently larger in scale than the operational Bhlaraidh Wind Farm. The steel lattice anemometer mast and ground-level ancillary infrastructure (including access tracks</p>		

Viewpoint 18: Toll Creagach	
	<p>and hardstandings) will be partially screened by intervening landform. Where visible, infrastructure will be barely perceptible given the intervening distance.</p> <p>Visibility of the turbines with visible lighting will be evident from this location as indicated by Appendix 6.5, Figure A6.5.2 and Appendix 6.5, Annex A. Turbine T1, T4, T7, T10, T12 and T13 will have visible lighting at between 247.1cd and 243.9cd under clear conditions.</p> <p>A number of other operational wind farms are seen in panoramic views from this location, including Corrimony wind farm, which will appear in front of the Proposed Development, and Dunmaglass wind farm, which will appear beyond the Proposed Development. The Proposed Development will slightly increase the horizontal extent of turbines in views looking east, however the existing pattern of clusters of wind farms will remain.</p> <p>Similar views will be experienced from elevated summits and east-facing slopes within the north-eastern extents of the Glen Affric NSA and south-eastern extents of the SLA and WLA, within 13-25km to the west of the Site. The geographical extent of similar views is considered medium.</p> <p>Whilst the Proposed Development will increase the horizontal extent of turbines in views looking east, the proposed turbines will appear as distant features occupying a small proportion of the available view, which is influenced by existing operational wind farms. The introduction of the Proposed Development will result in a small scale change to the view.</p>
Effect and Significance	The overall magnitude of change is judged to be low and taking account of the high sensitivity will result in a minor (adverse) and not significant visual effect.
Assessment of Cumulative Effects under alternative baselines (Scenario 1 and 2)	<p>Scenario 1: The consented Bhlaraidh Extension will form a relatively distant feature, slightly increasing the horizontal extent of the operational Bhlaraidh Wind Farm. The Proposed Development will appear in combination with the operational Bhlaraidh and Bhlaraidh Extension as one continuous wind farm extending across a medium angle of relatively distant views east, beyond the operational Corrimony Wind Farm. The consented Dell Wind Farm will appear as a barely perceptible feature in distant views south-east, beyond the operational Stronelairg Wind Farm. The consented Millennium South Wind Farm will appear as a distant and relatively discrete feature, beyond the operational Millennium Wind Farm. The magnitude of change to views under this scenario, which includes all consented developments, will remain low and the visual effect will be minor (adverse) and not significant.</p> <p>Scenario 2: The proposed Corriegarth 2 Wind Farm (at PLI) will slightly increase the horizontal extent of the operational Corriegarth Wind Farm, and will form a distant feature beyond the operational Bhlaraidh Wind Farm in views east. The proposed Cloiche Wind Farm (at application) will form a distant feature in views south-east and will increase the horizontal extent of Stronelairg (operational) and Dell Wind Farms (consented). The proposed Bunloinn Wind Farm (at application) will be barely perceptible beyond intervening landform in distant views south. The proposed Tomchrasky Wind Farm (at application) will be seen in relatively distant views south-east, below the operational Millennium Wind Farm and partially screened by intervening landform. The Proposed Development will appear as a separate development to these other proposed wind farms. The magnitude of change to views under this scenario, which includes all consented and proposed developments, will remain low and the visual effect will be minor (adverse) and not significant, as for Scenario 1.</p>

Table 6.36: Viewpoint 19: Sgurr nan Conbhairean

Viewpoint 19: Sgurr nan Conbhairean			
Grid Reference (NGR)	212991	813895	Figure Number Figure 6.32

Viewpoint 19: Sgurr nan Conbhairean			
LCT	Interlocking Sweeping Peaks – Inverness (LCT 230)	Landscape Designation or Wild Land Area	Moidart Morar and Glen Shiel SLA and Central Highlands WLA
Direction of view	North-east	Distance to nearest turbine	26.1km
Number of hubs theoretically visible	13	Number of turbines with blades theoretically visible	13
Viewpoint location and existing view	<p>This viewpoint is located on the Munro hill summit of Sgurr nan Conbhairean (1109m AOD) on the boundary of the Glen Affric NSA and within the Moidart Morar and Glen Shiel SLA and Central Highlands WLA.</p> <p>From this elevated location, open and panoramic views are afforded. The foreground of views north-east is formed by descending landform, with the horseshoe-shaped rocky moorland ridgeline formed by Carn Ghluasaid, Sgurr nan Conbhairean, and Carn na Coire Mheadhoin extending through the middle distance of the view. Lower-lying glens incise elevated landform, with winding watercourses. Undulating rocky moorland with scattered lochans extend through the middle distance and longer-distance views north-east. The forested Glen Moriston is seen in relatively distant views east, and lower-lying extents of Glen Affric are glimpsed in views north. Layers of receding ridgelines form the background and skyline of views in all directions, with hill summits becoming more dramatic and distinctive in successive views looking south-west to north.</p> <p>The Beauty-Denny 400kv overhead line is barely perceptible, crossing Glen Moriston in relatively distant views looking east. The operational Corrimony and Bhlaraidh Wind Farms are seen in relatively distant views north-east. The existing visible turbine lighting on Corrimony Wind Farm may be evident in distant views from this viewpoint. The operational Beinneun, Beinneun Extension and Millennium Wind Farms are relatively evident in the middle distance of views looking south-east. Other more distant wind farms are barely perceptible in longer-distance successive views north-east to east, including the operational Farr, Kyllachy, Dunmaglass, Corriegarh and Stronelairg Wind Farms.</p>		
Sensitivity	<p>Recreational receptors, whose attention is focused on their surroundings, are considered to be of high susceptibility to changes in the view.</p> <p>The viewpoint overlooks the Glen Affric NSA and is located within the Moidart Morar and Glen Shiel SLA and Central Highlands WLA. The value of the view is therefore considered to be high.</p> <p>On balance, taking account of the judgements of susceptibility and value, overall sensitivity of receptors at this viewpoint is judged to be high.</p>		
Assessment of Visual Effects (Primary assessment)	<p>The hubs and blade tips of all thirteen turbines will be seen backclothed by landform in distant views east. The bases of some turbines in the north and south the Site will be partially screened by intervening landform. The proposed turbines will appear as an extension to the north of the operational Bhlaraidh wind farm, with turbines of both developments appearing comparable in scale. The steel lattice anemometer mast and ground-level ancillary infrastructure (including access tracks and hardstandings) will be partially screened by intervening landform. Where visible, infrastructure will be barely perceptible given the intervening distance.</p> <p>Visibility of the turbines with visible lighting will be evident from this location as indicated by Appendix 6.5, Figure A6.5.2 and Appendix 6.5, Annex A. Turbine T4, T7, T10, T12 and T13 will have visible lighting at between 251.4cd and 250.9cd under clear conditions.</p> <p>A number of other operational wind farms are seen in panoramic views from this location, including the operational Corrimony and Bhlaraidh Wind Farms. The Proposed Development will slightly</p>		

Viewpoint 19: Sgurr nan Conbhairean	
	<p>increase the horizontal extent of turbines in views looking north-east, reducing the existing gap between the operational Corrimony and Bhlaraidh wind farms.</p> <p>Similar views will be experienced from elevated summits and east-facing slopes within relatively limited extents in the north-east of the SLA and south-eastern extents of the WLA, within 20-30km to the south-west of the Site. The geographical extent of similar views is considered medium.</p> <p>Whilst the Proposed Development will increase the horizontal extent of turbines in views looking north-east, the proposed turbines will appear as distant features occupying a small proportion of the available view, which is influenced by existing operational wind farms. The introduction of the Proposed Development will result in a small scale change to the view.</p>
Effect and Significance	The overall magnitude of change is judged to be low and taking account of the high sensitivity will result in a minor (adverse) and not significant visual effect.
Assessment of Cumulative Effects under alternative baselines (Scenario 1 and 2)	<p>Scenario 1: The consented Bhlaraidh Extension will form a relatively distant feature beyond the operational Bhlaraidh Wind Farm. The Proposed Development will appear in combination with the operational Bhlaraidh and Bhlaraidh Extension as one continuous wind farm extending across a medium angle of relatively distant views north-east, and will appear separate to the operational Corrimony Wind Farm. The consented Dell Wind Farm will appear as a barely perceptible feature in distant successive views east, slightly increasing the horizontal extent of Stronelairg Wind Farm. The consented Millennium South Wind Farm will appear as a distant and relatively discrete feature in successive views east, south-east, beyond the operational Millennium Wind Farm. The magnitude of change to views under this scenario, which includes all consented developments, will remain low and the visual effect will be minor (adverse) and not significant.</p> <p>Scenario 2: The proposed Tomchrasky Wind Farm (at application) will appear as a relatively evident and separate feature in views east, and will bring the influence of wind turbines closer in the view. The proposed Corriegarh 2 Wind Farm (at PLI) will slightly increase the horizontal extent of the operational Corriegarh Wind Farm, and will form a distant feature in successive views east. The proposed Cloiche Wind Farm (at application) will form a distant feature in views south-east and will increase the horizontal extent of Stronelairg (operational) and Dell Wind Farms (consented). The blade tips of the proposed Bunloinn Wind Farm (at application) will be glimpsed beyond intervening landform in successive views south-east, and will slightly increase the horizontal extent and proportion of the view occupied by wind farms. The Proposed Development will appear as a separate development to these other proposed wind farms. The magnitude of change to views under this scenario, which includes all consented and proposed developments, will remain low and the visual effect will be minor (adverse) and not significant, as for Scenario 1.</p>

Table 6.37: Viewpoint 20: Carn Dearg

Viewpoint 20: Carn Dearg			
Grid Reference (NGR)	263547	802414	Figure Number Figure 6.33
LCT	Rolling Uplands – Cairngorms (LCT 125)	Landscape Designation or Wild Land Area	Cairngorms NP and Monadhliath WLA
Direction of view	North-west	Distance to nearest turbine	32.5km
Number of hubs theoretically visible	13	Number of turbines with blades theoretically visible	13
Viewpoint location and existing view	This viewpoint is located on the Munro hill summit of Carn Dearg (945m AOD) within the Monadhliath WLA and on the western boundary of the Cairngorms NP. The viewpoint represents views experienced by recreational receptors.		

