

# Environmental Impact Assessment Report

Beinneun 2 Wind Farm

Volume 1

Chapter 5: Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment

Document prepared by Abseline LLP and Envams Ltd for Beinneun 2 Ltd

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## 5 LANDSCAPE AND VISUAL IMPACT

### 5.1 INTRODUCTION

#### 5.1.1 Background

Abseline was commissioned to prepare a landscape and visual impact assessment (LVIA) of the Development at Beinneun 2 wind farm on behalf of Beinneun 2 Wind Farm Ltd.

This assessment defines the landscape and visual baseline environments and any known future changes; describes their sensitivity to change; describes the key features and design rationale of the Development in relation to the mitigation of landscape and visual effects; describes the nature of the anticipated changes to the landscape and views and assesses the effects arising during all stages of development.

#### 5.1.2 The Site and Development

Figure 5.6 places the Development within its local context. The Site is located on hills to the north of Loch Garry and lies to the east and north of the A87, wrapping round the western and southern sides of the existing Beinneun Wind Farm to form a broad C-shape. This forms part of a wider cluster of wind farm development which includes Millenium Wind Farm, extending away to the northeast.

The Site and immediate surroundings comprise open, moorland covered hills with relatively small areas of commercial forestry located on surrounding slopes where the hills drop down towards the surrounding valleys and lochs. Glen Garry lies to the south, Glen Morriston to the north and Glen Loyne to the west.

The area surrounding the Site is sparsely settled, with rural properties and small areas of settlement confined to the glens. There are a small number of rural properties situated along the northern side of Loch Garry, the closest around 2 km south of the proposed turbines, with the nearest settlements including Invergarry and Faichem (c. 4.5 km southeast) and Fort Augustus (c. 11 km east). Road access is similarly confined to the surrounding glens, with recreational access to the upland areas provided by worn or made paths, occasional hill tracks and the track networks of existing wind farms.

The Development is described fully within Chapter 4: Development Description. In summary it comprises 19 wind turbines of up to 200 m height, tracks, hard standings, substation, BESS and other ancillary infrastructure.

#### 5.1.3 Competence

This chapter has been prepared by Chartered Landscape Architects at Abseline. Key individuals working on this project have over 13 years of experience undertaking LVIA for onshore wind energy development. The Practice is a Landscape Institute registered practice and all work is prepared and reviewed internally by senior highly experienced landscape planners with Public Inquiry experience.

To inform the assessment, site visits were made to locations including representative viewpoints, the Site and wider study area by the assessment team.

#### 5.1.4 Stakeholder Consultation

A scoping report was submitted to the Energy Consents Unit (ECU) in November 2023 which set out the proposed scope of the LVIA. The ECU issued their scoping opinion in February 2024 which contained responses from key consultees, including the Highland Council (THC) and NatureScot.

NatureScot's scoping response provided some commentary on the potential effects of the Development, identifying that some have the potential to give rise to issues of national interest. Detailed commentary was provided in relation to some parts of the LVIA scope, primarily regarding National Scenic Areas (NSAs), cumulative effects and aviation lighting, but NatureScot declined to provide any detailed commentary on other items, including the selection of proposed viewpoints.

In contrast to the comments received for the Development, NatureScot’s scoping response to the nearby Millennium East proposal simply stated that:

*“Whilst we anticipate that there are likely to be a range of significant landscape and visual impacts as a result of this proposal, at this stage we do not expect these to raise issues of national interest for us. It is therefore unlikely that we will be providing any further detailed landscape advice on this proposal.”*

Given that the consultation responses for the two schemes were issued less than 8 weeks apart, that they would both form part of the same existing wind farm cluster, were proposing the same size of turbines and had near identical patterns of potential visibility, as illustrated by the respective Zone of Theoretical Visibility (ZTV) studies provided, it is unclear why NatureScot provided very different advice for the two schemes. Consideration is given to the specific issues raised by NatureScot in Table 5.1 below.

THC’s scoping response provides largely generic commentary on landscape and visual matters, reiterating points made in other existing guidance and only partially responding to direct questions posed regarding the LVIA in the Scoping Report. It is also noted that much of the commentary provided by THC under the landscape and visual heading relates to assessment methodology rather than the scope of assessment. No additional comment or advice relating to landscape matters was provided by THC through their formal pre-application advice service.

A summary of relevant scoping responses is provided in Table 5.1 below. Where consultees have simply agreed with the approach set out in the Scoping Report or directed that existing assessment guidance should be followed, these have not been summarised.

**Table 5.1 Summary of Stakeholder Consultation**

Issue	How this is addressed
<b>Energy Consents Unit</b>	
Requires that “a robust Night Time Assessment with agreed viewpoints” is included.	An assessment of the effects of visible aviation lighting on night-time receptors is included at section 5.7.7. This is informed by current NatureScot guidance on undertaking such assessments, including the type of visualisations provided.
<b>NatureScot</b>	
It is recommended that assessment of the Glen Affric NSA “follows the methodology set out in the draft ‘Guidance for Assessing the Effects on Special Landscape Qualities’ (2018)”.	<p>It is noted that the draft guidance referred to has been superseded by the finalised ‘Special Landscape Qualities – Guidance on Assessing Effects’ (2025)<sup>1</sup>.</p> <p>As illustrated by Figure 5.1 and Viewpoint 12, there would be very limited visibility of the Development within the NSA and, where it is seen, the proposed turbines would be a distant feature representing a minor addition to an existing wind farm. Part of the consented Tomchrasky wind farm would also be seen in the intervening landscape in front of the Development. Changes to views from the NSA would be negligible and further assessment is not required.</p> <p>It is noted that in their scoping response for Millennium East, which would add more notably to the same existing wind farm cluster when viewed from the NSA (see Viewpoint 12), NatureScot confirmed that detailed assessment of Glen Affric is “unlikely to be necessary”.</p>

<sup>1</sup> NatureScot (2025). Special Landscape Qualities – Guidance on Assessing Effects. Available at: <https://www.nature.scot/doc/special-landscape-qualities-guidance-assessing-effects>

Issue	How this is addressed
<p><i>“Assessment of Effects on the SLQs of the Kintail NSA is unlikely to be deemed necessary. We would however advise the developers and their consultants to consider this further as the EIA progresses.”</i></p>	<p>Noted. The Kintail NSA is located around 19 km northwest of the Development and, as illustrated by Figure 5.1, there would be extremely limited visibility from this area. Given that changes to views arising from the Development would be negligible beyond 10 km (see section 5.7.3), changes to views from the NSA would be negligible and further assessment is not required.</p>
<p><b>The Highland Council</b></p>	
<p><i>“The Council is generally satisfied with the VPs selected although we would request an additional VP representative of the views from the Scottish National Trail south of the Development”</i></p>	<p>Noted. An additional viewpoint (15) has been included from the Scottish National Trail at Greenfield, within the area identified by THC.</p>
<p>Expect that detailed assessment effects should be undertaken for the 45 km study area.</p>	<p>Study areas are discussed in further detail at section 5.1.5.</p>
<p><i>“The Council expects supporting evidence of the extent of detailed route analysis through the provision of sequential wirelines along the A887 and A87, and, if design changes require, the A82.”</i></p>	<p>Viewpoints 1-3 are located along the A87 and represent:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• VP1 – one of the closest, most open views passing to the east of the site;</li> <li>• VP2 – first view when approaching from the north; and</li> <li>• VP3 – first view when approaching from the south.</li> </ul> <p>Illustrative view A in Technical Appendix A5.4 is provided as a further illustration of where the route passes closest to the Site, taken from the Willie MacRae memorial above Loch Loyne and located between viewpoints 1 and 2.</p> <p>As illustrated by Figure 5.6, there is virtually no potential visibility from the A887. It is limited to a short stretch of no more than 500 m located close to viewpoint 2.</p> <p>THC do not specify what design changes would require the same to be included for the A82 however Figures 5.1 and 5.2 illustrate there would be very little potential visibility from this route.</p>
<p><i>“We expect an assessment of the impact on all potentially effected WLAs to be included within the EIAR given the proximity to a number of WLAs and the theoretical visibility of the scheme from within WLAs. NatureScot will provide further assessment advice on WLAs.”</i></p>	<p>The Development is not located within a Wild Land Area (WLA).</p> <p>National Planning Framework 4 (NPF4) directs that effects on WLAs will not be a significant consideration for development proposals that lie outside them. NatureScot confirmed in their consultation response that no wild land assessment is necessary.</p>
<p><i>“Gardens and Designed landscapes (GDL) are considered as assets due to their design and relationship to the wider landscape in addition to their historic nature. Therefore, it would be appropriate for any aspects relating to landscape setting, or relationship to the wider landscape to be considered in the LVIA chapter, if necessary in addition to appearing in the Cultural Heritage Chapter. Although the limited influence of the proposal on GDLs at this stage is noted, this may change if the design and layout changes.”</i></p>	<p>GDLs are designated for their historic and cultural significance/value. Effects on GDLs and their setting are considered within Chapter 8, Archaeology and Cultural Heritage.</p> <p>The LVIA considers GDLs as indicators of landscape value and, where they are readily accessible to the public, effects on visual receptors within these areas are also considered.</p>

Issue	How this is addressed
The council “expect an assessment of the proposal against the criterion set out in the Council’s OWESG at pages 19 and 20 to be included within the LVIA”.	This is a policy consideration and not a matter for LVIA. These criteria are considered in the Planning Statement accompanying the application. Relevance of the OWESG to the LVIA is considered further at section 5.4.2.2.

A consultation response was also provided by Mountaineering Scotland, a non-statutory consultee and private interest group, requesting additional viewpoints from a series or remote hill summits “in the middle distance lying between Loch Cluanie and Loch Cuaich” and a hilltop located c. 1 km north of the existing Beinneun Wind Farm. Illustrative wireline visualisations from these locations are included in Technical Appendix A5.4 for information.

