

TECHNICAL APPENDIX 7.7: VISUAL ASSESSMENT TABLES

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1 Technical Appendix 7.7: Visual Assessment Tables

1.1 Introduction

1.1.1 This Technical Appendix provides detailed assessment of changes to the view from representative viewpoints (VPs) Residential Receptor Locations (RRLs) and Routes identified as having the potential to gain views of the Proposed Development. Detailed information on the rationale for those locations included in the visual assessment is included in Technical Appendix 7.2: Landscape and Visual Scoping Appraisal.

1.1.2 VPs are shown on Figure 7.5.1 (a larger version is presented on Figure 7.1.2) and RRLs and Routes are shown on Figure 7.6.2.

1.2 Viewpoint Assessment

Table 1.2.1: Viewpoint Assessment

Ref.	Name / Location / Type / Context	Nature of Existing View	Distance to nearest visible turbine	Nature of Change	Visual Sensitivity	No. of turbines theoretically visible	Magnitude		Effect	
							Construction	Operation	Construction	Operation
VP1	Beinn a' Mheadhoin (Glen Affric) (NH 21906 25555) Representative of the types of view obtained from high points within Glen Affric National Scenic Area and Central Highlands WLA. See Figures 7.9.1.1.1 – 7.9.1.3.	Elevated, panoramic views to the south-east, over Loch Beinn a' Mheadhoin across layered extensive moorland plateaux. To north and west views are more enclosed by the surrounding mountains with framed views up Glen Affric to west-south-west. Existing wind turbines are present to south and east including Corrimony, Bhlairidh, Beinneun, Millennium and other more distant sites.	33.5km	Eastern and western clusters of the Proposed Development would be perceptible in south-easterly views with blades seen above the skyline. It would be distant, appearing in a part of the view where turbines are already a feature and unlikely to be noticeably detracting.	Low	27	Low	Low	Minor (not significant)	Minor (not significant)

Ref.	Name / Location / Type / Context	Nature of Existing View	Distance to nearest visible turbine	Nature of Change	Visual Sensitivity	No. of turbines theoretically visible	Magnitude		Effect	
							Construction	Operation	Construction	Operation
VP2	<p>Great Glen Way, Balbeg (NH 49330 24347) Representative of views obtained from properties, minor roads and a section of the Great Glen Way on elevated ground to the west of Loch Ness. See Figures 7.9.2.1.1 – 7.9.2.3</p>	<p>Elevated, slightly reduced by nearby trees, generally east to south-easterly across Loch Ness and the Great Glen to the hills beyond. Foyers Power Station is prominent on the shore of Loch Ness, as is an overhead line which cuts a wayleave through forestry to its rear. Existing wind farms are present in the view. Corriegarth and Dunmaglass Wind Farms can be seen through gaps in the eastern hills.</p>	20.0km	<p>Western cluster turbines of the Proposed Development would appear in the middle distance of southerly views with turbines and blades perceptible through a gap in the hills. This would increase the proportion of the view occupied by wind turbines but would reflect a similar pattern of development to Dunmaglass and Corriegarth seen from this location. The Proposed Development would affect a relatively small part of the view and is considered unlikely to form a distracting new feature.</p>	Low - Medium	11	Low	Low	Minor (not significant)	Minor (not significant)

Ref.	Name / Location / Type / Context	Nature of Existing View	Distance to nearest visible turbine	Nature of Change	Visual Sensitivity	No. of turbines theoretically visible	Magnitude		Effect	
							Construction	Operation	Construction	Operation
VP3	<p>Meall Fuar-mhonaidh (NH 45889 22181) Popular local hill summit and highest point on the west side of Loch Ness, within Loch Ness and Duntelchaig SLA. Representative of views from other hills on this side of Loch Ness, such as Burach. Noted as a Key View in THC Onshore Wind Energy Supplementary Guidance (OWESG) See Figures 7.9.3.1.1 – 7.9.3.3.</p>	<p>Elevated, panoramic views over the surrounding landscape. To the east, from north-east to south, across the Great Glen and Loch Ness, the farmed and forested plateau beyond, to a backdrop of heather clad hills on the edge of the Monadhliath. Existing wind turbines are a feature of this view. Dunmaglass and Corriearth are seen through side valleys of the Monadhliath and Stronelaig is visible above the ridgeline. Millennium and Beinneun Wind Farms appear in mountainous southerly views. Views to the west (partially hidden from the VP by the crest of the hill) are across an extensive knolly plateau to distant mountains with Bhclairidh Wind Farm prominent in the near mid-ground.</p>	17.3km	<p>The Proposed Development would appear in southerly views within a part of the view occupied by existing Stronelaig turbines. Eastern and western clusters would appear separate, but would form a cohesive group with Stronelaig. The western cluster would slightly increase the field of view occupied by wind turbines. In general, the Proposed Development would appear slightly more prominent than Stronelaig, with turbines appearing larger and a few blades breaking the skyline. It would perceptibly increase the numbers of wind turbines in the view but would not change the character of the view where wind turbines are already a feature.</p>	Medium	36	Low - Medium	Low - Medium	Minor – Moderate (not significant)	Minor – Moderate (not significant)

