

Appendix 6.3: Assessment of Effects on Special Landscape Qualities (AESLQ)



Loch Liath Wind Farm Ltd

Loch Liath Wind Farm
Appendix 6.3
Assessment of Effects
on Special Landscape
Qualities

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Prepared by LUC
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Loch Liath Wind Farm Ltd

Loch Liath Wind Farm
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Appendix 6.3

Assessment of Effects on Special Landscape Qualities

Introduction

A6.3.1 This Assessment of Effects on Special Landscape Qualities (AESLQs) is independent of, but draws upon, the Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment (LVIA) contained in **Chapter 6: Landscape and Visual Amenity** and **Appendix 6.4: Wild Land Impact Assessment** of the Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIA Report). It provides specific additional detail in respect of potential effects on the special qualities of the Glen Affric National Scenic Area (NSA), which are set out in 'The special qualities of the National Scenic Areas' (Scottish Natural Heritage (SNH) Commissioned Report No. 374, 2010)¹.

A6.3.2 The methodology for the assessment is based on the Guidance for Assessing the Effects on Special Landscape Qualities (Working Draft 11, 2018)².

A6.3.3 Figures and visualisations referred to within this assessment can be found in EIA Report **Volume 2: Figures** and EIA Report **Volume 3a-b: NatureScot LVIA Visualisations**

Nationally Designated Landscapes

A6.3.4 Scotland has two national landscape designations, National Parks (NPs) and National Scenic Areas (NSAs). National Parks are designated under the National Parks (Scotland) Act 2000 as areas of national importance for their natural and cultural heritage. These areas are highly valued and represent parts of the country's finest landscapes, which are afforded the highest level of protection in National Planning Framework 4 (NPF4), which includes National Planning Policy (NPP).

A6.3.5 With regard to onshore wind development, NPF4 (Policy 11, page 53) notes that "Development proposals for wind farms in National Parks and National Scenic Areas will not be supported". Policy 4 (page 40) also notes that

"Development proposals that will affect a National Park, National Scenic Area, Site of Special Scientific Interest or a National Nature Reserve will only be supported where:

- i. The objectives of designation and the overall integrity of the areas will not be compromised; or*
- ii. Any significant adverse effects on the qualities for which the area has been designated are clearly outweighed by social, environmental or economic benefits of national importance."*

A6.3.6 Due to the presence of the Glen Affric NSA within the Study Area for the LVIA, the scale and location of the Proposed Development and the predicted visibility indicated from the sides of the glen, summits within the NSA and limited extents of the floor of the glen (as illustrated on **Figures 6.6b** and **6.3.1**), it was considered necessary to determine whether significant effects on the special landscape qualities of the NSA would occur. Therefore, an AESLQs of the Glen Affric NSA has been undertaken to supplement the LVIA.

Approach and Methodology

Guidance and References

A6.3.7 The following list identifies all key documents and sources of information used in preparing the assessment:

- The special qualities of the National Scenic Areas¹;
- Scottish Landscape Character Types Maps and Descriptions³;

- SNH (unpublished, 2018). Guidance for Assessing the Effects on Special Landscape Qualities (Working Draft 11);
- Guidelines for Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment, 3rd Edition (GLVIA3)⁴;
- SNH (2021), Assessing the cumulative impact of onshore wind energy developments⁵;
- SNH (2015), Spatial Planning for Onshore Wind Turbines – natural heritage considerations⁶;
- SNH (2017), Visual Representation of Wind Farms, Version 2.2⁷;
- SNH (2017), Siting and Designing Wind Farms in the Landscape, Version 3⁸;
- SNH (2009), Policy Statement No 02/02: Strategic Locational Guidance for Onshore Windfarms in Respect of the National Heritage⁹; and
- SNH (2015), Spatial Planning for Onshore Wind Turbines – natural heritage considerations¹⁰.

Data Sources

- Ordnance Survey (OS) maps;
- OS 'Terrain50' and 'Terrain5' Digital Terrain Model; and
- SNHi Natural Spaces (GIS data).

Methodology

Step 1 – The Proposal: Gain as full an understanding of the proposal as possible

A6.3.8 As per the 2018 working draft guidance², the assessment should draw upon the project description to identify and describe the main components of the proposal and provide a summary of those which could affect the special landscape qualities (SLQs) of the designated landscape being considered. This should also consider where there is potential for specific individual components or the proposal/development in its entirety to have an effect on the scale, shape, diversity and variety of the SLQs. Gaining a thorough understanding of the proposal allows the full extent of effects on the SLQs to be understood.

Step 2 – Define the Study Area and Scope of the Assessment identifying the area likely to be affected

A6.3.9 This step of the process includes two important aspects. Firstly, the extent of the Study Area is identified based on the location and form of the proposal/development. Secondly, the relationship between this Study Area to the wider extents of the NP or NSA is established. The draft guidance (unpublished, SNH 2018) advocates consideration of the following when defining the Study Area and scope of the assessment:

- *"The extent of visibility of the proposal including any ZTVs for the proposal;*
- *An understanding of how the proposal will be experienced from parts of the NSA/NP, including routes, movement through and key locations in the designated area;*
- *Site based work (in initial study area might be identified and subsequently refined following a site visit);*
- *Landscape character;*

¹ SNH (2010), The special qualities of the National Scenic Areas, SNH Commissioned Report No.374.

² Draft guidance document and Annex 1 pro forma provided by NatureScot Case Officer via email 21/05/2020.

³ SNH (2019), Scottish Landscape Character Types Maps and Descriptions.

⁴ Landscape Institute and the Institute of Environmental Assessment (2013), Guidelines for Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment, 3rd Edition (GLVIA3).

⁵ Scottish Natural Heritage (SNH) (2021), Assessing the cumulative impact of onshore wind energy developments.

⁶ SNH (2015), Spatial Planning for Onshore Wind Turbines – natural heritage considerations, Guidance.

⁷ SNH (2017), Visual Representation of Wind Farms, Version 2.2.

⁸ SNH (2017), Siting and Designing Wind Farms in the Landscape, Version 3.

⁹ SNH (2009), Policy Statement No 02/02: Strategic Locational Guidance for Onshore Windfarms in Respect of the National Heritage.

¹⁰ SNH (2015), Spatial Planning for Onshore Wind Turbines – natural heritage considerations, Guidance.

- *The potential for cumulative effects.*”

A6.3.10 The Study Area for the SLQ assessment may not be the same as the Study Area for the associated LVIA and should relate to how the SLQs are presented and likely to be affected by the proposal/development.

Step 3 – The Analysis of Effects on SLQs

A6.3.11 This step of the assessment includes four key stages, and the draft guidance (SNH 2018) advocates a tabulated approach, with consideration of the key factors set out below for each stage:

Table A6.3.1: Example Assessment Presentation

The Assessment			
Stage 1	Stage 2	Stage 3	Stage 4
Identification of relevant SLQs within the Study Area	The Key Landscape Characteristics that underpin the SLQs	Effect of the proposal on underpinning characteristics and the effects on SLQs	Consideration of proposed mitigation and timescales, level of effect
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Focus the assessment to be appropriate and proportionate to the landscape context and type of development proposed; - Analysis of ZTVs, supported by fieldwork and knowledge of area; - Consultation with National Park Authority, Local Authority or NatureScot as appropriate; - SLQs should be evident and experienced within the Study Area; - Consider the type of SLQs and how they are experienced, potentially grouping those which interact or contribute collectively to experience of the area. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Combining of landscape character and qualities for basis of assessment, informed by SLQ description and LCA; - Supported by on-site experience, fieldwork, and assessment, and knowledge of how the Study Area is used; - Discussion with National Park Authority, Local Authority or NatureScot as appropriate; 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Assessment focused on the key landscape characteristics that underpin the SLQ and their experience; - Use of ZTV, visualisations, wirelines and photomontages will inform the assessment, alongside site visits; - Consideration of the effects of the proposal using design principles (such as shape, scale, diversity, texture) to explain the effects and how they may be further mitigated. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Is there potential for mitigation to reduce effects on the SLQ(s) and their experience (e.g. through design modifications or management)? - Realistic timescales for mitigation to become effective; - The results of mitigation in reducing effects; - What is the certainty that mitigation will become effective? - Is there potential for enhancement/ compensation?
Judgement on the level of effect on SLQs, considering: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Sensitivity of the resource (considered high because of the national status of the designation); Nature of the effects (magnitude of change) and its longevity; Potential to avoid or mitigate the effect (through location, siting, design); and Limitations to carrying out mitigation (e.g. conflicting objectives, technological challenges). 			