### 5.1.5 Study Area and Scope

It is accepted practice that the extent of the study area for a development proposal is broadly defined by where it will be visible. As discussed in detail at section 5.7.3, the viewpoint analysis (summarised in Table 5.3) and site survey work, supported by ZTVs, identified that beyond c. 10 km all changes to views arising from the Development would be Negligible scale. Given that such limited visual change would not give rise to significant effects on character or visual receptors, a 20 km detailed study area is more than adequate to identify all potentially significant landscape and visual effects.

The final list of viewpoints is provided in Table 5.3.

#### 5.1.5.1 Night-Time Assessment

The Development includes a requirement for visible aviation lighting for which assessment of potential night-time impacts is provided at section 5.7.7. The methodology for that assessment is included within Technical Appendix A5.1 and the scope of the night-time assessment includes night-time photomontages at the A87 north of the Site, the minor road near Faichemard Farm campsite and the A82 at Newtown.

As set out within Technical Appendix A5.1, effects on landscape character are not considered as notable effects on character at night are unlikely to arise, and effects on designated areas focus on those qualities that are likely to be appreciated at night. In relation to visual effects the assessment considers locations where visual receptors are most likely to be present at night, and it should be noted that these are not necessarily the same groups of receptors who may be affected during daylight hours. The sensitivity of both visual receptors and designated areas may not be the same during the night as it is in the day.

#### 5.1.5.2 Cumulative Assessment

Cumulative assessment relates to the assessment of the effects of more than one development (as set out within Technical Appendix A5.1). Operational developments are included in the baseline, consented development forms part of the future baseline, unless there is some uncertainty regarding the future construction of consented developments in which case they may be considered as the first scenario of the cumulative assessment.

That is not the case for this assessment, and the operational wind farms (Beinneun and Extension, Millenium, Stronelairg, Bhlaraidh and Corrimony) and consented wind farms (Bunloinn, Tomchrasly, Bhlaraidh Extension and Cloiche) are taken account of in the main assessment provided in section 5.7.

The main focus of the cumulative assessment is on developments in planning. The full list of developments considered within the cumulative assessment is provided within section 5.8 and illustrated on Figure 5.9.

#### 5.1.5.3 Residential Visual Amenity

Effects on private views are a separate matter not considered as part of LVIA, which focusses on public views; and is also subject to different guidance. As set out within LI TGN 02/19 ‘Residential Visual Amenity Assessment (RVAA)’:

*“Changes in views and visual amenity are considered in the planning process. In respect of private views and visual amenity, it is widely known that, no one has ‘a right to a view.’*

...

*It is not uncommon for significant adverse effects on views and visual amenity to be experienced by people at their place of residence as a result of introducing a new development into the landscape. In itself this does not necessarily cause particular planning concern. However, there are situations where the effect on the outlook / visual amenity of a residential property is so great that it is not generally considered to be in the public interest to permit such conditions to occur where they did not exist before.”*

LVIA considers impacts on communities and the way they experience views from public locations. Private views and effects on residential visual amenity are a separate matter considered by RVAA. The methodology for and assessment of effects on residential visual amenity for properties within 2 km is included as Technical Appendix A5.5.

## **5.1.6 Assessment Scenarios and Potential Effects**

Effects arising from the Development are considered at the following key stages. The nature of the potential effects relevant to this assessment are described for each stage:

### **5.1.6.1 Construction**

The construction of the Development would take place over an 18 month period. It would involve the delivery of materials and components to the Site; groundworks to form the tracks, turbine foundations and hardstands; a permanent anemometer mast; and the construction of the substation and Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) compound and control building. Cranes would be used to erect the turbines and would be onsite for a small part of the construction period.

Effects during construction on landscape fabric would arise from:

- Groundworks for the turbine foundations, BESS, substation compound, borrow pits, formation of site access and tracks, meteorological mast and hardstandings;
- Changes to vegetation for habitat management, as set out in the Outline Habitat Management Plan (TA A6.6), principally comprising c. 60 ha of low density broadleaf woodland immediately upslope of the A87 in the west of the Site, c. 70 ha of low density broadleaf woodland just outside the Site boundary to the south, and additional riparian planting of mixed broadleaf trees in the cleuchs of Allt Daingean and Allt Achaidh Luachraich; and
- The use of crane(s) to erect the turbines.

Effects during enabling works and construction on landscape character would arise from:

- Short-term construction activity within the Site; and
- Changes to landscape fabric as described above.

Effects during construction on visual receptors would arise from:

- Short-term movement of vehicles and plant including a large crane within and travelling to and from the Site to deliver and install the turbines and other Site infrastructure; and
- Increasing similarity to the operational scheme as turbine construction is completed.

Effects during construction on designated landscapes would arise from:

- Short-term changes to the special qualities as a result of the construction activity taking place within and close to nearby areas.

Potential night-time effects during construction would arise from:

- Limited site-based and vehicular lighting within the standard working hours as set out in Technical Appendix A4.1, Outline Construction Environmental Management Plan and the appearance of the operational aviation lighting as turbines are completed.

### **5.1.6.2 Operation**

The Development would be in operation for up to 40 years. Effects during operation on landscape fabric would arise from:

- Changes arising from the Outline Habitat Management Plan, as set out in “Construction”, above.

Effects during operation on landscape character would arise from:

- The presence and motion of the wind turbines and the associated infrastructure within the Site.

Effects during operation on visual receptors would arise from:

- Changes to views towards the Site to include the presence and motion of the wind turbines, and other elements of the Development, both from static locations and when moving along routes through the landscape.

Effects during operation on designated landscapes would arise from:

- Changes to the special qualities as a result of visibility of the wind turbines in a nearby landscape.

Potential night-time effects during operation would arise from:

- Visibility of red aviation lighting on the turbine nacelles and towers.

### 5.1.6.3 **Decommissioning**

Effects during decommissioning would be short-term (estimated to take 12 months) and similar to those arising during construction except in reverse. The decommissioning process is set out in Chapter 4 Development Description, section 4.5. The wind turbines would be dismantled and removed and turbine bases would be broken up to c. 1 m below ground level. All land affected will be re-instated, in accordance with good practice at the time. It is not anticipated that the access tracks would be removed. The control / substation building may, if the landowners prefer, be left for their use beyond the life of the wind farm, or otherwise will be removed as for other above-ground infrastructure.

### 5.1.7 **Supporting Information and Terminology**

Supporting Technical Appendices (TAs) and figures have been prepared as listed below. These are important to the assessment and should be read alongside this chapter.

The following TAs are presented in Volume 3 of this EIA Report:

- Technical Appendix A5.1: Methodology;
- Technical Appendix A5.2: Non-significant Effects;
- Technical Appendix A5.3: Landscape Sensitivity;
- Technical Appendix A5.4: Illustrative Views; and
- Technical Appendix A5.5: Residential Visual Amenity Assessment.

The following figures are presented in Volume 2a of this EIA Report:

- Figure 5.1: ZTV Study (Bare Ground);
- Figure 5.2: ZTV Study;
- Figure 5.3: Topography and Landcover;
- Figure 5.4: Landscape Character;
- Figure 5.5: Landscape Character and Visibility;
- Figure 5.6: Visual Receptors;
- Figure 5.7: Night-time Baseline;
- Figure 5.8: ZTV study – Aviation Lighting;
- Figure 5.9: Cumulative Wind Farms;
- Figure 5.10: Cumulative ZTV - Operational and Consented Wind Farms;
- Figure 5.11: Cumulative ZTV - Operational and Consented Aviation Lights;
- Figure 5.12: Cumulative ZTV – Culachy & Millenium East
- Figure 5.13: Cumulative ZTV - Beinn Bheag Wind Farm, and
- Figure 5.14: Cumulative ZTV – Culachy & Millenium East Lighting.

Visualisations are presented in Volume 2b of this EIA Report.

Key terms used within the assessment are described in Section 5.2 and Technical Appendix A5.1 which sets out the methodology. A glossary is provided within Technical Appendix A5.1.

## 5.2 METHODOLOGY

The full methodology is described in Technical Appendix A5.1, which also references the key guidance documents which inform the approach. A summary of key points is provided below.

### 5.2.1 Distances

Where distances are given in the assessment, these are approximate distances between the nearest turbine and the nearest part of the receptor in question, unless explicitly stated otherwise. In this case the Development includes a micro-siting allowance of up to 50 m, as set out in Chapter 4: Development Description, and this may be noted where it is of particular relevance to the assessment.

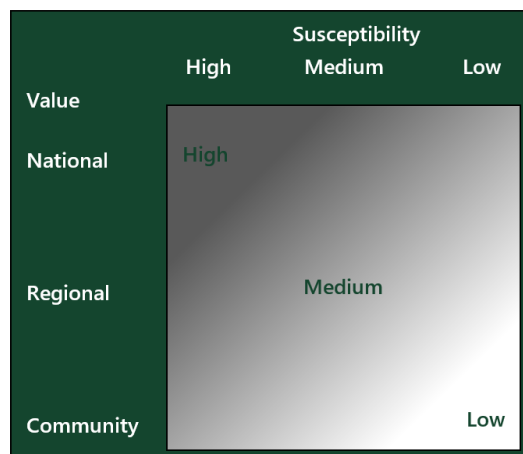
### 5.2.2 Visualisations

The method of visualisation selected has been informed by NatureScot 'Visual Representation of Wind Farms' (2017) and THC 'Visualisation Standards for Wind Energy Developments' (2016). The methodology of production for the visualisations is described in Technical Appendix A5.1.

