

## **TECHNICAL APPENDIX 7.4: ASSESSMENT OF DESIGNATED AND PROTECTED LANDSCAPES**

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## 1. Technical Appendix 7.4: Assessment of Designated and Protected Landscapes

### 1.1 Introduction

1.1.1 The following statutory designated landscapes, or landscapes otherwise protected by the planning system were identified in the baseline review as potentially experiencing landscape effects as a result of the Proposed Development:

#### National Context

- Cairngorms National Park (CNP);
- Wild Land Area (WLA) 19. Braeroy – Glenshirra – Creag Meagaidh;
- WLA 20. Monadhliath;

#### Local Context

- Ben Alder, Laggan and Glen Banchor Special Landscape Area (SLA);
- Loch Lochy and Loch Oich (SLA); and
- Loch Ness and Duntelchaig (SLA).

1.1.2 The above areas are illustrated in Figure 7.2.1: Designated and Protected Landscapes, and assessed in the following tables, in accordance with criteria outlined in section 7.4 of the EIA Report.

1.1.3 The assessment of designated and protected landscapes gives consideration to effects on landscape character and identified Special Landscape Qualities (identified in the CNP) Key Qualities (identified in WLAs) and Special Qualities (identified in SLAs). Conclusions made during the assessment of Landscape Character Types (LCTs) and Landscape Character Areas (LCAs) (see Technical Appendix 7.3) are used to feed into this assessment and are cross referenced as necessary. Evaluation of sensitivity to development of the type proposed and magnitude of change has been undertaken for all relevant Special Landscape Qualities / Key Qualities / Special Qualities. Given the status of these Qualities, the value is considered to be universally high. Therefore the sensitivity rating is based on susceptibility to change only.

1.1.4 The assessment of Special Landscape Qualities / Key Qualities / Special Qualities has given cognisance to and is adapted from the following draft guidance documents:

- Guidance for Assessing the Effects on Special Landscape Qualities (SNH, Working Draft 11, November 2018); and
- Assessing Impacts on Wild Land Areas – Technical Guidance (SNH, Consultative Draft, 2017).

1.1.5 The method for assessment of Special Landscape Qualities gives consideration to the principles outlined in SNH working draft guidance (SNH, 2018), taking account of the relationship with landscape character effects, as described in Technical Appendix 7.3.

1.1.6 The final conclusion on the significance of effect for each designated or protected landscape considers the effects on Special Landscape Qualities / Key Qualities / Special Qualities and landscape character.

1.1.7 This assessment does not include cumulative landscape effects which are discussed in Technical Appendix 7.6.

## 1.2 National Context

**Table 1.2.1: Cairngorms National Park (CNP)**

<b>Landscape Baseline</b>	
<b>Description</b>	<p>The Proposed Development would be located approximately 1.5 km from the western boundary of the CNP. The CNP comprises an extensive area of mountains, straths and glens. It stretches eastwards from the Proposed Development site for over 90 km and curves around to the south of it, with the boundary situated from around 2 km to the south of the eastern cluster and from 6.5 km from the western cluster. To the south of the Proposed Development the CNP covers parts of the upper Spey, the Pattack Glen and Strath Mashie. The effect on landscape character within the CNP is assessed through the assessment of CNP Landscape Character Areas (LCAs) and is included in Technical Appendix 7.3 section 1.3 and cross-referred to here where relevant.</p> <p>The Special Landscape Qualities of the CNP are detailed in the publication ‘The Special Landscape Qualities of the Cairngorms National Park’ (CNPA / SNH, 2010). Special Landscape Qualities are set out below along with evaluation of their sensitivity to development of the type proposed and anticipated magnitude of change. Given their Special Quality status, the value of all these elements is assumed to be High, so the evaluation of sensitivity is based on susceptibility to change.</p> <p>The assessment of LCAs has identified the key areas of potential effect within the CNP as relating to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Increased influence of infrastructure on perceptions wildness and remoteness within the hill and plateau areas;</li> <li>• Reduction in sense of seclusion within glen areas;</li> <li>• Interruption to smooth and recognisable skylines;</li> <li>• Distraction from small scale lowland landscapes and peaks;</li> <li>• Reduction in sense of expanse and openness;</li> <li>• Distraction within panoramic views; and</li> <li>• Reduction in sense of arrival within the CNP from the west.</li> </ul> <p>However, whilst the focus of the assessment is directed towards these aspects, for robustness, all of the Special Landscape Qualities have been considered for potential effects in this assessment.</p>
<b>Landscape Value</b>	Given its nationally designated status the landscape value of the CNP is considered to be <b>High</b> .

<b>Assessment of Special Landscape Qualities</b>			
<b>Special Landscape Quality</b>	<b>Sensitivity</b>	<b>Potential Effects</b>	<b>Magnitude of Change</b>
<i>General Qualities</i>			
Magnificent mountains towering over moorland, forest and strath.	High	Mountain areas affected include the South Monadhliath and areas on the western side of the Cairngorm plateau and to the east of Glen Truim. The effect on most of these areas would be minimal as the Proposed Development would appear small and remote in the wider landscape to the west. A very localised significant effect to small parts of the South Monadhliath LCT within the detailed study area has been identified (see Technical Appendix 7.3, Table 1.3.2 but would be small in the context of the CNP as a whole and unlikely to significantly affect this Special Landscape Quality within the vast scale of the CNP as a whole.	Low
Vastness of space, scale and height.	Medium	Large scale landscapes are theoretically able to accommodate some large scale development. However, there is some potential locally for the perceived scale of the landscape to be reduced slightly in the upper glen of the Spey and small parts of the Monadhliath plateau, along the western CNP boundary (see Technical Appendix 7.3 Tables 1.3.2 and 1.3.9). However, this would be minimal and the localised nature of this effect is unlikely to significantly affect this Special Landscape Quality within the vast scale of the CNP as a whole.	Low
Strong juxtaposition of contrasting landscapes. (such as settled landscapes of the glens seen against the mountains and smaller scale immediate contrasts of pine trees against heather, or heather moorland adjacent to pine forest)	Medium	Within the CNP, the effect would primarily comprise an appearance of turbines set in a low part of the skyline or in the upland western context. The association of the turbines with the upland landscape context external to the CNP where other turbines are already intermittently present is generally unlikely to alter the relationship between upland and lowland landscapes or the contrast between other neighbouring landscapes although a localised minor – moderate (not significant) effect has been identified within the Spey Headwaters: Upper Glen of the Spey LCA (see Technical Appendix 7.3, Table 1.3.9).	Negligible
A landscape of layers, from inhabited strath to remote, uninhabited upland.	Medium	The association of the Proposed Development with the existing ‘bowl’ of elevated plateau moorland, below the tops and above the glens, where the existing turbines of Stronelairg are already present, is unlikely to lead to a change in the perception of layering.	Negligible

Special Landscape Quality	Sensitivity	Potential Effects	Magnitude of Change
The harmony of complicated curves. (gently curving landform in contrast to the more angular landscapes of the western Highlands)	Medium	The Proposed Development would not alter the landform. In a few places the presence of turbines may cause interruption to undulating profiles and diminish the scale of landform changes but the consistent vertical turbines could also be seen to enhance subtle variations in some views. From areas around the western boundary of the CNP, where the Proposed Development would have the greatest landscape effect (see Technical Appendix 7.3, Table 1.3.2 and 1.3.9) it would be seen in the western context, where a transition to landscapes more characteristic of the western Highlands takes place, as described in the description for the LCA Spey Headwaters: Upper Glen of the Spey (Technical Appendix 7.3, Table 1.3.9)	Negligible
Landscapes both cultural and natural.	High	The presence of the Proposed Development in the western upland context may lead to a perception of more developed uplands outwith the CNP. However, this would be perceived from relatively small areas of the CNP and in many instances it would be seen from areas where existing wind turbines are already present in a similar landscape setting within the same western context. The consistency of development type in the same landscape context would mean the contrast of upland and lowland would be retained although the sense of 'natural' uplands outwith the CNP may be very slightly reduced. However, the wide expanses of upland within the CNP would be unaffected.	Low
<i>The Mountains and Plateaux</i>			
The unifying presence of the central mountains.	Medium	Situated at least 25 km away, the Proposed Development would not affect the role of the central mountains as a backdrop or unifying presence within the core of the Park.	Negligible
An imposing massif of strong dramatic character.	High	Situated at least 25 km away from the main Cairngorm mountain massif, the Proposed Development would not affect its imposing quality or presence. It would appear as a distant element and, whilst it may be perceptible in good weather, it is unlikely to detract from the immediate presence of the mountains.	Negligible

Special Landscape Quality	Sensitivity	Potential Effects	Magnitude of Change
The unique plateaux of vast scale, distinctive landforms and exposed, boulder-strewn high ground.	High	The Proposed Development would feature as an element within the landscape context from small parts of the South Monadhliath plateau, as described in Table 1.3.2 of Technical Appendix 7.3, predicted to lead to localised Moderate (significant) effects on landscape character around the western boundary of the CNP. This is not considered to lead to a significant effect on the South Monadhliath LCA as a whole and these localised effects would be very small and peripheral in the context of the CNP as a whole. No noticeable effect is likely to the main Cairngorm plateau which would be relatively distant at over 25 km.	Low - Medium
The surrounding hills.	High	The Proposed Development would affect some of the surrounding hills such as the Ardverikie Hills and Southern Hills. It would form a feature in views from the summits of some hills, usually seen in combination with the existing Stronelairg, but would be relatively small within expansive vistas. The effect on landscape character of these areas has been identified as negligible (see Tables 1.3.3 and 1.3.4 of Technical Appendix 7.3).	Negligible
The drama of deep corries.	High	The Proposed Development would not affect any of the most dramatic corries. Although it may be a feature perceived within the landscape from the top of some, this is considered unlikely to affect appreciation of the drama of these features.	Negligible
Exceptional glacial landforms.	High	The Proposed Development may be a feature perceived in the context of some glacial landforms but is considered unlikely to affect the appreciation and diversity of these features.	Negligible
Snowscapes.	Medium	It is unlikely that the Proposed Development would lead to any effect to this Special Quality.	Negligible
<i>Moorlands</i>			
Extensive moorland, linking the farmland, woodland and the high tops.	High	The Proposed Development would indirectly affect some small areas of moorland, towards the west of the CNP and clothing the lower slopes of the plateaux and potentially forming a new focus within these expansive landscapes from a few locations. However, it would not significantly affect these areas or the distinctive characteristics of moorland as an element of the CNP.	Low
A patchwork of muirburn.	Low	The Proposed Development would not lead to any changes in management of moorland areas or the appreciation of muirburn patterns.	Negligible

