Technical Appendix 3.5: Cumulative Landscape Assessment Review

Introduction

Cumulative effects are those that occur as a result of the construction of more than one development of a similar type within the landscape. In terms of landscape character, cumulative landscape effects may result where a number of wind energy developments combine, increasing the prevalence of wind turbines within a landscape to an extent where they may become a defining characteristic.

The cumulative landscape assessment considers the potential cumulative effect resulting from the addition of the 29 Turbine Proposed Development to the baseline wind development scenario (refer to Figure 3.6: Cumulative Sites Included within the Assessment). For the purposes of the assessment, it is assumed at all cumulative baseline sites would be constructed and operational.

Only those designated landscapes or Landscape Character Types (LCTs) / Landscape Character Areas (LCAs) that have been identified as likely to experience a Minor landscape effect or greater as a result of the 29 Turbine Proposed Development alone (see Technical Appendices 3.1 and 3.2) have been included in the cumulative assessment, as it is considered that a Negligible effect could not contribute to a significant cumulative effect. Receptors where no cumulative sites are intervisible or where only operational sites are intervisible were also scoped out, as these are assessed as part of the landscape assessment (See Technical Appendices 3.1 and 3.2). The following landscapes are therefore included in the assessment.

Landscape Character Types (LCTs) and Landscape Character Areas (LCAs)

Scottish Natural Heritage (SNH) National LCTs

- LCT 85 - Isolated Mountain Plateau (Creag Meagaidh area only);
- LCT 221 - Rolling Uplands Inverness;
- LCT 238 – Rugged Massif – Lochaber; and
- LCT 236 – Smooth Moorland Ridges.

Cairngorm National Park (CNP) LCAs

- Ardverikie Hills LCA; and
- The Monadhliath – South Monadhliath LCA.

Designated and Protected Landscapes

- Cairngorm National Park (CNP);
- Wild Land Area (WLA) 19. Braeroy – Glenshirra - Creag Meagaidh;
- WLA 20. Monadhliath;
- Ben Alder, Laggan and Glen Banchor Special Landscape Area (SLA); and
- Loch Ness and Duntelchaig SLA.

The above areas have been assessed in accordance with the Cumulative Landscape Methodology outlined in Chapter 7 of the EIA Report (April 2020. The cumulative assessment of landscape character areas is presented first as this feeds into the assessment of designated and protected landscapes. The assessment is supported by a range of Cumulative Wirelines, included as Figures 3.8.1.1 – 3.8.19.1 and Cumulative ZTVs, included as Figures 3.7.1 – 3.7.8, as well as the figures included in Volume 3 of the EIA Report (April 2020).

This Technical Appendix should be read in conjunction with the baseline landscape descriptions and assessment of landscape effects included in in section 7.5 of Chapter 7: Landscape and Visual Amenity, and Technical Appendices 7.3: Assessment of Landscape Character Types, and 7.4 Assessment of Designated and Protected Landscapes of the EIA Report (April 2020).

In terms of assessing any potential change to visual effects, the relevant design change of the 29 Turbine Proposed Development is the removal of seven turbines from the 36 Turbine Scheme presented in the EIA Report (April 2020) along with short sections of track and hardstanding associated with these seven turbines alone. Other key changes to the cumulative baseline as agreed with THC include:

- The refusal of Glenshero Wind Farm;
- The submission of a new scoping application for Dell Wind Farm;
- The revised application for Bhlaraidh Wind Farm Extension;
- The submission of an application for Bunloinn Wind Farm;
- The submission of a scoping application for Loch Liath Wind Farm; and
- The submission of a scoping application for Chrathaich Wind Farm.

A review of the implications arising from the changes to the cumulative baseline and the removal of these seven turbines for landscape receptors is provided below. The effect ratings used are as described in the methodology for the Landscape Assessment in the EIA Report (April 2020) (Volume 2, Chapter 7, Section 7.5).

1.1 SNH National Landscape Character Types (LCTs) (not including CNP area)

Table 1.1.1: LCT 85: Isolated Mountain Plateau (Creag Meagaidh part only)

Cumulative Capacity Value	Low	
Updated Cumulative Baseline Scenario	**Existing and Proposed Wind Farms theoretically visible**	**Description of Updated Cumulative Baseline Scenario**
	Operational / Under Construction: • Beinneun and Extension; • Bhlaraidh; • Corriegarth; • Dunmaglass; • Millennium Group; and • Stronelairg *Consented:* • Aberarder; and • Millennium South *Application / Appeal:* • Bhlaraidh Ext; and • Bunloinn. *Scoping* • Crathaich • Dell; and • Loch Liath.	No cumulative baseline sites directly affect this LCT. All of the sites theoretically experienced affect a similar area, on the elevated ridgeline which forms the northern edge of the LCT and the summit of Creag Meagaidh. The cumulative baseline sites appear widespread, stretching into the distance of the northern landscape context experienced from this area, but there is no wind turbine influence within the deep corries or southern ridges, slopes and summit areas. The greatest influence is from Stronelairg and Dell appearing very noticeable in the northern landscape. To the north-east. Beinneun (and extension), Bunloinn, Millennium Group and Millennium South form a noticeable group on the hills and skyline to the west, while Bhlariadh, Bhlaraidh Extension, Crathaich and Loch Liath form a noticeable group to the north-west. To the north-east Turbines of Corriegarth, Dunmaglass and Aberarder are more distant and have less influence on the immediate character of the LCT.
Nature of Change to due to addition of the 29 Turbine Proposed Development	The 29 Turbine Proposed Development would only affect very limited parts of the LCT not already affected by wind turbine development. The 29 Turbine Proposed Development would appear in the northern context. Both eastern and western clusters would almost always be seen as part of a grouping with Stronelairg and Dell. Although it is likely that the 29 Turbine Proposed Development would lead to a perceptible increase in wind turbines seen within this northern context, given the level of effect which would already occur in relation to the parts of the LCT affected, this is considered unlikely to alter any characteristics or values of LCT. This is particularly the case when taking into account that the majority of the LCT would not be affected. This would lead to a Negligible magnitude of change to this High sensitivity character type.	
Cumulative Landscape Effect of the 29 Turbine Proposed Development	**Negligible** (not significant) Although the 29 Turbine proposed development would remove some of the nearest turbines from the western cluster reducing its influence on the area no change to the EIA Report (April 2020) assessment is anticipated.	