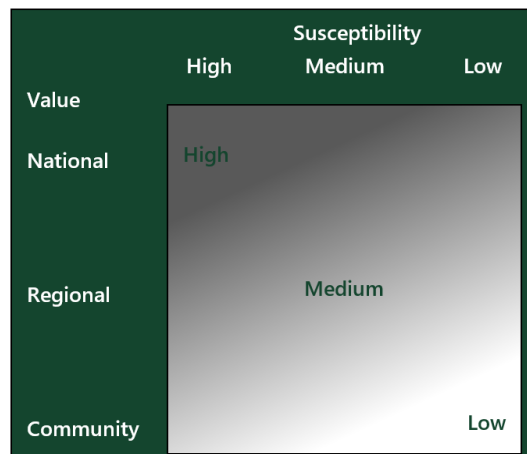
### 5.2.3 Sensitivity

Sensitivity judgements take account of consideration of the value and susceptibility of the receptor as illustrated by the diagrams below. Where sensitivity is judged to lie between levels, an intermediate assessment will be adopted. As comparison of the two diagrams indicates, a slightly greater weight is given to susceptibility in judging sensitivity of visual receptors.

**Landscape Sensitivity**



**Visual Sensitivity**



### 5.2.4 Magnitude

Magnitude of change (Large, Medium, Small, Negligible) judgements take account of the degree of change arising from the Development at any particular location in terms of its size or scale; extent of the area or receptor that is influenced, and the duration and reversibility of the change.

The maximum scale of change on the receptor is the primary factor in determining magnitude. However, for particularly widespread and/or long-lasting effects the magnitude judgement may be slightly greater than the scale of change; or for effects that are constrained in geographic extent and/or short-lived the magnitude of change may be slightly lower than the scale of change.

### 5.2.5 Level of Effect

The level (Major, Moderate, Minor, Minimal) of any identified landscape or visual effect reflects a professional judgement as to the relative importance of the effects identified, taking account of the sensitivity of the receptor and the predicted magnitude of change as illustrated by the diagram below. Where the effect has been classified as Major or

Major/Moderate this is considered to be equivalent to likely significant effects referred to in the EIA Regulations. Where Moderate effects or lower are predicted, these have been judged to be not significant.

The indication that some effects are ‘significant’ should not be taken to imply that they should warrant refusal in any decision-making process. In respect of wind energy development in Scotland, national policy (discussed further at section 5.3.1) explicitly notes that significant landscape and visual effects are to be expected.

**Level of Effect**

Sensitivity	Magnitude			
	Large	Medium	Small	Negligible
High	Major			
Medium		Moderate		
Low			Minor	Minimal

**5.2.6 Beneficial/Adverse**

Landscape and visual effects can be beneficial, adverse or neutral (i.e. different but neither better nor worse taking all factors into account). Taking a precautionary approach in making an assessment of the ‘worst case scenario’, the assessment considers that all effects which would result in a notable difference to the existing features, character, views or special qualities would be adverse unless indicated otherwise. It should be noted however that people’s individual responses to change arising from development can vary markedly.

**5.3 PLANNING POLICY**

**5.3.1 National Planning Policy**

Relevant national planning policy is set out within National Planning Framework 4 (NPF4)<sup>2</sup>: Policy 11 Energy is of specific relevance to the Development and indicates in relation to landscape and visual matters that project design and mitigation should demonstrate how the following impacts are addressed:

*“impacts on communities and individual dwellings, including, residential amenity, visual impact ...”;*

*“significant landscape and visual impacts, recognising that such impacts are to be expected for some forms of renewable energy. Where impacts are localised and/ or appropriate design mitigation has been applied, they will generally be considered to be acceptable;”*

Policy 11 also indicates that Policy 4 will be taken into account in relation to effects on international or national designations, but does not refer to Policy 4 in relation to local designations. Policy 4 sets out criteria identifying that the *“objectives of designation and the overall integrity”* of a National Park or National Scenic Area should not be compromised by development, with other criteria within that policy indicating that significant effects on the qualities for which landscapes have been designated may be outweighed by *“social, environmental or economic benefits of national importance”*. In relation to locally designated

<sup>2</sup> Scottish Government (2023). *National Planning Framework 4*. Available at: <https://www.gov.scot/publications/national-planning-framework-4/>

sites, Policy 4 identifies that any significant effects on their integrity may be outweighed by “social, environmental or economic benefits of at least local importance”.

Although not planning policy, the Onshore Wind Policy Statement (OWPS)<sup>3</sup> sets out the Scottish Government’s policy towards onshore wind and explicitly notes that:

*“Meeting our climate targets will require a rapid transformation across all sectors of our economy and society. This means ensuring the right development happens in the right place. Meeting the ambition of a minimum installed capacity of 20 GW of onshore wind in Scotland by 2030 will require taller and more efficient turbines. This will change the landscape.” (their underlining)*

The OWPS also notes within the section relating to landscape and visual impacts that outside of National Parks and National Scenic areas the criteria within NPF4 include “stronger weight being afforded to the contribution of the development to the climate emergency” and that “Landscape Sensitivity Studies (LSS) are strategic appraisals of the relative sensitivity of landscapes ... a tool to help guide development to less sensitive locations. ... LSS should not be used in isolation to determine the acceptability of a development type in landscape terms..., however they will continue to be a useful tool in assessing the specific sensitivities within an area.”

### 5.3.2 Local Planning Policy

Current local planning policy is described in the following adopted policy documents:

- Highland-wide Local Development Plan (HwLDP) (2012)<sup>4</sup>;
- Inner Moray Firth Local Development Plan 2 (IMFLDP2) (2024)<sup>5</sup>; and
- West Highland and Islands Local Development Plan (WestPlan) (2019)<sup>6</sup>.

IMFLDP2 and WestPlan are of limited relevance to this assessment and focus primarily on the development of settlement and the economy. Reference is made to Special Landscape Areas (SLAs) and National Scenic Areas (NSAs) within the WestPlan insofar as they refer to the HwLDP.

Policies within the HwLDP relevant to this assessment include:

- Policy 57 Natural, Built and Cultural Heritage – which covers effects on “features of local/regional importance” (which may be considered a reference to Special Landscape Areas);
- Policy 61 Landscape – which relates specifically to the consideration of landscape character and references relevant local baseline studies including landscape character assessments, capacity studies, and design guidance; and
- Policy 67 Renewable Energy Developments – which identifies effects on landscape character and visual receptors, including residential properties and recognised visitor sites, as key matters to be considered.

### 5.3.3 Policy Considerations

Taking account of these policies, this assessment considers effects on landscape and visual receptors; with the assessment for designated landscapes identifying any effects on the qualities for which they are designated and the effect on the overall integrity of the designation.

Baseline studies also inform this assessment as set out below.

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<sup>3</sup> Scottish Government (2022). *Onshore Wind Policy Statement*. Available at:

<https://www.gov.scot/publications/onshore-wind-policy-statement-2022/>

<sup>4</sup> Highland Council (2012). *Highland-wide Local Development Plan*. Available at:

[https://www.highland.gov.uk/info/178/development\\_plans](https://www.highland.gov.uk/info/178/development_plans)

<sup>5</sup> Highland Council (2024). *Inner Moray Firth Local Development Plan 2*. Available at:

[https://www.highland.gov.uk/info/178/development\\_plans](https://www.highland.gov.uk/info/178/development_plans)

<sup>6</sup> Highland Council (2024). *West Highland and Islands Local Development Plan*. Available at:

[https://www.highland.gov.uk/info/178/development\\_plans](https://www.highland.gov.uk/info/178/development_plans)

### 5.3.4 Other Relevant Guidance and Documents

Other published documents relevant to this assessment include the following documents, which have informed this assessment and/or the design of the Development in relation to the mitigation of landscape and visual effects:

- NatureScot National Landscape Character Assessment (2019);
- THC Onshore Wind Energy Supplementary Guidance (OWESG) (2016) and Part 2b (2017); and
- THC Assessment of Highland Special Landscape Areas (2011).

Baseline studies are further considered in section 5.4.2 and design advice in section 5.6.1.

## 5.4 BASELINE

### 5.4.1 Introduction

LVIA is an iterative process; baseline studies have informed both design and early assessment before the final design and final assessment were prepared as documented in this chapter. This section provides a review of documented baseline studies (as listed at section 5.3.4 above) and a baseline description of the Site and its landscape and visual context. The baseline description of the individual landscape and visual receptors is provided alongside the assessment in section 5.7 for ease of reference.

### 5.4.2 Baseline Studies

#### 5.4.2.1 *NatureScot National Landscape Character Assessment*

This is the most recently updated characterisation of the study area and is used as the primary reference in relation to landscape character.

#### 5.4.2.2 *Highland Council Onshore Wind Energy Supplementary Guidance (OWESG)*

This document provides guidance in relation to design and assessment, and includes landscape sensitivity studies for some areas, including the Site and much of the study area to the east and northeast.

Section 5 of the OWESG provides a landscape sensitivity assessment of the Loch Ness area, which contains the Site within the southwestern part of a study that extends northeast to Inverness and broadly encompasses the landscapes which border Loch Ness. In some instances, the landscape character areas (LCAs) which it considers have boundaries matching those of the NatureScot character assessment, however, for the most part the OWESG amalgamates or uses entirely different character area boundaries. It provides little explanation of how these areas are defined and very limited character description, focussing instead on sensitivity and design advice in relation to windfarm development within each LCA.

Sensitivity advice in relation to 'large turbines' and 'access infrastructure' is provided and, as indicated on page 35 of the OWESG, it rates susceptibility on a numeric scale of 1-4 with 1 being the 'most susceptible to change' and in reaching that judgement for each character type takes account of:

- Landform (apparent scale);
- Landform complexity;
- Land Cover;
- Habitation;
- Enclosure, and
- 'Moderating factors'.

The detail relating to these considerations is not published within the OWESG – just the resultant rating with a short commentary. These factors are similar to those considered in relation to susceptibility within this assessment, which also includes the consideration of visual factors such as skylines and intervisibility with adjacent areas and informs the assessment in relation to effects on landscape character (see section 5.7.4 and Technical Appendix A5.3).

Section 5 of the OWESG also identifies 'key views' and 'key routes' within the Loch Ness study area, specific details about what is important about each are not provided, other than

a general comment that they “*capture the essence of an area’s particular qualities*” (para. 5.11). Brief descriptions are provided for the key views but these do not identify which features are of particular importance and no further detail is provided in relation to key routes.