Step 4 – Summary of Effects on the SLQs, implications for the NSA/NP and possible future effects on SLQs and recommendations for mitigation

A6.3.12 The final stage of the assessment draws together the assessment to present a clear and transparent summary and evidence, to inform decisions in relation to relevant planning policy. The draft guidance advocates that the summary should include:

- *“The relationship between affected SLQs (where relevant) in the context of the study area and the wider designated landscape, including any specific locational issues in relation to the way the landscape is experienced e.g. gateway experiences or specific features or views;*
- *The nature and levels of effects on the relevant SLQs;*

- *Relationship of people with SLQs and how they may be experienced and affected (expectations of people, mode of transport);*
- *A consideration of possible cumulative effects and the incremental erosion of a designated landscape’s SLQs over time.”*

A6.3.13 A concluding statement of effect should be included, with respect to implications for the Study Area of the assessment, the SLQs affected, and the overall integrity of the wider designated area. As advocated by the draft guidance (SNH, 2018), the assessment which follows below is set out in accordance with the above key steps, presenting a transparent assessment with clear reasoning for the effects identified.

Step 1 – The Proposal

A6.3.14 The Proposed Development is described in detail in **Chapter 4: Project Description** and comprises up to 13 wind turbines and ancillary infrastructure (including proposed substation, access tracks, and borrow pit). The Proposed Development is located entirely outside the Glen Affric NSA which is located approximately 10.5km from the outermost wind turbines.

A6.3.15 The approach to the siting and design of the Proposed Development is set out in **Chapter 3: Site Selection and Design Strategy**, including details of how mitigation of potential landscape and visual effects, including those related to the NSA, has been embedded in the design process through site selection, design of the wind turbine layout and selection of the candidate wind turbine (size/scale).

A6.3.16 Given the intervening distance, effects are considered to arise exclusively from the introduction of the proposed wind turbines, including lighting, whereas tracks and other ancillary infrastructure are unlikely to form discernible features in views from the NSA.

Step 2 – The Study Area and Scope of the Assessment

The Study Area

A6.3.17 The NSA covers an area extending approximately 190 square kilometres, within the central Highlands and approximately 20km to the west of the Great Glen. The ZTV in **Figure 6.6b** and **Figure A6.3.1** indicates visibility from the sides of the glen, focused primarily across the north of the NSA but also extending to the southern sides, hill summits in the north, south and west of the NSA, and limited extents of the floor of the glen, primarily the northern shore of Loch Affric. The assessment of effects focuses on areas of predicted visibility, focusing on potential for effects on the SLQs.

Scope of Assessment

A6.3.18 In preparing this assessment, Chartered Landscape Architects from LUC have engaged with NatureScot to agree the approach, scope and presentation of the assessment (detailed in Table 6.2 contained in **Chapter 6: Landscape and Visual Amenity** of the EIA Report). The relevant published SLQ report is ‘The special qualities of the National Scenic Areas’ (SNH 2010). The relevant landscape character assessments for areas from which indirect effects may occur include Wooded Glen – Inverness (LCT 226), Interlocking Sweeping Peaks – Inverness (LCT 230) and Rugged Massif – Inverness (LCT 220).

A6.3.19 It was agreed with NatureScot¹¹ that the following SLQs would be considered within the assessment:

- *“One of the most beautiful glens in Scotland”;*
- *“A glen of transition, from dense forest to exposed moorland”;*
- *“A journey into wildness”;*
- *“A historic and popular route through the Highlands”;* and
- *“Beautiful Loch Affric”.*

A6.3.20 A review of each of the SLQs of the NSA was undertaken with specific regard to the potential for them to be affected by the type and scale of development proposed. To support the assessment, a number of assessment points were identified within the areas of the NSA predicted to experience potential effects from the introduction of the Proposed Development. These assessment

¹¹ Via email with the NatureScot case officer dated 25/05/2021

points, set out in Table 6.3.2 and shown in **Figure A6.3.1**, informed the consideration of potential effects on the SLQs and are referenced in respect to the relevant SLQs considered in the assessment.

Table A6.3.2: Assessment Point Locations

Location	OS Grid Reference		Approx. Distance ¹²	Reason for selection
AESLQ 01/WLA 01/ LVIA VP9: Meall Mor, above Glen Affric (Figure 6.22)	224908	828066	13.3km	Represents views experienced by recreational receptors from elevated landform to the north of Glen Affric, near the eastern boundary of the NSA.
AESLQ 02/ WLA 03/ LVIA VP15: Core Path at Loch Affric (Figure 6.28)	217094	823062	20.4km	Represents views experienced by recreational receptors from the lower-lying extents of Glen Affric.
AESLQ 03/ WLA 03/ LVIA VP18: Toll Creagach (Figure 6.31)	219449	828285	18.6km	Represents elevated views experienced by recreational receptors along the northern boundary of the NSA.
AESLQ 04/ WLA 05/ LVIA VP 19: Sgurr nan Conbhairean (Figure 6.32)	212975	813887	26.1km	Represents elevated views experienced by recreational receptors along the southern boundary of the NSA.
AESLQ 05/ WLA 07: Track near Alltbeithe (Figure 6.34)	208280	820526	29.3km	Represents views experienced by recreational receptors from the more remote western extents of Glen Affric.
AESLQ 06: Core Path at Loch Coulavie (Figure 6.35)	213228	821739	24.7km	Represents views experienced by recreational receptors from the lower-lying extents of Glen Affric.

How the area is used and experienced by people

A6.3.21 Glen Affric is “often cited as Scotland’s loveliest glen”¹³ and comprises a landscape of dramatic mountains which rise above a narrow glen. Parts of the NSA are located with a National Nature Reserve, designated for its Caledonian Forest mixed woodland habitat that supports a rich variety of wildlife, and a majority of the NSA is located within the Central Highlands Wild Land Area (WLA). The NSA is visited for a variety of recreational activities, most notably hill walking, camping, fishing, sport shooting and mountain biking.

A6.3.22 Access by car into the NSA is via one minor road, which ends to the east of Loch Affric. Estate tracks extend along the floor of the glen to the west of this point, but eventually give way to faint paths in the west of the NSA.

A6.3.23 The Affric-Kintail Way, a long-distance route which spans 44 miles from Drumnadrochit to Morvich in Kintail, passes through the central glen floor of the NSA roughly on an east-west alignment. This route is used by walkers for varied experiences, including day hikes and access to the many hill summits in the area, and for longer-distance routes as the Affric-Kintail Way connects to the Great Glen Way and a wider network of long-distance footpaths. The remote Alltbeithe Youth Hostel, located in the west of the NSA, provides a stopping place for those undertaking longer-distance walks. The historic St Duthac’s Way¹⁴, now promoted as part of the Heritage Paths project, forms parts of the Affric-Kintail Way within the NSA and adds to the time-depth of the area.

A6.3.24 The distinctive landform which encloses the glen is formed by numerous hill summits and interlocking ridgelines. Popular Munro and Corbett hill summits in the area include Tom a’ Choinich, Toll Creagach, Carn Eige and Mam Sodhail located along the northern boundary of the NSA, and Carn a’ Choire Ghairbh, Aonach Shasuinn and Sgurr nan Conbhairean in the south of the NSA.