Table 1.1.2: LCT 221 - Rolling Uplands Inverness (OWESG LCA LN6)

Cumulative Capacity Value	Medium to High	
Updated Cumulative Baseline Scenario	**Existing and Proposed Wind Farms theoretically visible**	**Description of Updated Cumulative Baseline Scenario**
	Operational: • Beinneun and Extension; • Bhlaraidh; • Corriegarth; • Corrimony (minimal); • Dunmaglass; • Farr; • Glen Kyllachy; • Millennium Group; and • Stronelairg. *Consented:* • Aberarder; and • Millennium South. *Application / Appeal:* • Bhlaraidh Ext; and • Bunloinn. *Scoping* • Crathaich • Dell; and • Loch Liath.	Within the detailed study area, this LCT is directly affected by Corriegarth, Dunmaglass, Stronelairg, Aberarder and Dell. Beyond the detailed study area, Glen Kyllachy and Farr are also within the LCT. Different groupings of wind farms affect the LCT in different areas. Stronelairg and Dell have greatest influence in the southern part of the LCT where they are located, having intervisibility with only occasional elevated areas in the northern part. Dunmaglass and Aberarder directly affect and more widely influence the north-east of the LCT within the detailed study area, with intermittent intervisibility further south. Corriegarth is located between these groupings and therefore mostly affects the central area. Farr and Glen Kyllachy are intervisible with elevated parts of the north-east (within the detailed study area). Millennium, Beinneun, Bhlaraidh, Bhlaraidh Extension, Crathaich, Loch Liath and to some extent Corrimony and Bunloinn are evident across the western hills from higher ground, usually toward the west of the LCT. Wind turbines are therefore experienced as a feature throughout this landscape, at varying distances and prominence, other than within a few low lying glen areas.
Nature of Change to due to addition of the 29 Turbine Proposed Development	The 29 Turbine Proposed Development would form part of a grouping with Stronelairg and Dell within this LCT and would therefore directly affect it. It would increase the area directly affected by wind turbines but would normally be perceived as a landscape feature in combination with these other sites. There would be a small increase in intervisibility with wind turbines associated with this grouping, particularly across northern areas of higher ground. However, very few areas would be newly affected when taking into account the visual influence of other baseline cumulative sites. Overall, the increase in turbines within this LCT is likely to be noticeable close to the site, particularly to the east of the eastern cluster. This would have limited effect on landscape characteristics due to the effects of the other nearby baseline sites which are already be very prominent in this area. However, there would be some effect where a greater part of the context may be seen to be developed. Beyond the immediate confines of the 29 Turbine Proposed Development, to the north-east, there would be some very small areas where some intervisibility would occur without any of the adjacent baseline sites. The 29 Turbine Proposed Development would reflect the existing pattern of wind development throughout this LCT by being located within the shallow 'bowl' landform which reduces prominence beyond the immediate vicinity. Overall, its addition to the cumulative baseline is considered unlikely to lead to a noticeably increased influence of wind turbines within the LCT resulting in a low magnitude of change to this Medium sensitivity character type.	
Cumulative Landscape Effect of the 29 Turbine Proposed Development	**Minor** (not significant) Although the removal of the seven turbines as part of the 29 Turbine Proposed Development would reduce the area directly affected, it is unlikely to lead to any perceptible change to the effect on landscape character identified for the 36 Turbine Scheme. As such no change to the assessment is anticipated.	