Advice provided within the OWESG in relation to the design of the Development is considered further at section 5.6.

#### **5.4.23 Highland Council Assessment of Highland Special Landscape Areas**

This document describes each of the locally designated Special Landscape Areas (SLAs). Key sections within the description of relevance to this assessment are the descriptions of special qualities, which identify the qualities for which each area is designated, the ‘overview’ and the factors identified under the heading of ‘sensitivity to change’.

### **5.5 SITE AND CONTEXT**

Figure 5.6 places the Development within its local context. The Site is located on hills to the north of Loch Garry and lies to the east and north of the A87, wrapping round the western and southern sides of the existing Beinneun Wind Farm to form a broad C-shape. This forms part of a wider cluster of wind farm development which includes Millenium Wind Farm, extending away to the northeast.

The Site and immediate surroundings comprise open, moorland covered hills with relatively small areas of commercial forestry located on surrounding slopes where the hills drop down towards the surrounding valleys and lochs. Glen Garry lies to the south, Glen Morriston to the north and Glen Loyne to the west. It is located across the boundary between two landscape character types (LCTs), Rugged Massif – Inverness and Rocky Moorland – Lochaber, which are both broadly described as large scale, open upland landscapes.

The area surrounding the Site is sparsely settled, with rural properties and small areas of settlement confined to the glens. There are a small number of rural properties situated along the northern side of Loch Garry, the closest around 2 km south of the proposed turbines, with the nearest settlements including Invergarry and Faichem (c. 4.5 km southeast) and Fort Augustus (c. 11 km east). Road access is similarly confined to the surrounding glens, with recreational access to the upland areas provided by worn or made paths, occasional hill tracks and the track networks of existing wind farms.

The Site is not covered by any national or local landscape designations although parts of two locally designated SLAs lie within 10 km and the Glen Affric NSA is located just over 10 km to the north-west at its closest point.

The Development is described fully within Chapter 4: Development Description. In summary it comprises 19 wind turbines of up to 200 m height, tracks, hard standings, substation, BESS and other ancillary infrastructure.

Aside from the added presence of consented wind farms, as discussed at section 5.1.5.2, no other notable changes to the landscape surrounding the Site are anticipated to arise. The cyclical nature of commercial forestry means that some areas would be felled and others will mature or be restocked but the overall pattern of land use within the study area would remain broadly the same.

### **5.6 DESIGN AND MITIGATION**

#### **5.6.1 Relevant Guidance**

Within the OWESG, the Development lies within character areas LN5 and LN11. These have the same boundaries as the NatureScot LCTs shown on Figure 5.4. Design guidance for these two areas is considered in Table 5.2.

**Table 5.2 Design advice from OWESG**

Criterion	Design advice from OWESG	Design Response
Key Views	<p>Great Glen from Meall Fuar-mhonaidh (defines the north edge of the glen in views west). Loch Tarff, 'Local Hero' location (forms part of middle distance leading to Sweeping Interlocking Peaks). Loch Ness West (defines north edge of Great Glen).</p>	<p>The Development would not be visible or would be a very minor feature with no discernible impact on the key views identified by the OWESG.</p> <p>As illustrated by viewpoint 14, the Development would be a very distant feature seen beyond existing wind farms and not readily discernible from Meall Fuar-mhonaidh.</p> <p>As illustrated by the nearby viewpoint 10, the Development would be seen as a minor extension to an existing, distant wind farm from Loch Tarff. It is noted that viewpoint 10 offers a more elevated and open view than the roadside location identified by the OWESG.</p> <p>As illustrated by Figure 5.1, the Development would not be visible looking along Loch Ness from its northern end, including from any of the viewing locations identified by the OWESG.</p>
Key Routes	<p>A887 - Glen Moriston A87 - above Loch Loyne (LN5) and between Loch Loyne and Loch Garry (LN11) A82 - Aberchalder/Ft Augustus (LN5) and 'locally' (LN11) B862 - Loch Tarff and west (LN5 only)</p>	<p>As illustrated by Figure 5.2, there would be virtually no visibility of the Development from the A887.</p> <p>Only very brief stretches of visibility would occur from the A82 and B862 where the Development would give rise to Negligible changes to views (see viewpoints 6, 10 and section 5.7.3).</p> <p>Where visible from the A87, the Development would usually be seen alongside the existing Beinneun wind turbines and in the context of the nearby Bunloinn turbines.</p>
Gateways (LN5 and LN11)	A87 - above Loch Loyne	<p>OWESG does not provide any specific detail in relation to where this gateway lies or to its importance (e.g. to a particular direction of travel). As noted above, the Development would be visible from this stretch of road but would be seen adjacent to, or in conjunction with other existing and consented wind turbines nearby.</p>
Design advice for potential development (LN5 and LN11)	Some scope for limited additional development at scale of existing schemes, where it can be shown to improve the	The Development would form a relatively modest extension to the existing Beinneun/Millennium wind

Criterion	Design advice from OWESG	Design Response
	visual relationship of existing schemes, and where existing access infrastructure can be shared.	<p>farm cluster. The turbines would be larger than these existing wind turbines but the same size as the consented Bunloinn turbines which sit less than 3 km away. The tip heights would also not appear higher than the existing wind farms in most views given the lower elevation of the Site.</p> <p>The Applicant is seeking agreement from the owners of land to the north to use the access tracks that are part of the existing Beinneun Wind Farm, that agreement has not been secured at the time of writing this EIA Report, and so an alternative access is included in the design of the Development.</p>

### 5.6.2 Embedded Mitigation and Enhancement Measures

Landscape and visual matters, including residential visual amenity, have been considered throughout the design of the project. Measures included within the design to prevent or reduce landscape and/or visual effects include:

- Reducing the extent of turbines in the western part of the Site to set turbines further back beyond the nearby hill slopes seen from the open stretch of the A87 to the west;
- Seeking to avoid, as far as practicable, turbines being placed on more prominent sections of the hillside that protrude from the smoother slopes;
- Seeking to avoid, as far as practicable, turbine bases being seen lower down on the hills slopes seen in views from the south, albeit this aim had to be balanced against the above two aims;
- The use of aviation lights which reduce to 200 candela (from 2000 candela) in good visibility conditions (more than 5 km), a standard form of mitigation that is permitted without additional Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) approval; and
- A reduced aviation lighting scheme has also been proposed for agreement with the CAA, to minimise the number of lights required to nine nacelle lights and no mid-tower lights. At the time of writing this had not been agreed so the assessment of aviation lighting in section 5.7.7 assumes all turbines would be lit. However, it is considered that this worst-case scenario is unlikely to be the outcome of discussions with the CAA.

No specific landscape enhancement measures are proposed, but changes to improve habitats will provide incidental improvements in the condition of the landscape fabric of the Site, as set out in Section 5.1.6.1.

## 5.7 LANDSCAPE AND VISUAL EFFECTS

This section sets out the effects that the Development would have on landscape and visual receptors. Some receptors are only briefly discussed and for these receptors, effects *“have been judged unlikely to occur or so insignificant that it is not essential to consider them further”* (GLVIA3, para. 3.19).

Effects on landscape character and visual receptors are set out before those on designated areas as it is common for designations to encompass both character and visual considerations within their special qualities or purposes of designation.

The effects on landscape character, designations and visual receptors during construction and decommissioning would arise for a short-term period from a noticeable presence of vehicles and plant on site during groundworks and the use of cranes to erect/dismantle the

turbines. While standing turbines are on site, the most notable effects would arise from these and effects during the construction and decommissioning stages are assessed to be the same as during operation except where otherwise specifically noted in the assessment below.

The Development is proposed for 40 years of operation and is thus temporary and mostly reversible (foundations are buried, but typically not removed during decommissioning). However, the timescale of operation is treated as being 'Permanent' within this assessment as it exceeds the 25 year period defined as Long-Term the methodology (see Technical Appendix A5.1: Methodology).

Where effects on receptors are judged to be not significant they are described in Technical Appendix A5.2 and summarised below.

### **5.7.1 Construction and Decommissioning Effects**

The effects arising from the Development on landscape character, designations and visual receptors during construction and decommissioning would occur over a short-term period. These would include a noticeable presence of vehicles and plant on site during groundworks, the gradual construction/reinstatement of tracks, hard standings, compounds and the working of borrow pits, and the use of cranes to erect/dismantle the turbines. While standing turbines are on site, the most notable effects would arise from these and effects during the construction stages are assessed to be the same as during operation, except where specifically noted otherwise in the assessment below.

### **5.7.2 Effects on Landscape Fabric**

Changes to landscape fabric would mainly consist of the formation of access tracks, borrow pits and installation of the wind farm infrastructure within an area of open moorland. Some parts of the Site would be managed to deliver biodiversity enhancements, including new broadleaf woodland, as part of the proposed habitat management measures (as set out in Section 5.1.6.1).

These changes would affect landscape elements and features of low sensitivity and would be very limited in their extent. Effects on landscape fabric would not be significant.

### **5.7.3 Geographic Distribution of Effects**

#### **5.7.3.1 ZTV Studies**

ZTV studies have been prepared to indicate the potential visibility of the Development; inform viewpoint selection and site assessment work; and ensure that this assessment focusses on the most important / significant effects. Where receptors are outside of the area of visibility indicated by the ZTV studies, no effects would arise and they are not considered further.

Figure 5.1 provides a bare ground ZTV study for a radius of 45 km from the proposed turbines as recommended by NatureScot guidance. This indicates that visibility of the Development would largely be confined to remote upland areas with visibility from the surrounding valleys, where areas of settlement and the main transport routes are located, would be much more limited.

Figure 5.2 shows a ZTV study including OS mapped woodlands (modelled at 15 m high) and buildings (modelled at 7 m high) which illustrates that the extensive vegetation cover within the valleys would further reduce the extent of visibility in reality, with the most notable areas of valley visibility arising from the closest parts of Glen Garry and Glen Loyne, within 5 km. It also illustrates that areas of upland visibility are frequently within or located close to existing and consented wind farms, except to the south-west.