Ref.	Name / Location / Type / Context	Nature of Existing View	Distance to nearest visible turbine	Nature of Change	Visual Sensitivity	No. of turbines theoretically visible	Magnitude		Effect	
							Construction	Operation	Construction	Operation
VP4	Carn na Saobhaidhe (NH 59863 14300) Summit of Corbett. Representative of the types of view obtained from high ground to the north of the Proposed Development. See Figures 7.9.4.1.1 – 7.9.4.3.	Elevated, panoramic 360° views over surrounding Monadhliath Plateau. To the east and north views are panoramic across the layered plateau with little sign of development. To the west views are more expansive and elevated over Loch Mhor with Corriegarth Wind Farm forming a prominent foreground feature and Millennium and Bhlairidh on the hills within the backdrop. Stronelaig appears as blades and occasional hubs in the southern panorama. The view is locally affected by a mast and track adjacent.	10.6km	The presence of existing foreground turbines and a mast reduces the sensitivity for this VP. The Proposed Development would appear within the southern landscape in an area already occupied by Stronelaig but would appear slightly more prominent with turbine hubs and blades appearing above the ridge. The eastern and western clusters would appear separate but would form a cohesive group with Stronelaig. The western cluster would affect the same part of the view as the more prominent Corriegarth. The eastern cluster would slightly increase the field of view occupied by turbines. However, the precedent for turbines within the southerly view is already set by the tips and blades of Stronelaig and the prominence of the Proposed Development would be reduced by the proximity of Corriegarth.	Low - Medium	36	Low – Medium	Low – Medium	Minor – Moderate (not significant)	Minor – Moderate (not significant)

Ref.	Name / Location / Type / Context	Nature of Existing View	Distance to nearest visible turbine	Nature of Change	Visual Sensitivity	No. of turbines theoretically visible	Magnitude		Effect	
							Construction	Operation	Construction	Operation
VP5	<p>Carn Dubh (NH 51675 09519) Representative of the types of views obtained from high ground to the north of the Proposed Development. See Figures 7.9.5.1.1 – 7.9.5.3.2.</p>	<p>Elevated, panoramic views, are expansive to distant mountains in the north and more contained across the valleys and ridges of the Monadhliath to south and east. Corriegarth Wind Farm forms a feature in the mid-ground of north-easterly views. Stronelaig is very prominent throughout the panoramic view to the south and south-west, though turbines sit low within ‘the bowl’ and seldom break the skyline.</p>	5.5km	<p>The eastern and western clusters would appear separate but would form a cohesive group behind and on either side of Stronelaig. Turbines would appear at a similar scale to those of Stronelaig but would slightly increase the occupied field of view to the east and west. The turbines would appear to occupy a similar situation to those of Stronelaig within ‘the bowl’ although eastern cluster turbines would breach the skyline slightly more. Nevertheless, given the existing prominence of Stronelaig within this view, this is considered unlikely to be detracting. The appearance of construction activities (e.g. cranes) may slightly increase prominence but this would be minimal given the context.</p>	Low	36	Low	Low	Minor (not significant)	Minor (not significant)
VP6	<p>Glen Markie (NH 54356 07217) Representative of views from recreational route (Scottish Hill Track 204) See Figures 7.9.6.1.1 – 7.9.6.3.</p>	<p>Framed views north-east and south-west along the glen with existing Stronelaig turbines prominent through the valley to the south-west.</p>	7.4km	<p>A few western cluster turbines would appear within the framed valley view to the rear of existing Stronelaig turbines. It is likely that the increase in turbines would be barely perceptible to anyone who did not have a detailed knowledge of the view without the Proposed Development being present.</p>	Low	7	Negligible	Negligible	Negligible (not significant)	Negligible (not significant)

Ref.	Name / Location / Type / Context	Nature of Existing View	Distance to nearest visible turbine	Nature of Change	Visual Sensitivity	No. of turbines theoretically visible	Magnitude		Effect	
							Construction	Operation	Construction	Operation
VP7	Carn a' Chuilinn (NH 41679 03397) Summit of Corbett in close proximity to the west of the Proposed Development. See Figures 7.9.7.1.1 – 7.9.7.3.	Elevated, panoramic 360° views of the surrounding glens and mountains. To the west, the view is panoramic and expansive across the Great Glen and Glen Garry with Millennium, Beinneun and Bhlairidh Wind Farms forming a focus on the hills. To the south, the Braeroy mountains and Creag Meagaidh form a dramatic landscape. Whilst to the east, the panorama is across the undulating plateau of the Monadhliath, with Stronelairg Wind Farm prominent but contained by the landform in the middle distance and Corriegarth Wind Farm seen more distantly to the north-east.	4.7km	The Proposed Development would appear within westerly views with the eastern cluster behind Stronelairg and the western cluster in front. Whilst eastern cluster turbines would be largely imperceptible in the context of Stronelairg, western cluster turbines would appear noticeably closer, larger and more prominent, and would noticeably increase the field of view occupied by wind turbines further to the south. Construction movement and tracks would be seen in some areas giving a greater sense of activity in the short term. The on-site substation would also be visible from this view.	Low-Medium	36	High	Medium to High	Moderate – Major (significant)	Moderate (significant)
VP8	Carn Dearg (Monadhliath) (NH 63545 02427) Munro summit. Representative of views from high ground near the western boundary of the CNP and within the Monadhliath WLA. See Figures 7.9.8.1.1 – 7.9.8.3.	Elevated, panoramic 360° views over the surrounding hills and glens, with the main focus to the south-east towards the Spey and Spean valleys and the mountains beyond. The existing Stronelairg Wind Farm is noticeable over the moorland ridge to the west and Dunmaglass Wind Farm is noticeable to the north. Other wind farms are perceptible in the farther distance of westerly views.	6.2km	The Proposed Development would appear within the westerly view, seen in combination with Stronelairg which reduces sensitivity of this part of the view. The turbines would appear larger and more prominent than those of Stronelairg, with eastern cluster turbines appearing closer and some western cluster turbines giving an impression of being higher set due to their larger size and increased presence above the skyline.	Medium	36	Low – Medium	Low – Medium	Minor - Moderate (significant)	Minor - Moderate (significant)