Special Landscape Quality	Sensitivity	Potential Effects	Magnitude of Change
<i>Glens and Straths</i>			
Steep glens and high passes.	High	The Proposed Development would affect the, Glen Shirra, Spey Headwaters, Pattack Glen / Strath Mashie Glen Truim and Càthar Mòr glen areas. The assessment of these areas (see Technical Appendix 7.3, Table 1.3.4 and 1.3.6 – 1.3.9)) concluded that there may be Minor and Minor – Moderate (not significant) effects to parts of the Ardverikie: Glen Shirra and Spey Headwaters: Upper Glen of the Spey LCAs and Negligible effects to other areas. These effects are very localised in the context of the CNP as a whole and would not significantly affect this Special Landscape Quality.	Low
Broad, farmed straths.	Medium	Ardverikie: Pattack Glen / Strath Mashie (see Technical Appendix 7.3, Table 1.3.5) is the only area with some characteristics reflective of the qualities of broad, farmed straths which may be affected by the Proposed Development. The landscape character assessment concluded a negligible effect to this area.	Negligible
Renowned rivers.	Medium	The Proposed Development would not affect any rivers. The landscape character of the Spey Headwaters would be locally affected (see Technical Appendix 7.3, Table 1.3.9) but this is unlikely to affect appreciation of the River Spey.	Negligible
Beautiful lochs.	Medium	The Proposed Development would not affect any lochs within the CNP.	Negligible
<i>Trees, Woods and Forests</i>			
Dark and venerable pine forest.	Low	There would be some areas of forest within Glen Shirra and around Ardverikie theoretically indirectly affected by the Proposed Development. These are mostly plantation rather than ancient. Given the limited range of open visibility obtained from these areas, any perceptible effect on the appreciation of these forests is considered unlikely.	Negligible
Light and airy birch woods.	Medium	Areas of birch woodland would be theoretically indirectly affected within Strath Mashie and upper Glen Spey. Given the limited range of open visibility obtained from these areas, any perceptible effect on their appreciation is considered unlikely.	Negligible
Parkland and policy woodlands.	Medium	There would be no parkland or policy woodland affected by the Proposed Development.	Negligible
Long association with forestry.	Low	This Special Landscape Quality would not be affected by the Proposed Development.	Negligible

Special Landscape Quality	Sensitivity	Potential Effects	Magnitude of Change
<i>Wildlife and Nature</i>			
Dominance of natural landforms (such as burns and rivers, lochs, hills and mountains)	Medium	The appearance of the Proposed Development as turbines on the western or north-western skyline may create a new focus within the landscape context from some localised areas which could distract from the scale and appearance of natural landforms such as hills and mountains, as described in the landscape character assessment. (see Technical Appendix 7.3, Section 1.3). However, they would normally appear small within a broad context, seen outwith the boundary of the CNP, and would appear in views from only a small number of locations where other human modifications are usually already present. It is unlikely that any areas where natural landforms predominate would be significantly affected. From the core parts of the park the Proposed Development would appear distant and unlikely to distract from the more immediate dramatic landforms.	Low
Extensive tracts of natural vegetation.	Medium	The Proposed Development would not affect any vegetation within the CNP and the appearance of any changes to vegetation outwith the CNP would be limited to small parts of the very western boundary.	Negligible
Association with iconic animals.	Low	The Proposed Development would not affect this Special Quality.	Negligible
Wild Land (concerning the remote qualities of the mountain core and Cairngorm mountain plateaux in particular)	High	As the Special Landscape Quality description describes the mountain core, this Special Landscape Quality is assumed to refer to this area. The Proposed Development would have a very limited effect on the mountain core. Distant views from mountain summits would be unlikely to affect wildness, as existing, closer wind farms at similar distance are already present within the western context seen from these locations. This is demonstrated in the view from VP10: Braeriach (see Figure 7.9.10.3). There may be a small effect on views within WLA 15 (Cairngorms) further to the south-east, but this would not be significant. VP19: Carn na Caim (see Figure 7.9.19.3) is representative of the worst case view from this area. Detailed assessment of WLA 15 has been scoped out on this basis, in agreement with SNH.	Low
Wildness (concerning wild characteristics in other areas beyond the mountain core)	High	Assessment of the WLA 20 (Monadhliath), (see Table 1.2.3 below) has identified potential localised significant effects. However, the majority of areas with characteristics of wildness would not be affected by the Proposed Development.	Low – Medium



Special Landscape Quality	Sensitivity	Potential Effects	Magnitude of Change
<i>Visual and Sensory Qualities</i>			
Layers of receding ridge lines.	High	From some elevated locations, the Proposed Development would be seen on the western skyline and may affect the appearance of ridgelines. From closer locations and lower locations, it would be on the principal skyline, more prominent but with less of the layered effect present. From more distant high level areas it would appear on a lower ridge, interrupting the layered effect but small and distant, seen within a similar context of other wind farms, and often barely perceptible.	Low
Grand panoramas and framed views.	Varying Low - High	The Proposed Development would appear in views from some mountain summits but in few low level views. The visual effects are discussed in Technical Appendix 7.7 and Section 7.8 of Chapter 7. In general, it may form a noticeable feature from some discrete areas, leading to very infrequent sequential effects if moving across high summits. It would also be potentially visible in a few closer views where other turbines already form features within the view but occasionally forming a new feature from areas around Spey Headwaters and Strath Mashie. Localised significant effects to views from high points, in this small area, represented by VP18: Loch na Lairige (see Figure 7.9.18.3) have been identified. From summits on the core mountain massif, it would be distant and very small, within an expansive context, where other wind turbines are usually already present.	Low
A landscape of many colours.	Medium	Whilst the Proposed Development may be perceptible within the landscape, it would be unlikely to affect the appreciation of colours within the CNP.	Negligible
Dark skies.	Low	The Proposed Development would have no lighting and therefore would have no effect on dark skies.	Negligible
Attractive and contrasting textures.	Low	Whilst the Proposed Development may be perceptible within the landscape, it would be unlikely to affect the appreciation of textures within the CNP.	Negligible
The dominance of natural sounds.	Low	Sounds of construction works may be perceptible from the very edge of the park in some conditions but would be unlikely to be distracting at over 1.5 km. The sound of the operational wind turbines is unlikely to be perceptible from any part of the CNP.	Negligible
<i>Culture and History</i>			
Distinctive planned towns.	Medium	The Proposed Development would not be intervisible with any towns.	Negligible

Special Landscape Quality	Sensitivity	Potential Effects	Magnitude of Change
Vernacular stone buildings.	Low	It is unlikely that the Proposed Development would affect the appreciation of this Special Landscape Quality.	Negligible
Dramatic, historical routes.	Medium	The Proposed Development would theoretically be visible from parts of General Wade's Military Road within upper Glen Spey, part of Scottish Hill Track 237 and Heritage Path 'The Corrieyairack Pass' which extends beyond the CNP to the west. This is assessed as Route Receptor R8 in Technical Appendix 7.7, Table 1.1.2. The visual effect on this route as a whole is anticipated to be Minor – Moderate Adverse which is considered to reflect the visual effect of the part within the CNP. This is only a short part of one route and a localised effect which would not affect the use of the route. None of the historical routes listed would be affected (Glenshee, The Lecht, Drumochter, Larig Ghru, Glen Feshie, Glen Tilt, Glen Dee, Jock's Road and the Giack Pass).	Low
The wistfulness of abandoned settlements.	Low	It is unlikely that the Proposed Development would affect the appreciation of past settlement within the CNP. Cultural Heritage effects are discussed in Chapter 12: Cultural Heritage.	Negligible
Focal cultural landmarks of castles distilleries and bridges.	Medium	The Proposed Development would not be seen from any of the key locations identified by this Special Landscape Quality including Ruthven Barracks. There would be some visibility of turbines from Garva Bridge in Glen Spey which may form a slight distraction in the view but would not affect the value of the bridge as a landmark. Cultural Heritage effects are discussed in Chapter 12: Cultural Heritage.	Negligible
The Royal connection.	Low	The Proposed Development would not affect this Special Landscape Quality.	
<i>Recreation</i>			
A landscape of opportunities.	Medium	The presence of the Proposed Development within the wider landscape may be visually experienced by recreational users in some areas, such as a select number of high peaks and parts of the upper Glen Spey. This may distract occasionally for users closer to the Proposed Development (for example in the south Monadhliath or Glen Spey). The appearance of the Proposed Development may also lead to very occasional sequential effects for those moving across high ridges and summits. However, from the core of the park it would be distant and unlikely to draw focus. The Proposed Development is considered unlikely to significantly reduce enjoyment for recreational users and from most areas would not have a negative effect (recreational effects are discussed in Chapter 15: Land Use and Recreation)	Low