Table 1.1.3: LCT 238 – Rugged Massif – Lochaber

Cumulative Capacity Value	Low	
Updated Cumulative Baseline Scenario	**Existing and Proposed Wind Farms theoretically visible**	**Description of Updated Cumulative Baseline Scenario**
	Operational: • Beinneun and Extension; • Bhlaraidh; • Corriegarth; • Corrimony; • Dunmaglass; • Millennium Group; and • Stronelairg. Consented: • Aberarder (minimal); and • Millennium South. Application / Appeal: • Bhlaraidh Ext; and • Bunloinn. *Scoping* • Crathaich • Dell; and • Loch Liath.	None of the baseline sites have direct effects on this LCT. The majority of indirect effect occurs on small areas of summits and high north and west facing slopes towards the eastern side of the LCT. The greatest influence on this LCT is Stronelairg and Dell which appear as blades beyond the ridge and therefore have a sense of being in a different landscape. However, the combined effect of all of the cumulative sites gives a strong sense of a wind farm developed landscape to the north. Beinneun, and Millennium and Bhlaraidh, Bhlaraidh Extension, Crathaich, and Loch Liath appear as clusters of turbines seen in the north-western landscape context from some areas but are more distant with a greater sense of separation from this LCT.
Nature of Change to due to addition of the 29 Turbine Proposed Development	The 29 Turbine Proposed Development would be seen in the northern context in combination with turbines of Stronelairg and Dell. In some instances the western cluster turbines may be seen to extend the context of wind turbines in the northern landscape further to the west and there would be a few very small areas where a few tips would be newly visible. In general however, given the influence the cumulative baseline on this LCT, the increase in wind turbines in this part of the landscape context is likely to be perceptible from a few places such as mountain summits, but virtually imperceptible from the majority of areas affected as they would be seen within a collection of other, sometimes more prominent wind turbines. This would lead to a Low magnitude of change from this High sensitivity character area.	
Cumulative Landscape Effect of the 29 Turbine Proposed Development	**Minor** (not significant) Although the removal of the seven turbines as part of the 29 Turbine Proposed Development would reduce the influence of the western cluster in particular in this area, it is unlikely to lead to any perceptible change to the effect on landscape character identified for the 36 Turbine Scheme. As such no change to the assessment is anticipated.	

Table 1.1.4: LCT 236 – Smooth Moorland Ridges (OWESG LCA LN4)

Cumulative Capacity Value	Low - Medium	
Updated Cumulative Baseline Scenario	**Existing and Proposed Wind Farms Theoretically Visible**	**Description of Updated Cumulative Baseline Scenario**
	Operational: • Beinneun and Extension; • Bhlaraidh; • Corriegarth (minimal); • Corrimony; • Dunmaglass (minimal); • Millennium Group; and • Sronelairg. *Consented:* • Aberarder (minimal); and • Millennium South. Application / Appeal: • Bhlaraidh Ext; and • Bunloinn. *Scoping* • Crathaich • Dell; and • Loch Liath.	No cumulative baseline wind farms are within this LCT. Millennium Group, Millennium South and Beinneun have the greatest influence on the northern and western parts of this landscape, being present as a grouping across the hills and skyline in the north-westerly context. Bhlaraidh, Bhlaraidh Extension, Crathaich and Loch Liath have a similar degree of intervisibility but are more distant and separate. Stronelairg and Dell turbines are seen from some parts as a grouping through Glen Tarff or from the highest summits. Corriegarth and Dunmaglass are also more distantly perceived in this context. This leads to a baseline situation where wind turbines are perceived around most of the northern and eastern edges of the LCT within the wider context but appear generally in differing landscape areas. The central core of this LCT is unaffected.
Nature of Change to due to addition of the 29 Turbine Proposed Development	The 29 Turbine Proposed Development would appear as small numbers of western cluster turbines seen through the gap of Glen Tarff in combination with Stronelairg and Dell wind turbines or occasionally seen independently as tips. One or two tips of the eastern cluster may also be perceived from a few south-eastern parts of the LCT. The western cluster turbines seen through Glen Tarff may form a perceptible increase in turbines but would generally affect areas where wind turbines, particularly those of Dell are already prominent in this part of the context and would appear associated with this already developed area. It is therefore considered unlikely that this would increase the degree of effect of wind turbines on this LCT. As such there would be a negligible magnitude of change to this Medium-High character type.	
Cumulative Landscape Effect of the 29 Turbine Proposed Development	**Negligible** (not significant) Theoretical intervisibility with the seven turbines proposed for removal is minimal within this LCT. Therefore no change to the EIA Report (April 2020) assessment is anticipated.	

1.2 CNP Landscape Character Areas

Table 1.2.1: Ardverikie Hills Upland LCA

Cumulative Capacity Value	Low – Medium	
Updated Cumulative Baseline Scenario	**Existing and Proposed Wind Farms Theoretically Visible**	**Description of Updated Cumulative Baseline Scenario**
	Operational: • Stronelairg. Consented: • None. Application / Appeal: • None. Scoping • Dell.	None of the baseline cumulative sites are within this LCA. The majority of the surrounding context is unaffected by wind development. Stronelairg is occasionally seen as tips to the northwest, Dell would also be theoretically visible from a very small area, but would likely appears as part of the same turbine cluster.
Nature of Change to due to addition of the 29 Turbine Proposed Development	There would be no direct change to this LCA. Intervisibility with elevated ground and facing slopes would indirectly affect some areas, as illustrated by the ZTV. The turbines of the western cluster would appear within the landscape context to the north-west at a distance of between 13-18km, in a low point on the ridge. Turbines would appear relatively small, within a broad context. This would predominantly be a new feature, as the Stronelairg turbines only influence a small part of the LCA. This would lead to a Low magnitude of change to this Medium sensitivity viewpoint.	
Cumulative Landscape Effect of the 29 Turbine Proposed Development	**Minor** (not significant) The 29 Turbine Proposed Development would reduce the intervisibility with the turbines within the LCA compared to the 36 Turbine Scheme. It would reduce the intensity of the western cluster diminishing its influence on the LCA. However, despite these improvements and the fact that the turbines are unlikely to be very distracting due to the distance, the removal of Glenshero from the cumulative baseline means that, the 29 Turbine Proposed Development would introduce a new feature within the wider context. As such, this is anticipated to lead to a slight increase to the effect on landscape character identified for the 36 Turbine Scheme (Negligible).	