Ref.	Name / Location / Type / Context	Nature of Existing View	Distance to nearest visible turbine	Nature of Change	Visual Sensitivity	No. of turbines theoretically visible	Magnitude		Effect	
							Construction	Operation	Construction	Operation
VP9	<p>Geal Charn (Monadhliath) (NN 56145 98766) Munro summit in close proximity to the east of the Proposed Development. Representative of views from high ground on the western boundary of the CNP. See Figures 7.9.9.1.1 – 7.9.9.3.2.</p>	<p>Elevated, panoramic 360° views over the surrounding plateaux, mountains and glens with the turbines of the Stronelaig Wind Farm very prominent to the north-west. Other wind farms are seen more distantly within the western and northern backdrop of mountains and moorland</p>	2.7km	<p>The Proposed Development would appear in combination with the turbines of Stronelaig to the west and north-west. The eastern and western clusters would appear distinct but would be tied into a cohesive grouping with Stronelaig. Western cluster turbines would appear prominent in the close - middle distance and would be perceptibly larger than those of Stronelaig, increasing the field of view to the south and giving an impression of being slightly higher due to their larger size and some turbine blades breaching the skyline. Eastern cluster turbines would appear in the foreground with the nearest appearing larger than those of Stronelaig. The more northern turbines of this cluster would appear in scale but would increase the field of view to the north. However, given the prominence of Stronelaig this is not considered to be significant. Construction activities would also be seen from this location and may form an increased distraction through movement of vehicles, ground disturbance and enhance the perceived scale of the turbines</p>	Low - Medium	36	Medium to High	Medium	Moderate (significant)	Minor - Moderate (significant)

Ref.	Name / Location / Type / Context	Nature of Existing View	Distance to nearest visible turbine	Nature of Change	Visual Sensitivity	No. of turbines theoretically visible	Magnitude		Effect	
							Construction	Operation	Construction	Operation
VP10	<p>Braeriach (NN 95300 99906) Popular mountain summit within the CNP, The Cairngorm Mountains NSA and Cairngorms WLA. Representative of distant mountain views from CNP. See Figures 7.9.10.1.1 – 7.9.10.3.</p>	<p>Elevated, panoramic 360° views of the Cairngorm Plateau, steep corries and glens and the Spey Valley to the Monadhliath and the extensive upland landscape beyond. Existing wind farms form clusters on the far horizon from west, through to north-west: most notably Corriegarth, Dunmaglass and Farr.</p>	38.1km	<p>The Proposed Development (eastern and western clusters) would form an addition to an existing wind farm cluster featuring Stronelaairg, Millennium and Beinneun, which is just perceptible in the distant landscape to the west. It is likely that this would be a barely perceptible increase in turbines within the expansive panoramic view obtained from this location.</p>	Low	32	Negligible	Negligible	Negligible (not significant)	Negligible (not significant)
VP11	<p>Carn Liath (NN 47216 90352) Munro summit. Representative of views from high summits to the south of the Proposed Development and within Braeroy - Glenshirra - Creag Meagaidh WLA. See Figures 7.9.11.1.1 – 7.9.11.3.</p>	<p>Elevated, panoramic 360° views over the surrounding mountains, Glen Spean and the upper Glen Spey. The dramatic cliffs of Creag Meagaidh form a particular focus to the south-west whilst oblong forest plantations in Glen Spey appear incongruous in the northern close mid-ground. Stronelaairg Wind Farm is fairly prominent on the mid-ground plateau with other turbines perceptible in the farther distance to the north-west and north.</p>	10.3km	<p>The Proposed Development would form a perceptible addition to Stronelaairg in northerly views. The eastern and western clusters would appear distinct, but would form a cohesive group with Stronelaairg. The eastern cluster would slightly extend the occupied field of view, though of similar scale to Stronelaairg, Turbines would appear slightly higher with tips just above the skyline. The western cluster would perceptibly increase the occupied field of view to the west with tips appearing above the ridge. Turbines within the existing area occupied by Stronelaairg would appear slightly larger and closer. Construction activity may be perceptible at this distance but is considered unlikely to increase the level of effect.</p>	Medium	33	Low – Medium	Low – Medium	Minor – Moderate (not significant)	Minor – Moderate (not significant)