¹² Approximate distance measured to the nearest turbine of the Proposed Development.

¹³ Excerpt from Countryside Commission for Scotland (1978) Scotland’s Scenic Heritage, published in SNH (2010), The special qualities of the National Scenic Areas, SNH Commissioned Report No.374.

¹⁴ <http://www.heritagepaths.co.uk/pathdetails.php?path=04>

A6.3.25 Several THC core paths pass through the NSA, including the Loch Affric circuit (IN05.06) which forms a circular route around Loch Affric, the Allt Garbh to Tomich by Cougie path (IN05.07) which crosses south-east from Loch Affric beyond the NSA boundary towards Cougie and Plodda Falls and the Loch Beinn a Mheadhoin circuit (IN05.04) which passes along the southern shore of Loch Beinn a Mheadhoin.

A6.3.26 A number of promoted visitor amenities, including walking trails and picnic areas are located outside of the NSA boundary, approximately 1.3km to the north-east of the NSA boundary near Dog Falls and are accessed by the minor road which leads into the NSA. Another promoted location, Plodda Falls, is located approximately 2.3km to the south-east of the NSA boundary. These locations are commonly frequented by those travelling into the interior of the NSA.

Step 3 – The Analysis of Effects on SLQs

A6.3.27 Special Qualities of the Glen Affric NSA are listed in full in the SNH Commissioned Report¹⁵. Special Qualities which may be potentially affected by the Proposed Development, including those agreed with the NatureScot landscape advisor, are listed in Table 6.3.3 below.

A6.3.28 Table 6.3.3 sets out the analysis of effects on each SLQ considered in the assessment. The assessment is presented in a tabular format as advocated by the draft guidance, to provide transparency in the judgements which were made at each stage of the assessment. The sensitivity of the overall Glen Affric NSA resource is considered to be high, taking account of its high value given the national status of the designation. Whilst the susceptibility of each SLQ is considered in the assessment below, the assessment focused on those SLQs which are considered to have potential to be affected by the Proposed Development and are generally considered to be of medium or high susceptibility to change from the type and scale of the development proposed.

Table A6.3.3: Assessment of Special Qualities of Glen Affric NSA

Stage 1 Identification of relevant Special Qualities within the Study Area	Stage 2 The Key Landscape Characteristics that underpin the Special Qualities	Stage 3 Effect of the proposal on underpinning characteristics and the effects on Special Qualities	Stage 4 Consideration of proposed mitigation and timescales, level of effect
<p>Group 1: Scenic qualities and aesthetic value</p> <p><i>One of the most beautiful glens in Scotland</i></p> <p><i>Beautiful Loch Affric</i></p>	<p><i>“Glen Affric has frequently been described as the most beautiful glen in Scotland, representing the romantic, iconic, image of the Highland landscape. Its appeal arises through a combination of:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ <i>Dramatic mountains with high corries rising above a narrow glen.</i> ■ <i>Ancient Caledonian forest of beautiful trees and deep heather, grading to open moorland in the west.</i> ■ <i>Lochs with rocky shores, small bays and promontories, occasional beaches and wooded isles.</i> ■ <i>Fast flowing and broad rivers, tumbling burns with falls.”</i> <p><i>“Loch Affric is the key to the beauty of this glen. Ancient pine trees, single or in groups, emerge from deep heather to surround the loch, providing a foreground to the dramatic backdrop of Carn Eige and Mam Sodhail. These mountains, with their steep and rocky slopes and burns falling out of the high corries, tower above the water.</i></p> <p><i>Views eastward over this long and narrow loch are towards a gentler landscape of rolling hills, westward the eye is led over a sandy beach into a panorama of narrow peaks.”</i></p> <p>The contrasting landscape characteristics which lend to the glen’s appeal are reflected in the two distinct LCTs which cover the area (the Wooded Glen – Inverness LCT (226) and the Interlocking Sweeping Peaks – Inverness LCT (230)).</p> <p>The following characteristics of the Wooded Glen – Inverness LCT are judged to contribute to this SLQ:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ <i>“Upper glens are narrower and more rugged, influenced by the surrounding mountains.</i> ■ <i>Balance between open and enclosed space formed by the diverse mix of landscape patterns, land uses, conifer forests, woodlands and fields.</i> ■ <i>Distinctive mix of rugged hillsides, extensive Caledonian pine forest and lochs in the upper glens.</i> ■ <i>Intimate, semi-enclosed landscape within the glen floor with limited visibility, due to the screening effect of trees and landform.</i> 	<p>This SLQ is most strongly expressed from the lower-lying extents of the glen and in proximity to Loch Affric, from which the contrast between the ‘<i>dramatic mountains</i>’ and ‘<i>narrow glen</i>’ can be appreciated, with views afforded overlooking ‘<i>Beautiful Loch Affric</i>’ (Annex Image A6.3.1). The ZTV on AESLQ Figure A6.3.1 indicates theoretical visibility of the Proposed Development from lower-lying extents of the glen to the north of Loch Affric, and some of the lower south-facing slopes of the glen near Loch Beinn a’ Mheadhoin, Loch Affric and Alltbeithe.</p> <p>Views from Loch Affric towards the ‘<i>dramatic backdrop of Carn Eige and Mam Sodhail</i>’ are typically experienced from the southern shore of the loch, which is not located within the ZTV. Similar views towards ‘<i>dramatic mountains</i>’ are afforded looking west from the northern shore of the loch, across heather moorland and scattered pockets of single and grouped pine trees towards the hill summit of Mullach Fraoch-Choire and the more distant Five Sisters of Kintail.</p> <p>The Proposed Development will be seen in views looking east from the northern shore of Loch Affric (illustrated by AESLQ 02: Core Path at Loch Affric); views west towards the more dramatic and remote summits within the NSA will remain unaffected. The Proposed Development will be seen in distant views east ‘<i>towards a gentler landscape of rolling hills</i>’ (Annex Images A6.3.2 and A6.3.3) and will form a relatively distant feature beyond the operational Corrimony Wind Farm in these views. The Proposed Development will form a small scale distant feature, and will not affect the appreciation of the ‘<i>long and narrow</i>’ nature of Loch Affric in views looking east. The proposed turbines will not alter the perception of scale of the ‘<i>dramatic mountains</i>’ which form the skyline in lower-lying views from the glen. The complex landscape pattern of ‘<i>ancient pine trees</i>’, ‘<i>deep heather</i>’, ‘<i>rocky shores</i>’ and ‘<i>rocky slopes</i>’ will not be affected by the Proposed Development.</p> <p>In views from localised lower-lying extents to the north of Loch Affric, visible aviation lighting on the nacelles of four turbines will be seen in views east, beyond the lit turbines of the operational Corrimony Wind Farm. Occasional artificial lighting at Affric Lodge can also be seen in views from Loch Affric. The introduction of the Proposed Development will increase the presence of artificial lighting across distant views east. This may form a focus in views looking east at night when other landscape features which contribute to</p>	<p>Taking account of the judgements of sensitivity and magnitude of change, the effect on this SLQ will be minor (adverse) and not significant.</p> <p>Overall, this SLQ will not be compromised by the introduction of the Proposed Development.</p>

¹⁵ SNH (2010), The special qualities of the National Scenic Areas, SNH Commissioned Report No.374.