Table 1.2.2: The Monadhliath – South Monadhliath Upland LCA

Cumulative Capacity Value	Low	
Updated Cumulative Baseline Scenario	**Existing and Proposed Wind Farms Theoretically Visible**	**Description of Updated Cumulative Baseline Scenario**
	Operational: • Beinneun and Extension (minimal); • Bhlaraidh (minimal); • Corriegarth (minimal); • Dunmaglass (minimal); • Farr (minimal); • Glen Kyllachy (minimal); • Millennium Group (minimal); and • Stronelairg (minimal). Consented: • Aberarder (minimal); and • Millennium South (minimal). Application / Appeal: • Bhlaraidh Extension (minimal); • Bunloinn (minimal). Scoping • Crathaich (minimal); • Dell (minimal); and • Loch Liath.	None of the baseline cumulative sites are within this LCA. The majority of the baseline cumulative sites have very little intervisibility with the LCA, generally only along its western / north-western boundary, and occasional high summits. However, from these areas there is a strong impression of extensive wind farm development in the western landscape, extending from the relatively close Stronelairg to distant turbines of Beinneun and Millennium on the far skyline.
Nature of Change to due to addition of the 29 Turbine Proposed Development	Potential effects of the 29 Turbine Proposed Development would be limited to the western edge and highest summits, affecting a similar extent of area to the cumulative baseline but occasionally theoretically visible in areas which are not affected by the baseline developments. From western fringes and occasional high summits, the turbines would add to the generally developed wind farm landscape which would be perceived in the western context, should all cumulative baseline sites be operational. The western cluster may lead to a perceptible increase in turbines seen within this context but given the effect of the cumulative baseline sites would be unlikely to lead to perceptible change in characteristics of the LCA. However, the eastern cluster would appear perceptibly closer and larger than other turbines which may lead to a locally increased level of effect along this boundary. From other high ground and summit areas in the south of the LCA which are unaffected by the majority of baseline sites, the 29 Turbine Proposed Development would be sometimes seen as tips and blades of eastern cluster turbines appearing above the skyline to the west. The turbines would increase the affected area of skyline to the north and would slightly increase the area where such effects would be experienced. These effects would occur within a relatively small part of the LCA and the vast majority would remain unaffected by wind turbine development. This would result in Low-Medium magnitude of change from this High sensitivity area.	
Cumulative Landscape Effect of the 29 Turbine Proposed Development	**Minor (locally Moderate)** (not significant) The removal of Turbine 29 would reduce the prominence of turbines in the neighbouring landscape and improve the coherence with Stronelairg compared to the 36 Turbine Scheme. However, the western ridgeline would still be influenced by the blades of the eastern cluster particularly with the removal of Glenshero from the cumulative baseline. As such no change to the effect on landscape character is anticipated.	