Special Landscape Quality	Sensitivity	Potential Effects	Magnitude of Change
Spirituality.	Medium	Whilst the wind turbines of the Proposed Development may be evident from a small number of locations within the CNP, the lower ground human elements and movement would seldom be visible other than from a few places on the western boundary. As such, it is unlikely that feelings of solitude would be diminished.	Negligible
Assessment of Landscape Effects			
<b>Landscape Sensitivity</b>	This is a highly valued area and many of its landscapes are expansive and undeveloped, whereas others are of a small and intimate character. These areas are therefore highly susceptible to change of the type proposed. Other areas of less distinction, such as areas already affected by infrastructure or forest plantation, or transitional landscapes, are likely to be less susceptible, particularly to indirect change. As such, landscape sensitivity is considered to range between <b>Medium</b> and <b>High</b> . Landscape sensitivity within the detailed study area is discussed within the assessment of CNP Landscape Character Areas, section 1.3 of Technical Appendix 7.3.		
<b>Magnitude of Change</b>	<p>Relatively small parts of the CNP would be theoretically visible with the Proposed Development, as shown on the ZTV (Figure 7.1.1), Change would vary from the appearance of blades at relatively close proximity above the western skyline within mountain, plateau and glen areas close to the western border of the CNP, to the presence of turbines set within a low point of the north-western horizon within mid-range elevated landscapes in the south-western part of the CNP, and distant appearance of turbines within an expansive landscape vista from high summits and facing slopes beyond 20 km. The magnitude of change for LCAs within the detailed study area (section 1.3 of Technical Appendix 7.3) ranges from <b>Negligible</b> to <b>Medium</b> (within The Monadhliath – South Monadhliath LCA). Beyond this distance it would be <b>Low</b> or <b>Negligible</b>.</p> <p>This is considered to lead to a magnitude of change of <b>Negligible</b> for most Special Landscape Qualities (as detailed above), but <b>Low</b> for some Special Landscape Qualities. Two Special Landscape Qualities "<i>The unique plateaux of vast scale, distinctive landforms and exposed, boulder-strewn high ground</i>", and "<i>Wildness</i>", are anticipated to have a <b>Low – Medium</b> magnitude of change, reflective of the changes to The Monadhliath – South Monadhliath LCA, but in a context which considers the scale and relative contribution of this area within the CNP as a whole. Those Special Landscape Qualities with higher magnitude of change largely reflect the qualities of openness, expansiveness, wildness / lack of development and relationship between lowland and upland landscapes.</p>		
<b>Effect Significance</b>	The Proposed Development would lead to indirect effects experienced from relatively small parts of the CNP, mostly affecting elevated areas and summits, but also affecting a small part of the Upper Glen of the Spey and Glen Shirra. Due to the disparate nature of these small areas of intervisibility, sequential effects when moving across summits would be minimal. This is anticipated to lead to localised significant Moderate effects along a relatively short section of the western boundary of the CNP within The Monadhliath – South Monadhliath LCA and Minor and Minor – Moderate (not significant) effects within the Ardverikie Hills, Ardverikie - Glen Shirra, Spey Headwaters – Spey Dam, and Spey Headwaters – Upper Glen of the Spey LCAs. . Within The Monadhliath – South Monadhliath LCA (see Technical Appendix 7.3, Table 1.3.2), the Proposed Development would appear to bring turbines closer to the boundary and may affect the sense of remoteness from some limited high points. Within the Spey Headwaters – Upper Glen of the Spey LCA and, to some extent, the Spey Headwaters – Spey Dam and Ardverikie - Glen Shirra LCAs (see Technical Appendix 7.3, Tables 1.3.4, 1.3.8 and 1.3.9) the Proposed Development would form a new focus above the skyline and could distract from the existing smaller, scale landscapes and diminish the perceived height of enclosing slopes.		

	<p>However, it would not be out of place within the context due to effects of existing development and tracks.</p> <p>Although these effects would be significant in the local context, they are not considered sufficient to result in any significant landscape effect within the context of the CNP as a whole. The landscape effects detailed are considered unlikely to lead to significant effects on any of the Special Landscape Qualities of the CNP. In most cases, the focus of the CNP is orientated away from the Proposed Development, as recognised by the Special Landscape Quality "<i>The unifying presence of the central mountains</i>". This reduces the potential for significant effects to the landscapes and Special Landscape Qualities of the CNP. There is potential for some of the Special Landscape Qualities to be affected on a very localised basis: for example within elevated views from some areas close to the western boundary of the National Park there would be potential effects on "<i>Vastness of space, scale and height</i>", "<i>Dominance of natural landforms</i>", "<i>Grand panoramas and framed views</i>", and "<i>Wildness</i>", and within Glen Spey near the boundary there would be potential effects on "<i>Landscapes both cultural and natural</i>", "<i>Steep Glens and High Passes</i>", "<i>Grand panoramas and framed views</i>" and "<i>A landscape of opportunities</i>". However, this is not considered sufficient to lead to a significant effect on the Special Landscape Qualities themselves as effects would be very localised and these qualities would be present and intact within the vast majority of the CNP.</p> <p>The overall effect on the CNP is therefore considered to be <b>Minor</b> and not significant during construction and operation and the integrity of the CNP would not be affected.</p>
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**Table 1.2.2: Wild Land Area 19: Braeroy – Glenshirra - Creag Meagaidh**

Landscape Baseline			
<b>Description</b>	<p>This WLA, around 5 km south-west of the Proposed Development, extends across south Inverness-shire, west Badenoch and Strathspey and north Lochaber. It consists of a group of hills that run east-west, divided by the rivers Roy and Spey and is characterised by open rolling moorland hills and plateaux which are large in scale. The northern hills have simple, open and sweeping slopes while the southern hills tend to be steeper and higher with corries, cliffs and crags. The hills are penetrated by a number of deep glens which contain dynamic rivers, tributaries and waterfalls as well as glacial and fluvial deposits. Extensive native woodland extends up the hill sides at Creag Meagaidh. The interior of the WLA is concealed from the outside, and vice versa, due to screening by the outer hill slopes. There is a strong contrast of experience between the hill tops and the straths, glens and corries below. Upon the tops an open platform offers views over a succession of elevated hill horizons that extend into the distance. The area is largely uninhabited, although some of the glens within the margins or just outside the WLA include contemporary land use such as estate buildings, stock grazing, forest plantations or electricity power lines. The area attracts visitors for recreation hillwalking, climbing, shooting or fishing, and there are some access tracks. Historic features such as old enclosures, buildings or shielings occur within many of the glens.</p> <p>Wind turbines already influence the context of some parts of the WLA. Summits and higher north facing slopes share intervisibility with turbines of the Stronelairg wind farm whilst north-west facing slopes and summits share intervisibility with the Millennium and Beinneun wind farms.</p> <p>The SNH Map of Relative Wildness (see Figure 7.4.1) (obtained from the SNH Natural Spaces website (<a href="https://gateway.snh.gov.uk/natural-spaces/">https://gateway.snh.gov.uk/natural-spaces/</a>)) shows the areas of greatest wildness to be to the north and south of a central pass between Glen Roy and Loch Spey, in and around the highest tops. Moderate and lower degrees of wildness are shown through the central pass and around the periphery. It should be noted that the relative wildness mapping does not include Beinneun wind farm and only includes Stronelairg wind farm as a footprint (not a visual envelope). It should also be noted that the description of this WLA (SNH, 2017) was written before Stronelairg was constructed (September 2017).</p>		
<b>Landscape Value</b>	<p>This WLA has been nationally recognised for its wild land characteristics. It's south eastern part falls within the Ben Alder, Laggan and Glen Banchoir SLA and it's eastern tip is located within the Cairngorms National Park. Landscape value is therefore considered to be <b>High</b>.</p>		
Assessment of Effects on Physical and Perceptual Attributes			
Attribute	Sensitivity	Potential Effects	Magnitude of Change
Perceived naturalness	Medium	The Proposed Development would not affect land-cover in the WLA. From areas unaffected by Stronelairg, small numbers of turbines could marginally reduce a perception of naturalness outwith the WLA as it may give an impression of other infrastructure being present. However, this would usually affect a part of the context where forestry can already be perceived.	Negligible

Lack of construction or other artefacts	High	The Proposed Development would theoretically increase the area within which wind turbines would be perceived, with the main area affected being slopes between Braeroy and Melgarve. This would involve a very small number of turbines, usually affecting a part of the context where forestry, access, buildings and transmission towers around Melgarve Bothy are already present. SNH mapping shows this attribute to be relatively low in these locations (see Figure 7.4.2). VP16: Footpath East of Loch Spey (see Figure 7.9.16.3) shows an example of how the Proposed Development may appear. Nevertheless, it is likely to increase a perception of development from these discrete areas and may give an impression of wind development moving slightly closer from higher summit areas where other turbines are already present within the surrounding landscape (see VP11: Carn Liath (Figure 7.9.11.3), VP15: Beinn Teallach (Figure 7.9.15.3) and VP17: Carn Dearg (Glen Roy) (Figure 7.9.17.3)).	Low - Medium
Little evidence of contemporary land use	High	Where perceived in the surrounding landscape the Proposed Development would lead to a greater sense of contemporary land use within the wider area. Wind energy development may be seen to move slightly closer from areas where Stronelaireg can already be perceived as demonstrated by VP11: Carn Liath (see Figure 7.9.11.3) and VP17: Carn Dearg (Glen Roy) (see Figure 7.9.17.3) and there would be a new perception of this being present in some other areas – mostly within the central pass (see VP16: Footpath East of Loch Spey (Figure 7.9.16.3)). However, the few potentially visible features would affect a small part of the context when seen from these areas, where existing land uses such as forestry are already evident.	Low - Medium
Rugged or challenging terrain	Low	The Proposed Development would not affect the challenging nature of the terrain.	Negligible
Remoteness and inaccessibility	Medium	The Proposed Development would not lead to any changes in accessibility within the WLA. From areas where turbines would form a new feature, there are usually already tracks or paths which are more evident in the landscape.	Negligible
A sense of sanctuary or solitude	High	The Proposed Development may increase a sense of others working or present within the surrounding landscape in some areas. However, they would appear relatively separate from areas within the WLA and therefore unlikely to noticeably affect this perceptual response.	Negligible
Risk or anxiety	Low	It is unlikely that the Proposed Development would affect any sense of risk or anxiety.	Negligible