Viewpoint 20: Carn Dearg	
	<p>Relatively open and panoramic views are afforded from this location. The foreground of views north-west comprises the moorland summit ridgeline with occasional rocky outcrops and scree. More distant rounded summits of the Monadhliath are seen beyond. Distant summits to the west of the Great Glen form the skyline of views north-west. The floor of the glen, including Loch Ness, is screened in views by intervening landform. Views east are focused on hills within the interior of the Cairngorms NP, including the Carn Gorm massif.</p> <p>From this elevated location, a number of operational wind farms are seen. Stronelairg Wind Farm forms a relatively distant feature and is seen backclothed by more distant landform but extends across a wide angle of views west. Millennium, Beinneun and Extension Wind Farms are seen beyond Stronelairg, backclothed by more distant landform. Bhlaraidh and Corrimony Wind Farms form relatively distant features, backclothed by landform, in views north-west.</p>
Sensitivity	<p>Recreational receptors, whose attention is focused on their surroundings, are considered to be of high susceptibility to changes in the view.</p> <p>The viewpoint is located within the Cairngorms NP and the Monadhliath WLA</p> <p>On balance, taking account of the judgements of susceptibility and value, overall sensitivity of receptors at this viewpoint is judged to be high.</p>
Assessment of Visual Effects (Primary assessment)	<p>The hubs and blade tips of all thirteen turbines will be seen backclothed by landform in relatively distant views north-west. The bases of turbines in the south of the Site will be partially screened by intervening landform. The Proposed Development will occupy a small proportion of long-distance views looking north-west.</p> <p>The Proposed Development will appear in an angle of the view with an existing influence of wind farms, and will appear to form an extension to the north of the operational Bhlaraidh Wind Farm. The steel lattice anemometer mast and ground-level ancillary infrastructure (including access tracks and hardstandings) will be partially screened by intervening landform. Where visible, infrastructure will be barely perceptible given the intervening distance.</p> <p>Visibility of the turbines with visible lighting will be evident from this location as indicated by Appendix 6.5, Figure A6.5.2 and Appendix 6.5, Annex A. Turbine T1, T4, T7, T10, T12 and T13 will have visible lighting at 242.9cd under clear conditions.</p> <p>Similar views will be experienced from elevated summits within relatively limited extents in the west of the WLA and along the Cairngorms National Park boundary, within 25-35km to the south-east of the Proposed Development. The geographical extent of similar views is considered small.</p>
Effect and Significance	<p>The overall magnitude of change is judged to be low and taking account of the high sensitivity will result in a minor (adverse) and not significant visual effect.</p>
Assessment of Cumulative Effects under alternative baselines (Scenario 1 and 2)	<p>Scenario 1: Bhlaraidh Extension (consented) will be seen in front of the operational Bhlaraidh Wind Farm, operational Corrimony Wind Farm and the Proposed Development, with the four developments appearing in combination as one continuous cluster in distant views north-west. Millennium South (consented) will be seen in successive distant views south-west and will appear as part of the cluster formed by the operational Millennium, Beinneun and Beinneun Extension wind farms. Dell Wind Farm (consented) will increase the prominence and horizontal extent of the operational Stronelairg Wind Farm in distant views west. These developments in combination with the introduction of the Proposed Development will result in a small scale change to the view, given the consented and proposed developments will be seen in the context of existing wind farms and in relatively distant views. The magnitude of change to views under this scenario, which includes all consented developments, will remain low and the visual effect will be minor (adverse) and not significant.</p>

Viewpoint 20: Carn Dearg	
	<p>Scenario 2: The proposed Cloiche Wind Farm (at application) will form a relatively distant feature in combination with Stronelairg and Dell Wind Farm in successive views west, with the proposed Bunloinn Wind Farm (at application) appearing barely perceptible beyond intervening landform in more distant views west. The Proposed Development will appear as a separate development in a different angle of the view as other proposed wind farms, and forms part of a more discrete cluster of turbines as compared to other development. The magnitude of change to views under this scenario, which includes all consented and proposed developments, will remain low and the visual effect will be minor (adverse) and not significant, as for Scenario 1.</p>

Settlements

6.123 Theoretical visibility of the Proposed Development from settlements across the Study Area is illustrated by **Figures 6.2a-6.2c**. Visual effects from settlements, which were taken forward for detailed assessment, as outlined in **Table 6.6**, are discussed below. Where a settlement is represented by an assessment viewpoint reference is made to this.

Table 6.38: Balnain

Balnain			
Representative viewpoint	VP1: Affric Kintail Way, near Braefield VP3: Balbeg	Approximate distance to nearest turbine	8.3km
Description	Balnain is a small village in Glen Urquhart. The village comprises a number of relatively dispersed residential properties located along the A831 to the north-east of Loch Meiklie and minor roads which cross the lower slopes of Glen Urquhart to the north of the A831. Principal and secondary views from many residential properties within the settlement are screened by intervening vegetation, however outward views south looking across Loch Meiklie and towards the containing forested landform to the south of Glen Urquhart are afforded from parts of the settlement, including slightly elevated residential properties located on the lower slopes of the glen on the north and western edges of the settlement. There are no views of operational wind farms from the centre of the settlement, however views of Corrimony Wind Farm are afforded from relatively isolated properties to the west of the settlement (near Buntait).		
Sensitivity	Residential receptors are considered to be of high susceptibility to changes in the view. Balnain is not located within a designated landscape. The value of views is considered to be medium. Taking account of the judgements of susceptibility and value, overall sensitivity of receptors at this settlement is judged to be high .		
Assessment of Visual Effects (Primary assessment)	The ZTV (Figures 6.2a-6.2c) indicates limited visibility from the settlement, with potential for visibility mostly focused along the elevated northern and western edges of the settlement. The presence of woodland limits outward views from parts of the settlement. Where outward views south-west are afforded from residential properties along the northern edge of the settlement (illustrated by VP3: Balbeg), the turbine blade tips of the Proposed Development will be glimpsed beyond intervening landform and against the skyline in the middle distance of views. The proposed turbines will occupy a relatively small proportion of views looking south-west, resulting in a small scale change to the view. Where outward views are afforded from residential properties along the western edge of the settlement (illustrated by VP1: Affric Kintail Way, near Braefield), the hub and blade tips of one turbine and the partial blade tips of a further five turbines will be seen against the skyline in the middle distance of views looking south. Turbines will be partially screened by the ridgeline formed by elevated rolling moorland in the north of the Site, with turbine T12 forming an evident feature against the skyline. The introduction of the Proposed Development will result in a medium scale change to the view. Similar views will be experienced from localised geographical extents, with a medium-scale		

Balnain	
	change experienced from a small number of properties located along approximately 500m of the minor road near Braefield. A small-scale change will be experienced from slightly elevated properties located along the northern settlement edge. Visibility of turbines with visible lighting is unlikely to be evident from this settlement as indicated by Appendix 6.5, Figure A6.5.2 and Appendix 6.5, Annex A.
Effect and Significance	The overall magnitude of change is judged to be medium for a small number of properties located along the western edge of the settlement, reducing to low for the settlement as a whole. Taking account of the high sensitivity this will result in a moderate (adverse) and significant visual effect locally, reducing to minor (adverse) and not significant visual effect for the settlement as a whole.
Assessment of Cumulative Effects under alternative baselines (Scenario 1 and 2)	No other consented or proposed wind energy developments will be perceptible in views from this settlement therefore no additional cumulative visual effects are predicted to occur for either cumulative assessment scenario. The level of effect will therefore remain as identified in the primary assessment.

Routes

6.124 Visibility from a route is not uniform along its entire length. This is because views of the surrounding landscape change due to the landform, built form, and vegetation cover as the viewer moves along the route. Sequential effects from the key routes which were taken forward for detailed assessment, as outlined from **Table 6.7**, are set out below.

Table 6.39: B862

B862			
Representative viewpoint	Viewpoint 6: B862 near Whitebridge Viewpoint 8: B862 Suidhe Viewpoint	Approximate distance to nearest turbine	12.7km
Description	<p>The B862 crosses the Study Area on a south-west to north-east alignment connecting Fort Augustus to the B865 at Inverness.</p> <p>From Fort Augustus, the road climbs the lower sides of the glen to the south and east. Outward views from the road are screened and filtered by intervening forestry, woodland and rolling localised landform. Distant outward views looking west are afforded as the road passes Loch Tarff. Open and panoramic views looking across Stratherrick and towards distant hill summits are afforded from higher elevation sections of the road near the promoted Suidhe viewpoint. As the road passes through Stratherrick, occasional views to distant landform are afforded between intervening vegetation. The road passes through coniferous forestry to the north of Loch Mhor, and continues further north through a landscape of low rocky hills and rough grazing, from which distant outward views are relatively enclosed by localised intervening landform. The road passes to the south of Loch Duntelchaig through rolling moorland. Views west towards the containing landform of the Great Glen becomes visible from this section of the road. To the south-east of Dores, open views across Loch Ness are afforded from relatively elevated sections of the road. On approach to Dores, outward views from the road are screened and filtered by intervening woodland.</p> <p>The B862 forms part of the Caledonia Way cycle route between Fort Augustus and Whitebridge. The B862 is identified as key route within The Highland Council SG, travelled by local residents, recreational users and tourists.</p> <p>Long distance views of the operational Corriegarth and Dunmaglass Wind Farms are afforded from elevated sections of the road near the Suidhe viewpoint. From the southern extents of the road to the north-east of Fort Augustus, long distance oblique views of Beinneun, Beinneun Extension and</p>		