Ref.	Name / Location / Type / Context	Nature of Existing View	Distance to nearest visible turbine	Nature of Change	Visual Sensitivity	No. of turbines theoretically visible	Magnitude		Effect	
							Construction	Operation	Construction	Operation
VP12	<p>Glen Shirra (NN 53411 90479) Located on estate track. Representative of views obtained from lower level locations and walking routes in the CNP and Ben Alder, Laggan and Glen Banchor SLA. See Figure 7.9.12.1 – 7.9.12.3</p>	<p>Contained valley view to north and south with the main focus of the view being south-west across Loch Laggan. A few tips of the Stronelaig Wind Farm are barely perceptible in this view although the Beauly-Denny transmission line is fairly prominent to the north and west as it crosses the valley.</p>	11.2km	<p>A single tip of the eastern cluster of the Proposed Development would be barely perceptible within the northern view.</p>	Low - Medium	1	Negligible	Negligible	Negligible (not significant)	Negligible (not significant)
VP13	<p>Geal Charn (Ardverikie) (NN 50441 81229) Munro summit located in Ben Alder, Laggan and Glen Banchor SLA. Representative of elevated middle distance views from the south. See Figures 7.9.13.1.1 – 7.9.13.3.</p>	<p>Elevated, panoramic 360° views over the surrounding hills and mountains with Loch Laggan and Glen Spean to the north. The existing Stronelaig Wind Farm forms a perceptible feature in the northerly views with two groups of turbines seen on either side of an intervening hill, set slightly below the skyline. More distant turbines of Dunmaglass and Corriearth are barely perceptible on the distant skyline beyond.</p>	19.2km	<p>The Proposed Development would be seen in the context of Stronelaig in northerly views. Turbines of the eastern and western clusters would appear distinct but adjoining the two visible clusters of Stronelaig, The eastern cluster would slightly increase the affected field of view and appear slightly larger than the Stronelaig turbines but appear set in a similar low position within 'the bowl'. The western cluster turbines would appear at a similar scale to Stronelaig but may be perceived as slightly higher with more hubs and blades above the skyline. However, this is considered to be a perceptible rather than noticeable change to the view.</p>	Medium	27	Low	Low	Minor (not significant)	Minor (not significant)

Ref.	Name / Location / Type / Context	Nature of Existing View	Distance to nearest visible turbine	Nature of Change	Visual Sensitivity	No. of turbines theoretically visible	Magnitude		Effect	
							Construction	Operation	Construction	Operation
VP14	<p>A87, Loch Garry Viewpoint (NH 21165 02845) Popular stopping point on A87 tourist route. Representative of views obtained by those travelling east on this section of the A87. Noted as a Key View in (OWESG) See Figures 7.9.14.1.1 – 7.9.14.3.</p>	<p>Framed views east from the A87 and Loch Garry towards the Great Glen and hills to its east, reduced by adjacent forest. Elevated views are also obtained through trees over Loch Garry.</p>	25.0km	<p>The Proposed Development would be evident as a small group of western cluster blades or tips set in a low point on the eastern horizon. These would appear distant but may be perceptible in clear conditions due to the smooth and uninterrupted status of the skyline and framing of the view.</p>	Medium	5	Low	Low	Minor (not significant)	Minor (not significant)
VP15	<p>Beinn Teallach (NN 36142 85969) Munro summit located within Braeroy, Glenshirra – Creag Meagaidh WLA. Representative of elevated views from the south-west. See Figures 7.9.15.1.1 – 7.9.15.3.</p>	<p>Elevated, 360° panoramic views over a succession of mountains in all directions. The Millennium and Beinneun Wind Farms are noticeable in the middle distance to the north-north-west and some turbines of the Bhlairidh and Stronelairg Wind Farms are perceptible to the north-east. Corriegarth and Dunmaglass turbines may be seen on the skyline beyond Stronelairg in clear conditions but are generally barely perceptible.</p>	18.4km	<p>Seen in north-easterly views in context of existing Stronelairg turbines. Western and eastern cluster turbines would be separate, although seen in the context of different groups of Stronelairg turbines. The turbines of the Proposed Development would appear larger and closer than Stronelairg, and would occupy a greater field of view. This is likely to increase prominence of turbines in this part of the view. However, it would occupy only part of the view and one where wind turbines are already perceived.</p>	Medium - High	28	Low - Medium	Low - Medium	Minor - Moderate (significant)	Minor - Moderate (significant)