Stage 1 Identification of relevant Special Qualities within the Study Area	Stage 2 The Key Landscape Characteristics that underpin the Special Qualities	Stage 3 Effect of the proposal on underpinning characteristics and the effects on Special Qualities	Stage 4 Consideration of proposed mitigation and timescales, level of effect
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ 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>The following characteristics of the Interlocking Sweeping Peaks – Inverness LCT are judged to contribute to this SLQ:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ “Mountain peaks and slopes often seen as repetitive elements within a group, appearing to interlock and overlap when viewed along glens and fjords ■ No overall hierarchy of peaks, which tend to be connected by high level ridges aligned either side of central, u-shaped valleys. ■ Elegant profile due to the greater vertical to horizontal emphasis ■ Low level views are enclosed, directed upwards or along glens and fjords. ■ Upward views dominated by the steep slopes and towering summits which reveal the vertical scale of mountains.” <p>The susceptibility of this SLQ to the type and scale of development proposed is considered to be high, and overall sensitivity is judged to be high.</p>	<p>this SLQ are not as perceptible. However, given the Proposed Development will be seen at an intervening distance of approximately 20.4km and the existing presence of artificial lighting in the view, the magnitude of change is considered to be low.</p> <p>As indicated in the CZTV in AESLQ Figure A6.3.2, the Proposed Development will result in very limited additional areas of visibility beyond areas of the NSA with existing visibility of wind farm development. The Proposed Development will result in localised areas of introduced visibility near Loch Affric, north of Loch Beinn a’ Mheadhoin (although coniferous forestry will limit visibility), small elevated areas in the north and south of the NSA, and near Alltbeithe. In views from small areas of introduced visibility resulting from the Proposed Development (illustrated by Figure A6.34 AESLQ 05: Track near Alltbeithe), turbine blades of the Proposed Development will be barely perceptible beyond intervening landform in views to the east, at a distance of approximately 29km. Whilst this will introduce a distant feature on the skyline, the influence of the Proposed Development will be localised and will result in a small scale change. Given the intervening distance and small proportion of the view occupied by the Proposed Development, the contrast in scale between the ‘dramatic mountains’ and ‘narrow glen’ will not be affected. Visible turbine aviation lighting will not be visible from this location given screening of nacelle and tower lights by intervening landform.</p> <p>A small scale of change will be experienced across a medium geographical extent of the Glen Affric NSA as a whole, resulting in a low magnitude of change.</p>	
<p>Group 2: Perceptual qualities of wildness/remoteness</p> <p><i>A glen of transition, from dense forest to exposed moorland</i></p> <p><i>A journey into wildness</i></p>	<p>“Travelling westwards, at first the glen is heavily wooded, with stands of pine and birch interspersed with glades of deep heather, but by the time Loch Affric is reached the trees are thinning. Open, exposed moorland and bog soon comes to the fore, with the high and pointed mountains of Kintail providing a spectacular backdrop. At the far end of Glen Affric, three glens open up, each leading deeper into the hills.”</p> <p>“This long glen leads one further from the inhabited lowlands of the east into the heart of the wild mountains of the west. Travelling westwards gives a strong feeling of leaving civilisation and moving into a harsh environment where nature and natural forces dominate. Roads give way to tracks, which in turn give way to paths. There is often a strong wind funnelling down the upper glen, with the western peaks enveloped in cloud and rain.</p> <p>The general absence of buildings and other obvious man-made features, other than occasional, single-storey cottages, lends a sense of remoteness to the whole length of the glen.”</p> <p>The following characteristics of the Wooded Glen – Inverness LCT are judged to contribute to this SLQ:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ “Upper glens are narrower and more rugged, influenced by the surrounding mountains. ■ 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. ■ Contrast between the settled and farmed floor of lower glens and their open heather moorland and forests of the upper slopes. 	<p>The ‘journey into wildness’ is experienced travelling from east to west along the lower-lying extents of the glen. As indicated from the ZTV on AESLQ Figure A6.3.1, the Proposed Development will be seen in views looking east from localised extents of the glen north of Loch Affric, and some of the lower south-facing slopes of the glen near Loch Beinn a’ Mheadhoin and Alltbeithe. The Proposed Development will also be seen in views from elevated landform and hill summits to the north and south of the glen, although the influence of existing operational wind farm development in outward views east influences the expression of this SLQ from these areas.</p> <p>In views from lower-lying extents of the glen near Loch Affric (AESLQ 02: Core Path at Loch Affric), the Proposed Development will be seen in distant views east, beyond the operational Corrimony Wind Farm. Views west across exposed moorland and towards the ‘wild mountains of the west’ and ‘spectacular backdrop’ formed by the ‘pointed mountains of Kintail’ will remain unaffected. The perception of increasing remoteness travelling westwards will also remain unaffected, given the Proposed Development will be seen in the opposite direction of the view.</p> <p>In views from localised lower-lying extents to the north of Loch Affric, visible aviation lighting on the nacelles of four turbines will be seen in views east, beyond the lit turbines of the operational Corrimony Wind Farm. Occasional artificial lighting at Affric Lodge can also be seen in views from Loch Affric. This will increase the presence of artificial lighting across distant views east, however given the intervening distance and the existing presence of artificial lighting in the view, this will result in a small scale change to the sense of remoteness or wildness experienced from this part of the glen.</p> <p>As indicated in the CZTV in Figure A6.3.2, the Proposed Development will result in very limited additional areas of visibility beyond the extents of the NSA with existing visibility</p>	<p>Taking account of the judgements of sensitivity and magnitude of change, the effect on this SLQ will be minor (adverse) and not significant.</p> <p>Overall, this SLQ will not be compromised by the introduction of the Proposed Development.</p>