B862	
	Millennium Wind Farms are afforded. From sections of the road near Loch Tarff, wind turbine hubs and blade tips of the operational Bhlaraidh Wind Farm are seen in oblique long-distance views west, channelled by landform on either side of the development.
Sensitivity	Road users are considered to be of low susceptibility to changes in the view. Within the Study Area the road passes through the Loch Ness and Duntelchaig SLA, as such views from the road are considered to be high in value. Taking account of the judgements of susceptibility and value, overall sensitivity of receptors is judged to be high .
Assessment of Visual Effects (Primary assessment)	<p>The ZTV (Figures 6.2a-6.2c) indicates intermittent sequential visibility from approximately 6km of the road, including extents of the road near Loch Tarff, the promoted Suidhe viewpoint (illustrated by VP8: B862 Suidhe Viewpoint) and north of Whitebridge (illustrated by VP6: B862 near Whitebridge). The presence of woodland along the road will limit actual visibility from these sections of the road. Where outward views are afforded from elevated sections of the road (illustrated by VP8: B862 Suidhe Viewpoint), hubs and blade tips of twelve turbines and the blade tips of one further turbine will be seen against the skyline in distant oblique views north-west, with the bases of turbine towers partially screened by intervening landform. The Proposed Development will appear to the north of the operational Bhlaraidh Wind Farm and will increase the horizontal extent of turbines in the view. In combination, the existing and proposed turbines will be seen across a medium angle of distant views.</p> <p>In views from lower lying extents of the road within Stratherrick (illustrated by VP6: B862 near Whitebridge), partial blade tips of nine turbines will appear against the skyline, though mostly screened by intervening landform in distant oblique views north-west. The Proposed Development will be perceived to introduce wind turbines into the view, however the proposed turbines will occupy a small proportion of the view with many blade tips appearing barely perceptible beyond intervening landform in glimpsed views from this section of the road.</p> <p>Visibility of the turbines with visible lighting will be evident from short sections of this route as illustrated by VP6 and VP8 and indicated by Appendix 6.5, Figure A6.5.2 and Appendix 6.5, Annex A.</p> <p>The introduction of the Proposed Development will result in a medium scale change to views from localised extents of the road, near the promoted Suidhe viewpoint, reducing to a small scale change to views from other localised sections of the road with visibility of the Proposed Development.</p>
Effect and Significance	The overall magnitude of change is judged to be medium for localised sections of the road near the Suidhe viewpoint, resulting in a moderate (adverse) and significant visual effect. The magnitude of change will reduce to low for the road as a whole and taking account of the high sensitivity will result in a minor (adverse) and not significant visual effect.
Assessment of Cumulative Effects under alternative baselines (Scenario 1 and 2)	<p>Scenario 1: The viewpoint assessment for Viewpoint 6: B862 near Whitebridge and Viewpoint 8: B862 Suidhe Viewpoint identified an overall low magnitude of change under Scenario 1, resulting in a visual effect of minor (adverse) and not significant. Similar sequential views of wind farms will be limited to relatively localised extents of the B862 under this cumulative assessment scenario. Overall the magnitude of change to views from the route under this scenario, which considers all consented developments, will be low and the visual effect will be minor (adverse) and not significant.</p> <p>Scenario 2: The viewpoint assessment for Viewpoint 8: B862 Suidhe Viewpoint identified an overall low cumulative magnitude of change resulting in the visual effect of minor (adverse) and not significant. Similar sequential views of wind farms will be limited to relatively localised extents of the B862 under this cumulative assessment scenario. Overall the cumulative magnitude of change to views from the route will be low and the visual effect will be minor (adverse) and not significant.</p>

Table 6.40: Affric Kintail Way

Affric Kintail Way			
Representative viewpoint	Viewpoint 1: Affric Kintail Way, near Braefield Viewpoint 4: Affric Kintail Way, West of Cannich	Approximate distance to nearest turbine	5.2km
Description	<p>The Affric Kintail Way is a long-distance route which crosses 44 miles from Drumnadrochit to Morvich in Kintail. In the east at Drumnadrochit, the route links to the Great Glen Way and Loch Ness 360 trail.</p> <p>Within the 15km of the Site, the route passes between Drumnadrochit and into Glen Affric. From Drumnadrochit the route passes west along forestry track on the forested southern side of Glen Urquhart. Near Shenval, the route crosses the A831 towards forestry on the northern sides of the glen to the north of Buntait. The route crosses the A831 again near Millness and passes towards forestry at Kerrow Wood, descending towards Cannich and Strath Glass. The route crosses into forestry to the west of Cannich, and broadly passes south-west into Glen Affric. The route passes through mixed woodland to the southern shore of Loch Beinn a' Mheadhoin and on the slopes to the south of Loch Affric.</p> <p>Outward views from route are relatively enclosed due to intervening forestry and woodland, however occasionally glimpsed views are afforded from sections of the route which pass through recently felled coniferous forestry (particularly to the north-west of the Site) or occasionally between woodland.</p> <p>Where outward views are afforded from sections of the route (to the north-west of Cannich near Comar Wood and intermittent extents of the route passing through Glen Urquhart), the operational Bhlaraidh and Corrimony wind farms are seen in long-distance views partially screened by intervening landform and vegetation.</p>		
Sensitivity	<p>Recreational receptors, whose attention is focused on their surroundings, are considered to be of high susceptibility to changes in the view.</p> <p>The Affric Kintail Way passes through the Glen Affric NSA and Strathconon, Monar and Mullardoch SLA. The value of the view is therefore considered to be high.</p> <p>Taking account of the judgements of susceptibility and value, overall sensitivity of receptors is judged to be high.</p>		
Assessment of Visual Effects (Primary assessment)	<p>The ZTV (Figures 6.2a-6.2c) indicates visibility from approximately 13km of the route within 6km to the north and 8.5km to the north-west of the Site. However, actual visibility will be limited from sections of the route which pass through woodland and coniferous forestry.</p> <p>In sections of the route which pass up the northern sides of Glen Urquhart to the north of the Site (illustrated by VP1: Affric-Kintail Way, near Braefield), the hub and blade tips of one turbine and the partial blade tips of a further five turbines will be seen against the skyline in the middle distance of views looking south. Turbines will be partially screened by the ridgeline formed by elevated rolling moorland in the north of the Site, with turbine T12 forming an evident feature against the skyline. The introduction of the Proposed Development will result in a medium scale change to the view and will be perceived to introduce wind turbines into the views from this section of the route. Similar views will be experienced from very localised geographical extents (approximately 500m of the route) before the route passes into coniferous forestry further to the north.</p> <p>In sections of the route which pass on the slopes above Strathglass (illustrated by VP 4: Affric Kintail Way, West of Cannich), the hubs and blade tips of one turbine (T13) and the partial blade tips of a further three turbines will be seen against the skyline in views looking south-east. The ridgeline formed by elevated rolling moorland along the western Site boundary will partially screen turbines.</p>		

Affric Kintail Way	
	<p>The blade tips of the operational Bhlaraidh and Corrimony Wind Farms glimpsed beyond intervening landform in successive views further south-east. The introduction of the proposed development will result in a small scale change to views from this section of the route, experienced from localised geographical extents of the route (intermittent sections of approximately 2.5km of the route to the west of the Site, where felling of forestry has resulted in more open outward views east).</p> <p>Intermittent visibility of the turbines with visible lighting will be evident from short sections of this route, and viewpoints located along it (VP1 and VP4) as indicated by Appendix 6.5, Figure A6.5.2 and Appendix 6.5, Annex A.</p>
Effect and Significance	<p>The overall magnitude of change is judged to be medium for localised sections of the route, near Braefield approximately 5.6km to the north of the Proposed Development, resulting in a moderate (adverse) and significant visual effect. The magnitude of change will reduce to low for the route as a whole and taking account of the high sensitivity will result in a minor (adverse) and not significant visual effect.</p>
Assessment of Cumulative Effects under alternative baselines (Scenario 1 and 2)	<p>Scenario 1: Sequential views of other wind farms will be limited to relatively localised extents of the route under this cumulative assessment scenario. The blade tips of the consented Bhlaraidh Extension Wind Farm may be glimpsed in between intervening vegetation from localised sections of the route along the northern slopes of Glen Urquhart and near Dog Falls. The level of effect will therefore remain as identified in the primary assessment.</p> <p>Scenario 2: No other proposed wind energy developments will be perceptible in views from the route within the Study Area therefore no additional cumulative visual effects are predicted to occur under this scenario. The level of effect will therefore remain as identified in the primary assessment.</p>

Table 6.41: The Caledonia Way cycle route and the South Loch Ness Trail (including THC Core Paths IN17.01, IN17.05 and IN25.01)

The Caledonia Way cycle route and the South Loch Ness Trail (including THC Core Paths IN17.01, IN17.05 and IN25.01)			
Representative viewpoint	Viewpoint 6: B862 near Whitebridge Viewpoint 8: B862 Suidhe Viewpoint Viewpoint 13: B852 Erchite Wood, east of Loch Ness (picnic area)	Approximate distance to nearest turbine	11.5km
Description	<p>The Caledonia Way cycle route is a long-distance cycle route that extends 234 miles between Campbeltown and Inverness. Within the Study Area, the route passes between Gairloch and Inverness. The South Loch Ness Trail broadly follows the eastern shore of Loch Ness, forming part of the Loch Ness 360 circular route from Fort Augustus to Inverness via Whitebridge, Inverfarigaig and Dores. Within 15km of the Site, the routes pass on the B862 from Fort Augustus to the B852, where the routes broadly follow the eastern shore of Loch Ness.</p> <p>From sections of the routes which broadly follow the B862 between Fort Augustus and Whitebridge, outward views are occasionally screened and filtered by vegetation. Open views looking west are afforded from sections of the routes near Loch Tarff. Outward views north-east and east looking across Stratherrick and towards distant hill summits are afforded from sections of the routes near the promoted Suidhe viewpoint and near Whitebridge. From sections of the routes which broadly follow the B852 north of Foyers, outward views are often screened by intervening forestry and woodland, however occasional glimpsed views are afforded looking west across Loch Ness and towards the</p>		