Ref.	Name / Location / Type / Context	Nature of Existing View	Distance to nearest visible turbine	Nature of Change	Visual Sensitivity	No. of turbines theoretically visible	Magnitude		Effect	
							Construction	Operation	Construction	Operation
VP16	Footpath East of Loch Spey (NN 42847 94138) Located within Braeroy, Glenshirra – Creag Meagaidh WLA. Representative of views from recreational routes within Upper Glen of the Spey. See Figures 7.9.16.1.1 – 7.9.16.3.	Low vantage views, framed within broad, open valley to north-east and south-west towards the surrounding hills. The south-westerly view has little evidence of human features but the Beauly – Denny overhead transmission line is perceptible in the view to the north-east, as are some small forest plantations which tend to draw the focus in this direction.	9.1km	The Proposed Development would appear as three western cluster blades over the north-eastern skyline. Appearing over a low point in the skyline, it would be contained by adjacent hills and would be within the part of the view where small forest plantation and the overhead line already form distractions. The blades would be noticeable in this context, but would not be very prominent and are considered unlikely to appear out of place due to the existing features in this part of the view.	Medium	3	Medium – Low	Medium – Low	Minor – Moderate (not significant)	Minor – Moderate (not significant)
VP17	Carn Dearg (Glen Roy) (NN 35029 96630) Corbett summit located within Braeroy, Glenshirra – Creag Meagaidh WLA. Representative of elevated views from south-west in near distance. See Figures 7.9.17.1.1 – 7.9.17.3.	Elevated, 360° panoramic views over surrounding extensive hills and mountains. Beinneun and Millennium Wind Farms form a prominent feature to the north-west whilst Bhlairidh is perceptible to the north. A few turbines of Stronelaig are also perceptible to the north-east, to the right of Glen Tarff, seen in context with the Glendoe hydro dam and reservoir. Turbines of Corriegarth are distant on the skyline beyond.	12.8km	A few turbines of the Proposed Development (western cluster) would be seen in context with Stronelaig but more prominently through the gap of Glen Tarff. A small number of tips may be perceived just over the skyline farther to the east. Turbines may create a focus in this part of the view but would be seen in a context of other existing features including the dam and existing turbines. Although they would appear a little closer they would affect a relatively small part of the view.	Medium	12	Low	Low	Minor – Moderate (not significant)	Minor – Moderate (not significant)

Ref.	Name / Location / Type / Context	Nature of Existing View	Distance to nearest visible turbine	Nature of Change	Visual Sensitivity	No. of turbines theoretically visible	Magnitude		Effect	
							Construction	Operation	Construction	Operation
VP18	Loch na Lairige (NN 55806 91384) Located within CNP and Ben Alder, Laggan and Glen Banchor SLA. Representative of elevated views around Strath Mashie. See Figures 7.9.18.1.1 – 7.9.18.3.	Elevated, 360° panoramic views of the surrounding hills. Views over Loch Laggan and Strath Mashie and up Glen Pattack provide a particular focus within the view. A few blades and tips of the Stronelaig Wind Farm are present over the horizon of the hills the north, as well as a few towers of the Beauly – Denny overhead line.	11.1km	The Proposed Development (western cluster) would appear within a dip on the north-western skyline. The turbines would form a new focus of the view in the middle-distance. However, they would not affect the more extensive views over Loch Laggan and up Glen Pattack, likely to be most valued from this location.	Medium - High	20	Medium	Medium	Moderate (significant)	Moderate (significant)
VP19	Carn na Caim (NN 67701 82147) Munro summit to east of A9 located in CNP and Cairngorms WLA. Representative of elevated views from CNP to the south-east. See Figures 7.9.19.1.1 – 7.9.19.3.	Elevated, 360° panoramic views over upland plateau towards a succession of distant mountains. A few tips of the Stronelaig Wind Farm are theoretically visible in the north-westerly view but generally imperceptible. The Millennium Wind Farm is a distant and barely perceptible feature to the west-north-west.	22.7km	The western cluster of the Proposed Development would be seen within a dip in the hills to the north-east where a few Stronelaig tips may be perceptible. It would be back-clothed by the more distant landform if conditions were very clear but tips may break the skyline if the farther horizon was not visible. The eastern cluster would be apparent as tips over the horizon to the north of the western cluster. These turbines may be less perceptible, but where visible, would increase the field of view. Generally, the Proposed Development would be a perceptible new feature in a part of the view. It may attract some focus but is considered unlikely to be distracting.	Medium	31	Low	Low	Minor (not significant)	Minor (not significant)

Ref.	Name / Location / Type / Context	Nature of Existing View	Distance to nearest visible turbine	Nature of Change	Visual Sensitivity	No. of turbines theoretically visible	Magnitude		Effect	
							Construction	Operation	Construction	Operation
VP20	<p>Urquhart Castle (NH 53103 28638) Important tourist site and Scheduled Monument located within Loch Ness and Duntelchaig SLA. Representative of low level views from western side of Loch Ness (although VP located on the citadel approximately 20 m above ground level) Noted as a Key View in (OWESG). See Figure 7.9.20.</p>	Framed views to the south along the length of Loch Ness and to the north across the remainder of Urquhart Castle.	N/A (24.0km to nearest turbine)	The Proposed Development would not be visible from the location of this VP which is located on one of the highest points of the castle.	Medium	0	Negligible	Negligible	Negligible (not significant)	Negligible (not significant)

1.3 Residential Areas Assessment

Table 1.3.1: Residential Areas Assessment (refer also to Figure 7.6.2: Visual Receptors included in the Assessment)