Arresting or inspiring qualities / sense of awe	High	Proposed turbines may appear within expansive elevated views from some areas (see VPs 11: Carn Liath (Figure 7.9.11.3), VP 15: Beinn Teallach (Figure 7.9.15.3) and VP 17: Carn Dearg (Glen Roy) (Figure 7.9.17.3)). In this context, they would be present within views where Stronelaig is already a feature but would increase the numbers and reduce proximity of turbines within the view. They may also form new focus in views from some lower locations, such as the central Braeroy – Loch Spey pass (see VP16: Footpath East of Loch Spey, Figure 7.9.16.3), although this would affect only a small part of the surrounding skyline. It is unlikely that this would very noticeably affect the existing arresting qualities which are experienced within the interior which relate more directly to the immediate mountains.	Low
Physically challenging	Medium	The Proposed Development is unlikely to affect the degree of physical challenge which would be evoked by those accessing the WLA.	Negligible
<b>Assessment of Effects on Key Qualities</b>			
<b>Key Quality</b>	<b>Sensitivity</b>	<b>Potential Effects</b>	<b>Magnitude of Change</b>
Rounded hills and plateaux that are awe-inspiring in their massive scale and simplicity, whilst geological features and rivers contribute strongly to the sense of naturalness.	High	The Proposed Development would be present within the surrounding landscape, seen from higher areas and facing slopes. Where seen in the context of Stronelaig, it is likely appear closer which may give a perception of slightly reduced scale (as shown by VP11: Carn Liath (Figure 7.9.11.3) and VP17: Carn Dearg (Glen Roy) (Figure 7.9.17.3)). In other lower areas, the appearance of small numbers of turbines may form a new focus and disrupt the simple skyline (as shown by VP16: Footpath East of Loch Spey, Figure 7.9.16.3), but would be seen in a context where other land use such as forestry is evident. Overall, this is not likely to affect awe-inspiring perceptions, as most of the WLA would be unaffected and the Proposed Development would generally not be perceived in relation to the main mountain groups which provide the greatest sense of awe. There would be no change to geological features or rivers which would affect their sense of naturalness.	Low

<p>A strong contrast of experience between the hills and plateaux with the straths, glens and corries, varying in their accessibility, exposure and visibility of human elements.</p>	<p>High</p>	<p>Expansive views from the high tops where the Proposed Development would be perceived usually already feature the turbines of Stronelairg which were not present when the WLA description was written (September 2017). The Proposed Development may appear to bring turbines closer and increase their prominence but a strong sense of remoteness would not be experienced from these areas because of the influence of the existing turbines (see VP 11: Carn Liath (Figure 7.9.11.3), VP 15 Beinn Teallach (Figure 7.9.15.3), and VP 17 Carn Dearg (Glen Roy) (Figure 7.9.17.3)). The floors of the glens, straths and corries would generally be unaffected, other than the central pass between Braeroy and Loch Spey. Small numbers of turbines visible from these areas would form a small new focus within the context but are considered unlikely to affect the sense of sanctuary.</p>	<p>Low</p>
<p>A hidden interior that is simple in landform and land cover, contributing to a perceived 'emptiness' and a strong sense of remoteness and sanctuary.</p>	<p>High</p>	<p>Within the interior, there would be limited intervisibility with the Proposed Development. This would generally be limited to a small number of turbines above the north-east horizon from parts of the central Braeroy – Loch Spey pass. This area is already affected to some degree by access tracks and bothies, as can be seen from SNH Wild Land Attribute Mapping: Absence of Modern Artefacts (see Figure 7.4.2). The Proposed Development may form a small new focus but is unlikely to significantly affect the empty feeling and sense of remoteness as it would not be present within the immediate landscape. Other more remote corries and glens would be unaffected by the Proposed Development</p>	<p>Low</p>
<p>Access and recreation focused around the margins, with an interior that is visited by few and possesses a sense of solitude, physical challenge and risk.</p>	<p>High</p>	<p>The Proposed Development would form a feature of the surrounding context from some peripheral areas: for example around Luib Chonnal bothy and hills accessed from the Coireyairack pass but would not affect popular routes accessed from the south of the WLA including some routes around Creag Meagaidh and Glen Roy. The effects on the most remote parts of the interior would be limited as discussed under the previous Key Quality above. The Proposed Development is unlikely to affect perceptions of solitude, physical challenge or risk.</p>	<p>Low</p>



<p>Long, remote glens that penetrate far into the hills and plateaux: some arresting by virtue of their narrowness and steep side-slopes, and some because of their openness against a surrounding backcloth of towering mountains.</p>	<p>High</p>	<p>The Proposed Development would not affect most of the remote glens within the WLA but may affect the central Braeroy – Loch Spey pass. This area is less remote than some of the other glens as evidenced by the Map of Relative Wildness (see Figure 7.4.1) as it has a track through parts of it and bothies at Luib Chonnal and Melgarve are evident from some areas as are development and contemporary land uses at either end. Only a few turbines would be evident within this glen and through they may slightly increase a sense of contemporary land use this would be unlikely to be significant in terms of the WLA overall as most of this glen would be unaffected and other glens, often more remote, would not be affected.</p>	<p>Low</p>
<b>Assessment of Landscape Effects</b>			
<b>Landscape Sensitivity</b>	<p>This is a highly valued landscape and, though existing wind farm development is already evident within the context from some elevated areas, the wild land attributes are generally sensitive to new development.</p> <p>Landscape sensitivity is considered to be <b>High</b>.</p>		
<b>Magnitude of Change</b>	<p>The Proposed Development would be present within the surrounding landscape, seen from some higher areas and facing slopes. The types of effect can be largely categorised into two types:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• From elevated areas, the Proposed Development would be generally seen within the context of Stronelairg but would appear larger and slightly closer. This is demonstrated by the representative VPs 11: Carn Liath (see Figure 7.9.11.3), 15 (see Figure 7.9.15.3) and 17 (see Figure 7.9.17.3); and</li> <li>• From lower areas, typically around Loch Spey and within the pass between Braeriach and Loch Spey small numbers of turbines would form a new focus on the skyline within the landscape context to the north-east. This is demonstrated by the representative VP16: Footpath East of Loch Spey (see Figure 7.9.16.3).</li> </ul> <p>The WLA covers the part of the LCTs Smooth Moorland Ridges, Rugged Massif – Lochaber, Isolated Mountain Plateau and Rolling Uplands – Inverness. Magnitude of landscape change for these LCTs ranges between Low and Medium with the Higher ratings affecting the Rolling Uplands – Inverness (Medium, due largely to direct effects occurring outwith the WLA) and Rugged Massif - Lochaber (Medium to Low) where theoretical visibility of the Proposed Development would occur to areas not already affected by existing Stronelairg turbines within the Braeroy – Loch Spey pass.</p> <p>Overall, considering the magnitude of landscape change to physical and perceptual attributes and Key Qualities the magnitude of change to wildness values within this WLA is considered to be generally <b>Low - Medium</b>.</p>		
<b>Effect Significance</b>	<p>The Proposed Development would affect some parts of this WLA although much of this theoretical visibility would be within elevated areas which already feature turbines of Stronelairg, Millennium and Beinneun wind farms within the visual context, which reduce the strength of the attributes ‘Lack of construction or other artefacts’ and ‘Evidence of Contemporary Land Use’. Within these areas, the closer and larger scale of the Proposed Development would be seen to bring wind farm development closer to the WLA which would reduce these attributes slightly and may also affect the attribute ‘Arresting or inspiring qualities / sense of awe’. However, this is considered unlikely to lead to a significant effect due to the effects of the existing developments.</p> <p>From some lower areas, most notably within the pass between Braeroy and Loch Spey, turbines would form a new feature within the landscape context, but would be very few in number, affecting only a very small part of the context. From these areas, contemporary land use and features around Melgarve Bothy are evident (as seen in</p>		

	<p>Figure 7.9.16.3), including forestry, buildings and the 400kV Beaulay – Denny transmission towers. These elements affect the same part of this context, thereby reducing the perceived wildness in this area. This effect is upheld by review of SNH’s Map of Relative Wildness and Absence of Modern Artefacts maps (see Figures 7.4.1 and 7.4.2) which show a reduced wildness in these areas. Nevertheless, the presence of the turbines as new features would have an effect on the attributes “<i>Lack of construction or other artefacts</i>” and “<i>Evidence of Contemporary Land Use</i>”. However, the visual separation of the Proposed Development from the wild land area, due in part to the other development at Melgarve Bothy which interrupts the intervening view, is considered likely to lead to no notable effect on the attributes “<i>A sense of sanctuary or solitude</i>” or “<i>Risk or anxiety</i>”. Therefore, this is considered unlikely to lead to a significant effect on wild land in this area.</p> <p>The majority of the WLA would remain unaffected, including the majority of areas identified by the Map of Relative Wildness (see Figure 7.4.1) as having the highest degree of perceived wildness. Where these high wildness areas are identified as being affected, this is usually due to the fact that the visual influence of Stronelaig has not been considered in the Map of Relative Wildness. If this were the case, it is considered likely that these areas would be shown to have a reduced relative wildness.</p> <p>The above effects are considered likely to lead to some perceptible effect on all the Key Qualities of the WLA. However, when taking into account that most of the WLA, including the most remote areas, would remain unaffected, this is not anticipated to be significant.</p> <p>Overall, the combined effect on the Physical and Perceptual attributes and Key Qualities is considered to lead to a <b>Minor - Moderate</b> (not significant) wild land effect on WLA 19: Braeroy – Glen Shirra – Creag Meagaidh, during construction and operation.</p>
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**Table 1.2.3: Wild Land Area 20: Monadhliath**