The Caledonia Way cycle route and the South Loch Ness Trail (including THC Core Paths IN17.01, IN17.05 and IN25.01)	
	<p>containing landform to the west of the Great Glen. This section of the routes passes a number of promoted picnic areas located to the west of the B852.</p> <p>The operational Corriegarth and Dunmaglass Wind Farms are seen partially screened by intervening landform in sequential long-distance oblique views north-east and east as the routes pass near the Suidhe viewpoint and near the junction of the B862 and B852. From the southern extents of the routes to the north-east of Fort Augustus, long distance oblique views of Beinneun, Beinneun Extension and Millennium Wind Farms are afforded. From sections of the routes near Loch Tarff, wind turbine hubs and blade tips of Bhlaraidh Wind Farm are seen in oblique long-distance views west, channelled by landform on either side of the development.</p>
Sensitivity	<p>Recreational receptors, including cyclists, whose attention is focused on their surroundings, are considered to be of high susceptibility to changes in the view.</p> <p>The routes pass within the Loch Ness and Duntelchaig SLA. The value of the view is therefore considered to be high.</p> <p>Taking account of the judgements of susceptibility and value, overall sensitivity of receptors is judged to be high.</p>
Assessment of Visual Effects (Primary assessment)	<p>The ZTV (Figures 6.2a-6.2c) indicates visibility from approximately 7km of the routes, within 12.7km to the south-east of the Proposed Development north of Whitebridge, 13km to the south-east of the Proposed Development near the promoted Suidhe viewpoint, within 13.8km to the south-east of the Proposed Development near Loch Tarff, and within 16.9km to the north-east of the Proposed Developments as the routes pass along eastern shore of Loch Ness. However, the presence of woodland and forestry will limit actual visibility.</p> <p>In views from slightly elevated sections of the routes near the promoted Suidhe viewpoint (illustrated by VP8: B862 Suidhe Viewpoint), the hubs and blade tips of twelve turbines and the blade tips of one further turbine will be seen against the skyline in relatively distant views north-west, with the bases of turbine towers partially screened by intervening landform. The Proposed Development will appear to the north of the operational Bhlaraidh Wind Farm and will increase the horizontal extent of turbines in the view. In combination, the existing and proposed turbines will be seen across a medium angle of distant views.</p> <p>In views from lower-lying extents of the routes within Stratherrick (illustrated by VP6: B862 near Whitebridge), partial blade tips of nine turbines will appear against the skyline, though mostly screened by intervening landform in distant views north-west. The Proposed Development will be perceived to introduce wind turbines into the view, however the proposed turbines will occupy a small proportion of the view with many blade tips appearing barely perceptible beyond intervening landform in glimpsed views from this section of the routes.</p> <p>Intermittent distant visibility of the turbines with visible lighting will be evident from short sections of this route, and viewpoints located along it (VP6, VP8 and VP3) as indicated by Appendix Figure A6.5.2 and Appendix 6.5, Annex A.</p> <p>Outward views from the routes as they pass along the eastern shore of Loch Ness are limited by intervening woodland and coniferous forestry. Where outward glimpsed views are afforded (illustrated by VP13: B852 Erchite Wood, east of Loch Ness (picnic area)), the hubs and blade tips of eight turbines and the blade tips of a further four turbines will be seen against the skyline in relatively distant views, partially screened by intervening landform. The Proposed Development will increase the prominence and horizontal extent of the barely perceptible blade tips of Bhlaraidh wind farm. The proposed turbines will form a new skyline feature in focused views looking into the Site along Glen Coiltie, however the proposed turbines will not overwhelm the scale of the containing landform to the east of the Great Glen and will be seen across a relatively small proportion of the view.</p>

The Caledonia Way cycle route and the South Loch Ness Trail (including THC Core Paths IN17.01, IN17.05 and IN25.01)	
	<p>The introduction of the Proposed Development will result in a medium scale change to views from localised sections of the routes, near the Suidhe viewpoint and in glimpsed views from the eastern shore of Loch Ness. The scale of change will reduce to small for views from other sections of the routes.</p>
Effect and Significance	<p>The overall magnitude of change is judged to be medium for localised sections of the route, near the promoted Suidhe viewpoint and along the eastern shore of Loch Ness within approximately 13-17km of the Proposed Development, resulting in a moderate (adverse) and significant visual effect. The magnitude of change will reduce to low for the route as a whole and taking account of the high sensitivity will result in a minor (adverse) and not significant visual effect.</p>
Assessment of Cumulative Effects under alternative baselines (Scenario 1 and 2)	<p>Scenario 1: The viewpoint assessment for Viewpoint 6: B862 near Whitebridge, Viewpoint 8: B862 Suidhe Viewpoint and Viewpoint 13: B852 Erchite Wood, east of Loch Ness (picnic area) identified an overall low magnitude of change under Scenario 1, resulting in a visual effect of minor (adverse) and not significant. Similar sequential views of wind farms will be limited to relatively localised extents of the route under this cumulative assessment scenario. Overall, the magnitude of change to views from the route under this scenario, which includes all consented developments, will be low and the visual effect will be minor (adverse) and not significant.</p> <p>Scenario 2: The viewpoint assessment for Viewpoint 6: B862 near Whitebridge and Viewpoint 13: B852 Erchite Wood, east of Loch Ness (picnic area) identified no additional cumulative visual effects. Viewpoint 8: B862 Suidhe Viewpoint identified an overall low magnitude of change resulting in the visual effect of minor (adverse) and not significant. Similar sequential views of wind farms will be limited to relatively localised extents of the route under this cumulative assessment scenario. Overall, the magnitude of change to views from the route under this scenario, which includes all consented and proposed developments, will be low and the visual effect will be minor (adverse) and not significant.</p>

Table 6.42: Other rights of way within 5km of the Site (Other Route - H/HI53/1; Recorded Right of Way HI/HI67/1; Other Route HI/HI71/1; and Other Route HI/HI70/1)

Other rights of way within 5km of the Site (Other Route - H/HI53/1; Recorded Right of Way HI/HI67/1; Other Route HI/HI71/1; and Other Route HI/HI70/1)			
Representative viewpoint:	N/A	Approximate distance to nearest turbine	2.3km
Description	<p>These routes are local Rights of Way within 5km the Site. Route H/HI53/1 passes on a south-west to north-east alignment, following the River Coiltie to the north-east of the Site boundary and towards Drumnadrochit. Route HI/HI67/1 passes broadly on a north-south alignment through the rolling rocky moorland within approximately 3.8km to the east of the Site, continuing north of the Site towards Glen Urquhart and south of the Site towards Invermoriston. Outward views from lower-lying sections of these routes are partially screened by incised intervening landform. Views from Route H/HI53/1 are generally focused along Glen Coiltie, with the operational Bhlaraidh Wind Farm appearing evident in views looking south-west. More distant outward views are afforded from elevated sections of Route HI/HI67/1, including near Carn na h-Imrich and Carn Loch an-t Sionnaich where the operational Bhlaraidh Wind Farm appears evident in views south-west and west and more distant views of the operational Beinneun, Millennium, Stronelairg, Farr, Kyllachy, Dunmaglass and Corriegarth are afforded.</p> <p>Route HI/HI71/1 passes to the west of the Site, broadly on a north-south alignment. The route passes through forestry south of Glen Urquhart near Corrimony, then ascends moorland slopes and roughly follows the River Enrick past Loch ma Stac and Loch Liath, Bhlaraidh Reservoir, before descending into Glen Moriston. The operational Corrimony and Bhlaraidh Wind Farms form evident features in views from the route. Route HI/HI70/1 forms a short leg travelling west from Route</p>		

Other rights of way within 5km of the Site (Other Route - H/HI53/1; Recorded Right of Way HI/HI67/1; Other Route HI/HI71/1; and Other Route HI/HI70/1)	
	HI/HI71/1. The route diverts west from Route HI/HI71/1 near Abhainn na Ruighe Duibhe, and mainly passes west through forestry.
Sensitivity	<p>Recreational receptors whose attention is focused on their surroundings, are considered to be of high susceptibility to changes in the view.</p> <p>The southern extent of Route HI/HI67/1 passes within the Loch Ness and Duntelchaig SLA. However, the majority of the length of both routes is not located within the locally designated landscape. The value of the view is therefore considered to be medium.</p> <p>Taking account of the judgements of susceptibility and value, overall sensitivity of receptors is judged to be high.</p>
Assessment of Visual Effects (Primary assessment)	<p>The ZTV (Figures 6.2a-6.2c) indicates visibility from approximately 5.5km of Route H/HI53/1, with intervening landform limiting some visibility nearest the Proposed Development. The ZTV indicates intermittent visibility from approximately 3km of Route HI/HI67/1. Visibility is indicated from approximately 6.3km of Route HI/HI71/1, to the north-west and west of the Site. Visibility is indicated from Route HI/HI70/1 however intervening coniferous forestry screens outward views from the route.</p> <p>In slightly elevated views from the northern extents of Route HI/HI67/1 near Carn na h-Imrich, hubs and blade tips of all thirteen turbines will be evident in the middle distance of views, seen in front of the operational Bhlaraidh Wind Farm. In views from other extents of Route H/HI53/1 and Route HI/HI67/1, hubs and blade tips of the proposed turbines will be partially screened by intervening landform, though visible turbines will appear as evident skyline features increasing the horizontal extent of the operational Bhlaraidh Wind Farm. In views from Route HI/HI71/1, blade tips of the proposed turbines will be partially screened by intervening landform along the western Site boundary, through visible turbines will appear as evident skyline features. The hub of one turbine (T7) will be seen just above the skyline. The Proposed Development will be seen in successive views with the operational Corrimony Wind Farm and combined views with Bhlaraidh Wind Farm from sections of the route.</p> <p>Intermittent visibility of the turbines with visible lighting will be evident from short sections of these routes as indicated by Appendix 6.5, Figure A6.5.2.</p> <p>Given the existing presence of Bhlaraidh and Corrimony Wind Farms in views from these routes, the introduction of the Proposed Development will result in a medium scale change to views. The geographical extent of similar views is considered medium.</p>
Effect and Significance	The overall magnitude of change is judged to be medium and taking account of the high sensitivity will result in a moderate (adverse) and significant visual effect.
Assessment of Cumulative Effects under alternative baselines (Scenario 1 and 2)	<p>Scenario 1: The consented Bhlaraidh Extension Wind Farm will be evident in views from the routes and will be seen in combined and sequential views with the Proposed Development. Where combined views are afforded, the Proposed Development, the consented Bhlaraidh Extension and the operational Bhlaraidh Wind Farms will appear across a wide angle of the view. The introduction of the Proposed Development under this scenario will result in a medium magnitude of change. The visual effect will remain moderate (adverse) and significant.</p> <p>Scenario 2: The proposed Cloiche Wind Farm (at application) and Corriegarth 2 Wind Farm (at PLI) will be glimpsed from limited elevated northern extents of Route HI/HI67/1 and will appear as a distant feature in successive views with the Proposed Development. The introduction of the Proposed Development under this scenario will result in a medium magnitude of change to views from the routes. The visual effect will remain moderate (adverse) and significant.</p>

Potential Implications for Designated Landscapes and Wild Land

6.125 A designated landscape is an area of landscape identified as being of importance at an international, national, or regional/local level, either defined by statute or identified in LDPs or other documents. Landscapes are designated in relation to their special qualities or features which warrant protection through the planning system.

6.126 Designated Landscapes and Wild Land within 45km of the Proposed Development are illustrated on **Figure 6.6a-6.6b**. The assessment describes the likely effects on the special qualities of designated landscapes and wild land qualities of wild land areas resulting from the introduction of the Proposed Development during the operational phase and a consideration of likely cumulative landscape effects arising in conjunction with other existing, consented and/or proposed wind farms. The assessment is focused on those designated landscapes and wild land areas where likely significant effects are considered possible, as detailed in **Table 6.3** and **Table 6.4**. Potential effects of visible aviation lighting on designated landscapes and wild land areas are considered in **Appendix 6.5**.