Stage 1 Identification of relevant Special Qualities within the Study Area	Stage 2 The Key Landscape Characteristics that underpin the Special Qualities	Stage 3 Effect of the proposal on underpinning characteristics and the effects on Special Qualities	Stage 4 Consideration of proposed mitigation and timescales, level of effect
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ <i>Single track road along the base of the upper glens, terminating at the upper edge of the glen.</i> ■ <i>Intimate, semi-enclosed landscape within the glen floor with limited visibility, due to the screening effect of trees and landform.</i> ■ <i>Distant views along the glens from open hill ground creating a feeling of openness and exposure.</i> ■ <i>Increasing sense of naturalness and remoteness traversing the upper glens into mountainous interior."</i> <p>The following characteristics of the Interlocking Sweeping Peaks – Inverness LCT are judged to contribute to this SLQ:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ <i>"Infrequent but prominent coniferous woodland plantations on accessible foot-slopes.</i> ■ <i>Largely uninhabited and few roads or structures.</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>Operational turbines are visible from hill summits and elevated landform. Where visible, operational turbines and other human influences within the glen, including blocks of coniferous forestry and hydroelectric infrastructure in the east of the NSA, decrease the susceptibility of these areas of the NSA to development of the type and scale proposed.</p> <p>The susceptibility of this SLQ to the type and scale of development proposed is considered to be medium, and overall sensitivity is judged to be high.</p>	<p>of wind farm development. In the more remote western parts of the glen within closer proximity to the '<i>heart of the wild mountains of the west</i>', introduced visibility of the Proposed Development will be limited to south-facing slopes near Alltbeithe. In views from this location (as illustrated by AFigure 6.34 AESLQ 05: Track near Alltbeithe), the blade tips of the Proposed Development will be barely perceptible beyond intervening landform in views east at a distance of approximately 29km. Whilst this will introduce a distant feature on the skyline, the influence of the Proposed Development on the '<i>general absence of obvious man-made features</i>' will be localised and will result in a small scale change. Turbine aviation lighting will not be visible from this location given screening of nacelle and tower lights by intervening landform.</p> <p>In views from elevated remote hill summits to the north and south of the glen (AESLQ 03: Toll Creagach and AELSQ 04: Sgurr nan Conbhairean, Annex Image A6.3.4), the Proposed Development will be seen in views east and north-east, in combined and successive views with operational wind farm developments. The visible aviation lighting on the nacelles and towers of four turbines will be seen, in combination with lighting on the operational Corrimony Wind Farm. Other artificial light sources in the view include distant lighting related to settlement at Inverness and the Black Isle. Views west and north-west from these summits look towards a more remote and extensive mountain landscape, and views looking in this direction will remain unaffected by the introduction of the Proposed Development.</p> <p>A small scale of change will be experienced from localised lower-lying extents of the NSA and from hill summits and elevated landform to the north and south of the NSA. The geographical extent is considered to be medium for the Glen Affric NSA as a whole, resulting in a low magnitude of change.</p>	
<p>Group 3: Recreational experience of the NSA</p> <p><i>A historic and popular route through the Highlands</i></p>	<p><i>"Once a drove road, the glen is still popular with walkers of all descriptions: from those out for a day's stroll, to serious hillwalkers and those wishing to traverse the width of Scotland."</i></p> <p>The following characteristics of the Wooded Glen – Inverness LCT are judged to contribute to this SLQ:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ <i>Central, major through-road in lower glens, with minor roads along the glen sides which are integrated with the landform and settlement pattern.</i> ■ <i>Single track road along the base of the upper glens, terminating at the upper edge of the glen.</i> ■ <i>Intimate, semi-enclosed landscape within the glen floor with limited visibility, due to the screening effect of trees and landform.</i> ■ <i>Distant views along the glens from open hill ground creating a feeling of openness and exposure.</i> <p>The following characteristics of the Interlocking Sweeping Peaks – Inverness LCT are judged to contribute to this SLQ:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ <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> <p>Operational turbines are visible from hill summits and elevated landform, decreasing the susceptibility of these areas of the NSA to development of the type and scale proposed.</p>	<p>This SLQ is expressed throughout the NSA, including lower-lying areas accessible by tracks and paths along the floor of the glen, and the more remote hill summits to the north and south of the glen. The ZTV on Figure A6.3.1 indicates theoretical visibility of the Proposed Development from lower-lying extents of the glen to the north of Loch Affric, from some of the lower south-facing slopes of the glen near Loch Beinn a' Mheadhoin, Loch Affric and Alltbeithe, and from elevated landform and hill summits to the north and south of the glen. Visibility is limited from some elevated landform and hill summits in the west of the NSA (near the boundary of the Kintail NSA) due to screening by intervening elevated landform and hill summits in the centre and east of the NSA.</p> <p>This SLQ is most strongly experienced by receptors accessing popular routes including the Affric-Kintail Way and THC Core Paths which pass through lower-lying areas of the glen, and from popular hill summits including the Munro hill summits of Toll Creagach (AESLQ 03), Tom a' Chòinich, Sgurr nan Conbhairean (AESLQ 04), Carn Eige and Mam Sodhail, which are accessed more frequently than other minor hill summits to the north and south of the glen.</p> <p>Views of the Proposed Development will be experienced from the THC Core Path: Loch Affric circuit (IN05.06) which passes to the north of Loch Affric. The Proposed Development will be seen in distant views east, in combination with the operational Corrimony Wind Farm, and will be partially screened by intervening landform (illustrated by Figure 6.28 AESLQ 02: Core Path at Loch Affric). The Proposed Development will form a distant feature on the skyline of sequential views from approximately 5.6km this</p>	<p>Taking account of the judgements of sensitivity and magnitude of change, the effect on this SLQ will be moderate (adverse) and significant for localised extents of the NSA, limited to hill summits and elevated landform near the eastern boundary of the NSA (within approximately 16km of the nearest turbine of the Proposed Development, near Meall Mor AESLQ01/VP9 and elevated slopes Doire Mhor). However, this SLQ is most strongly expressed in the more popular lower-lying routes through the floor of the glen, and from remote hill summits in the west of the NSA, where the Proposed Development would result in a minor (adverse) and not significant effect.</p> <p>Overall, this SLQ will not be compromised by the introduction of the Proposed Development.</p>

Stage 1 Identification of relevant Special Qualities within the Study Area	Stage 2 The Key Landscape Characteristics that underpin the Special Qualities	Stage 3 Effect of the proposal on underpinning characteristics and the effects on Special Qualities	Stage 4 Consideration of proposed mitigation and timescales, level of effect
	<p>The susceptibility of this SLQ to the type and scale of development proposed is considered to be medium, and overall sensitivity is judged to be high.</p>	<p>route, although visibility and perceptibility will decrease with distance (illustrated by Figure 6.35 AESLQ 06: Core Path at Loch Coulavie). In views from AESLQ 02: Core Path at Loch Affric (Figure 6.28), visible aviation lighting on the nacelles of four turbines will be seen in views east, beyond the lit turbines of the operational Corrimony Wind Farm. Occasional artificial lighting at Affric Lodge can also be seen in views from Loch Affric. This will increase the horizontal extent and prominence of artificial lighting across distant views east and the duration of time over which potential effects may be experienced. However, given the intervening distance and the existing presence of artificial lighting in the view, this will result in a small scale change to views experienced by the relatively small number of recreational receptors accessing the NSA at night.</p> <p>Visibility from the Affric-Kintail Way within the NSA will be limited to a localised section of the path near Alltbeithe. In views from this section of the path (represented by nearby Figure 6.34 AESLQ 05: Track near Alltbeithe) turbine blades of the Proposed Development will be barely perceptible beyond intervening landform in views to the east. The Proposed Development will introduce wind turbines into the view, however given the distance and very small proportion of the view occupied by the Proposed Development, this will result in a small scale change on views experienced from approximately 800m of the route. Turbine aviation lighting will not be visible from this location. Given the localised nature of these views, this will result in a small scale change to the overall sequential experience of the Affric-Kintail Way.</p> <p>The Proposed Development will be visible from elevated landform and hill summits to the north and south of the glen, though primarily from the east of the NSA. This includes the Munro hill summits of Toll Creagach (AESLQ 03), Tom a' Chòinich, Sgurr nan Conbhairean (AESLQ 04), Carn Eige and Mam Sodhail. In views from these hill summits and elevated landform on the approach to the summits, proposed turbines will appear as an extension to the operational Bhlaraidh Wind Farm, and beyond the operational Corrimony Wind Farm. The visible aviation lighting on the nacelles and towers of four turbines will be seen, in combination with lighting on the operational Corrimony Wind Farm. Other artificial light sources in the view include distant lighting related to settlement at Inverness and the Black Isle. The Proposed Development will be seen in distant views east and north-east, resulting in a small scale change to views with an existing influence of wind farm development.</p> <p>Whilst a moderate (adverse) and significant visual effect was identified within the LVIA for AESLQ 01/VP 9: Meall Mor, above Glen Affric, the Proposed Development will result in a medium scale visual change to views with an existing presence of wind farm development from this location. Similar views will be experienced from localised extents of the NSA, limited to elevated slopes and minor hill summits within approximately 16km of the nearest turbine of the Proposed Development. Coniferous forestry and woodland cover on the lower slopes of the glen limits visibility in this area of the NSA. The scale of change resulting from the Proposed Development will reduce with distance, and the introduction of the Proposed Development is unlikely to significantly affect the overall sequential recreational experience of the NSA. There are no further significant visual effects identified for more popular routes and hill summits within the NSA (AESLQ 02/LVIA VP15: Core Path at Loch Affric, AESLQ 03/LVIA VP18: Toll Creagach; AESLQ 04/LVIA VP 19: Sgurr nan Conbhairean, and the Affric-Kintail Way), from which this</p>	

Stage 1 Identification of relevant Special Qualities within the Study Area	Stage 2 The Key Landscape Characteristics that underpin the Special Qualities	Stage 3 Effect of the proposal on underpinning characteristics and the effects on Special Qualities	Stage 4 Consideration of proposed mitigation and timescales, level of effect
		<p>SLQ is more strongly expressed given the greater popularity and increased frequency of access of these locations.</p> <p>A medium scale of change will be experienced from limited hill summits and elevated landform near the eastern boundary of the NSA, near Meall Mor and elevated slopes near Doire Mhor, reducing to a small scale of change for the NSA as a whole. The geographical extent is considered to be medium for the Glen Affric NSA as a whole, resulting in a low magnitude of change.</p>	

Step 4 – Summary of Effects on the SLQs, Implications for the Glen Affric NSA, Possible Future Effects on SLQs and Recommendations for Mitigation

Summary

A6.3.31 The citation¹⁶ notes nine SLQs, of which five were considered likely to be affected by the Proposed Development. However, the existing presence of wind farm development in outward views from the NSA has led to some existing alteration of the experience of the SLQs considered within the assessment.