Figure 5.10 shows a cumulative ZTV study with existing and consented wind farms. This indicates that there would be virtually no areas where the Development would be seen in isolation, without other operational and consented wind farms also being visible.

#### **5.7.3.2 Viewpoint Analysis**

Viewpoint analysis has been undertaken from 15 viewpoints. The final list of viewpoints was prepared following consultation, as set out in section 5.1.4. Viewpoint descriptions and analysis are provided on the viewpoint cover sheets and Table 5.3 below provides a

summary of the scale and nature of the changes to views at each viewpoint. Technical Appendix A5.4 shows additional illustrative views A to F.

The viewpoint locations are shown on Figures 5.1-5.13, and visualisations are provided for each of the viewpoints. All changes to views are assumed to be Adverse in nature.

**Table 5.3 Viewpoint Analysis Summary**

VP	Location	Distance, Direction	Scale of Change to Views
1	A87 west of Site	1.6 km, west	Medium
2	A87 north of Site	2.6 km, north	Medium
3	A87 south of Site	0.9 km, south	Large
4	Minor road near Faichemard Farm campsite	4.7 km, southeast	Small
5	Carn Ghluasaid	8.5 km, northwest	Small/negligible
6	A82 at Newtown	9.0 km, east	Negligible
7	Meall na h-Eilde	9.9 km, south	Small/negligible
8	Eve's Road	11.5 km, north	Negligible
9	Corrieyairack Pass	15.2 km, southeast	Negligible
10	South Loch Ness Trail above Loch Tarff	16.7 km, east	Negligible
11	Gairich	18.4 km, southwest	Negligible
12	Toll Creagach	21.7 km, north	Negligible
13	Creag Meagaidh	23.6 km, southeast	Negligible
14	Meall Fuar-Mhonaidh	25.0 km, northeast	Negligible
15	Scottish National Trail near Greenfield	3.8 km, south	Medium

Each of the viewpoints is a 'sample' of the potential effects, representing a range of visual receptors including people at the viewpoint and nearby, at a similar distance and/or direction. From the ZTV and viewpoint analysis it can be seen that changes to views would arise as follows:

- Large scale changes to views would only occur at close proximity to the Site in locations where the existing wind farms are not also visible;
- These changes would reduce to Medium scale in close views where only a small part of the Development would be seen in conjunction with existing wind turbines adjacent to the Site. Medium scale effects would extend up to around 4 km to the south where the proposed turbines would appear closer and larger than the existing wind farms when seen in more open views;
- Small and Small/negligible scale changes to views would extend between approximately 4.5-10 km where the Development would be seen as an increasingly minor addition to the adjacent wind farms and in the context of extensive wind energy development in the surrounding upland areas; and
- Beyond 10 km, changes to views would rapidly reduce to Negligible scale as the Development would not be seen as distinct from or notably alter the existing pattern of wind energy development.

The ZTV and viewpoint analysis also inform the consideration of effects on character. Typically, the scale of change to character at a particular location will be slightly less than the changes to views, as character derives from a more holistic experience of the landscape, not just views. The degree to which a proposal changes character depends on a combination of:

- The degree to which it is 'in keeping' with the existing character;
- Proximity and visibility; and
- The importance of views towards the site to the existing character.

These factors vary by character type and are considered below.

#### 5.7.4 Effects on Landscape Character

Descriptions for each of the assessed character types are provided alongside the assessment of effects in Technical Appendix A5.2, based on review of the baseline documents discussed in Section 5.3.4. The location of each of the character types is shown by Figure 5.4. Technical Appendix A5.3 provides a detailed analysis of susceptibility for each LCT considered. For the host LCT a detailed consideration of landscape value is also provided. For other LCTs, landscape value is informed by the presence or absence of landscape designations.

##### 5.7.4.1 LCTs considered in detail

The Development is an extension to an existing cluster of wind farms and effects on landscape character have been assessed to be not significant. A detailed assessment of the effects on the following LCTs is provided in Technical Appendix A5.2, with effects summarised below:

- **LCT237 Rocky Moorland – Lochaber (includes Site)** – The Development would be partly sited within this character type, and there would be visibility from a localised area comprising the open upper slopes above the forestry and a sense of being closer to the turbines than the existing wind farms within 5km. As set out in Technical Appendix 5.3, the sensitivity of the receptor is Medium/low, the magnitude of impact would be Medium/small and effects would be **Moderate/minor, Adverse and not significant**.
- **LCT235 Broad Forested Strath (0.7 km, S)** – On the northern valley sides, there would be some locations, where there would be a strong sense of proximity to the turbines and none of the operational wind farms are currently visible. There would be Large/medium scale changes to character in this Limited extent of the LCT. From within the valley and looking out from more distant upper valley sides the turbines would appear as part of the existing wind farms. As set out in Technical Appendix 5.3, the sensitivity of the receptor is Medium/low, the magnitude of impact would be Medium and effects would be **Moderate/minor, Adverse and not significant**.

##### 5.7.4.2 Other LCTs

Effects on the following LCTs are assessed to be negligible for the reasons stated below and are not considered in detail:

- **All LCTs beyond 10 km** – Due to distance and/or limited visibility as set out at section 5.7.3.
- **LCT220 Rugged Massif – Inverness (includes Site)** – Part of the Development sits along the southern edge of this LCT, in an area currently characterised by the presence of the existing Beinneun and Millennium wind farms. The addition of further turbines in this area would not notably alter this characteristic. Across the wider host unit of this LCT, Figure 5.5 illustrates that other areas of potential visibility are mainly located within or directly beyond the consented Bunloinn and Tomchrasky wind farms where these will be the primary influences on character. The only exception to this is the area immediately north and east of Loch Cluanie. As illustrated by the nearby viewpoint 5 and illustrative view B in Technical Appendix A5.4, the Development would be seen as a minor addition beside and beyond the existing wind farms from this area. In this context the effects of the Development on character would be Negligible.
- **LCT226 Wooded Glen – Inverness (1.3 km, N)** – This LCT is located north of the Site with the existing Beinneun and Millennium wind farms sited directly between the Development and the LCT. The ZTVs illustrate that there would be very limited potential visibility across the LCT and, where visibility does occur, the Development would always be seen in conjunction with closer existing and consented wind farms. The greatest effects would arise in the vicinity of viewpoint 2 where there would be a Medium scale change to views for a very Limited extent of the LCT. As illustrated by the viewpoint, the Development would be seen beyond the closer, existing Beinneun turbines and in this context the effects of the Development on character would be Negligible.
- **LCT365 Rugged Massif – Skye & Lochalsh (3.6 km, W)** – The closest part of this LCT is located adjacent to the consented Bunloinn wind farm which would be the primary influence on character here. Views of the Development, seen beyond and

part of a more distant existing wind farm cluster would have no discernible impact on character here and effects would be Negligible.

- **LCT225 Broad Steep-Sided Glen (4.4 km, E)** – This large LCT encompasses Loch Ness and the lower lying land surrounding it. As illustrated by Figure 5.5, the combination of topography and extensive woodland cover within the glen would largely screen views of the Development with the only notable areas of visibility likely to arise across the southern end of Loch Ness and the more open hillsides to the south-west. As illustrated by illustrative view D in Technical Appendix A5.4, this visibility would arise due to a small number of blade tips seen beyond the existing wind farms which stand in open view on the skyline. The Development would make a barely perceptible change to south westerly views from these areas and changes to character would be Negligible.
- **LCT238 Rugged Massif – Lochaber (6.4 km, S) and LCT239 Interlocking Sweeping Peaks – Lochaber (5.7 km, S)** – Changes to character within these LCTs would arise from views of the turbines from the open slopes as illustrated by viewpoint 7. The turbines would be seen beyond Loch Garry as a slightly closer part of the operational wind farms already present. These minor changes to views in the context of the separation provided by the loch and glen would give rise to Negligible changes to character.
- **LCT236 Smooth Moorland Ridges (7.6 km, SE) and LCT221 Rolling Uplands – Inverness (8.6 km, SE)** – These expansive upland LCTs would have intermittent visibility of the Development from open, facing slopes. As illustrated by viewpoint 9 and illustrative view F in Technical Appendix A5.4, the turbines would be seen as a slight extension of a relatively distant, existing wind farm cluster. Seen in this context, and with operational and consented wind farms present within LCT221 (located c. 6.8 km east of LCT236), the limited changes to views from these LCTs would give rise to Negligible changes to character.
- **LCTs north of Loch Cluanie and Glen Morrison (6.8 km, N)** – Most visibility within these LCTs is from areas beyond 10 km and views would feature existing and consented wind farms directly between them and the Development. As illustrated by viewpoint 5, changes to views would be at most Small/negligible scale for a very Limited extent of the closest of these and more typically Negligible, as illustrated by viewpoint 8. Such limited changes to views in the context of existing and consented development would give rise to Negligible changes to character.

### 5.7.5 Visual Effects

Three types of visual receptors are considered within this assessment:

- Groups – Based around settlements or rural areas and representing effects on the community within public spaces including streets and local recreational routes in that place. Views from groups of homes may also be noted in the descriptions, but as noted at Section 1.5, effects on these are a separate matter;
- Routes – Users of longer distance transport and recreational routes through the study area; and
- Specific viewpoints – Visitors to locations which are recognised and valued for the views available.

#### 5.7.5.1 A87 (0.9 km, NW)

As shown by Figure 5.6, this main road connects to the A82 in the Great Glen and runs from there to the north-west and beyond the study area. As shown by Figure 5.2, the route mostly passes through undesignated areas where it is closest to the Site, but passes through the Moidart, Morar and Glen Shiel SLA as it runs to the north of Loch Cluanie. There are also a number of panoramic viewpoints along the route to the south-west and west of the Site, and OWESG identifies the A87 as a key regional route. Views are judged to be of Regional value. Road users visiting the viewpoints or selecting the route in the expectation of a scenic journey based on the presence of the viewpoints would have a High susceptibility and High/medium sensitivity to changes to views.