Nationally Designated Landscapes

6.127 The assessment of effects on the special landscape qualities (AESLQ) of the Glen Affric NSA is included in **Appendix 6.3**.

Wild Land

6.128 The assessment of effects on the wild land qualities of the Central Highlands Wild Land Area (WLA 24) is included in **Appendix 6.4**.

Locally Designated Landscapes

Table 6.43: Loch Ness and Duntelchaig SLA

Loch Ness and Duntelchaig SLA	
Baseline description	<p>The Loch Ness and Duntelchaig SLA lies approximately 4.7km east of the outermost wind turbines of the Proposed Development at its closest point.</p> <p>The designation encompasses the area surrounding Loch Ness, from Fort Augustus to Lochend, and also includes Loch Duntelchaig and Loch Ruthven. The Special Qualities of the SLA that may potentially be affected by the Proposed Development include the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – “The imposing steep-sided landform trench...creates a dramatic linear landscape which is relatively easily to access and readily appreciated. The very striking profile of the glen is typically best appreciated from either end, or from the water, although good views are also obtained from elevated viewpoints upon the loch-side ridges and hill tops.” – “distinctive views of grand proportions and long vistas along a vast expanse of the loch, with the detail of foreground features gradually diminishing to distant silhouettes” – “the simple line, large scale and great expanse of the loch...It is also difficult to perceive the scale of the landscape due to a lack of size indicators. From elevated viewpoints, the glen can be seen within its context of a landscape of elevated plateaux and hills.” – “Meall Fuar-mhonaidh is one example of a distinct hill peak, nearly 700m high, it stands out as a landmark clearly visible from both ends of the loch, and is even prominent in views southwest from the castle in Inverness. Meall Fuar-mhonaidh is a good vantage point from which to appreciate the massive scale and alignment of the Great Glen fault within a backcloth of the Monadhliath massif to the south and the Balnacann and Affric mountain interior to the north west, both areas which possess wildness qualities. <p>In terms of sensitivity to change, the SLA citation notes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – the area is “generally sensitive to any additional large features upon the side slopes or ridge lines of the glen”; – “The introduction of tall man made structures on the hill sides may compromise the sense of containment within the glen and diminish the sense of the vast scale of the landscape”; and

Loch Ness and Duntelchaig SLA	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – “Combinations of developments which would result in a series of linear or point features may distract from the sequential experience when travelling along the loch.” <p>There are no operational wind farms within the SLA. Views of operational wind farms are afforded from Meall Fuar-mhonaidh, on the western boundary of the SLA and from the elevated slopes on either side of the Great Glen.</p> <p>Overall, and taking account of the value assigned to the relevant LCTs within the SLA, the landscape value is considered to be medium.</p> <p>Given the dramatic landform with distinctive skylines, complex landscape pattern, importance of views along and across the glen and absence of existing wind energy developments within the SLA, susceptibility is considered to be high.</p> <p>Considering the judgements of susceptibility and value, overall sensitivity is judged to be high. Localised elevated areas within the SLA from which views are influenced by existing wind farms are considered to be of medium sensitivity.</p>
<p>Potential for the Proposed Development to affect the special qualities of the SLA (Primary assessment)</p>	<p>The Proposed Development is located entirely outside of the SLA therefore any effects will be limited to indirect effects experienced through views of the Proposed Development from within the SLA.</p> <p>The ZTV on Figure 6.6b indicates potential theoretical visibility across the SLA. Figure 6.5b indicates potential theoretical visibility across the LCTs within the SLA which include the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Broad Steep-Sided Glen (225) – Rocky Moorland Plateau – Inverness (222) – Farmed and Wooded Foothills (224) – Rugged Massif - Inverness (220) – Farmed Strath – Inverness (227) – Rolling Uplands – Inverness (221) <p>The assessment of effects on landscape character finds no significant effects on the key characteristics of these LCTs or potential for future cumulative effects given intervening distance between different emerging clusters of development and the existing influence of wind farms in views from these LCTs.</p> <p>Representative assessment viewpoints located within the SLA include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Viewpoint 2: Meall Fuar-mhonaidh represents views experienced by recreational receptors at this local hill summit, and for which a high magnitude of change was identified; – Viewpoint 6: B862 near Whitebridge represents views experienced by road users, recreational receptors (NCN Route 1) and nearby residential receptors; and for which a low magnitude of change was identified; – Viewpoint 8: B862 Suidhe Viewpoint represents views experienced by road users, tourists at the promoted viewpoint and stopping area, and recreational receptors on the Caledonia Way cycle route; and for which a medium magnitude of change was identified; – Viewpoint 13: B852 Erchite Wood, east of Loch Ness (picnic area) represents experienced by recreational receptors visiting the loch-side picnic areas and road users of the B852; and for which a low magnitude of change was identified; and – Viewpoint 16: B862 South of Dores represents views experienced by road users on the B862 and similar views experienced from nearby residential properties; and for which a low magnitude of change was identified.

Loch Ness and Duntelchaig SLA	
	<p>The introduction of the Proposed Development will not compromise the above stated special qualities of the SLA as the proposed wind turbines will typically be seen alongside the operational Bhlaraidh Wind Farm, which serves as an existing scale indicator, in elevated views from the SLA. Views of the Proposed Development will be experienced from very localised lower-lying extents of the SLA (VP13: B852 Erchite Wood, east of Loch Ness (picnic area)), however proposed turbines will appear as a relatively distant feature, screened by intervening landform. Proposed turbines will not undermine the scale of the containing glen sides in views from these lower-lying locations.</p> <p>The ZTVs in Figure 6.6b and 6.8 indicate limited introduced visibility resulting from the Proposed Development, comprising small areas of Loch Ness, the eastern shore of the loch and near Loch Ruthven. None of the special qualities of the SLA will be affected by the introduction of the Proposed Development.</p> <p>Visibility of the turbines with visible lighting will be evident from parts of the SLA, as illustrated by VP2, VP6, VP8, VP13 and VP16, and as indicated by Appendix 6.5, Figure A6.5.2 and Appendix 6.5, Annex A.</p> <p>Effects on the Loch Ness and Duntelchaig SLA are considered to be minor (adverse) and not significant.</p> <p>Given that existing wind farms, including Bhlaraidh, Millennium, Beinneun, Beinneun Extension, Corriegarth and Dunmaglass Wind Farms, are already present in views from the Loch Ness and Duntelchaig SLA, and as there will be no direct effects on key landscape features, it is considered that the Proposed Development will not significantly affect the integrity of the SLA by adversely impacting on the qualities for which it was designated.</p>
<p>Assessment of Cumulative Effects under alternative baselines (Scenario 1 and 2)</p>	<p>Scenario 1: There are no consented wind farms that will be located within the SLA. The Proposed Development will be seen in combined views with the consented Bhlaraidh Extension Wind Farm, and in successive views with the consented Dell and Millennium South Wind Farms from relatively localised extents of the SLA, including elevated landform on the sides of the glen, from Meall Fuar-mhonaidh and the promoted Suidhe viewpoint along the B862, and very localised extents of Loch Ness to the north-east of Drumnadrochit. The introduction of the Proposed Development under this scenario, which includes all consented developments, will result in a low magnitude of change for the SLA. The level of effect will be minor and not significant.</p> <p>Moderate (adverse) and significant visual effects were identified for VP2: Meall Fuar-mhonaidh under this scenario. However, these developments in combination will not undermine the appreciation of “<i>the massive scale and alignment of the Great Glen fault</i>” in views from the local hill summit and will appear in an angle of the view with some existing influence of the operational Bhlaraidh Wind Farm. Elsewhere within the SLA, consented wind farms in combination with the Proposed Development will appear as relatively distant features, beyond the containing landform on either side of the Great Glen. These developments will not undermine the “<i>striking profile of the glen</i>” and will not form distinctive skyline features which detract from the “<i>distinctive views of grand proportions and long vistas along a vast expanse of the loch</i>”. As such, the Proposed Development will not significantly affect the integrity of the SLA when considered in this cumulative scenario by adversely impacting on the qualities for which it was designated.</p> <p>Scenario 2: There are no proposed wind farms that will be located within the SLA. The Proposed Development will be seen in successive views with the proposed Tomchrasky (at application), Corriegarth 2 (at PLI), Cloiche (at application) and Bunloinn (at application) Wind Farms from relatively localised extents of the SLA, including elevated landform on the sides of the glen, from Meall Fuar-mhonaidh and the promoted Suidhe viewpoint along the B862. Other proposed schemes will generally increase the horizontal extent of development across the view, however these other proposed wind farms will appear in the context of existing wind farms. The introduction of the Proposed Development</p>

Loch Ness and Duntelchaig SLA	
	<p>under this scenario, which includes all consented and proposed developments, will result in a low magnitude of change for the SLA. The level of effect will be minor and not significant.</p> <p>The Proposed Development will not significantly affect the integrity of the SLA when considered in this cumulative scenario by adversely impacting on the qualities for which it was designated.</p>

Combined Cumulative Effects

6.129 GLVIA3 refers to the focus of cumulative LVIA being either “*additional effects of the main project under consideration, or on the combined effects of all the past, present and future proposals together with the new project.*” (paragraph 7.18), but in doing so acknowledges that “...assessing *combined effects involving a range of different proposals at different stages in the planning process can be very complex. Furthermore the assessor will not have assessed the other schemes and cannot therefore make a fully informed judgement. A more comprehensive overview of the cumulative effects must rest with the competent authority.*”

6.130 Therefore, this type of cumulative effect is only described where it is considered likely to be a relevant consideration in the determination of the Proposed Development. In considering the detailed cumulative landscape and visual effects assessed in the LVIA, broad observations are made within the summary of effects relating to how the combined cumulative effects of multiple future wind farm developments may influence landscape character, views and visual amenity and designated landscapes.

6.131 As outlined in the definition of the cumulative scenarios set out in para. 6.85, future baseline situations where all or different permutations of other wind farm developments are assumed to be present in the landscape, can be highly speculative, and a decreasing level of certainty can be applied to these as more developments are included. Where cumulative Scenario 1 and Scenario 2 considers the additional effects arising from the introduction of the Proposed Development. These effects are assessed on the basis of a ‘worst case’ scenario where all developments are assumed to be present. When considering the potential for combined cumulative effects the same approach must be adopted, which often represents both a highly speculative and unrealistic future baseline situation.