A6.3.32 One of the SLQs (*A historic and popular route through the Highlands*) considered in this assessment is judged to experience Moderate and significant effects within localised extents of the NSA, and in an area from which this SLQ is less strongly expressed. Elsewhere within the NSA where this SLQ is more strongly expressed, the SLQ will not be significantly affected. This SLQ is most strongly expressed in the more popular lower-lying routes through the floor of the glen, and from remote Munro hill summits in the west of the NSA. For these areas, the introduction of the Proposed Development will result in a minor (not significant) effect.

A6.3.33 Visibility of the Proposed Development is indicated from limited extents of the floor of the glen, primarily to the north of Loch Affric, the sides of the glen, primarily south-facing slopes in the north-east of the NSA, and elevated landform and hill summits to the north and south of the glen. Wind turbines forming part of the Proposed Development will appear in views with an existing presence of operational wind farms, most notably Corrimony Wind Farm and Bhlaraidh Wind Farm.

A6.3.34 Areas of introduced visibility within the NSA resulting from the introduction of the Proposed Development will be limited to localised areas near Loch Affric, north of Loch Beinn a' Mheadhoin (although coniferous forestry will limit visibility), small, elevated areas in the north and south of the NSA, and near Alltbeithe. In areas of introduced visibility resulting from the Proposed Development, the proposed turbines will appear as distant features beyond intervening landform, resulting in a small scale change to views.

A6.3.35 Existing visible aviation lighting on the operational Corrimony Wind Farm can be viewed from the elevated slopes and localised extents of the glen floor, as illustrated in **Figure A6.5.3**. Given this existing influence of turbine lighting, the Proposed Development will introduce additional artificial lighting into limited areas of the NSA. The Proposed Development will increase the horizontal extent and prominence of visible aviation lighting, and aviation lighting will increase the duration over which potential effects on SLQs are experienced. However, visible aviation lighting associated with the Proposed Development is not considered to result in additional significant effects on the SLQs of the NSA.

A6.3.36 Views of the Proposed Development will be experienced by receptors recreating (e.g. accessing popular Munro and other hill summits via well used and promoted routes) or working (e.g. carrying out activities related to upland hill farming or sporting estate management).

Potential Cumulative Effects

A6.3.37 When considered in the combined cumulative context of other consented wind farm developments (shown on **Figure 6.7b**), the consented Bhlaraidh Wind Farm Extension in combination with the Proposed Development and the operational Bhlaraidh Wind Farm will appear as one continuous development extending across views east from elevated landform and hill summits within the NSA. Whilst these developments in combination will increase the horizontal extent of wind farm development in outward views from the NSA, there is an evident existing presence of wind farm development in these views. Views west towards the '*wild mountains of the west*' will remain unaffected.

A6.3.38 The consented Millennium South Wind Farm will consolidate the cluster of operational development formed by the Millennium, Beinneun and Beinneun Extension Wind Farms in views south and south-east from the NSA. The Proposed Development will appear separate to this cluster of development. Given the existing presence of wind farms in this part of the view and the relatively discrete visual appearance of Millennium South Wind Farm, there will not be any additional cumulative effects on the special landscape qualities of the NSA. The more distant consented Dell Wind Farm will appear in the context of the operational Stronelaig Wind Farm in distant views south-east from hill summits within the NSA. The Proposed Development will appear

separate to this cluster of development and there will not be any additional significant adverse cumulative effects on the special landscape qualities of the NSA.

A6.3.39 When considered in the cumulative context of other proposed wind farm developments which are currently subject to valid planning applications or at appeal/PLI (shown on **Figure 6.7b**), the proposed Bunloinn Wind Farm and Tomchrasky Wind Farm will both bring wind turbines within closer proximity to the southern NSA boundary in views from elevated summits within the NSA. Bunloinn Wind Farm will increase the horizontal extent of turbines further west into a part of the view without an existing presence of wind farm development. This may lead to some further alteration of views experienced by hill walkers within the NSA. However, the Proposed Development will appear as a separate and more distant development and will not contribute towards further alteration of the experience of special landscape qualities under this cumulative scenario.

A6.3.40 Other proposed wind farms, including Corriegarth 2 Wind Farm and Cloiche Wind Farm will appear as distant features in outward views east from the NSA, with the Proposed Development appearing separately to these, and there will not be any significant adverse additional cumulative effects on special landscape qualities.

Conclusion

A6.3.41 NSAs are deemed to be of national importance for their scenic quality (page 73, SPP), and are afforded the highest level of protection within NPF4 and NPP. Although NPF4 is clear that wind farm development will not be acceptable within National Parks and NSAs (Policy 11, page 53), development which is sited outside of an NSA but with the potential to affect it should also be considered. Per NPF4, development should only be permitted if "*the objectives of designation and the overall integrity of the areas will not be compromised*" or "*any significant adverse effects on the qualities for which the area has been designated are clearly outweighed by social, environmental or economic benefits of national importance*". In relation to the landscapes of the NSAs this relates specifically to the defined SLQs.

A6.3.42 The assessment of SLQs has established that despite identification of localised significant effects on one SLQ of the NSA, the Proposed Development will not compromise the objective of designation and the overall integrity of the Glen Affric NSA.

A6.3.43 In this instance, the Proposed Development will typically be seen in views with an existing presence of wind farm development and has been sited and designed (as set out in **Chapter 3**) to minimise as far as possible¹⁷, the opportunity for additional adverse effects on the NSA and further alteration of its defined SLQs. Significant effects on these SLQs are judged to have been mitigated through sensitive siting and design of the Proposed Development. No additional mitigation beyond the embedded design mitigation considered in the siting and design of the Proposed Development (as detailed in **Chapter 3**) is proposed to avoid or reduce the effects identified in this assessment.

A6.3.44 In conclusion, the adverse effects on the SLQs of the NSA identified within the assessment are judged not to undermine the objectives for its protection. Considering all potential effects together, it is concluded that overall integrity of the NSA will not be compromised by the introduction of the Proposed Development.

¹⁶ SNH (2010), The special qualities of the National Scenic Areas, SNH Commissioned Report No.374.

¹⁷ On balance with other environmental constraints identified for the site, as detailed in Chapter 3.

Annex – Fieldwork photographs: AESLQ



Annex Image A6.3.1: View south-west from estate track within Glen Affric, representing views looking along the 'narrow glen' towards the 'dramatic mountains', illustrating the complex landscape pattern of 'ancient pine trees', 'deep heather' and 'rocky slopes'.



Annex Image A6.3.2: View east looking across 'Beautiful Loch Affric' towards 'a gentler landscape of rolling hills' and illustrating the complex landscape pattern of 'ancient pine trees', 'deep heather' and 'rocky slopes'.



Annex Image A6.3.3: View north-east from AESLQ 02/ WLA 03/ LVIA VP15: Core Path at Loch Affric, representing views of existing wind farm development from lower-lying extents of the NSA.