Ref.	Name / Location / Type / Context	Nature of Existing View	Distance to nearest visible turbine	Nature of Change	Visual Sensitivity	No. of turbines theoretically visible	Magnitude		Effect	
							Construction	Operation	Construction	Operation
RRL1	Bunloit, Balbeg and Inchterrach House Group of scattered residential properties set in an elevated position to the west of Loch Ness	Views from these properties are typically elevated, overlooking Loch Ness and the Great Glen towards the eastern hills. However, local trees and woodland typically filter and limit the extent of the view obtained. VP2: Great Glen Way, Balbeg, (Figure 7.9.2.3) gives an indication of the type of view obtained, although this view is more open than that obtained from most of the properties.	18.5km	Some western cluster turbines may appear in the middle distance of southerly views with turbines and blades perceptible through a gap in the hills. This may increase the proportion of the view occupied by wind turbines but the existing Dunmaglass and Corriearth developments are already seen from some properties in a similar context to the east and south-east. The Proposed Development would affect a relatively small part of the view and would often be screened or filtered by local vegetation.	Low	10 – 13	Low	Low	Minor (not significant)	Minor (not significant)
RRL2	Whitebridge Small settlement cluster and surrounding scattered properties located in Strath Errick around the confluence of the River Fechlin and Allt Breineag.	Low vantage views across the valley floor, usually orientated to the south or west with a backdrop of the surrounding heather-clad hills. Properties are typically set within woodland or surrounding garden trees which filter or screen the wider view.	10.2km	Views from these properties would typically arise from one or two western cluster turbines seen through the gap of Glen Brein. These would often comprise just a single tip, likely to appear barely perceptible. However, a full turbine may appear from some angles. Nevertheless, this would be small within the wider view and likely to be of limited perceptibility when bearing in mind the effects of trees and woodland close to the receptor.	Low	1 – 3	Low	Low	Minor (not significant)	Minor (not significant)

Ref.	Name / Location / Type / Context	Nature of Existing View	Distance to nearest visible turbine	Nature of Change	Visual Sensitivity	No. of turbines theoretically visible	Magnitude		Effect	
							Construction	Operation	Construction	Operation
RRL3	Foyers (upper) Small community formed of terraced traditional cottages set on the east side of Loch Ness, above the Falls of Foyers.	With north, south and easterly orientation, generally enclosed by adjacent woodland, views are across a small park and amenity area or gardens.	15.1km	The Proposed Development (western cluster), may be seen in southerly views from a few properties through the gap of Glen Brein. However, given the generally close focus of views and surrounding wooded context it is considered likely to be generally barely perceptible as an element of the view.	Low	5	Negligible	Negligible	Negligible (not significant)	Negligible (not significant)
RRL4	Garvamore and Garvabeg A few remote cottage and lodge properties set in the Upper Glen of the Spey, some appear derelict but all have been assessed as potential residences.	Low vantage, generally enclosed views across the valley floor with backdrop of hills. The main orientation is north / south from the cottages at Gravabeg and east / west from the house at Garvamore.	6.4km	The Proposed Development would appear as a small number of western cluster turbines and tips over a low point in the skyline to the north-west, partially filtered by trees from Garvamore. This is not likely to be the main valued part of the view from any of these properties. However, the turbines would appear relatively prominent where seen. The Proposed Development would be seen within a context of existing transmission towers for the Beaully-Denny overhead line, an area of forest plantation and an existing access track which winds up the hill. These features reduce the sensitivity of this part of the view.	Low - Medium	3 – 6	Low – Medium	Low – Medium	Minor – Moderate (not significant)	Minor – Moderate (not significant)

Ref.	Name / Location / Type / Context	Nature of Existing View	Distance to nearest visible turbine	Nature of Change	Visual Sensitivity	No. of turbines theoretically visible	Magnitude		Effect	
							Construction	Operation	Construction	Operation
RRL5	Killin and Garrogie Lodges Two shooting lodges and associated development within River Fechlin glen.	Generally enclosed, low vantage views across and along the valley floor. The main orientation of the view is generally eastwards from Killin Lodge and southerly from Garrogie Lodge. Some trees close to the properties reduce the extent of views in other directions, particularly from Killin Lodge. The turbines of the Stronelaig Wind Farm are prominent in the southerly view from Killin Lodge area but hidden by landform from Garrogie Lodge.	6.3km	The tiny tip of the eastern cluster theoretically visible from this location is likely to be imperceptible in the view, particularly from Killin Lodge where it would be seen in the context of existing Stronelaig wind turbines.	Low	1	Negligible	Negligible	Negligible (not significant)	Negligible (not significant)

1.4 Routes Assessment

Table 1.4.1: Assessment of Views from Routes

Ref.	Name / Location / Type / Context	Nature of Existing View	Distance to nearest visible turbine	Nature of Change	Visual Sensitivity	No. of turbines theoretically visible	Magnitude		Effect	
							Construction	Operation	Construction	Operation
R1	A82 Trunk Road Busy main route between Fort William and Inverness through the Great Glen, popular with tourists.	Usually low level views, minimised by adjacent forest and woodland, but with frequent open views along and across lochs. The Millennium Wind Farm forms a very noticeable feature from this route on the western hills, whilst Corriegarth and Dunmaglass Wind Farms are occasionally glimpsed from Loch Ness-side.	18.0km	No views would be obtained of the Proposed Development from the majority of the route within the detailed study area. There may be occasional glimpsed views of a few western cluster turbines from small parts of the route alongside Loch Ness towards the northern part of the detailed study area within a dip on the southern skyline. However, these would be very filtered by roadside vegetation and likely to be very difficult to perceive.	Low	1 – 7	Negligible	Negligible	Negligible (not significant)	Negligible (not significant)
R2	B852 (also part of National Cycle Route 78) Winding single track route from Whitebridge alongside the River Foyers and eastern shore of Loch Ness.	Winding road often enclosed by woodland but offering occasional snapshot views over small open fields around the River Foyers. These more open views are usually relatively intimate with mid-ground woodland limiting the extent of view.	12.1km	There may be occasional glimpsed views through the gap of Glen Brien from the most southerly parts of this route of tips of a few western cluster turbines. The availability of these views would be very limited by roadside trees and, where potentially visible, they would be very small features of limited perceptibility.	Low	1 – 5	Negligible	Negligible	Negligible (not significant)	Negligible (not significant)