Landscape Baseline			
<b>Description</b>	<p>This WLA, is located around 1.5 km east of the Proposed Development curving round to the north and south of the eastern cluster, extending around 27 km to the north-east. The western cluster lies about 6.7 km from its boundary. The WLA comprises a long range of large rolling moorland hills and plateaux, interrupted by several narrow, steep-sided glens, some leading into deep corries. The hills are notable for their simplicity, openness and immense scale, offering elevated views across a succession of sweeping landforms. The simplicity of landform and vegetation make it difficult to grasp their dimensions, but in places local features such as rivers and waterfalls provide a scale reference. Riparian trees and native woodland exist in some parts and features such as scree, glacial and fluvial deposits, landslips and deep gorges highlight the dynamic nature of the landscape. From the glen floors, surrounding slopes screen views to the hill tops and plateaux, which have a strongly contrasting experience. While the interior is largely uninhabited and difficult to access, a network of estate tracks extend in from the edges. Land is managed by estates for game shooting and fishing and there are areas of stock grazing and forestry. The area is popular for outdoor recreation, particularly around the south eastern side of the Monadhliath.</p> <p>This WLA already has visibility of wind turbines in some areas: of Stronelaig around its western border and from some summits within the western half; of Corriegarth from a slightly greater area of western facing slopes and summits within the western part; of Dunmaglass from slopes and summits throughout the north-west; and of Farr from north facing slopes and summits, mostly in the northern half of the WLA. It should be noted that SNH's Map of Relative Wildness (SNH Natural Spaces website - <a href="https://gateway.snh.gov.uk/natural-spaces/">https://gateway.snh.gov.uk/natural-spaces/</a>) includes Stronelaig, Corriegarth and Dunmaglass wind farms only as footprints (not visual envelopes) and that Corriegarth and Stronelaig wind farms were not present when site visits for the WLA description were completed (May 2013 - August 2015).</p> <p>The SNH Map of Relative Wildness (see Figure 7.4.1) shows the greatest areas of wildness to be across the high summits and plateaux within the western part of this WLA with a moderate degree of wildness throughout the remaining part, reduced where tracks are present through the glens. However, the presence of the Stronelaig and Corriegarth wind farms in particular is likely to reduce the degree of wildness in the western half.</p>		
<b>Landscape Value</b>	<p>This WLA has been nationally recognised for its wild land characteristics. Its southern edge is also included in the Cairngorms National Park, while its south western part falls within the Ben Alder, Laggan and Glen Banchor SLA. Landscape value is therefore considered <b>High</b>.</p>		
Assessment of Effects on Physical and Perceptual Attributes			
Attribute	Sensitivity	Potential Effects	Magnitude of Change
Perceived naturalness	Medium	The Proposed Development would not affect land-cover in the WLA. From some areas which are not already affected by Stronelaig, small numbers of turbines could marginally reduce a perception of naturalness within this part of the wider context. Although turbines of other developments are usually evident, the area perceived as being affected by surrounding infrastructure could be slightly increased.	Low

Lack of construction or other artefacts	High	From the majority of areas within which the Proposed Development would be perceived, other wind turbines already feature within the context an example of this is VP8: Carn Dearg (Monadhliath) (see Figure 7.9.8.3). The exception are a few very small areas, in dips and hollows where a few tips may be newly visible and some higher summit areas in the southern tip of the WLA where eastern cluster blades would be present on the western horizon. Although no wind turbines influence these areas, there is a greater appearance of forestry, roads and properties to the south and east, due to their height and prospect. Nevertheless, turbines would form a new feature and may slightly reduce the area within which this attribute is strongest as indicated by the SNH Wild Land Attribute Mapping: Absence of Modern Artefacts (see Figure 7.4.2). Where existing turbines other than Stronelaig are present, the Proposed Development would lead to an increase in turbines within the surrounding context, although this attribute is less strong in these areas and the other developments are usually closer and likely to be more prominent. Where Stronelaig is already present, there may be a perception of bringing turbines closer, but this would be a minimal change as the part of the context which would be affected is already similarly affected. Overall, the areas affected are small within the context of the WLA as a whole.	Low - Medium
Little evidence of contemporary land use	High	The appearance of the Proposed Development may lead to an increase in perceptions of contemporary land use in the surrounding context where seen without existing Stronelaig turbines, but would result in only a minimal change when seen with Stronelaig. In some small areas within the southern tip of the WLA where other turbines are not evident, this would introduce a perception of contemporary land use in the neighbouring area. Where seen with existing Stronelaig turbines there would be minimal effect on this attribute because the Proposed Development would be associated with an area already utilised for this purpose.	Low
Rugged or challenging terrain	Low	The Proposed Development would not affect the challenging nature of the terrain. Tracks may be perceived from the very western edge of the WLA and closer to the boundary but the inaccessible qualities of the neighbouring WLA landscapes would remain.	Negligible
Remoteness and inaccessibility	Medium	Although tracks would reach closer to the western boundary of the WLA, there would be no increase in accessibility within it.	Negligible

A sense of sanctuary or solitude	High	From most parts of the WLA, the appearance of turbine tops of the Proposed Development is unlikely to affect the sense of solitude. Within the high parts of the southern tip where the tips and blades of eastern cluster turbines and occasionally western cluster turbines would be a new feature, this could reduce a sense of being far from other people, within these very localised areas.	Low
Risk or anxiety	Low	It is unlikely that the Proposed Development would affect any sense of risk or anxiety.	Negligible
Arresting or inspiring qualities / sense of awe	High	Proposed turbines may appear within expansive elevated views from some locations, but largely from areas where existing turbines are already a feature within the view. From some elevated summits in the southern tip of the WLA, eastern cluster blades and tips may appear over the skyline where other turbines are not evident. However, in these areas the westerly view is more limited and does not feature the more expansive mountain vista. From most areas the Proposed Development would be seen within a pattern of other existing wind development and would contribute only incrementally to the appearance of such structures within the view. Expansive easterly views to the south, and east towards the Cairngorms, would remain unaffected by wind turbines.	Low
Physically challenging	Medium	The Proposed Development is generally unlikely to lead to a change in the fulfilment of physical challenge that would be evoked in those accessing this area.	Negligible
<b>Assessment of Effects on Key Qualities</b>			
<b>Key Quality</b>	<b>Sensitivity</b>	<b>Potential Effects</b>	<b>Magnitude of Change</b>
A range of massive rounded hills and plateaux that are awe-inspiring in their simplicity, openness and immense scale, and offer panoramic views to distant mountain ranges.	High	The vast majority of the hills and plateau areas would have no effect from the Proposed Development. From some small parts it would be evident but in most cases, this would be in a context where other wind energy developments are already present in the surrounding landscape. In a few elevated areas in the south, new eastern cluster turbine tips would form an interruption to a smooth skyline, and very infrequently, more distant western cluster turbines would be present in westerly views. However, this would affect a small part of the surrounding skyline. From some locations, the Proposed Development would be seen within more expansive views of far mountains. However, the most elevated locations where these types of views are obtained usually have intervisibility with Stronelairg wind farm, as shown in VP8: Carn Dearg (Monadhliath) (see Figure 7.9.8.3), and therefore the Proposed Development would affect a part of the view which is already similarly affected. Where the Proposed	Low

		Development would be present on its own, this is in situations where the view is usually more limited. It is therefore considered that the awe-inspiring qualities of the hills would not be significantly affected.	
An extensive, simple interior with few human artefacts, contributing to a perceived 'emptiness' and a strong sense of naturalness, remoteness and sanctuary.	High	The Proposed Development would not be intervisible with the vast majority of the WLA, and other wind turbines already feature within the context from the majority of areas potentially affected. The exception are a few very small areas, in dips and hollows where a few tips may be newly visible and some higher summit areas in the southern tip of the WLA where blades would be present on the western horizon. Therefore, the majority of the interior would not be changed and perceptions of emptiness, naturalness and remoteness would persist. The higher summits in the south usually have some influence from other exterior development and land management to the south and east due to their height and prospect, although newly appearing blades over the western horizon may lead to some reduction in perceived remoteness. Within the dips and hollows, the appearance of a few tips may slightly reduce a perceived sense of remoteness or sanctuary although a sense of being separate from these features would remain. These areas reflect extremely small parts of the WLA overall and it is considered that, whilst there would be a recognised effect on these areas, the effect on the Key Quality would not be significant as the vast majority of areas where this quality is experienced would not be affected.	Low
A hill range in which many types of recreation take place, but its large, remote interior maintains a sense of sanctuary, challenge and risk.	High	The Proposed Development is unlikely to lead to any change to perceptions of challenge and risk because it would not lead to any very noticeable changes in accessibility to the WLA. For recreational users, the sense of remoteness or sanctuary within the interior may be slightly affected in very small areas as described above. This would have a minimal sequential effect when moving through the WLA as these areas are so disparate. No significant effect is anticipated to the arresting qualities experienced and it is considered unlikely that the Proposed Development would affect recreational enjoyment (see Chapter 15: Land Use and Recreation).	Negligible
Long, narrow glens cutting into the hill and plateau edges which are remote, but facilitate access.	High	The Proposed Development would not share intervisibility with any of the long glens which cut into the plateau.	Negligible
<b>Assessment of Landscape Effects</b>			
<b>Landscape Sensitivity</b>	This is a highly valued landscape and, though existing wind farm development is already evident within the context from most elevated areas, the wild land attributes are		