Road users following this route from the Great Glen would first see the turbines in glimpsed views over and through roadside trees where there is recently felled forestry to the south of the Site, and two of the turbines in open views above young forestry at viewpoint 3. The extent and position of such views would vary with the felling cycle. For example, the young

forestry on the hillside north of viewpoint 3 is likely to largely screen the Development from here as it matures while other views may be opened up.

More open views of some of the turbines would be seen as the route turns north and passes to the west of the Site, where up to three or four of the closest turbines would be seen in open view to the right of the direction of travel, in conjunction with Bunloinn wind farm, which will be seen nearby – ahead and to the left. The proposed site access would also be visible as travellers pass it, close to the location of illustrative view A in Technical Appendix A5.4. The main views from this stretch of the route are generally drawn out across the expansive vista of Glen Loyne to the west, in the opposite direction to the site, and these views along with the presence of Bunloinn wind farm (seen across Loch Loyne) are likely to be more noticeable than the Development through this part of the journey, beyond which the Development would be behind the direction of travel.

Road users heading towards the Great Glen would first see the Development from near viewpoint 2, after passing the junction with the A887, where four of the proposed turbines would be seen alongside the operational wind turbines, with Bunloinn wind farm seen emerging to the right slightly further along the road. Beyond this, visibility would be similar to the views described for road users travelling in the opposite direction.

Considering these changes to views together, there would be Permanent, Large to Medium scale changes for a Localised extent of the route and impacts would be of Large/medium magnitude. Effects would be **Major/moderate, Adverse and significant**.

### 5.7.5.2 Other Visual Receptors

Effects on the following visual receptors are assessed to be not significant and are considered in detail in Technical Appendix A5.2, and summarised below:

- **Recreational users of uplands within 5 km (east of Loch Loyne)** – People choosing to use this area for recreation have relatively open and close views of existing and consented wind farms, and may be using existing wind farm tracks to access the area. The increased proximity and number of larger turbines seen by those using areas primarily south and west of the Site would give rise to impacts of Medium/small magnitude for these High/medium sensitivity receptors and effects would be **Moderate, Adverse and not significant**.
- **Glen Loyne (1 km, W)** – People making recreational use of this area would experience Medium scale changes to views in the easternmost part of glen, between the A87 and Loch Loyne, similar to those illustrated by nearby viewpoints 1 and 2. Further west, existing and consented wind turbines become a more notable feature of views and the change arising from the Development would be reduced. Small magnitude impacts for these High/medium sensitivity receptors would give rise to effects that would be **Moderate/minor, Adverse and not significant**.
- **Glen Garry (1.2 km, S)** – There would be limited visibility of the Development from the local road network and areas of settlement within the glen. Intermittent views of the Development seen alongside and associated with existing wind farms from clearings and recently felled parts of the forest south of Loch Garry, and more widely from the loch itself, would result impacts of Medium/small magnitude for these High/medium sensitivity receptors and effects that would be **Moderate, Adverse and not significant**.
- **Scottish National Trail (3.7 km, S)** – There would be intermittent, more distant and elevated sections of the route where the Development would be seen as a distant feature and minor addition to existing wind farms in the wider landscape. Closer views from open stretches within the forest to the south of Loch Garry and more channelled views alongside the River Garry near Tomdoun would result in Small magnitude impacts for these High/medium sensitivity receptors and effects would be **Moderate/minor, Adverse and not significant**.

Effects on the following visual receptors are assessed to be negligible for the reasons stated below and are not considered in detail:

- **All visual receptors beyond 10 km** – Due to distance and/or limited visibility as set out at section 5.7.3.
- **A887 (3.5 km, N) and A82 (6.1 km, SE)** – as illustrated by Figure 5.2 there would be only very brief stretches where either route would have any potential visibility of the Development. Where visibility arises, the Development would be briefly glimpsed as

an addition to the existing wind farms (as illustrated by viewpoint 6) and would result in Negligible changes to views.

- **Recreational users of uplands south of Glen Garry (5.6 km, S)** – As illustrated by viewpoint 7, the turbines would be seen beyond Loch Garry as a slightly closer part of the operational wind farms already present. Although the proposed turbines would appear larger than those existing, they would appear of a similar scale to the Bunloinn turbines and would not notably extend the existing spread of wind farm development, and would give rise to Negligible changes to views.
- **Recreational users of uplands east of Loch Oich (7.7 km, SE)** – As shown by illustrative view F in Technical Appendix A5.4, the development would be seen as part of the existing cluster of wind farms north of Glen Garry. Although the proposed turbines would appear larger than those existing, they would not notably extend the existing spread of wind farm development as seen from this area or its apparent proximity and would give rise to Negligible changes to views.
- **Great Glen Way (5.8 km, SE), Great Glen Canoe Trail (7.1 km, SE) and National Cycle Network (NCN) Route 73 (7.4km, SE)** – These all follow similar routes along the base of the Great Glen and would have no visibility from sections within 10 km of the Development.

## 5.7.6 Effects on Designated Landscapes

Designated landscapes within 20 km of the Development are shown on Figure 5.2.

### 5.7.6.1 Designated landscapes considered in detail

Figure 5.2 illustrates that there would be very limited visibility from the designated landscapes within the study area, most of which are at distances of greater than 10 km, and no significant effects on designated areas have been identified. A detailed assessment of the effects on the Loch Lochy and Loch Oich SLA is provided in Technical Appendix A5.2, with effects summarised below:

- **Loch Lochy and Loch Oich SLA (6 km, SE)** – The Development would be seen from some, but not all, hill summits and more elevated facing slopes but would not be visible from the lower lying areas in the base of the glen. Where visible, the turbines would be seen in the context of existing and consented wind farms, making a very limited change to the existing pattern of development. The only notable effects on special qualities would be changes to views from some hill summits to the north of Loch Lochy, although the turbines would not be seen in the more important views looking along or across the Great Glen from these summits. Overall, the magnitude of impact would be Small/negligible on this High/medium sensitivity designated area and effects would be **Minor, Adverse and not significant**.

### 5.7.6.2 Other designated landscapes

Effects on the following designated areas are assessed to be negligible for the reasons stated below and are not considered in detail:

- **Moidart, Morar and Glen Shiel SLA (4.8 km, NW)** – Small/negligible, or more generally Negligible scale changes to views, as illustrated by viewpoints 5 and 11, from a very limited extent of this extensive SLA (which extends out to the coast over 60 km from the Site) would have no impact on the 'distinctive west highland composition' for which this area is designated.
- **Designated areas beyond 10 km** – Due to distance and/or limited visibility as set out at section 5.7.3.

## 5.7.7 Night-time Effects

### 5.7.7.1 Introduction

The lighting requirements and embedded mitigation measures for the Development are described in Chapter 4: Development Description and Technical Appendix A4.1, Outline Construction Environmental Management Plan. This section considers the potential effects of the proposed aviation lighting, other temporary and task lighting associated with the development would be in use infrequently, for short durations and effects arising from this would be negligible. As noted in Section 5.6.2, this assessment considers the worst-case

scenario for aviation lighting, with the more likely scenario being less lighting, subject to CAA agreement.

The aviation lighting on the turbines would consist of steady red lights mounted on the top of the nacelles of all turbines. These lights would be 2000 candela (cd) in poor visibility conditions, automatically dimming to 200 cd in good visibility (> 5 km). The type of aviation lights typically used on wind turbines also significantly curtail the brightness of the light at angles below the horizontal, although the exact degree is dependent on the specific light fitting used. This means that when viewed from below, or from locations at lower elevation than the lights, they appear much dimmer than when viewed from above or locations at the same elevation.

The turbines would also be fitted with low intensity (32 cd) steady red lights at the midpoint of the tower, with typically three lights fitted around the circumference to ensure visibility from all directions.

The aviation lights would be visible as points of light, especially where there would be a high degree of contrast at the viewpoint (i.e. the lights were seen against a dark sky / dark landmass or where there would be little or no existing artificial light sources present).

During periods of greater ambient light, (e.g. sunset, twilight, dusk, dawn) there would be a reduced effect as the contrast of the aviation lighting against the background would be less. The lights would be switched on 30 minutes after sunset until 30 minutes before sunrise. This variation means that in summer the lighting would not be switched on when people are predominantly active and contrast with the background would be reduced. However, in winter the lighting would be switched on during peak active times.

Due to the location of the lighting on the turbines relative to the rotating blades, this can result in a blinking effect caused by the screening effect of blades as they travel past the lights. These effects are dependent upon the rotation speed of the blades, direction of wind and the location of the receptor. Where a number of lit turbines are present in the view, such blinking is likely to be at the same frequency but not coordinated.

Technical Appendix A14.1 sets out a proposed reduced lighting requirement has been proposed to the CAA for agreement. This would see the required lighting reduced to nacelle lights on only nine of the proposed turbines – four turbines at either end of the Development and one of the central turbines – with no requirement for mid-tower lights. At the time of writing, this reduced requirement has not been agreed with the CAA and so is not considered within this assessment.

### **5.7.2 Baseline**

Figure 5.7 gives a broad impression of the level of existing lighting within the study area based on satellite observations of light pollution. It illustrates that the area is generally very dark with the only existing lighting of note associated with the largest settlement at Fort Augustus, and to a lesser extent at Invergarry. There is also notable lighting associated with the workers camp at Glen Mor, off the A82 to the southwest of Fort Augustus, but that is not included in the consideration of effects for this assessment given that it is a temporary, short-term development.

Figure 5.7 also illustrates the turbines within the consented Bunloinn and Tomchrasky wind farms which would be fitted with red aviation lights on the nacelles. Figure 5.11 illustrates that these will be quite widely visible across the open and more elevated upland areas across the study area, and within Glen Loyne and Glen Morrison. Visibility of these lights will be more limited within Glen Garry, confined to felled areas and clearings in the forest to the south of Loch Garry, and from the Great Glen where views would be confined to facing slopes in the hills above Laggan Locks and Loch Oich.