Ref.	Name / Location / Type / Context	Nature of Existing View	Distance to nearest visible turbine	Nature of Change	Visual Sensitivity	No. of turbines theoretically visible	Magnitude		Effect	
							Construction	Operation	Construction	Operation
R3	B862 (also part of National Cycle Route 78) Partially single carriageway / single track road from Fort Augustus to Dores via Strath Errick to the east of Loch Ness.	Varying and changing views, often very expansive from elevated areas, particularly between Fort Augustus and Whitebridge, but more intimate across fields and lochs and enclosed by woodland through Strath Errick.	9.5km	Limited to a brief, glimpsed view of one or two western cluster turbines through Glen Brein, theoretically obtained from a very short section of the road around Whitebridge, much of which is within woodland. When travelling along this route, it is likely that this brief view would be relatively unnoticeable.	Low	1 – 2	Negligible	Negligible	Negligible (not significant)	Negligible (not significant)
R4	The Great Glen Way Long distance recreational route from Fort William to Inverness with high level and low level options.	Views often contained within forestry with some more expansive vistas across the Great Glen from the higher level route which it is outwith trees and occasional lower level framed views across areas of glen floor or Loch Ness. From parts of the route, existing turbines of Corriegarh and Dunmaglass Wind Farms are visible on parts of the eastern skyline.	15.0km	From more elevated sections of this route between Alltsigh and Bunloit there may be glimpsed views of western cluster turbine blades and tips on the eastern skyline and occasionally eastern cluster turbines. However, these would be frequently screened or filtered by intervening woodland and trees as the route is often within or along the edge of forestry and woodland. The Proposed Development would appear relatively distant and small and would reflect the existing pattern of visibility of wind turbines. Whilst it would form a perceptible change in this context, it is considered unlikely to lead to any noticeable reduction in the visual amenity of those using the route.	Low	1 – 29	Low	Low	Minor (not significant)	Minor (not significant)

Ref.	Name / Location / Type / Context	Nature of Existing View	Distance to nearest visible turbine	Nature of Change	Visual Sensitivity	No. of turbines theoretically visible	Magnitude		Effect	
							Construction	Operation	Construction	Operation
R5	Scottish Hill Track 200: Dalwhinnie to Feagour (Strath Mashie) Mostly unmarked route through upland moorland and forest connecting Glen Truim and Strath Mashie.	Elevated and open views from some parts are often framed between surrounding rounded hills and restricted at lower level in some areas by actively managed forest plantation and woodland. The Beauly – Denny overhead line is prominent from parts of the north-western section of the route.	15.3km	From the highest part of this route, between Meall nan Eagan and Carn na Ceàrdaich western cluster turbines would be perceptible on a low point of the north-western horizon. They would appear prominent from this short section of the route, but would be seen in the context of the nearby Beauly – Denny steel lattice towers which reduces sensitivity of this view. There would be no view from the majority of the route.	Medium	1 – 18	Low	Low	Minor (not significant)	Minor (not significant)
R6	Scottish Hill Track 231: Tomatin to Whitebridge (also Right of Way (RoW) HI106) Long route with sections of minor public road up River Findhorn and Loch Killin connected by minor paths and unmarked routes across the Monadhliath via Rivers Markie and Eskine	As this route is predominantly within glens, views tend to be funnelled along the route, rivers which it follows and at the eastern end, to north and south within the trench-like valley enclosing Loch Killin. Views are terminated by the rounded hills and ridges of the Monadhliath. Turbines of Stronelaig Wind Farm are prominent in southerly views up Loch Killin and its glen and westerly views along Glen Markie, framed within the valley view.	5.4km	Western cluster turbines would appear within views obtained along Glen Markie to the rear of with existing Stronelaig turbines. It is likely that the increase in visible turbines would not be very perceptible from this part of the route given the numbers of turbines already visible. One eastern cluster tip may be perceptible from the northern end of Loch Killin but otherwise the Proposed Development would not be visible from this part of the route. Overall, when travelling this route, it is considered that the Proposed Development would be unlikely to lead to any perceptible reduction in visual amenity when considering the prominence of the existing Stronelaig turbines.	Low	1 – 22	Negligible	Negligible	Negligible (not significant)	Negligible (not significant)