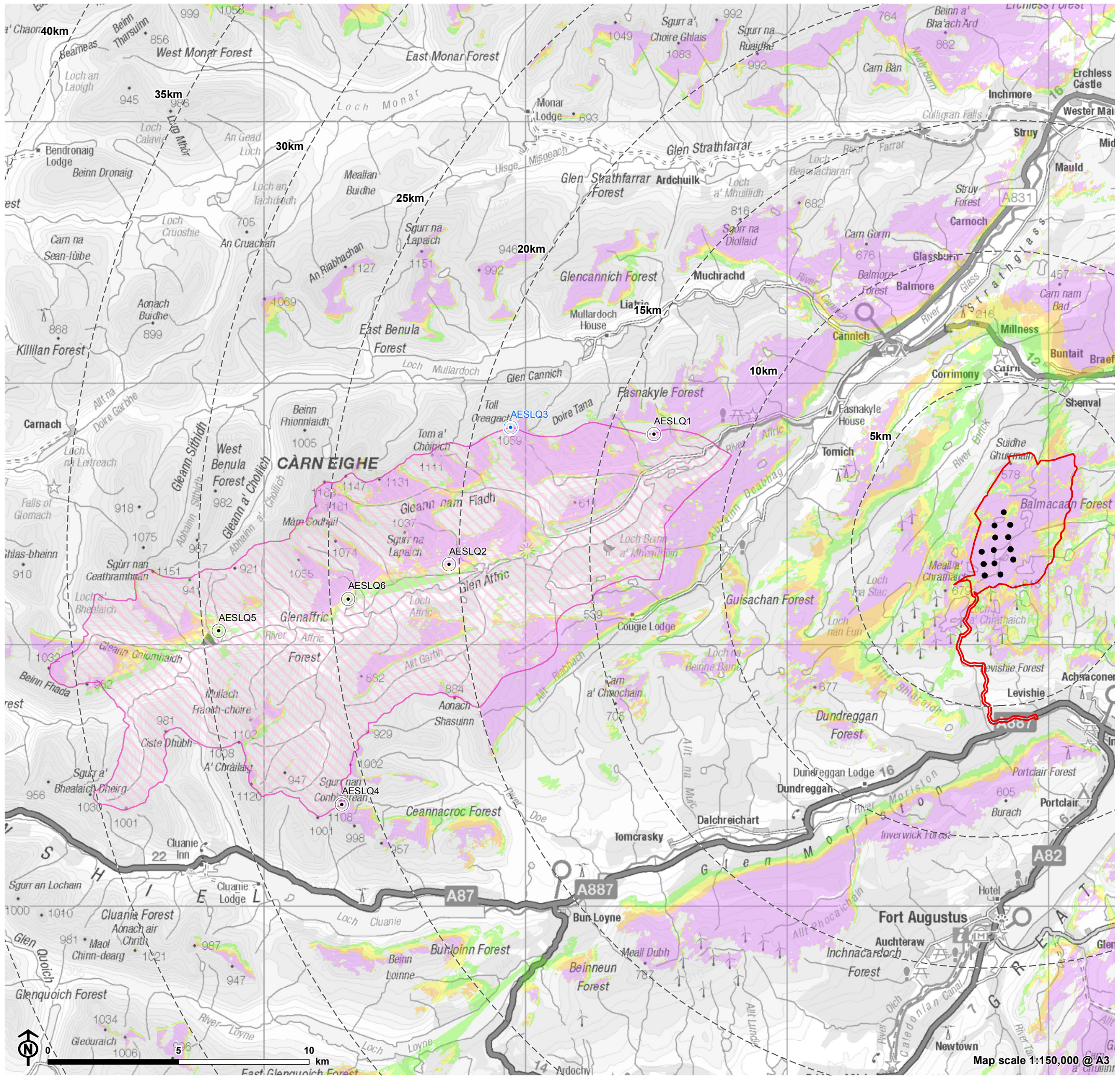
Annex Image A6.3.4: View west from AESLQ 04/ WLA 05/ LVIA VP 19: Sgurr nan Conbhairan, overlooking the more remote western extents of Glen Affric and representing views towards the '*wild mountains of the west*'.



Annex Image A6.3.5: View west from the eastern boundary of the NSA, representing representing views overlooking the *'narrow glen'* towards the *'dramatic mountains'*.



Annex Image A6.3.6: Views along the River Affric illustrating the complex landscape pattern of *'ancient pine trees'* and *'rocky slopes'*.



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Appendix 6.3
Figure A6.3.1: Glen Affric NSA - Blade Tip Height (180-200m)
Zone of Theoretical Visibility

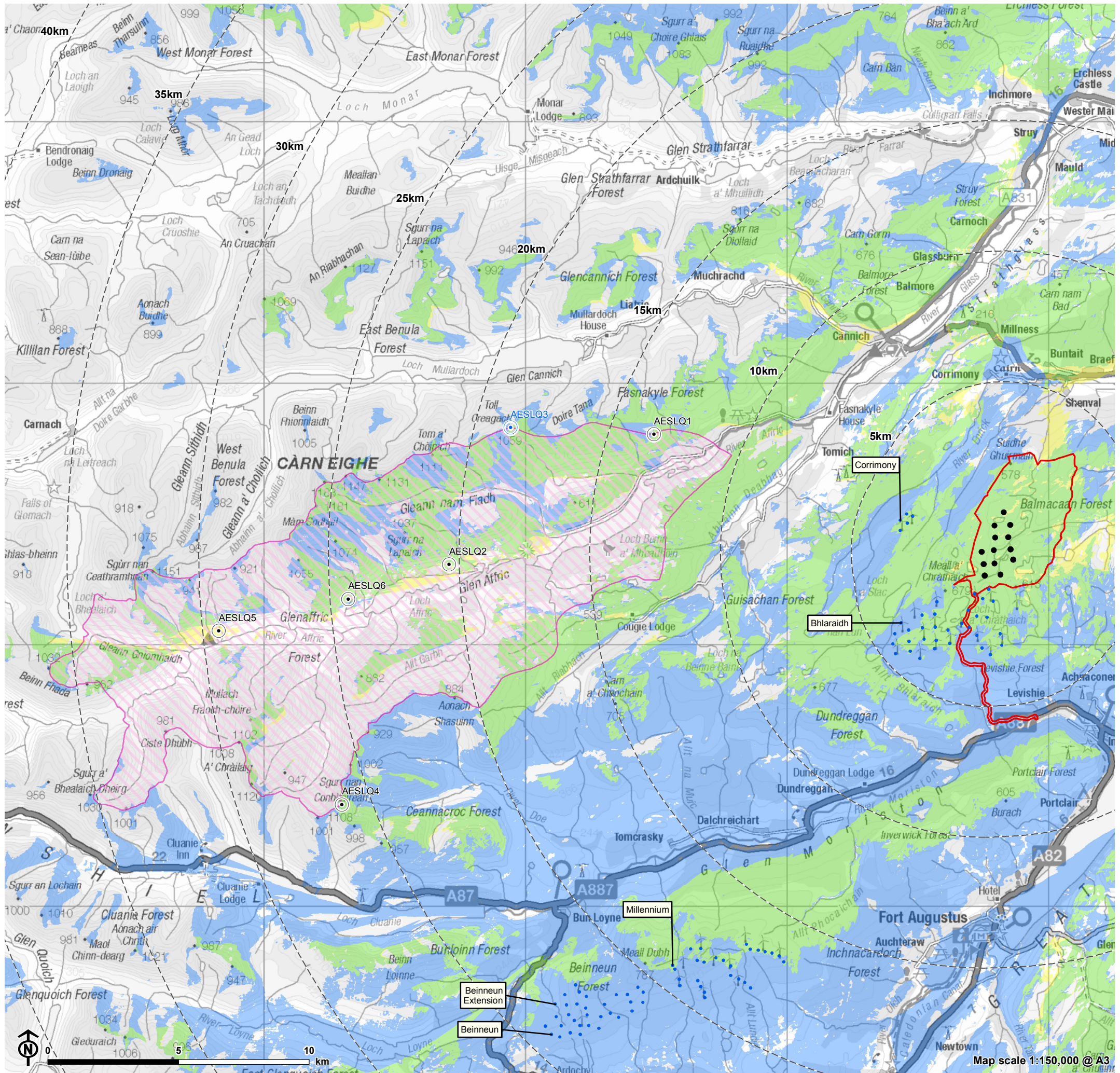
- Site boundary
 - Turbine
 - 5km intervals from outermost turbines
 - LVIA study area 45km from outermost turbines
 - National Scenic Area (NSA) - Glen Affric
- Theoretical turbine visibility**
- 1-4 turbines visible
 - 5-7 turbines visible
 - 8-10 turbines visible
 - 11-13 turbines visible
- ⊙ **Assessment Points:**
- AESLQ 01: Meall Mor, above Glen Affric
 - AESLQ 02: Core Path at Loch Affric
 - AESLQ 03: Toll Creagach
 - AESLQ 04: Sgurr nan Conbhairean
 - AESLQ 05: Track near Alltbeithe
 - AESLQ 06: Core Path at Loch Coulavie