### **5.7.3 Geographic Distribution of Effects**

As illustrated by Figure 5.11, the aviation lights would have a similar pattern of visibility across remote upland areas as those on the consented Bunloinn and Tomchrasky wind farms although the extent of visibility across the Site and uplands within 5 km would be greater, and also on facing slopes to the east of the Great Glen beyond 7 km. These are all remote areas where people are unlikely to be present during the hours of darkness. It also illustrates that there would be visibility of the aviation lights within Glen Garry, including at Faichem and Wester Mandally, and along some stretches of the A87. Figure 5.8 illustrates

that a smaller proportion of the aviation lights would be visible to the north and west of the Site with more tending to be visible to the south and southeast.

#### 5.7.7.4 **Night-time Visual Effects**

For visual receptors, night-time views are considered to be of Community value unless there is a particular element that can be best appreciated in the hours of darkness. This may include views of landmarks that are lit at night, recognised dark skies areas (e.g. Dark Sky Parks and Discovery Sites as identified by <https://www.darkskydiscovery.org.uk/>), or Special Qualities of designated areas.

The susceptibility of visual receptors also differs at night reflecting the different activities people undertake in the hours of darkness. For example, drivers using roads at night tend to be more focused on the road and the area illuminated by their headlights than during the day and may have oncoming headlights, cats eyes or reflective signage drawing their attention, resulting in low susceptibility. This is particularly the case on unlit rural roads that may be narrow and winding. People taking part in activities such as stargazing would be of high susceptibility. People in settlements would be of similar sensitivity as in the daytime.

The assessment focusses on locations where people are likely to be present at night. Recreational routes, open access land and other outdoor recreational locations are generally unlikely to be used at night (unless they are lit or specifically promoted for night-time use e.g. stargazing) and are not considered.

The visual receptors likely to be affected by views of the aviation lighting are considered below.

##### *Glen Garry (1.2 km, S)*

The most open view of the aviation lights would occur from the minor local road as it leaves Faichem to the northwest, as illustrated by viewpoint 4. Here, six of the lights would be visible against the dark sky in an otherwise dark location where the only other sources of light are headlights passing on the A87 and from nearby houses, giving rise to a Large/medium scale change to views. More restricted views of a smaller number of lights would be possible from the nearby local road approaching the campsite, where undulating terrain and vegetation screen much of the Development, and private residences nearby.

From the road passing through Wester Mandally, lights would be glimpsed intermittently amongst trees over a more distant skyline with only a small number of lights (typically one or two) seen at any given time, sometimes over lighting at nearby houses, giving rise to no greater than Medium/small scale changes to night-time views.

Considering these together, Permanent changes to views would occur for a Limited extent of this High/medium sensitivity group and result in impacts of Medium magnitude and effects that would be **Moderate, Adverse and not significant**.

If the reduced lighting scheme, as set out section 5.7.7.1, is agreed by the CAA then the number of lights seen in the vicinity of Faichem is likely to reduce which would lead to a slight reduction in effects.

##### *A87 (0.9 km, NW)*

As illustrated by Figure 5.8, aviation lights on a small proportion (6 or less) of the proposed turbines would be visible from the more open stretch of this route as it passes west of the Site, with further small patches of limited visibility occurring from the route as it passes along the northern side of Glen Garry to the south of the Site. The road sits well below the turbines as it passes the Site and so, where visible, the aviation lights would usually appear quite dim as a result of the intensity reduction below the horizontal plane.

Southbound users would first see the lights on approaching and passing viewpoint 2, shortly after which the Bunloinn lights will also become visible on the opposite side of the road for a stretch of several kilometres before these pass out of view behind the direction of travel. Passing viewpoint 1, visibility of the lights would rapidly diminish and become very intermittent, limited to occasional open sections as the road passes south of the Development. East of Munerigie the lights would pass out of view behind the direction of travel.

Northbound users would first begin to see glimpsed views of the aviation lights amongst or above trees, where brief gaps in forestry or aligned views permit, as they pass Faichem. As

the route passes the south of the Site, views would be the same as described for southbound users. As the route begins to turn northwest, between viewpoints 3 and 1, the Bunloinn lights would come into view and be seen ahead of the direction of travel and would draw the eye more than those on the Development. Shortly past viewpoint 1, lights at Tomchrasky will also come into view, more distant but looking directly along the road, and these along with the lights at Bunloinn would continue to be the main focus for northbound users as they pass west of the Site, with the lights of the Development a more peripheral feature. Passing the Willie MacRae memorial, the Development would pass out of view behind the direction of travel.

Permanent, Large/medium scale changes to views would arise from the very Limited sections of the route to the south of the Site where brief glimpses of the aviation lights would be seen in isolation. For southbound users, there would also be Medium scale changes to views for the Localised extent of the route passing to the west of the Site where the lights would be seen on the opposite side of the road to the Bunloinn aviation lights. For northbound users on this same stretch, changes to views would be reduced to Small scale given the stronger focus on the Bunloinn and Tomchrasky lights seen ahead of the direction of travel. Taken together, these visual changes would result in a Medium magnitude of impact. Considering this with the Low sensitivity of road users at night, effects would be **Moderate/minor, Adverse and not significant**.

## 5.8 CUMULATIVE EFFECTS

### 5.8.1 Introduction

The assessment is based on the same landscape and visual baseline and receptor groups as the main LVIA, and the methodology is the same in terms of forming and expressing judgements. Two types of judgement are provided:

- Additional effects – The effects that would arise from the addition of the Development to a baseline which includes the cumulative development(s) being considered; and
- Combined effects – The effects that would arise from the addition of both the Development and the cumulative development(s) being considered to the main assessment baseline.

Typically, only the additional effects need to be considered and the cumulative assessment is provided to inform decision-making in the event that one or more of the cumulative developments have been consented prior to the Development (i.e. the future baseline has changed). The combined effects may be relevant where two or more development applications are determined together.

Landscape and visual receptors that are considered to receive impacts of Small/negligible or Negligible magnitude from the Development are not included in this assessment, as an impact of such low magnitude adds nothing or very little regardless of the effects of other developments.

### 5.8.2 Assessment Scenarios

All cumulative schemes within 20 km of the Site are illustrated on Figure 5.9, with those comprising the Stronelairg cluster (extending beyond 20 km) also shown and included in the viewpoint visualisations. Operational and consented developments have been included within the landscape and visual baseline within the main assessment.

Wind farms in planning and scoping stages are also illustrated on Figure 5.9 and shown in wirelines and include:

- Culachy (in planning) – 8 turbines of up to 200 m tip height (11.6 km, SE);
- Loch Liath (in planning) – 13 turbines of up to 200 m tip height (19.8 km, NE);
- Dell 2 (in planning) – 9 turbines of up to 200 m tip height (22.2 km, E);
- Millennium East (in planning) – 8 turbines of up to 200 m tip height (2.5 km, N);
- Beinn Bheag (in scoping) – 28 turbines of up to 230 m tip height (11.4 km, SW); and
- Fiodhag (in scoping) – 46 turbines of up to 149.9 m tip height (14.6 km, N).

It is also noted that a scoping request has recently been submitted for a revised design of the consented Bhlairidh Extension (18.6 km, NE) which would involve increasing the tip

height of the consented scheme from 180 m to 230 m and the repositioning of some turbines.

No other non wind farm developments have been identified which would require potential cumulative effects to be considered.

#### **5.8.21 Wind farms in scoping**

Two wind farms that have been identified above are at Scoping stage: Beinn Bheag and Fiodhag.

Proposals in scoping (or that have been screened for EIA purposes) may not proceed to application with the same design as scoped. They also may not become applications before the Development is determined and are therefore less certain and are not typically included in cumulative assessment.

In relation to Beinn Bheag wind farm the main areas of combined visibility would occur in areas much closer to either Beinn Bheag or the Site (e.g. Glen Garry), where the closer scheme would be the main cause of any effects (as illustrated by viewpoints 1 and 11), or from distant upland areas where neither scheme is likely to give rise to any notable effects (see viewpoints 7-9).

Fiodhag (formerly known as Fasnakyle) was scoped in 2019 and has yet to come forward as an application, while also being marked as 'withdrawn' on the ECU website<sup>7</sup>. Given the length of time that has elapsed and the status recorded by the ECU it is considered unlikely to come forward as an application in the foreseeable future, or in the form that it was scoped. If the revised Bhlaraidh Extension were to come forward as an application then, given it forms part of a distant, existing wind farm cluster and is a variation to an existing consent, effects would remain the same as set out in the main assessment.

#### **5.8.22 Wind farms in planning**

Three wind farms that have been identified above are at 'in planning' stage: Loch Liath, Dell 2 and Culachy.

The in planning Loch Liath and Dell 2 wind farms would both form additions to the far side of existing, distant wind farm clusters and cumulative effects of the Development would remain as set out in the main assessment, which considers effects in the context of the existing clusters, if these wind farms were consented.

Scenarios considered within this cumulative assessment are:

- Scenario 1 – The Development with operational and consented development – i.e. the effects of the Development compared to the current baseline – as described in the main LVIA; and
- Scenario 2C – The Development with operational and consented development and Culachy wind farm.
- Scenario 2M – The Development with operational and consented development and Millenium East wind farm.
- Scenario 3 - The Development with operational and consented development and Culachy and Millenium East wind farms.

#### **5.8.3 Cumulative ZTV Studies**

Figure 5.12 provides a cumulative ZTV study of the Development, Millenium East and Culachy wind farm. It illustrates that areas with visibility of both Culachy and the Development would largely be limited to upland areas where existing and consented wind farms are already a common feature of views, as illustrated by Figure 5.10 and upland viewpoints 5, 7-9 and 11-14. There would be no combined visibility from within the lower lying parts of the Great Glen, where the main transport routes and majority of recreational interests lie, and there would be no notable sequential visibility from the A87, other main roads and most of the long-distance routes passing through the study area. The only lower lying area where notable combined visibility would occur is across parts of Loch Garry, although this would not extend to the shore and combined visibility elsewhere in Glen Garry would be very limited.