1.3 Designated and Protected Landscapes

Table 1.3.1: Cairngorms National Park

<table>
<tr><td>Cumulative Capacity Value</td><td colspan="2">Low</td></tr>
<tr><td rowspan="2">Updated Cumulative Baseline Scenario</td><td>Existing and Proposed Wind Farms Theoretically Visible</td><td>Description of Updated Cumulative Baseline Scenario</td></tr>
<tr><td>Operational:
• Beinneun and Extension (minimal);
• Bhlaraidh (minimal);
• Corriegarth;
• Dunmaglass;
• Farr;
• Glen Kyllachy;
• Millennium Group (minimal); and
• Stronelairg.
Consented:
• Aberarder; and
• Millennium south (minimal).
Application / Appeal:
• Bhlaraidh Ext. (minimal);
• Bunloinn (minimal).
Scoping
• Crathiach (minimal)
• Dell; and
• Loch Liath (minimal)</td><td>None of the baseline sites have direct effect on the CNP. The CNP is indirectly affect by the cumulative baseline sites in different ways but generally, areas around its western boundary are influenced by a sense of nearby wind farm developed landscapes to the west, comprising almost all of the baseline sites, as described in the assessment of CNP LCAs. Some summits to the west of the A9 have a sense of more distant wind farm development to the west, in the Monadhliath and beyond with different summits being affected by different baseline sites.
Baseline sites located to the west of the Great Glen, comprising Beinneun, Millennium Group, Millennium South and Bhlaraidh, Bhlaraidh Ext, Crathaich and Loch Liath, are only intervisible with the westernmost boundary of the CNP. Whilst all other sites also affect these areas, they have some intervisibility with other areas: the northernmost sites, Farr and Glen Kyllachy, also have more distant intervisibility with parts of the central mountain plateau. Dunmaglass and Aberarder also share some intervisibility with this area but are also more widely intervisible with summits in the west of the CNP. Corriegarth and Stronelairg only distantly affect the edge of the central plateau, although Stronelairg is also intervisible with some summits to the south. Dell has little intervisibility limited to a small area of high ground in the south and along the western ridgeline.</td></tr>
<tr><td>Nature of Change to due to addition of the 29 Turbine Proposed Development</td><td colspan="2"><u>Landscape Character</u>
The 29 Turbine Proposed Development would be intervisible with areas around the western boundary of the CNP within the Monadhliath – South Monadhliath LCA in the western context, and western hill summits, in combination with other sites, and particularly Stronelairg, and Dell, as described in Table 1.2.2. This is predicted to lead to a Minor – Moderate (not significant) effect on this LCA and a Minor (not significant) effect on the Ardverikie Hills Upland LCA (see Table 1.2.1).
Outwith the detailed study area, the 29 Turbine Proposed Development would lead to some small additional areas of theoretical intervisibility with wind turbines on some higher slopes. This would comprise only a few tips of eastern cluster turbines. It is considered that this would generally be barely discernible and would have no influence on the landscape character or Special Landscape Qualities experienced from these areas. Larger numbers of turbines would be seen from higher slopes. Towards the south, these would generally be seen in combination with Stronelairg and Dell (see VP19: Carn na Caim, Figure 3.8.19.1). Further north from elevated mountain summits and slopes, eastern and western clusters would be seen distantly within the western context, also in combination with Stronelairg and Dell. Other cumulative baseline sites would already be seen within this context at</td></tr>
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	similar distance and therefore the 29 Turbine Proposed Development is considered unlikely to alter any key landscape characteristics. Due to the very limited likely intervisibility of the 29 Turbine Proposed Development and the fact that, when perceptible, it would add to a pre-existing perceptible cluster of turbines, it is unlikely to lead to any perceived encircling of the CNP when considering all baseline cumulative sites. It is nevertheless recognised that on the western boundary more turbines would be perceived in the western landscape context. However, when seen from this area, this context is already characterised by wind development due to the cumulative baseline sites (see VP9: Geal Charn (Monadhliathm Figure 3.8.9.1). *Special Landscape Qualities* As discussed in Technical Appendix 3.2, there is potential for the 29 Turbine Proposed Development to affect some of the Special Landscape Qualities on a very localised basis (considered to be not significant). Within a few upland areas of the Monadhliath close to the western boundary, the 29 Turbine Proposed Development alone has potential to affect the Special Landscape Qualities: '*Vastness of space, scale and height*'; '*Dominance of natural landforms*'; '*Grand panoramas and framed views*'; and '*Wildness*', However, these were considered to be not significant. Given the potential Minor (locally Moderate) cumulative effect within this LCA (see Table 1.2.2) it is considered likely that a cumulative effect would also occur to these Special Landscape Qualities. However, taking into account isolated nature of potential effects in this area in relation to the wider CNP, this is considered unlikely to lead to any perceptible increase in effect, when taking into account the cumulative baseline situation. This includes sequential effects because the different areas of theoretical visibility are very disparate. This is anticipated to lead to a Low magnitude of change to this High sensitivity landscape.
Cumulative Landscape Effect of the 29 Turbine Proposed Development	**Minor** (not significant) Although the reduced number of turbines comprising the 29 Turbine Proposed Development would reduce the potential influence of turbines on the park, particularly within Glen Spey closer to the edge of the park, this is not anticipated to change the cumulative effect rating identified in the EIA Report (April 2020). The integrity of the CNP would remain unaffected.