6.132 Nevertheless, in order to assist stakeholders and the decision maker in understanding the likely combined effects of all existing, consented, and proposed wind farms (as defined in the Scenario 2 baseline), the following observations and high level assessment considers the likely combined landscape and visual effects of all built (operational, and those under construction) and unbuilt (consented or proposed) wind farms, including the Proposed Development.

6.133 With regard to combined cumulative effects on landscape character, and when looking at the broad pattern of wind farm development, there are areas across the Study Area where the combined effects of all operational, consented, and proposed wind farms will notably influence landscape character. These areas include the Rugged Massif LCT, the Rocky Moorland Plateau LCT and the Rolling Uplands – Inverness LCT. Perceptual gaps between this consolidated cluster of wind farms, and the pattern of other wind farm clusters will remain. The Millennium and Beinneun cluster to the south-west and Lochluichart, Corriemollie and Kirkan cluster to the north, and both found within the Rugged Massif LCT will remain distinctly separate with large areas between unaffected by wind farm development. To the east of the Great Glen, several wind farm developments form discrete clusters along the western periphery of the Monadhliath Mountains within the Rolling Uplands – Inverness LCT. These clusters are generally well spaced with discernible gaps between them. The Broad Steep Sided LCT which defines the Great Glen and the Wooded Glen LCT which encapsulates Glen Urquhart and Glen Moriston, remain free of wind farms whilst wind farms located in adjacent and nearby upland LCTs exert limited influence on the character and views from these LCTs. As such, large areas of the landscape of the Great Glen, surrounding glens and upland areas remain unaltered by wind farms, with significant combined cumulative landscape effects limited to localised areas of the host LCTs within which wind farm development is sited.

6.134 Combined with operational, consented, and proposed wind farms the Proposed Development will intensify effects of wind turbines on the Rocky Moorland Plateau LCT, within which Bhlaraidh and Bhlaraidh Extension are located and have a strong characterising effect on a proportion of this LCT. The Proposed Development will generally read as part of this larger wind farm cluster formed by these wind farms, however, wind farm development will not become the defining feature of the LCT and the existing characteristics will not become subservient to wind turbines.

6.135 In terms of combined cumulative visual effects, and in broad terms, it is generally from the more elevated and open locations, such as hill tops, where several operational, consented, and proposed wind farms would be visible and combined cumulative visual effects are likely to be significant. Where visible, the Proposed Development will generally read as an extension to the existing Bhlaraidh Wind Farm and the consented Bhlaraidh Extension Wind Farm, consolidating this cluster of turbines sited within the upland

interior to the west of the Great Glen. The Proposed Development will extend the horizontal extent of turbines in views from Meall Fuar Mhonaidh (VP2, **Figure 6.15**) to the east and Creag Dhubh (VP10, **Figure 6.23**) to the east. In views from other elevated locations the Proposed Development will often appear beyond other existing, consented, or proposed developments, such as views from across the Great Glen from the B862 Suidhe Viewpoint (VP8, **Figure 6.21**) and from south of Glen Moriston as illustrated from Meall Dhubh (VP14, **Figure: 6.27**).

6.136 In terms of combined cumulative effects on designated landscapes, wind farm development across the study area generally avoids the relevant Special Landscape Areas (SLAs) (shown on **Figure 6.6a**). Several wind farm developments are located close to these areas but do not encroach into designated areas. Wind farm development is also an existing feature of views from nationally designated landscapes, including the Glen Affric NSA and Glen Strathfarrar NSA, as indicated by **Figure 6.10**. The Proposed Development, in combination with other operational, consented, and proposed wind farms will contribute to an intensification of wind farms outside these designated landscapes, often appearing to consolidate the existing cluster of turbines formed of the existing Bhlaraidh Wind Farm and consented Bhlaraidh Extension. Wind farm development will remain absent within the locally designated landscapes.

6.137 The introduction of all existing, consented, and proposed wind farms (as defined in the Scenario 2 baseline), including the Proposed Development is likely to result in a substantial change in parts of the landscape and some views. This will give rise to significant combined cumulative effects, as there will be a greater influence of wind energy development upon the landscape and views, and because of the increase in the scale of turbines (rotor diameter and maximum blade tip height) proposed for many of these developments. However, contribution of the Proposed Development to these combined cumulative landscape and visual effects will be no greater than reported in the primary LVIA and is unlikely to tip the balance towards these being significant.

Mitigation and Residual Effects

6.138 Measures to reduce effects upon the landscape resource and visual amenity were predominantly achieved through the design of the Proposed Development (embedded mitigation). The appearance of the Proposed Development in views from Glen Urquhart, Meall Fuar-mhonaidh, the B862 Suidhe scenic viewpoint, and the Glen Affric NSA formed a key consideration in the design development. The approach to the design is detailed further in **Chapter 3**.

6.139 Measures to reduce cumulative landscape and visual effects are embedded into the design of the wind farm and the Site restoration proposals. All residual effects are therefore as predicted in the assessment sections above.

Summary of Effects

6.140 As set out in the methodology (**Appendix 6.1**), mitigation of landscape and visual effects was undertaken through design modifications and input to the design process; the design evolution is set out in **Chapter 3**. As all mitigation for landscape and visual effects is embedded within the final design for the Proposed Development, all effects identified in this chapter are residual effects, therefore mitigation measures are not included in the table below.

6.141 **Table 6.44** below summarises the likely effects of the Proposed Development on landscape and visual amenity within the Site and Study Area. Where relevant the table also summarises the effects identified in the accompanying assessments presented in **Appendix 6.3: Assessment of Effects on Special Landscape Qualities of the Glen Affric National Scenic Area; Appendix 6.4: Wild Land Impact Assessment; and Appendix 6.5: Aviation Lighting Impact Assessment**. Significant effects are presented in **bold** text.

Table 6.44: Summary of Effects

Receptor	Sensitivity of Receptor	Magnitude of Change (Primary Assessment)	Residual Effect – Primary Assessment	Cumulative Effect: Scenario 1	Cumulative Effect: Scenario 2
Construction Effects					
The Site	Medium	High	Major (significant)	n/a	n/a
Operational Effects on Landscape Character					
The Site	Medium	High	Major (significant)	n/a	n/a
Rocky Moorland Plateau – Inverness (LCT 222), host	Medium	Medium (localised extents), reducing to low for LCT as a whole	Moderate (significant) for localised extents of LCT Minor (not significant) for LCT as a whole	Minor (not significant)	Minor (not significant)
Broad Steep-Sided Glen (LCT 225)	High	Low	Minor (not significant)	Minor (not significant)	Minor (not significant)
Wooded Glen – Inverness (LCT 226), host (access track)	High	Low	Minor (not significant)	Minor (not significant)	Minor (not significant)
Rugged Massif – Inverness (LCT 220)	High	Low	Minor (not significant)	Minor (not significant)	Minor (not significant)
Farmed Strath – Inverness (LCT 227)	High	Low	Minor (not significant)	Minor (not significant)	Minor (not significant)
Rolling Uplands – Inverness (LCT 221)	Medium	Low	Minor (not significant)	Minor (not significant)	Minor (not significant)
Interlocking Sweeping Peaks – Inverness (LCT 230)	High	Low	Minor (not significant)	Minor (not significant)	Minor (not significant)
Operational Effects on Views and Visual Amenity					
Viewpoint 1 - Affric Kintail Way, near Braefield (daytime)	High	Low	Moderate (significant)	n/a	n/a
Viewpoint 1 - Affric Kintail Way, near Braefield (dusk/night-time) ²⁵	Medium	Low	Minor (not significant)	n/a	n/a
Viewpoint 2 - Meall Fuar-mhonaidh	High	High	Major (significant)	Moderate (significant)	Moderate (significant)
Viewpoint 3 - Balbeg	High	Low	Minor (not significant)	n/a	n/a
Viewpoint 4 - Affric Kintail Way, West of Cannich	High	Low	Minor (not significant)	n/a	n/a
Viewpoint 5 - Coire Loch Trail, Glen Affric	High	Medium	Moderate (significant)	Moderate (significant)	Moderate (significant)
Viewpoint 6 - B862 near Whitebridge	High	Low	Minor (not significant)	Minor (not significant)	Minor (not significant)
Viewpoint 7 - A833 near Balnagrantach	Medium	Low	Minor (not significant)	n/a	n/a
Viewpoint 8 - B862 Suidhe Viewpoint	High	Medium	Moderate (significant)	Minor (not significant)	Minor (not significant)
Viewpoint 9 - Meall Mor, above Glen Affric	High	Medium	Moderate (significant)	Moderate (significant)	Moderate (significant)
Viewpoint 10 - Creag Dhubh (daytime)	High	Medium	Moderate (significant)	Moderate (significant)	Moderate (significant)

²⁵ See Appendix 6.5: Aviation Lighting Impact Assessment

Receptor	Sensitivity of Receptor	Magnitude of Change (Primary Assessment)	Residual Effect – Primary Assessment	Cumulative Effect: Scenario 1	Cumulative Effect: Scenario 2
Viewpoint 10 - Creag Dhubh (dusk/night-time) ²⁵	High	Low	Minor (not significant)	n/a	Minor (not significant)
Viewpoint 11 - Carn na Leitire	High	Low	Minor (not significant)	Minor (not significant)	Minor (not significant)
Viewpoint 12 - Beinn a' Bha'ach Ard	High	Low	Minor (not significant)	Minor (not significant)	Minor (not significant)
Viewpoint 13 - B852 Erchite Wood, east of Loch Ness (picnic area)	High	Low	Minor (not significant)	Minor (not significant)	Minor (not significant)
Viewpoint 14 - Meall Dubh	High	Low	Minor (not significant)	Minor (not significant)	Minor (not significant)
Viewpoint 15 - Core Path at Loch Affric	High	Low	Minor (not significant)	Minor (not significant)	Minor (not significant)
Viewpoint 16 - B862 South of Dores	High	Low	Minor (not significant)	Minor (not significant)	Minor (not significant)
Viewpoint 17 - Carn na Saobhaidhe	High	Low	Minor (not significant)	Minor (not significant)	Minor (not significant)
Viewpoint 18 - Toll Creagach (daytime)	High	Low	Minor (not significant)	Minor (not significant)	Minor (not significant)
Viewpoint 18 - Toll Creagach (dusk/night-time) ²⁵	High	Low	Minor (not significant)	n/a	Minor (not significant)
Viewpoint 19 - Sgurr nan Conbhairean	High	Low	Minor (not significant)	Minor (not significant)	Minor (not significant)
Viewpoint 20 - Carn Dearg	High	Low	Minor (not significant)	Minor (not significant)	Minor (not significant)
Operational Effects on Settlements					
Balnain	High	Medium locally, Low for the settlement as a whole	Moderate (significant) for localised extent of settlement Minor (not significant) for the settlement as a whole	n/a	n/a
Operational Effects on Routes					
B862	High	Medium locally, Low for the settlement as a whole	Moderate (significant) for localised extent of route Minor (not significant) for route as a whole	Minor (not significant)	Minor (not significant)
Affric Kintail Way	High	Medium locally, Low for the route as a whole	Moderate (significant) for localised extent of route Minor (not significant) for route as a whole	Minor (not significant)	Minor (not significant)
The Caledonia Way cycle route and the South Loch Ness Trail	High	Medium locally, Low for the route as a whole	Moderate (significant) for localised extent of route Minor (not significant) for route as a whole	Minor (not significant)	Minor (not significant)
Other rights of way within 5km of the Site (Other Route - H/HI53/1; Recorded Right of Way HI/HI67/1; Other Route HI/HI71/1; and Other Route HI/HI70/1)	High	Medium	Moderate (significant)	Moderate (significant)	Moderate (significant)
Operational Effects on Designated Landscapes and Wild Land Areas					