	generally sensitive to new development, Landscape sensitivity is considered to be <b>High</b> .
<b>Magnitude of Change</b>	<p>The Proposed Development would be present within the landscape context of this WLA, seen mainly from higher summits and plateau areas with the vast majority of the WLA being unaffected. The types of effect would result from either increased presence of wind turbines within the surrounding context or areas of new intervisibility with the Proposed Development. The majority of areas within which the Proposed Development would be theoretically visible would be in addition to existing wind turbines, usually either Stronelairg, Corriegarth, Dunmaglass or a combination of these. From areas where Corriegarth and / or Dunmaglass are already present, the Proposed Development would be further from, and likely to be less prominent than these developments. Where the Proposed Development was seen with Stronelairg, the eastern cluster turbines may appear slightly closer, but would affect a part of the context where similar development is already present. Areas of new intervisibility would include occasional dips and hollows, and some higher summits in the southern part of the WLA. Small numbers of eastern cluster tips or blades would be evident above the skyline from these areas. Western cluster turbines may be occasionally present within the further landscape context.</p> <p>Within the detailed study area this WLA is mostly within the Rolling Uplands – Inverness LCT and Monadhliath: South Monadhliath CNP LCA (small parts of the Monadhliath: North Monadhliath and Badenoch – Upper Glen Banchor CNP LCAs would be unaffected). Magnitude of landscape change is Medium for both these LCAs although for Rolling Uplands – Inverness this relates generally to direct and indirect changes outwith the WLA. A Low magnitude is considered more reflective for this LCT within the WLA.</p> <p>Overall, considering the magnitude of landscape change to physical and perceptual attributes and Key Qualities the magnitude of change to wildness values within this WLA is considered to be generally <b>Low</b> but occasionally <b>Medium</b> during construction and operation, within around 8 km of the eastern cluster.</p>
<b>Effect Significance</b>	<p>The Proposed Development would affect only small parts of this WLA and by and large areas where existing wind turbines of Stronelairg, Corriegarth and Dunmaglass are already present within the context, and reduce the degree of wildness and the attributes <i>“Lack of Construction or other Artefacts”</i> and <i>“Little Evidence of Contemporary Land Use”</i>. Beyond around 8 km, it is likely that the turbines of other wind farms would be more prominent. However, the Proposed Development would increase the extent of surrounding wind development. Where Stronelairg is already a feature, this effect would be reduced, as the part of surrounding context affected would already be similarly affected. Nevertheless, the Proposed Development turbines would sometimes appear to be closer and larger, particularly within 8 km. This may appear to bring the influence of human artefacts and contemporary land use closer, thereby reducing the strength of these attributes in these small areas. A greater impression of a surrounding developed landscape could also reduce the attribute <i>“Perceived Naturalness”</i>.</p> <p>From summit areas there is the potential to affect <i>“Arresting or Inspiring Qualities / Sense of Awe”</i> due to the appearance of the Proposed Development in expansive westerly views. However, where these types of views are obtained, due to the elevation, Stronelairg is almost always an existing feature within the same part of the view. Although the turbines of the Proposed Development may appear larger and closer, the presence of Stronelairg would reduce the degree of effect.</p> <p>From some small areas comprising a few dips and hollows to the north and north-east of the eastern cluster, and higher summits and ridges to the east, the Proposed Development would form a new feature where no other wind turbines influence the landscape. From these areas, tips over the horizon would form a small interruption to the smooth skyline and would locally reduce the attributes <i>“Lack of Construction or Other Artefacts”</i> and <i>“Evidence of Contemporary Land Use”</i>. In places this could also give a sense of reducing the scale of the landform or creating a greater perception of active land use in neighbouring areas which could reduce <i>“Perceived Naturalness”</i> and <i>“Sense of Sanctuary and Solitude”</i> slightly. However, this would be very localised.</p>

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	<p>The above effects are considered likely to lead to some perceptible effect on Key Qualities which relate to the broad open hills and remote interior but are considered unlikely to perceptibly affect those relating to the glens and recreational values. When taking into account that most of the WLA would remain unaffected, this is not anticipated to lead to any significant effects on Key Qualities.</p> <p>Overall, the combined effect on the Physical and Perceptual attributes and Key Qualities is considered to lead to a <b>Minor</b> (not significant) wild land effect on WLA 20: Monadhliath, although small and limited areas closer to the development may receive a very localised <b>Moderate</b> (significant) effect. Effects would occur during both construction and operation. The integrity of the WLA would not be affected.</p>
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### 1.3 Local Context

**Table 1.26: Ben Alder, Laggan and Glen Banchor SLA**

Landscape Baseline			
<b>Description</b>	This SLA, located around 9 km south of the Proposed Development, comprises a complex and diverse inland area. It consists of a sequence of wooded glens, estate policies and lochs, surrounded by rolling moorlands which transition into knolly hills, craggy ridges and corries and mountain plateaux. Cascading waterfalls, small gorges and a scattering of birch trees also connect the moorland areas with the glen floor below. There is a strong contrast between the glens, where human influence is obvious, and the more wild upland areas. The glens are diverse in landform and land use, with a mix of woodland, agriculture, estate cottages and castles. The forests of Aberarder and Ardverikie are separated by Loch Laggan, which provides a focal point when viewed from the A86, and the Monadhliath Mountains form a simple landform horizon to the north. Settlement is mainly concentrated around the River Spey and to a lesser extent near the River Truim, although several hill tracks and paths penetrate through the interior. A range of historic features characterise the area, including medieval castles, townships and shielings.		
<b>Landscape Value</b>	The Ben Alder, Laggan and Glen Banchor SLA is recognised for its regional importance, and valued for its varied scenery and historic features. Part of it also lies within the CNP. It is therefore considered to be of <b>High</b> landscape value.		
Assessment of Effects on Special Qualities			
Key Quality	Sensitivity	Potential Effects	Magnitude of Change
Ever changing compositions, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Contrasting landform, land-use and views;</li> <li>• A dynamic sense of place with changing combinations of mountain, moorland, forest, woodland strath and loch;</li> <li>• Striking landscape features such as Coire Ardair on Creag Meagaidh, Creag Dubh near Newtonmore and Dirc Mhòr glacial meltwater channel;</li> </ul>	Medium	Appearing within views mainly from a few upland areas on the skyline of the hills to the north and some lowland areas. It would not affect the contrast as it would generally not affect lower lying areas but may distract in some discrete views, for example within areas around Glen Shirra and Glenshero Lodge and some tops of the Ardverikie Hills (see VP13: Geal Charn (Ardverikie) (Figure 7.9.13.3) and VP18: Loch na Lairige (Figure 7.9.18.3)). Often appearing alongside Stronelaig wind farm, it would generally not appear out of place in the upland landscape.	Low
	Medium	The Proposed Development would be unlikely to noticeably affect this dynamic sense of change when moving through the landscape but would become one of the features occasionally seen within the diverse backdrop.	Negligible
	High	Limited visibility from Creag Dubh is likely to be barely perceptible and would not affect the setting of this feature in the landscape. There would also be possible visibility from the top of Dirc Mhòr and Coire Ardair but this would not affect the immediate experience of these features or their setting when viewed from within or below.	Negligible

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Long ranging panoramas and intimate vistas across Loch Laggan;</li> </ul>	High	The Proposed Development would not be visible in views across or around Loch Laggan though it may appear in high level views above the loch, this would be part of a wider setting and considered unlikely to be distracting.	Negligible
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The contrasting lonely character of Glen Banchor;</li> </ul>	High	There would be no intervisibility of the Proposed Development with Glen Banchor.	Negligible
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The simple landform horizon of the Monadhliath in contrast to Ben Alder and Creag Meagaidh;</li> </ul>	High	The Proposed Development would appear over the skyline of the Monadhliath in northerly views when seen from elevated areas within the Ardverikie hills (see VP13: Geal Charm, Figure 7.9.13.3). It would almost always be seen in a context of the existing Stronelairg turbines, though may appear closer from some areas. This could slightly increase the perception of turbines to the north but would not result in a very noticeable change. From some areas around Strath Mashie, it would be more noticeable on the skyline (see VP18: Loch na Lairige (Figure 7.9.18.3) but from this area would not be seen in combination with Ben Alder or Creag Meagaidh.	Low
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Recreational value of Creag Meagaidh; and</li> </ul>	Medium	The Proposed Development would be seen from parts of the summit of Creag Meagaidh but not within the remote Coire. VP11: Carn Liath gives an impression of how it would appear from summits in this area (See Figure 7.9.11.3). It would almost always be seen with Stronelairg but may appear noticeably closer from these areas. However, this is considered unlikely to very noticeably affect recreational accessibility or enjoyment of this area (see Chapter 15: Land Use and Recreation).	Negligible
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Remote Qualities of Ben Alder.</li> </ul>	High	The Proposed Development would appear in extensive vistas from the summit of Ben Alder as a distant feature (around 28 km). It would be seen the context of existing Stronelairg turbines and may perceptibly increase the extent and scale of visible turbines but would be unlikely to affect its remote feel.	Negligible
<p>Historic landscapes including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Heritage features including medieval castles such as Eilean an Rìgh in Loch Laggan, depopulated medieval townships and post medieval crofting townships and farmsteads;</li> </ul>	High	No significant effects are anticipated to any of these features. Cultural heritage effects are discussed in Chapter 12: Cultural Heritage.	Negligible