Table 1.3.2: WLA 19. Braeroy – Glenshirra - Creag Meagaidh

<table>
<tr><td>Cumulative Capacity Value</td><td colspan="2">Low</td></tr>
<tr><td rowspan="2">Updated Cumulative Baseline Scenario</td><td>Existing and Proposed Wind Farms Theoretically Visible</td><td>Description of Updated Cumulative Baseline Scenario</td></tr>
<tr><td>Operational:
Beinneun and Extension;
Bhlaraidh;
Corriegarth;
Corrimony;
Dunmaglass;
Millennium Group; and
Stronelairg.
Consented:
Aberarder; and
Millennium South.
Application / Appeal:
Bhlaraidh Ext.; and
Bunloinn.
Scoping
Crathiach;
Dell; and
Loch Liath.</td><td>None of the baseline sites have direct effect on the WLA. However, the cumulative baseline situation results in a scenario whereby wind turbines have relatively widespread influence across parts of the WLA. The north-western parts of the WLA and higher slopes and summits to west of Glen Roy are closely influenced by the Millennium and Beinneun developments and more distantly, Bhlaraidh, Bhlaraidh Ext., Crathaich and Loch Liath to the north. Stronelairg and Dell are also sometimes seen within these areas through the gap of Glen Tarff. From higher slope through upper Glen Spey and across the upper, facing slopes of Creag Meagaidh and high ground to the east of Glen Roy, Stronelairg and Dell also have some influence. Corriegarth, Dunmaglass and Aberarder are more distant and seen with a greater degree of separation from highest areas only.</td></tr>
<tr><td>Nature of Change to due to addition of the 29 Turbine Proposed Development</td><td colspan="2">Within the southern part of the WLA in LCT 85: Isolated Mountain Plateau (see Table 1.1.1) and LCT 220 – Rugged Massif – Lochaber (see Table 1.1.3), across the southern side of Glen Spey, facing slopes of Creag Meagaidh and higher summits to the east of Glen Roy, western and occasionally eastern clusters of the 29 Turbine Proposed Development would be seen in combination with Stronelairg and sometimes Dell from the higher slopes and summits. Under the baseline cumulative scenario, these developments already reduce the degree of wildness experienced in parts of the WLA (see VP11: Carn Liath, Figure 3.8.11.1.1-3.8.11.1.2 and VP15: Beinn Teallach, Figure 3.8.15.1.1 – 3.8.15.1.2). Eastern and western clusters would usually be seen with other baseline sites, although may occasionally lead to a small increase in field of view occupied. There would be a small area on the slopes above Glen Spey (See Figure 3.3b and Figure 3.7.1) where the 29 Turbine Proposed Development would increase the area where surrounding wind turbines would be theoretically experienced, but within these areas it would appear as only a few very small tips and would have little influence on the wildness characteristics experienced. The influence of the baseline cumulative sites, on the wild land attributes 'Lack of Construction or Other Artefacts' and 'Evidence of Contemporary Land Use' is such, that the addition of the 29 Turbine Proposed Development is unlikely to further reduce these qualities in this part of the WLA, other than in the small areas unaffected by the cumulative baseline sites.
Within the north-western part of the WLA in LCT 236 – Smooth Moorland Ridges (see Table 1.1.4), western cluster turbines would be seen through Glen Tarff and from some elevated summits as tips over the skyline, likely to be barely perceptible However, they would be seen in the context of the larger Dell turbines (see VP17: Carn Dearg (Glen Roy), Figure 3.8.17.1.1-3.8.17.1.2). A few eastern cluster turbines may be perceived from some elevated areas already very influenced by the wind turbines of the Millennium and Beinneun developments and therefore the strength of wild land attributes is reduced. The 29 Turbine Proposed Development would be experienced in this context with Dell and Stronelairg and would therefore be associated with an already developed area outwith the WLA. Any change to wild land attributes is therefore unlikely.
<u>Key Qualities</u>
As discussed in Technical Appendix 3.2, there is potential for some degree of effect on the identified Key Qualities of the WLA from the 29 Turbine Proposed Development alone, though this is considered unlikely to lead to a significant effect. When considering these effects in relation to the cumulative baseline scenario no additional effect is anticipated on</td></tr>
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	any of the Key Qualities. This is largely due to the effects of the cumulative developments which would lead to a reduced strength of physical and perceptual attributes in the areas which would be affected by the 29 Turbine Proposed Development. The 29 Turbine Proposed Development would almost always be seen in combination with Dell and in addition to Stronelairg (which was already considered as part of the baseline for the main assessment) and would often be difficult to perceive as separate. There would be few areas where wind turbines would appear as a new feature. The central core area of the WLA, shown on the Map of Relative Wildness to have the greatest degree of wildness characteristics would continue to be unaffected by wind energy development. As such, it is considered unlikely that there would be any noticeable effect on any of the Key Qualities if all cumulative baseline sites were already installed and operational. The cumulative magnitude of change to this High sensitivity landscape is therefore anticipated to be Low.
Cumulative Landscape Effect of the 29 Turbine Proposed Development	**Minor** (not significant) Although the 29 Turbine Proposed development would reduce the potential influence of turbines on the WLA, most notably within the pass between Braeroy and Loch Spey, given the refusal of Glenshero, no change the cumulative effect identified in the EIA Report (April 2020) is anticipated. The integrity of the WLA would not be affected.

Table 1.3.3: WLA 20. Monadhliath

<table>
<tr><td>Cumulative Capacity Value</td><td colspan="2">Low</td></tr>
<tr><td rowspan="2">Updated Cumulative Baseline Scenario</td><td>Existing and Proposed Wind Farms Theoretically Visible</td><td>Description of Updated Cumulative Baseline Scenario</td></tr>
<tr><td>Operational:
Beinneun and Extension;
Bhlaraidh;
Corriegarth;
Corrimony (minimal);
Dunmaglass;
Farr;
Glen Kyllachy;
Millennium Group; and
Stronelairg.
Consented:
Aberarder; and
Millennium South.
Application / Appeal:
Bhlaraidh Ext.; and
Bunloinn.
Scoping
Crathaich;
Dell; and
Loch Liath</td><td>The south-western part of this WLA is influenced by turbines of Stronelairg and Dell within 10km. These are experienced around the boundary and from higher ground with different sites appearing when moving through this area, but appearing generally as a group. Millennium and Beinneun developments and Bunloinn would be perceived occasionally from similar areas giving a sense of more extensive wind development to the west. Corriegarth, Dunmaglass and Aberarder are more extensively experienced from higher plateau areas throughout the WLA, other than the far south and east. These appear as two separate clusters in the western landscape. Farr and Glen Kyllachy are also perceived to the north from similar areas through less extensively and often more distantly which contributes to a general sense of wind farm development around the outer extents of the WLA. The more distant westerly sites of Bhlaraidh, Bhlaraidh Extension, Corrimony, Crathaich and Loch Liath are perceived only from higher summits and therefore have little influence on the wild land characteristics.</td></tr>
<tr><td>Nature of Change to due to addition of the 29 Turbine Proposed Development</td><td colspan="2">The 29 Turbine Proposed Development would form part of a grouping with Stronelairg and Dell and would theoretically affect some southern parts of the WLA, although most of the WLA would be unaffected. From some areas, particularly to the north of the eastern cluster, eastern cluster turbines would increase the extent of the surrounding skyline occupied by wind turbines and may appear to bring wind development closer to the WLA. There is the potential for this to slightly affect the attribute 'Sense of Sanctuary or Solitude'. However, the cumulative baseline sites, particularly Stronelairg and Dell, would already be prominent in these areas and the attributes 'Lack of Construction or Other Artefacts', 'Evidence of Contemporary Land Use' and 'Arresting or Inspiring Qualities' would be already reduced. It is therefore unlikely that the 29 Turbine Proposed Development would further reduce these attributes.