Notes:
Dusk viewpoints shown in blue

The ZTV is calculated to turbine tip height (180-200m) from a viewing height of 2m above ground level. The terrain model assumes bare ground and is derived from OS Terrain 5 height data (obtained from Emapsite in November 2022). Earth curvature and atmospheric refraction have been taken into account. The ZTV was calculated using ArcMap 10.8.1 software.



Map scale 1:150,000 @ A3



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Appendix 6.3
Figure A6.3.2: Glen Affric NSA - CZTV: Operational Wind Farms and Loch Liath

- Site boundary
 - Turbine
 - 5km intervals from outermost turbines
 - LVIA study area 45km from outermost turbines
 - National Scenic Area (NSA) - Glen Affric
- Theoretical wind farm visibility**
- Only other wind farms visible
 - Only Loch Liath wind farm visible
 - Loch Liath and other wind farms visible

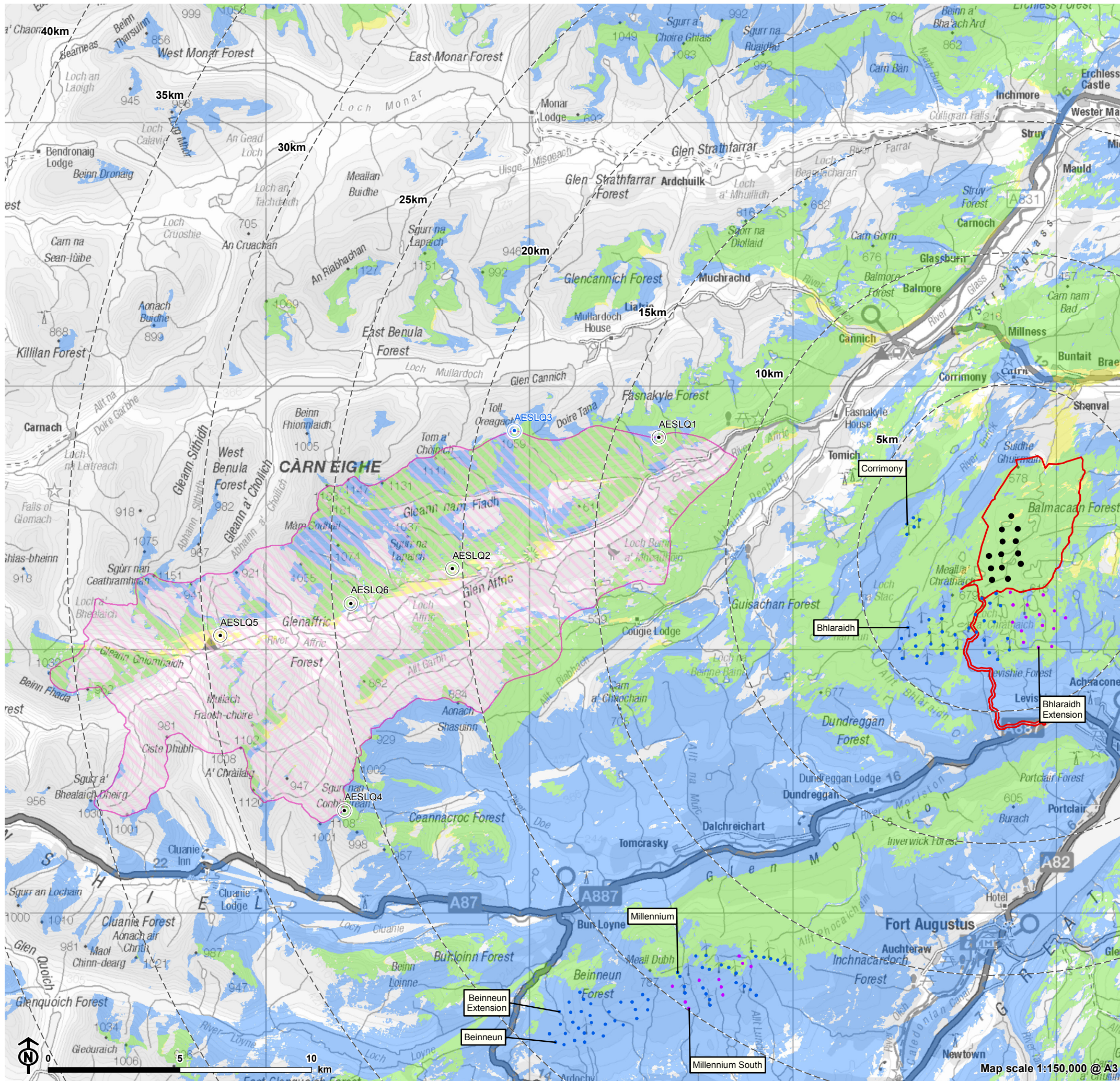
Wind farm developments (by status)

- Operational
 - Assessment Points:**
- AESLQ 01: Meall Mor, above Glen Affric
 AESLQ 02: Core Path at Loch Affric
 AESLQ 03: Toll Creagach
 AESLQ 04: Sgurr nan Conbhairean
 AESLQ 05: Track near Alltbeithe
 AESLQ 06: Core Path at Loch Coulavie

Notes:
Dusk viewpoints shown in blue

Each ZTV is calculated to turbine tip height from a viewing height of 2m above ground level. The terrain model assumes bare ground and is derived from OS Terrain 5 height data (obtained from Emapsite in November 2022). Earth curvature and atmospheric refraction have been taken into account. The ZTV was calculated using ArcMap 10.8.1 software.





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Appendix 6.3
Figure A6.3.3: Glen Affric NSA - CZTV: Operational and Consented Wind Farms and Loch Liath

- Site boundary
- Turbine
- 5km intervals from outermost turbines
- LVIA study area 45km from outermost turbines
- National Scenic Area (NSA) - Glen Affric
- Theoretical wind farm visibility**
- Only other wind farms visible
- Only Loch Liath wind farm visible
- Loch Liath and other wind farms visible
- Wind farm developments (by**
- Operational
- Consented
- Assessment Points:**
- AESLQ 01: Meall Mor, above Glen Affric
- AESLQ 02: Core Path at Loch Affric
- AESLQ 03: Toll Creagach
- AESLQ 04: Sgurr nan Conbhairean
- AESLQ 05: Track near Alltbeithe
- AESLQ 06: Core Path at Loch Coulavie

Notes:
Dusk viewpoints shown in blue

Each ZTV is calculated to turbine tip height from a viewing height of 2m above ground level. The terrain model assumes bare ground and is derived from OS Terrain 5 height data (obtained from Emapsite in November 2022). Earth curvature and atmospheric refraction have been taken into account. The ZTV was calculated using ArcMap 10.8.1 software.



Map scale 1:150,000 @ A3