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Picturesque contrasts between upland mountains and settled straths, enhanced by castles and lodges;</li> <li>• Cluny Castle and Glen Truim House policy landscapes;</li> <li>• Current and historic settlement patterns and more contemporary defensive structures such as Dun da Lamh Fort.</li> </ul>	High	There may be some effect on picturesque style views within Glen Spey around Glenshero Lodge (see Technical Appendix 7.3, Table 1.3.9) but this would be unlikely in other areas, due to the limited intervisibility with lower lying glen areas.	Low
	High	The policy landscapes at Glen Truim and Cluny would not be affected.	Negligible
	High	A small number of turbines of the Proposed Development would be visible within the setting of Dun da Lamh Fort but would not hinder ability to understand and appreciate the monument as a defensive settlement with strategic panoramic views across the landscape. No changes would occur to any current or historic settlement patterns. The cultural heritage effects are discussed in detail in Chapter 12: Cultural Heritage)	Low
<b>Assessment of Landscape Effects</b>			
<b>Landscape Sensitivity</b>	This is a valued landscape as recognised by its designated status. However, the susceptibility to change varies across the SLA due to the differing scale of landscapes and diverse land cover with forestry and woodland. Landscape sensitivity to change of the type proposed is considered to vary between <b>Medium</b> and <b>High</b> .		
<b>Magnitude of Change</b>	<p>The ZTV (see Figure 7.1.1) shows that there would be limited intervisibility of the Proposed Development with this SLA, across higher summits and facing slopes of mountains and hills to the north and south of Loch Laggan and Strath Mashie, and small areas of lower glen within Glen Shirra, Upper Glen of the Spey and Càthar Mòr. The presence of woodland within parts of this area would further reduce the degree to which the Proposed Development would be evident. From higher areas, the Proposed Development would usually be seen on the northern skyline of the Monadhliath in the context of the existing Stronelairg turbines. This therefore would not add a new feature to this part of the context, but from some areas the turbines may appear larger and slightly more prominent, potentially more likely to draw focus. This is predicted to lead to a Low magnitude of landscape change on the Isolated Mountain Plateau, Small Craggy Knolls and Hills LCTs and Ardverikie Hills CNP LCA. From lower areas, the Proposed Development would not generally be seen but in upper Glen Spey would be noticeable on a low point in the north-western horizon, seen in the context of existing forestry and access tracks, but in an area that is often the focus of framed views. This is predicted to lead to a low – medium magnitude of change on the Spey Headwaters – Upper Glen of the Spey LCA, a Low magnitude of change on the Spey Headwaters – Spey Dam and Ardverikie – Glen Shirra LCAs, and a Negligible magnitude of change on all other strath and glen areas.</p> <p>Whilst a low – medium magnitude of change was identified locally within upper Glen of the Spey, this comprises a very small part of the SLA overall. Taking into account that the majority of the SLA would be unaffected, and the Negligible or Low magnitude of change to Special Qualities, the overall magnitude of change for the SLA is considered to be <b>Low</b>.</p>		
<b>Effect Significance</b>	The Proposed Development would not directly affect the SLA and would only indirectly affect relatively small areas. From upland areas to the south and east of Loch Laggan, it would appear on the northern / north-eastern skyline of the Monadhliath, usually within a context where existing Stronelairg turbines are already visible and reduce the sensitivity of this part of the surrounding context (see VP13: Geal Charn (Ardverikie) (Figure 7.9.13.3)). However, the larger turbines may appear slightly more prominent from some areas and from a few areas, such as higher areas around Glen Shirra and Strath Mashie (represented by VP18: Loch na Lairige (see Figure 7.9.18.3)), and upper		

	Glen Spey would appear as a new feature on the skyline. The turbines would occupy a low point between Creag Mhòr and Meall na h-Aisre. They would be contained by the landform and would not form the highest feature on the skyline but would be potentially prominent in an area which often forms a focus of the view, as described in the assessment for the Spey Headwaters – Upper Glen of the Spey LCA (Technical Appendix 7.3, Table 1.3.9). The smooth, and simple skyline of the Monadhliath is noted as a contributory factor to the Special Quality ‘Ever changing compositions’ and this would therefore lead to an effect on this quality. However, this would be a very localised effect in relation to the broader SLA. When taking into account that the majority of the SLA would be unaffected and that the change on most Special Quality elements would be barely perceptible, this is anticipated to lead to a <b>Minor</b> (not significant) effect on the SLA during construction and operation. The integrity of the SLA would therefore not be affected.
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**Table 1.27: Loch Lochy and Loch Oich SLA**

Landscape Baseline			
<b>Description</b>	This SLA, located around 11.5 km from the Proposed Development, is dominated by the strong linear form of the Great Glen fault. Loch Oich and Loch Lochy, which occupy the deep, v-shaped glen, are bounded by steep slopes which are characterised by a striking combination of peaks and north-east to south west orientated ridges. The hills contain views within the narrow corridor of the Great Glen. The large-scale landform of the glen is consistent in form, but contains a wide range of smaller scale features. The shorelines are intricate, made up of small bays, inlets and promontories. Upper moorland slopes are covered by heather and grass, and woodland and forest occupies some of the mid and lower slopes. The SLA is usually experienced from the A82 (see Technical Appendix 7.7, Receptor R1) which follows the shoreline of the Lochs, and the Great Glen Way (see Technical Appendix 7.7, Receptor R4) which is a popular route for cyclists and hikers. Settlement is focused in areas of low-lying farmland, mainly along the lochs’ shores. The more intimate scale of views around these settlements contrasts with the sense of drama and grandeur of the wider glen. The double waterfall at the mouth of Gleann Cia-aig, and the hanging valley of Càrn Bhealach, on the west side of Loch Lochy are notable features.		
<b>Landscape Value</b>	The Loch Lochy and Loch Oich SLA recognised at the regional level for its landscape value and scenic quality. It is therefore considered to be of <b>High</b> landscape value.		
Assessment of Effects on Special Qualities			
Key Quality	Sensitivity	Potential Effects	Magnitude of Change
The Great Glen, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Part of a chain of lochs and imposing steep-sided V shaped glen which cleaves through the central Highlands between Inverness and Fort William;</li> </ul>	High	Intervisibility of the Proposed Development is limited to higher tops and slopes, mainly to the west of Loch Lochy. This would not affect the appreciation of the imposing great glen and lochs as a feature within the SLA.	Negligible

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Steep slopes contain and channelling views, with eye catching peaks to the west and parallel ridges to the east forming a corrugated appearance;</li> <li>Experience of SLA obtained from the Great Glen Way;</li> <li>Distinctly interior Highland landscape with landmark features such as Glengarry Castle Hotel and Well of the Seven Heads; and</li> <li>Experience of SLA from the A82.</li> </ul>	High	The Proposed Development would not be seen within the linear glen views. To the east from elevated areas, the Proposed Development would appear through and around Glen Tarff to the north-east and would therefore not noticeably affect the corrugated appearance of the landform ridges to the east.	Negligible
	High	The Proposed Development would not be intervisible with any part of the Great Glen Way within this SLA.	Negligible
	High	The Proposed Development would not be seen from any of the enclosed interior landscapes of the glen and would not be intervisible with the Glengarry Castle Hotel or Well of the Seven Heads.	Negligible
	Medium	The Proposed Development would not be intervisible with any part of the A82 within this SLA.	Negligible
<p>Classic Highland Scenery, Distinctive Mountain Top Views, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Views from low-lying areas across fields, lochs and woodland slopes to summits and linear views along lochs, varying in different weather systems.</li> <li>Outstanding views from high elevation such as Meall Dubh and Meall na Teanga.</li> </ul>	High	The Proposed Development would not form a feature within views from low-lying areas within this SLA.	Negligible
	High	The Proposed Development would form a feature within the north-east of views from mountains on the west side of Loch Lochy including Meall na Teanga and Meall Dubh. However, it would be distant and relatively small within these wide and expansive views. Highest areas may be intervisible with all the proposed turbines. These would be seen in an area where Stronelairg already affects the view though may appear slightly more prominent.	Low
<p>Intimate Drama including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Sense of comfort and shelter gained from intimate scale features in contrast to drama and grandeur of the wider glen;</li> </ul>	High	The Proposed Development would not be intervisible with areas on the floor of the glen and would therefore not affect the intimate scale.	Negligible

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Double waterfall at the mouth of Gleann Cia-aig;</li> <li>• Càrn Bhealach, a hanging valley on west side of Loch Lochy, seen from A82.</li> </ul>	Medium	The Proposed Development would not be intervisible with any part of Gleann Cia-aig.	Negligible
	High	The Proposed Development may be perceptible from mountain slopes to either side of the Càrn Bhealach but would not be seen from the interior of the Bhealach itself. It would not affect appreciation of the Bhealach and hanging valley when seen from the Great Glen.	Negligible
<b>Assessment of Landscape Effects</b>			
<b>Landscape Sensitivity</b>	This is a valued landscape, as recognised by its designated status. The expansive vistas obtained from elevated areas and intimate scale of the glen floor are susceptible to change of the type proposed. Landscape sensitivity to change of the type proposed is therefore considered to be <b>High</b> .		
<b>Magnitude of Change</b>	<p>The ZTV indicates that indirect change to this SLA would be limited to high ground and mountain slopes and summits to the west of Loch Lochy and Creag nan Gobhar, a small hill summit area on the east side of Loch Oich. The Proposed Development would form a feature within the north-east of views from mountain-sides and summits but would comprise barely perceptible tips from Creag nan Gobhar. Turbines would be at least 20km from the western mountains and would therefore appear as a relatively small feature within these wide and expansive views, usually seen in an area where Stronelaairg already affects the view.</p> <p>Taking into account that the majority of the SLA would be unaffected, and the Negligible magnitude of change to the majority of Special Qualities, the overall magnitude of change is for the SLA is considered to be <b>Negligible</b>.</p>		
<b>Effect Significance</b>	<p>Indirect effects to this SLA would be limited to the appearance of the Proposed Development within elevated views from mountain summits to the west of Loch Lochy. This would theoretically affect the “<i>outstanding views from high elevation</i>” element of the “<i>Classic Highland Scenery, Distinctive Mountain Top Views</i>” Special Quality. However, the Proposed Development would affect only a small part of the expansive views obtained from these locations and, as they would be seen within a part of the view where Stronelaairg is already present, would only form a small increase to the presence of wind turbines within these views. However, they may be slightly more prominent and therefore may be slightly more likely to draw focus. As there would be no intervisibility from lower lying and interior parts of the Great Glen, none of the other Special Qualities would be noticeably affected. Taking into account the very localised nature of effects within this landscape, and the limited magnitude of change occurring to Special Qualities generally, the landscape effect on the Loch Lochy and Loch Oich SLA is considered to be <b>Negligible</b> (not significant) during construction and operation.</p>		