From some summit areas in the south of the WLA and close to the western boundary the closer proximity of eastern cluster turbines may lead to a sense of wind turbine development moving further towards the WLA. However, these would usually be seen in the context of the prominent Stronelairg and Dell turbines which already reduce wild land attributes. From some of the more isolated summits in this area, there would be a perceptible increase in tips and blades over the western skyline.

There would be very small areas of the WLA where the 29 Turbine Proposed Development would introduce turbines as a new feature: predominantly small dips and hollows. In these very localised areas small numbers of eastern cluster tips or blades would be evident above the skyline and occasional western cluster blades may be present within the further landscape context. There would also be some areas where the 29 Turbine Proposed Development would not be perceived alongside the adjacent cumulative sites (Stronelairg, and Dell). Although other baseline sites would be intervisible with these areas, the 29 Turbine Proposed Development would affect a new part of the landscape context, albeit to a small degree. These two aspects may lead to a slight reduction in the attributes 'Lack of Construction or Other Artefacts', 'Evidence of Contemporary Land Use' and 'Arresting or Inspiring Qualities' in these small areas. However, these effects would be very localised.</td></tr>
</table>

	Key Qualities Technical Appendix 3.2, identifies a potential for a limited degree of effect on some of the identified Key Qualities of the WLA from the 29 Turbine Proposed Development alone. The baseline cumulative scenario would slightly increase the extent of the WLA which would be theoretically affected by wind farm development, with Dell in particular leading to small new areas which would be intervisible with wind turbines. This means that fewer areas would be newly affected by wind turbines due to the 29 Turbine Proposed Development. The effect on Key Qualities is therefore considered to be similar as that for the 29 Turbine Proposed Development alone as the eastern cluster would be closer and more influential on the WLA than any of the cumulative sites. Therefore, a small degree of effect is anticipated leading to a Low magnitude of change to this High sensitivity landscape, but this would not be significant.
Cumulative Landscape Effect of the 29 Turbine Proposed Development	**Minor** (not significant) The cumulative effect of the 29 Turbine Proposed Development is considered to remain unchanged from that identified in the EIA Report (April 2020) The integrity of the WLA would not be affected.

Table 1.3.4: Ben Alder, Laggan and Glen Banchor Special Landscape Area (SLA)

<table>
<tr><td>Cumulative Capacity Value</td><td colspan="2">Low – Medium</td></tr>
<tr><td rowspan="2">Updated Cumulative Baseline Scenario</td><td>Existing and Proposed Wind Farms Theoretically Visible</td><td>Description of Updated Cumulative Baseline Scenario</td></tr>
<tr><td>Operational:
Beinneun and Extension (minimal);
Corriegarth;
Dunmaglass (minimal);
Millennium Group (minimal); and
Stronelairg.
Consented:
Aberarder (minimal); and
Millennium South (minimal).
Application / Appeal:
Bhlaraidh Ext. (minimal); and
Bunloinn (minimal).
Scoping
Crathaich (minimal);
Dell; and
Loch Liath (minimal).</td><td>Stronelairg has the greatest effect on this SLA, sharing intervisibility with hills and mountains to the south of Loch Laggan, and smaller hills above Strath Mashie and Glen Spey. All other sites are intervisible with only relatively small areas of high ground within the Ardverikie hills to the south of Loch Laggan and a few small areas around the summit of Creag Meagaidh and appear relatively distant or have minimal turbine visibility, thereby having little effect on the character of the SLA.</td></tr>
<tr><td>Nature of Change to due to addition of the 29 Turbine Proposed Development</td><td colspan="2">The 29 Turbine Proposed Development would be seen in combination with Stronelairg and would have similar intervisibility albeit covering some new areas. The majority of the SLA would be unaffected. From elevated areas and summits, the 29 Turbine Proposed Development would be seen in combination with Stronelairg and therefore in a part of the context already occupied by wind turbines. Although the increase in turbine numbers on the northern horizon would be perceptible in some areas, the presence of the existing cumulative baseline turbines already establishes this context as one occupied by turbines and therefore a noticeable change to landscape characteristics is unlikely. From lower areas around Strath Mashie and a small area within upper Glen Spey and the edge of Glen Shirra, the western cluster of the 29 Turbine Proposed Development would be seen on the north-eastern skyline alone. However, the changes to the design reduces the potential prominence of turbines in these areas to a level that, it is unlikely to lead to any perceptible additional change in landscape characteristics.
<u>Special Qualities</u>
Potential changes which would be perceived in this SLA as a result of the 29 Turbine Proposed Development, when considered in addition to the cumulative baseline situation are likely to be small. There is the potential that the increased number of turbines may be perceived in some views, for example from the Ardverikie Hills which could influence the 'Contrasting landform, land-use and views' and 'The simple landform horizon of the Monadhliath' elements of the 'Ever Changing Compositions' Special Quality. However, given the changes to the 29 Turbine Proposed Development and the context of existing development, this would lead to a Low magnitude of change to this High sensitivity landscape.</td></tr>
<tr><td>Cumulative Landscape Effect of the 29 Turbine Proposed Development</td><td colspan="2">Minor (not significant)
The 29 Turbine Proposed Development would reduce the intervisibility with the turbines within the SLA and would reduce the intensity of the western cluster diminishing its influence on the LCA. However, despite these improvements and that they are considered unlikely to be very distracting considering the distance, given the removal of Glenshero from the cumulative baseline the 29 Turbine Proposed Development would introduce a new feature within the wider context. As such, this is anticipated to lead to a slight increase to the effect on landscape character identified in the EIA Report (April 2020) (Negligible).
The integrity of the SLA would not be affected.</td></tr>
</table>