Receptor	Sensitivity of Receptor	Magnitude of Change (Primary Assessment)	Residual Effect – Primary Assessment	Cumulative Effect: Scenario 1	Cumulative Effect: Scenario 2
Glen Affric NSA ²⁶	High	-	Moderate (significant) effects experienced by recreational receptors within localised extents for one SLQ. The integrity of the NSA and the reasons for its designation will not be significantly affected by the proposal.	Minor (not significant)	Minor (not significant)
Central Highlands WLA 24 ²⁷	High	-	Effects on Wild Land Qualities will be Minor (not significant). The integrity of the WLA and the reasons for its protection will not be significantly affected by the proposal.	Minor (not significant)	Minor (not significant)
Loch Ness and Duntelchaig SLA	High (medium within localised extents)	Low	Minor (not significant)	Minor (not significant)	Minor (not significant)

²⁶ See Appendix 6.4: Wild Land Impact Assessment

²⁷ See Appendix 6.5: Aviation Lighting Impact Assessment

Appraisal of Development against THC SG Landscape & Visual Criteria

6.142 THC Onshore Wind SG sets out ten landscape and visual criteria that the Council will use as a framework for assessing proposals. The criteria do not set absolute requirements but seek to ensure that developers are aware of key constraints to development, which should be taken account of when progressing assessment and design of wind energy proposals. An assessment of the Proposed Development against the ten criteria is set out in **Table 6.45** below.

Table 6.45: Appraisal of Development against THC SG Landscape & Visual Criteria

Criterion	Measure	Evaluation
Criterion 1		
Relationship between Settlements/Key locations and wider landscape respected	The extent to which the proposal contributes to perception of settlements or key locations being encircled by wind energy development.	Settlements nearest the Proposed Development include a number of small villages located within glens to the north and south of the Site. The steep sided landform of the glens and the location of the Proposed Development within the plateau interior of the Site will limit the visibility of the proposed turbines from settlements within the Study Area. Where views of the Proposed Development are afforded from settlements, including elevated properties on the northern slopes of Glen Urquhart (near the settlement of Balnain, illustrated by VP1: Affric Kintail Way, near Braefield and VP3: Balbeg), the northernmost turbines will appear partially screened by intervening landform, with other turbines in the cluster fully screened by intervening landform. The Proposed Development will occupy a relatively small proportion of the skyline and will not lead to the perception of encirclement by wind energy development. Whilst the Proposed Development will introduce visibility of wind turbines into some of these views, properties to the west of Balnain (near Buntait) experience views of the operational Corrimony Wind Farm. Similar views will be experienced from a limited geographical extent, such that the majority of views from the settlement will remain unaffected by the Proposed Development.
Development should seek to achieve a threshold where: Turbines are not visually prominent in the majority of views within or from settlements/Key Locations or from the majority of its access routes.		
Criterion 2		
Key Gateway locations and routes²⁸ are respected	The extent to which the proposal reduces or detracts from the transitional experience of key Gateway Locations and routes.	The SG does not identify any Gateway Locations for LN10. The following key routes are identified within the SG: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ <i>“Great Glen Way- around Bunloit and Grotai the route has views into the LCA;</i> ■ <i>A82 around Inver Coille to Invermoriston; and</i> ■ <i>A887 around Dundreggan.”</i> The ZTV on Figure 6.2b indicates limited theoretical visibility from approximately 800m of the Great Glen Way within 15km to the north-east of the Proposed Development (within LN19 - area directly around Loch Ness, Broad
Development should seek to achieve a threshold where: Wind Turbines or other infrastructure do not overwhelm or otherwise detract from landscape characteristics which contribute to the distinctive transitional experience found at key gateway locations and routes.		

²⁸ Key Routes are defined as “an important route that captures the essence of an area’s particular qualities” in THC Onshore Wind SG.

Criterion	Measure	Evaluation
		Steep-Sided Glen), although intervening forestry limits some outward views from this section of the route. Theoretical visibility is also indicated from approximately 7km of the Great Glen Way at distances exceeding 19km to the north of the Proposed Development (within LN8 - Glen Convinth, Rocky Moorland Plateau with Woodland). There is no theoretical visibility indicated from sections of the Great Glen Way near Bunloit and Grotai. Given the limited visibility of the Proposed Development from the Great Glen Way, the Proposed Development will not reduce or detract from the experience of the route. The ZTV on Figure 6.2b indicates limited theoretical visibility of the Proposed Development from approximately 1.5km of the A82 (within 15km to the north-east of the Proposed Development) with actual visibility further reduced by intervening woodland and vegetation. The ZTV on Figure 6.2b indicates no theoretical visibility of the turbines of the Proposed Development from the A887. Construction access to the Site will be afforded via the A887, following the existing Bhlaraidh Wind Farm track, before accessing the Site. Given the existing presence of the Bhlaraidh Wind Farm access track, the Proposed Development will not reduce or detract from the experience of the route.
Criterion 3		
Valued natural and cultural landmarks²⁹ are respected	The extent to which the proposal affects the fabric and setting of valued natural and cultural landmarks.	Natural and cultural landmarks within the Study Area are discussed in further detail in the ‘Existing Conditions’ and ‘Assessment of Effects’. The Great Glen is located approximately 8km to the east of the nearest proposed turbine. There will be some limited visibility of the Proposed Development from the eastern shore of Loch Ness (VP13: B852 Erchite Wood, east of Loch Ness (picnic area)), Turbines will appear in relatively distant views partially screened by intervening landform. However, the scale of the proposed turbines will not undermine the dramatic scale of the containing landform on either side of the glen or the appreciation of the linear form of the loch. Similar views will be experienced from a limited geographical extent of the loch and loch shore. General Wade’s Military Road passes 12.8km to the south-east and east of the Proposed Development at its nearest point. In views from the Suidhe viewpoint (VP8: B862 Suidhe Viewpoint), the Proposed Development will be seen against the skyline, increasing the horizontal extent of the operational Bhlaraidh Wind Farm in views north-west. However, similar views will be experienced from a relatively short, elevated section of the road. Given the existing presence of wind farms in views from this elevated section of the road, the Proposed Development will not disrupt the relationship of the road to its landscape setting.
Development should seek to achieve a threshold where: The development does not, by its presence, diminish the prominence of the landmark or disrupt its relationship to its setting.		

²⁹ Landmarks are defined as “prominent or conspicuous landscape feature, building or other place, often visible over distance, that is of historical, aesthetic or cultural significance” in THC Onshore Wind SG.

Criterion	Measure	Evaluation
		The ZTV in Figure 6.2a indicates no theoretical visibility from the Corrimony Chambered Cairn Scheduled Monument. The ZTV in Figure 6.2a indicates no theoretical visibility from the Urquhart Castle Scheduled Monument. Cultural landmarks are discussed in further detail in Chapter 10 .
Criterion 4		
The amenity of key recreational routes and ways is respected	The extent to which the proposal affects the amenity of key recreational routes and ways (e.g. Core Paths, Munros and Corbett's, Long Distance Routes etc.).	Key recreational routes that pass within in the Study Area, from which theoretical visibility of the Proposed Development is indicated and which were considered within the assessment, include the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Affric Kintail Way; ■ South Loch Ness Trail; and ■ The Caledonia Way cycle route.
Development should seek to achieve a threshold where: Wind Turbines or other infrastructure do not overwhelm or otherwise significantly detract from the visual appeal of key routes and ways.		<p>Whilst localised significant effects were identified for the Affric Kintail Way (near VP1: Affric Kintail Way near Braefield) the overall amenity and sequential experience of these routes will not be significantly affected. In views from a localised extent of the route, the hub and blade tips of one turbine and the partial blade tips of a further five turbines will be seen against the skyline in the middle distance of views looking south and will be perceived to introduce wind turbines into the views from this section of the route. However, similar views will be experienced from a very short section of the route and will therefore not significantly affect the sequential experience from the route.</p> <p>Localised significant effects have also been identified for The Caledonia Way/South Loch Ness Trail (near VP8: B862 Suidhe Viewpoint), however the overall amenity and sequential experience of these routes will not be significantly affected. In views from these localised extents of the routes, the hubs and blade tips of twelve turbines and the blade tips of one further turbine will be seen against the skyline in relatively distant views north-west, with the bases of turbine towers partially screened by intervening landform. The Proposed Development will appear to the north of the operational Bhlaraidh Wind Farm and will increase the horizontal extent of turbines in the view. However, the proposed turbines will appear as a relatively distant feature, with similar views experienced from a localised section of the route.</p> <p>A number of Munro, Corbett and smaller local hill summits form key recreational locations within the Study Area. The following viewpoints represent key hill summits within the Study Area:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ VP2: Meall Fuar-mhonaigh (local hill summit); ■ VP11: Carn na Leitire (local hill summit); ■ VP12: Beinn a' Bha'ach Ard (Corbett hill summit); ■ VP14: Meall Dubh (Corbett hill summit); ■ VP17: Carn na Saobhaidhe (Corbett hill summit);