**Table 1.28: Loch Ness and Duntelchaig SLA**

Landscape Baseline			
<b>Description</b>	<p>This SLA, located around 5.5 km from the Proposed Development, surrounds and includes Loch Ness from Lochend in the north to Fort Augustus in the south. It is dominated by the vast linear feature of Loch Ness and its dramatic landform trench, formed by a large strike-slip fault going through centre of the Highlands. The steep sided, wooded and forested slopes of the glen are often incised by burns, rivers and waterfalls, which occasionally fall over sheer rocky cliffs. These give way east of Loch Ness to an undulating moorland plateau characterised by upland lochs, small woods and rocky knolls. Along Loch Ness-side there are small areas of low lying pasture with associated settlements by the mouths of the rivers. The human scale of these settlements is juxtaposed against the vast extent of open water and dramatic linear landform. Historic features often provide focal points within the glen, Urquhart Castle being a prominent example. The scale of the landscape is difficult to perceive due to a lack of size indicators, although elevated viewpoints reveal the glen within its context as a landscape of elevated plateaux and hills.</p> <p>This area is covered by the Highland Council (THC) Onshore Wind Energy Supplementary Guidance (OWESG) landscape sensitivity study which is given consideration in the assessment of LCTs within this area.</p>		
<b>Landscape Value</b>	The Loch Ness and Duntelchaig SLA is representative of the dramatic landform of the Great Glen as a whole and is valued by tourists and visitors. Its recognition as an SLA gives it a generally <b>High</b> landscape value.		
Assessment of Effects on Special Qualities			
Key Quality	Sensitivity	Potential Effects	Magnitude of Change
The Dramatic Great Glen, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The striking profile of the glen, seen from either end, the water and elevated viewpoints on loch-side ridges and hill tops;</li> <li>Steep-sided slopes, incised by water-courses with woodland and forest and an open smooth moorland skyline ridge;</li> </ul>	High	The Proposed Development would be seen as part of the surrounding landscape context to the south, usually seen from upper glen-side slopes to the west of Loch Ness as lower slopes are usually wooded. It would appear relatively distant and beyond the confines of the Great Glen, therefore unlikely to affect appreciation of the striking trench-like landform.	Negligible
	High	There would be theoretical visibility of the Proposed Development from steep side slopes on the western side of the glen, usually higher slopes as lower slopes tend to be wooded. This may interrupt the smooth skyline from some areas but would appear relatively distant. It would usually be seen within the context of the existing Stronelairg turbines and therefore in a part of the context already affected by wind turbines. Some new areas of intervisibility may be obtained where trees allow from lower slopes. This would lead to a slightly increased effect along the skyline, but would reflect the pattern of other wind energy developments which are visible through the side valleys of the eastern hills (Corriegarth and Dunmaglass). VP2: Great Glen Way, Balbeg (see Figure 7.9.2.3) demonstrates the type of	Low

		appearance which may occasionally be obtained from slightly lower slopes. VP3: Meall Fuar-mhonaidh (see Figure 7.9.3) demonstrates the type of view which would be obtained from highest areas.	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The contrast between northern and southern loch-side in relation to access, activity and settlement;</li> </ul>	Medium	The Proposed Development is unlikely to affect the contrast between these areas as it would not lead to any perceptible direct changes to access or development in these areas. Use of the existing Stronelairg access is unlikely to lead to a perceptible change.	Negligible
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Distinctive views of grand proportions and long vistas along Loch Ness;</li> </ul>	High	There would be minimal perceptibility of the Proposed Development when viewed from the shoreline of Loch Ness. In general loch side trees and forest cover over the eastern ridgeline would result in turbines being barely perceptible from these areas.	Negligible
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Atmospheric mists and low clouds;</li> </ul>	Low	The Proposed Development would be unlikely to affect any appreciation of the landscape relating to weather conditions.	Negligible
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Urquhart Castle and Foyers former British Aluminium Factory, prominent focal points along the loch;</li> </ul>	High	The Proposed Development is considered likely to be imperceptible from any part of Urquhart Castle (see VP20: Urquhart Castle, Figure 7.9.20) or the former British Aluminium Factory and is unlikely to feature negatively within the context of any views towards these features.	Negligible
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Experience of the SLA from the B852, B851, and A82, Great Glen Way and Caledonian Canal; and</li> </ul>	High	Although there may be glimpsed views from some of the road routes and theoretically from the canal through Loch Ness, these effects would be limited and unlikely to be significant (see Technical Appendix 7.7, Route Receptors R1 – R3). The Proposed Development would be potentially more prominent in occasional views from the Great Glen Way (see Technical Appendix 7.7, Route Receptor R4) but these would be intermittent as the route is generally in amongst forestry. Where seen, the Proposed Development would reflect the pattern of existing wind development within the context, being visible through occasional side valleys of the Monadhliath (see VP2: Great Glen Way, Balbeg (Figure 7.9.2.3)).	Low
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Prominent landmark of Meall Fuar-mhonaidh and role as a vantage point.</li> </ul>	High	The Proposed Development would appear within the expansive easterly views from Meall Fuar-mhonaidh and would form a perceptible addition to Stronelairg turbines and Corriegarth turbines within the south-eastern hills (see VP 3: Meall Fuar-mhonaidh (Figure 7.9.3.3) and Technical Appendix 7.7). However, it would rarely affect the setting of Meall Fuar-mhonaidh when seen from other parts of the SLA.	Low



<p>Contrasting Intimate Plateau, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Intimate mix of landscape elements of changing visual interest.</li> </ul>	High	<p>There would be limited theoretical visibility of the Proposed Development from the eastern plateau area, usually in the form of glimpsed views of turbines through side valleys and from higher points. While it may be perceptible, it is considered unlikely to distract from the foreground elements and changing patterns and experiences within this area.</p>	Negligible
<p>Historic Landscape, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Achulin depopulated township;</li> <li>• Intensive prehistoric activity associated with Loch Duntelchaig, Loch Ashie and Loch Ruthven; and</li> <li>• The Caledonian Canal and Abbey within Fort Augustus.</li> </ul>	High	<p>At over 30km distant, the few tips which would be theoretically visible from this area are likely to be barely perceptible.</p>	Negligible
	Medium	<p>At over 20km the Proposed Development would be distant from this area, and would have very little perceptibility.</p>	Negligible
	Medium	<p>There would be no intervisibility with Fort Augustus.</p>	Negligible
<b>Assessment of Landscape Effects</b>			
<b>Landscape Sensitivity</b>	<p>This is a valued landscape, as recognised by its designated status. The expansive vistas obtained from elevated areas and across open waters, and the intimate scale of the loch-shore areas, are susceptible to change of the type proposed. Landscape sensitivity to change of the type proposed is therefore considered to be <b>High</b>.</p>		
<b>Magnitude of Change</b>	<p>There would be limited direct change within this SLA relating to use of the existing access track to Glendoe Hydro and Stronelairg wind farm but this would be unlikely to be very perceptible due to its existing use. The ZTV (see Figure 7.1.1) shows that indirect change relating to intervisibility with the Proposed Development would occur with steep side slopes on the western side of the glen and the higher ridgeline including Meall Fuar-Mhonaidh. There would be limited intervisibility with lower slopes and loch shore areas and local woodland cover is likely to result in the Proposed Development being barely perceptible from these areas. From higher slopes, turbines would appear on the skyline usually appearing as tips of fewer than 18 turbines. However, scattered tree and forest cover in these areas would reduce the true extent of areas affected (see VP2: Great Glen Way, Balbeg (Figure 7.9.2.3). From more elevated and open areas around and on Meall Fuar-mhonaidh (see VP3 (Figure 7.9.3.3), larger numbers of turbines would be perceived, within a backdrop of layered horizons, seen within the context of the existing Stronelairg and Corriegarth turbines. Along the eastern ridgeline and the Loch Duntelchaig plateau, there would be more limited intervisibility with the Proposed Development, usually involving fewer than 10 turbines seen distantly or as tips between gaps in the hills. This intervisibility would also be reduced, particularly along the eastern ridgeline, by local woodland and forest.</p> <p>Taking into account likely intervisibility with Meall Fuar-mhonaidh, but relatively limited magnitude of change to other Special Qualities, the overall magnitude of change for the SLA is considered to be <b>Low</b>.</p>		

<p><b>Effect Significance</b></p>	<p>The direct impact of the access is considered unlikely to lead to any perceptible effect. No perceptible effect on the SLA is anticipated in relation to intervisibility with lower slopes and shoreline areas of Loch Ness, the eastern ridgeline or the eastern plateau as the minimal glimpses available would reflect the existing pattern of wind development (Corriegarth and Dunmaglass) and would not alter any of the characteristics or Key Qualities of the SLA. However, from higher slopes around Meall Fuar-mhonaidh and the western ridge the Proposed Development would be perceived in the south-eastern hills as part of a greater area of existing wind energy development including Corriegarth and Stronelairg (see VP3: Meall Fuar-mhonaidh (Figure 7.9.3.3)). However, it may appear slightly larger and more prominent. This would have a small effect on <i>“the role of Meall Fuar-mhonaidh as a vantage point”</i> which is part of a Special Quality, but would not affect the appreciation of the Great Glen from this area, or the role of Meall Fuar-mhonaidh as a landmark in the Great Glen.</p> <p>From slightly lower areas, the Proposed Development may be seen on its own on the skyline, although trees and woodland areas would reduce the availability of this intervisibility (see VP2: Great Glen Way, Balbeg (Figure 7.9.2.3)). This would lead to a slightly increased effect along the skyline, affecting the Special Quality of an <i>“open, smooth moorland skyline ridge”</i>, but would generally reflect the pattern of other wind energy developments which are visible when moving through this landscape, through the side valleys of the eastern hills (Corriegarth and Dunmaglass). Overall, whilst the Proposed Development would be seen from these areas, in general, it would not affect the appreciation of the landform and landscapes of the Great Glen.</p> <p>When taking account the contribution of these effects and Special Qualities on the SLA as a whole, the landscape effect is considered to be <b>Minor</b> (not significant) during construction and operation. The integrity of the SLA would not be affected.</p>
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