Table 1.3.5: Loch Ness and Duntelchaig SLA

<table>
<tr><td>Cumulative Capacity Value</td><td colspan="2">Medium</td></tr>
<tr><td rowspan="2">Updated Cumulative Baseline Scenario</td><td>Existing and Proposed Wind Farms Theoretically Visible</td><td>Description of Updated Cumulative Baseline Scenario</td></tr>
<tr><td>Operational:
Beinneun and Extension;
Bhlaraidh;
Corriegarth;
Dunmaglass;
Farr;
Glen Kyllachy;
Millennium Group; and
Stronelairg.
Consented:
Aberarder; and
Millennium South.
Application / Appeal:
Bhlaraidh Ext.; and
Bunloinn.
Scoping
Crathiach;
Dell; and
Loch Liath.</td><td>The cumulative ZTV suggests widespread intervisibility of this SLA with wind turbines although the presence of woodland and forestry limits the influence of this in reality.
Intervisibility of the cumulative baseline sites is mostly limited to the upper slopes outwith woodland and forestry plantation. Millennium Beinneun and Bunloinn sites are mostly experienced from the southern part of the SLA, sometimes framed in views down the glen from the eastern side. Corriegarth, Dunmaglass and Aberarder, and to some extent Farr and Glen Kyllachy are seen through side glens of the eastern side of Loch Ness where open views are obtained and from higher ground above the immediate enclosure of the glen. Bhlaraidh, Bhlaraidh Ext., Crathaich and Loch Liath are seen through the gap of Glen Moriston, usually from the eastern side of Loch Ness but are more prominent from the high ground around the summit of Meall Fuar-mhonaidh. Stronelairg and Dell are usually perceived within the southern context from high ground on the west of the Great Glen with some minimal intervisibility around Lochs Ruthven and Duntelchaig.</td></tr>
<tr><td>Nature of Change to due to addition of the 29 Turbine Proposed Development</td><td colspan="2">The eastern and western clusters would be seen generally from the upper western slopes of the Great Glen where tree cover does not limit the extent of views. Turbines would be seen in a context of the Stronelairg and Dell turbines but would add to the appearance of turbines on the southern and eastern skyline when viewed from some areas including the higher slopes and summit of Meall Fuar-mhonaidh, increasing the field of view occupied by turbines. From slightly lower areas the western cluster would be seen occasionally where tree cover allows, set in a dip in the skyline formed by Glen Brein. This would reflect the pattern of other cumulative sites experienced within and around the Great Glen such as Corriegarth, Dunmaglass and Aberarder. In general, the appearance of the 29 Turbine Proposed Development in these scenarios is considered unlikely to alter the appreciation of the landscape within the SLA. In some key views from some limited areas such as Meall Fuar-mhonaidh, the change would be perceptible. However, the turbines would appear in scale with the adjacent operational Stronelairg turbines.in a part of the view already occupied by turbines. From the vast majority of the SLA, no change would be perceptible.
<u>Special Qualities</u>
The addition of the 29 Turbine Proposed Development to the cumulative baseline as described above may lead to a small increased effect on some elements contributing the Special Qualities of the SLA. An increased perception of wind turbines in the wider context, affecting the skyline from elevated areas would result in some limited visual effects on the experience of the SLA from the Great Glen Way, and role of Meall Fuar-mhonaidh as a vantage point, and would lead to a slightly increased interruption of the smooth skyline ridge. These are all identified elements of the Special Quality ‘The Dramatic Great Glen’. However, these relatively limited effects would not affect the appreciation of the drama of the Great Glen and would therefore not lead to a significant effect on the Special Quality. There would therefore be a Low magnitude of change to this High sensitivity landscape.</td></tr>
</table>

Cumulative Landscape Effect of the 29 Turbine Proposed Development	**Minor** (not significant) Despite the reduced influence of the 29 Turbine Proposed Development, the cumulative effect is considered to remain unchanged from that identified in the EIA Report (April 2020) The integrity of the SLA would not be affected.