Criterion	Measure	Evaluation
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ VP18: Toll Creagach (Munro hill summit); ■ VP19: Sgurr nan Conbhairean (Munro hill summit); and ■ VP20: Carn Dearg (Munro hill summit). <p>Significant effects were identified for views experienced from VP2: Meall Fuar-mhonaigh; however, the Proposed Development will appear in views with an existing presence of wind farms, including the operational Bhlaraidh Wind Farm which is evident in views south-west. The Proposed Development will increase the horizontal extent of wind turbines, when seen in combination with Bhlaraidh Extension, however proportions of the views to the north and south will remain unoccupied by wind farms, reducing the potential for the perception of further encirclement of the hill summit by wind turbines.</p> <p>In views from other more distant hill summits within the Study Area, the Proposed Development will appear as a relatively distant feature in views with an existing presence of wind farms. The Proposed Development will often appear in the same angle of the view as the operational Corrimony Wind Farm and Bhlaraidh Wind Farm in these views. The introduction of the Proposed Development is therefore unlikely to significantly detract from the views experienced by recreational receptors at these hill summits.</p>
Criterion 5		
The amenity of transport routes is respected	The extent to which the proposal affects the amenity of transport routes (tourist routes as well as rail, ferry routes and local road access)	Many of the key transport routes within the Study Area are located within the lower-lying glens, from which views of the Proposed Development will be screened by intervening landform. Theoretical visibility of the Proposed Development is indicated from:
Development should seek to achieve a threshold where: Wind Turbines or other infrastructure do not overwhelm or otherwise significantly detract from the visual appeal of transport routes		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Approximately 1.5km of the A82 (within 15km to the north-east of the Proposed Development) with actual visibility further reduced by intervening woodland and vegetation; ■ Approximately 4.5km of the A831 (within 5.5km to the north and north-west of the Proposed Development) with actual visibility further reduced by intervening woodland and vegetation; ■ Approximately 1.7km of the A833 (within 13km to the north-east of the Proposed Development) with actual visibility further reduced by intervening woodland and vegetation; and ■ Approximately 6km of the B862, within approximately 12-13km of the nearest turbine of the Proposed Development. <p>In views from localised sections of the B862, hubs and blade tips of all 13 turbines will be seen against the skyline in distant oblique views north-west, with the bases of turbine towers partially screened by intervening landform. The Proposed Development will appear to the north of the operational Bhlaraidh Wind Farm and will increase the</p>

Criterion	Measure	Evaluation
		horizontal extent of turbines in the view. However, similar views will be experienced from localised elevated sections of the route (near the Suidhe viewpoint), and the Proposed Development will be seen in oblique views (not in the direction of travel on the road). In views from other sections of the road within the Study Area, the Proposed Development is partially or fully screened by intervening landform and vegetation in oblique views from the road. The introduction of the Proposed Development is therefore unlikely to significantly detract from views experienced by receptors travelling on the B862.
Criterion 6		
The existing pattern of Wind Energy Development is respected	<p>The degree to which the proposal fits with the existing pattern of nearby wind energy development, considerations include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Turbine height and proportions, ■ Density and spacing of turbines within developments, ■ Density and spacing of developments, ■ Typical relationship of development to the landscape. ■ Previously instituted mitigation measures ■ Planning Authority stated aims for development of area 	<p>The Proposed Development was designed as an extension to the operational Bhlaraidh Wind Farm, with the design of the layout also taking into account the potential future presence of the consented Bhlaraidh Extension Wind Farm. Overall composition, in conjunction with the operational Bhlaraidh Wind Farm and consented Bhlaraidh Extension Wind Farm, will maintain simple and balanced spacing between wind turbines with minimal overlapping of wind turbine blades.</p> <p>As identified in the decision letter for the operational Bhlaraidh Wind Farm³⁰, the operational wind farm “has been designed to reduce landscape intrusion by its compactness and being set back into the interior of the upland plateau area”. The Proposed Development will be located within the interior of an elevated plateau, set back from the edge of the plateau away from the Great Glen, which minimises visibility of the Proposed Development from the glen. The Bhlaraidh Extension decision letter³¹ notes that “mitigation was secured for the existing operational scheme, in the form of removal of turbines, to try and limit the ‘spill of the turbines over the natural buffer of Carn Tarsuinn”. The Proposed Development will occupy a similar east-west extent as the operational Bhlaraidh Wind Farm, avoiding encroaching further east beyond Carn Tarsuinn, which is located along the southern Site boundary.</p> <p>The design of the operational Bhlaraidh Wind Farm also responded to comments regarding the composition of the wind farm when viewed from the Suidhe viewpoint on the B862, as noted in the Bhlaraidh decision letter²⁸. The composition of the Proposed Development will appear relatively evenly spaced with a balanced composition across the cluster in views from the Suidhe viewpoint (Viewpoint 8: B862 Suidhe Viewpoint). The proposed turbines will appear slightly larger in scale compared to the operational Bhlaraidh Wind Farm, however most turbines will be partially screened by intervening landform.</p>
<p>Development should seek to achieve a threshold where:</p> <p>The proposal contributes positively to existing pattern or objectives for development in the area.</p>		

Criterion	Measure	Evaluation
Criterion 7		
The need for separation between developments and/or clusters is respected	The extent to which the proposal maintains or affects the spaces between existing developments and/ or clusters.	The SG notes that within LN10 there “is no clear pattern, beyond presence within the Plateau area”. Separation of developments is considered to be of greater importance for wind farms to the east of the Great Glen within LN6: Monadhliath ridge and tops, Rolling Uplands, for which the SG notes that “maintaining space between the developments is important to prevent coalescence.”
<p>Development should seek to achieve a threshold where:</p> <p>The proposal maintains appropriate and effective separation between developments and/ or clusters.</p>		<p>The Proposed Development will be located within the interior of the plateau area of LN10 and will appear as an extension to the operational Bhlaraidh Wind Farm, forming a consolidated cluster of development which is distinct from other wind farms to the west of the Great Glen, including the cluster formed by the operational Millennium, Beinneun and Beinneun Extension Wind Farms.</p>
Criterion 8		
The perception of landscape scale and distance is respected	The extent to which the proposal maintains or affects receptors’ existing perception of landscape scale and distance.	In views from the elevated sides of Glen Urquhart to the north of the Site, the proposed turbines will be set back from the edge of the plateau so as to avoid appearing dominant on the skyline in views. The location of turbines in the south-west of the Site has minimised the visibility of the Proposed Development from the Great Glen and Loch Ness. Where visible, turbines will appear as relatively distant features, partially screened by intervening landform. The proposed turbines will not overwhelm the scale of the containing landform to the east of the Great Glen and will be seen across a relatively small proportion of the view.
<p>Development should seek to achieve a threshold where:</p> <p>The proposal maintains the apparent landscape scale and/or distance in the receptors’ perception.</p>		<p>When viewed from the larger scale mountainous landscape to the west of the Site (including summits and elevated landform within the Glen Affric NSA and Central Highlands WLA), the proposed turbines will appear at a similar distance in the views as the operational Bhlaraidh Wind Farm, and the Proposed Development will typically appear as a distant feature within an area of large scale plateau.</p>
Criterion 9		
Landscape setting of nearby wind energy developments is respected	The extent to which the landscape setting of nearby wind energy developments is affected by the proposal.	The SG notes that within LN10, proposed wind farms should “minimise visual confusion from higher ground to the west and north and with Meall Fuar-mhonaidh”. The turbine layout of the Proposed Development was reduced from 26 turbines (Scoping Layout) to 13 turbines, with a key objective of the design strategy to reduce the horizontal (north-south) extent of turbines in views from Meall Fuar-Mhonaidh. The refinement of the turbine layout has taken into consideration the appearance of the Proposed Development in combination with the operational Bhlaraidh Wind Farm and consented Bhlaraidh Extension Wind Farm,
<p>Development should seek to achieve a threshold where:</p> <p>Proposal relates well to the existing landscape setting and does not increase the perceived visual prominence of surrounding wind turbines.</p>		

³⁰ The Scottish Government Energy & Climate Change Directorate, Electricity Division, ‘CONSENT AND DEEMED PLANNING PERMISSION BY THE SCOTTISH MINISTERS TO CONSTRUCT AND OPERATE THE BHLARAIDH WIND POWERED ELECTRICITY GENERATING STATION NEAR INVERMORISTON, HIGHLANDS’ (17th January 2014). ECU planning reference: EC00003142

³¹ The Scottish Government Energy & Climate Change Directorate, Energy Consents Unit, ‘CONSENT UNDER SECTION 36 OF THE ELECTRICITY ACT 1989 AND DEEMED PLANNING PERMISSION UNDER SECTION 57(2) OF THE TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997 FOR THE CONSTRUCTION AND OPERATION OF BHLARAIDH WIND FARM EXTENSION IN THE HIGHLAND COUNCIL PLANNING AUTHORITY AREA’ (30th August 2022). ECU planning reference: ECU00001900.

Criterion	Measure	Evaluation
		as seen in views from key locations within the Study Area (including Meall Fuar-mhonaidh).
Criterion 10		
Distinctiveness of Landscape character is respected	The extent to which a proposal affects the distinction between neighbouring landscape character types, in areas where the variety of character is important to the appreciation of the landscape.	The Development will be located within the Rocky Moorland Plateau – Inverness (LCT 222). There is an existing presence of wind farms within this LCT (the operational Bhlaraidh and Corrimony Wind Farms), of which operational wind farms are typically located within the interior of the plateau so as to avoid visibility from more sensitive neighbouring landscape character types. The Proposed Development will increase the extent of the LCT influenced by wind farms, however the proposed turbines will also be located within the interior of the plateau, minimising visibility from the smaller scale glens to the north (Glen Urquhart), south (Glen Moriston), east (Great Glen) and west (Glen Affric).
Development should seek to achieve a threshold where: Integrity and variety of Landscape Character Areas are maintained.		<p>Visibility of wind turbines from the nearby Broad Steep-Sided Glen (LCT 225), which is located within the Loch Ness and Duntelchaig SLA, will be minimised due to intervening topography and to the location of proposed wind turbines within the interior of the plateau. Where visible, the Proposed Development will be seen in relatively distant views from localised extents of the eastern shore of the loch. Proposed turbines will not undermine the scale of the steep-sided glen in views from these lower-lying locations.</p> <p>Visibility of wind turbines from the Wooded Glen – Inverness (LCT 226), which is located within the Glen Affric NSA, will be minimised due to intervening topography and to the location of proposed wind turbines within the interior of the plateau. Where visible, the Proposed Development will be in seen in relatively distant views with an existing presence of wind farms (the operational Corrimony Wind Farm) and will be partially screened by the intervening ridgeline which forms the western Site boundary.</p>