<sup>7</sup> <https://www.energyconsents.scot/ApplicationDetails.aspx?cr=ECU00001969> [Accessed 27/06/2025]

Figure 5.12 illustrates that the majority of combined visibility of Millenium East and the Development would occur in upland areas which are either within or close to existing wind farms, or would be much closer to one or other of the schemes such that the closer scheme would be the overwhelming contributor to any effects. There would be some limited combined visibility from the Great Glen, such as at Viewpoint 6.

Combined visibility of all three wind farms would be limited to upland areas; primarily those around the three sites or close to existing and consented wind farms.

#### 5.8.4 Scenario 2C –Cumulative Effects with Culachy Wind Farm

Based on the combined visibility pattern discussed above, cumulative effects may be different from Scenario 1 in areas with combined visibility that are markedly closer to Culachy, where this wind farm would result in the primary change to views. This would be limited to the upland areas lying southeast of the Great Glen, comprising Aberchalder Forest and Culachy Forest, where changes arising from the Development would be Negligible in any case, and would remain so in this scenario (see viewpoint 9).

The Scottish National Trail passes through this area, where northbound users descending the Corrieyairack Pass would gain close proximity views of Culachy, as illustrated by viewpoint 9, as they approach and then pass this wind farm. As set out in Technical Appendix A5.4, the Development would be a distant feature forming part of an existing wind farm cluster seen from here and would result in Negligible changes to views through this section of the route. If Culachy was also present then this would remain the case.

In the area of combined visibility that occurs across the hills to the north of Laggan Locks, which lies roughly equidistant between the two proposed wind farms, the Development would be seen as part of the existing Beinneun/Millennium cluster (similar to illustrative view F in Technical Appendix A5.4, but slightly closer) and the presence of Culachy seen 7 km or more away in a different direction would not result in any change to the effects of Scenario 1 assessed in the main LVIA.

At night, Culachy would not be visible from the parts of Glen Garry or stretches of the A87 that would be notably affected the proposed aviation lighting of the Development.

Based on the above analysis, it is considered that effects arising from the Development would remain the same in Scenario 2C as for Scenario 1, described in the main assessment provided in section 5.7.

#### 5.8.5 Scenario 2M – Cumulative Effects with Millenium East Wind Farm

Cumulative effects with the closest development in planning, Millennium East, would not markedly differ from those identified in the main assessment given the two proposals are situated on opposite sides of an existing wind farm cluster, and the visibility pattern described at section 5.8.3.

Section 5.7.3 identifies that effects on character to the north and east of the Development would be Negligible, given the existing influence of operational wind farms, while effects on character arising from Millennium East to its south and west (where notable effects would arise from the Development) would be similarly limited for the same reasons.

Figure 5.12 also illustrates that, from the glens surrounding these developments, where the most notable visual effects would arise, the visibility pattern would be very different. Millennium East would be widely visible within Glen Moriston and from the vicinity of Fort Augustus, areas where the Development would not be visible, while the main areas of visibility arising from the Development would be within Glen Garry and Glen Loyne where there would be very limited visibility of Millennium East (as illustrated by viewpoints 4 and 15). Whilst both wind farms would be seen from parts of the Great Glen – for example viewpoint 6, effects from the Development would be Negligible in these locations, and this would not be changed by the additional presence of Millenium East turbines.

At night, lights on the Millenium East turbines would not be visible from the parts of Glen Garry or stretches of the A87 that would be notably affected the proposed aviation lighting of the Development.

Based on the above analysis, it is considered that effects arising from the Development would remain the same in Scenario 2M as for Scenario 1, described in the main assessment provided in section 5.7.

#### **5.8.6 Scenario 3 – Cumulative Effects with Culachy and Millenium East Wind Farms**

Taking account of the conclusions set out above in relation to cumulative effects with each of the two wind farms in planning, it is considered that effects arising from the Development would remain the same in Scenario 3 as for Scenario 1, described in the main assessment provided in section 5.7.

### **5.9 SUMMARY**

#### **5.9.1 Scope and purpose**

This assessment describes the existing landscape and views, considers their sensitivity to change and identifies the magnitude of changes likely to arise from the Development, providing judgements on the likely significance of the effects arising.

#### **5.9.2 Design**

Landscape and visual matters, including residential visual amenity, have been considered throughout the design of the project. Measures included within the design to prevent or reduce landscape and/or visual effects include:

- Reducing the extent of turbines in the western part of the Site to set turbines further back beyond the nearby hill slopes seen from the open stretch of the A87 to the west;
- Seeking to avoid, as far as practicable, turbines being placed on more prominent sections of the hillside that protrude from the smoother slopes;
- Seeking to avoid, as far as practicable, turbine bases being seen lower down on the hills slopes in views from the south, albeit this aim had to be balanced against the above two aims;
- The use of aviation lights which reduce to 200 candela (from 2000 candela) in good visibility conditions (more than 5km), a standard form of mitigation that is permitted without additional Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) approval; and
- A reduced aviation lighting scheme has also been proposed for agreement with the CAA, to minimise the number of lights required to nine nacelle lights and no mid-tower lights.

#### **5.9.3 Effects on Landscape Character**

No significant effects on landscape character would arise, given the existing influence of wind farms on the character of the two host LCTs and in the wider landscape. The greatest effects on landscape character would be Moderate/minor, Adverse and not significant, occurring within one of the two host LCTs (LCT237 Rocky Moorland – Lochaber) and the LCT lying immediately to the south (LCT235 Broad Forested Strath).

#### **5.9.4 Visual Effects**

The only significant visual effects that would arise would be for users of the A87, which runs around the western and southern sides of the Development and passes within 1 km of the turbines. Open and close proximity views of the turbines, generally seen in conjunction with other existing and consented wind turbines nearby, from more open sections of the route passing around the western side of the development within 1-3 km of the turbines would result in effects that are Major/moderate, Adverse and significant.

Effects on other visual receptors would not be significant.

#### **5.9.5 Effects on Designated Landscapes**

There would be no significant effects on the special qualities of designated landscapes. Detailed consideration of the closest, locally designated SLA (Loch Lochy and Loch Oich) would result in no greater than Small/negligible scale changes to one of the special qualities which would result in Minor, Adverse and not significant effects on the designated area.

Very limited visibility of the Development and the existing presence of wind farms in the landscape would mean effects on all other designated areas, including the Glen Affric NSA, would be Negligible.

#### **5.9.6 Night-time Effects**

At night, the study area is generally very dark although street lighting in areas of settlement, along with lighting associated with individual residences and businesses results in occasional brighter areas. Red aviation lights on the consented Bunloinn and Tomchrasky wind farms will also be seen in the otherwise dark skies relatively close to the west and north of the Development once constructed.

No significant effects would arise as a result of views of the red aviation lights on the Development, which would only be seen from limited areas where people are likely to be present at night. The most notable effects would arise for residents and visitors to Glen Garry, where occasional views of a limited number of the lights (generally those on six or fewer turbines) would result in effects that are Moderate, Adverse and not significant.

A reduced lighting scheme, which would remove the requirement for mid tower lights from all turbines and see only nine of the 19 turbines requiring red nacelle lights, has been proposed to the CAA. If this is agreed, night-time effects within Glen Garry are likely to reduce slightly.

#### **5.9.7 Cumulative Effects**

Cumulative effects are considered with operational and consented wind farms in the main assessment summarised above. Of the other wind farms currently in planning, Loch Liath and Dell 2 are both c. 20 km or more away from the Development and would form part of larger existing and consented wind farm clusters. Cumulative effects with these developments would be no different to those for Development, as set out in the main assessment.

Culachy is located just over 11 km to the southeast and Millenium East at the northeast edge of the wind farm cluster that would also include the Development. The only areas where this may result in effects that differ from those identified main assessment are areas of combined visibility which would be markedly closer to Culachy than to the Development. In these areas, Culachy would become the main contributor to any landscape and visual effects, although effects of the Development within all such areas would be Negligible in any case. Within this area, northbound users of the Scottish National Trail would gain close proximity views of Culachy, as they approach and then pass this wind farm and the Negligible changes to views arising from the Development on this section of the route would be unchanged.

**5.9.8 Assessment Summary Table**

Receptor	Distance, Direction	Sensitivity	Magnitude	Level of Effect
<b>Landscape Character</b>				
LCT237 Rocky Moorland – Lochaber	Includes site	Medium/low	Medium/small	Moderate/minor, Adverse Not significant
LCT235 Broad Forested Strath	0.7 km, S	Medium/low	Medium	Moderate/minor, Adverse Not significant
<b>Visual Receptors</b>				
Recreational users of uplands within 5 km (east of Loch Loyne)	Includes site	High/medium	Medium/small	Moderate, Adverse Not significant
Glen Loyne	1 km, W	High/medium	Small	Moderate/minor, Adverse Not significant
Glen Garry	1.2km, S	High/medium	Medium/small	Moderate, Adverse Not significant
<b>A87</b>	<b>0.9 km, NW</b>	<b>High/medium</b>	<b>Large/medium</b>	<b>Major/moderate, Adverse Significant</b>
Scottish National Trail	3.7 km, S	High/medium	Small	Moderate/minor, Adverse Not significant
<b>Designated Landscapes</b>				
Loch Lochy and Loch Oich SLA	6 km, SE	High/medium	Small/negligible	Minor, Adverse Not Significant
<b>Night-time Receptors</b>				
Glen Garry	1.2 km, S	High/medium	Medium	Moderate, Adverse Not significant
A87	0.9 km, NW	Low	Medium	Moderate/minor Not Significant
<b>Cumulative</b>				
All cumulative effects would be the same as for the main assessment, summarised above.				