Ref.	Name / Location / Type / Context	Nature of Existing View	Distance to nearest visible turbine	Nature of Change	Visual Sensitivity	No. of turbines theoretically visible	Magnitude		Effect	
							Construction	Operation	Construction	Operation
R7	<p>Scottish Hill Track 235: Laggan to Whitebridge (also RoW HI109 and Heritage Track 'Glen Markie Track'). Following tracks and unmarked routes from Laggan / Spey Dam to Whitebridge via Glen Markie (Laggan) and Loch Killin.</p>	<p>This route passes through the eastern edge of the existing Stronelaig Wind Farm and therefore wind turbines are very prominent from the elevated parts of the route as it passes over the high moorland plateau. To the south of this, within the CNP, views are usually orientated to the south, framed within Glen Markie overlooking upper Glen Spey and featuring the southern Ardverikie mountains. To the north, framed views are obtained up and down Loch Killin</p>	325m	<p>This route passes through the Proposed Development between turbines C30 and C31. It is also likely that access track construction would interact with this route with pedestrians potentially re-routing onto proposed access tracks, where they provide an easier route. During construction, works would be immediate and even with the presence of the existing wind farm would be prominent and distracting in the view. In the longer term, the new tracks and turbines would be very close and prominent. However, given the existing route already passes through an operational wind farm would not be a very noticeable new distraction. Nevertheless, the increase in prominent turbines within the view would be noticeable from some parts, particularly on the southern approach to Chalybeate Spring where the eastern cluster would be prominent in the main view, and the difference in scale to existing turbines would be perceptible. An increase in turbines to the west associated with the western cluster would also be perceived from some parts but would be seen to the rear of existing Stronelaig turbines.</p>	Low - Medium	1 – 33	Medium	Low	Moderate (significant)	Minor (not significant)

Ref.	Name / Location / Type / Context	Nature of Existing View	Distance to nearest visible turbine	Nature of Change	Visual Sensitivity	No. of turbines theoretically visible	Magnitude		Effect	
							Construction	Operation	Construction	Operation
R8	<p>Scottish Hill Track 237: Laggan to Roybridge or Glenfintaig Lodge (Spean Bridge) by Leckroy</p> <p>(also Heritage Path 'The Soft Road for the Hogs' and part of Scottish Hill Track 236 / Heritage Path 'Corrieyairack Pass')</p> <p>Low level rural route comprising roads, tracks and path through upper Glen Spey and Glen Roy.</p>	<p>Generally low level views contained by the surrounding hills and mountain, framed within valleys towards a surrounding skyline of rounded hills. Framed views are more open towards the east through upper Glen Spey.</p> <p>The Beauly – Denny overhead line passes adjacent to this route through upper Glen Spey and can be seen on the northern approach to Melgarve.</p>	5.7km	<p>There would be no view of the Proposed Development from the majority of this route. From two short sections of the route there would be views of small numbers of western cluster turbines and blades over the northern skyline. These would be sited at a low point in the skyline and seen in a context of other features such as the Beauly – Denny overhead line towers and Melgarve substation. However, they would be in a position which would result in their being a noticeable feature of the main view from these short sections. The contribution of these views to the visual amenity of the whole route is considered unlikely to be significant, given the short sections affected and context of the existing overhead line infrastructure.</p>	Low – Medium	1 – 8	Medium - Low	Medium - Low	Minor – Moderate (not significant)	Minor – Moderate (not significant)

Ref.	Name / Location / Type / Context	Nature of Existing View	Distance to nearest visible turbine	Nature of Change	Visual Sensitivity	No. of turbines theoretically visible	Magnitude		Effect	
							Construction	Operation	Construction	Operation
R9	South Loch Ness Trail Long distance route from Fort Augustus to Dores following footpaths, tracks and minor roads.	Changing views when moving along the trail. Expansive and open from some sections – particularly crossing over Carn an t-Suidhe and more enclosed woodland views around Whitebridge, Foyers and Inverfarigaig. Existing Corriegarth, Dunmaglass and Farr Wind Farms are intermittently visible on the eastern hills within open views whilst Bhlaraidh and Millennium Wind Farms are seen where open westerly views are obtained.	10.3km	There would be no view of the Proposed Development from the majority of this route. Occasional views would be obtained intermittently from very small sections between Whitebridge and Foyers of up to 5 western cluster turbines through the gap of Glen Brein in the southern hills. However, these views would be often filtered or screened by nearby woodland and their effect on the visual amenity of the route would therefore be very limited.	Low	1 – 5	Negligible	Negligible	Negligible (not significant)	Negligible (not significant)

Ref.	Name / Location / Type / Context	Nature of Existing View	Distance to nearest visible turbine	Nature of Change	Visual Sensitivity	No. of turbines theoretically visible	Magnitude		Effect	
							Construction	Operation	Construction	Operation
R10	Monadhliath Trail Long distance recreational route using the operational access track up to and through Stronelaig Wind Farm from Glendoebeg to the eastern extremity of the wind farm, then heading north to Whitebridge via River Fechlin and Loch Killin via existing estate tracks.	Varying views when travelling along the route are open and expansive from higher level area but with the Stronelaig Wind Farm being very prominent and adjacent for around 15km of the route across the upper plateau. Along Loch Killin and River Killin the view is funnelled through the deep glen with wind turbines being prominent in the southern focus of the view. Elsewhere, views across the lower lying valley landscapes are sometimes filtered by trees with occasional more open views across farmland with a backdrop of hills.	350m	Part of this route provides access for the Proposed Development and construction works would therefore be immediate and distracting for walkers with potential for physical disruption. Proposed turbines would appear very prominent from this route but within areas where Stronelaig turbines are already prominent. However, the length of route where turbines would be immediate and close (within about 500 m) would be increased by around 2km when passing the western cluster which would in turn expand the extent of more distant views. Nevertheless, given the viewing expectation of those using this route through an existing operational wind farm, this is not considered likely to be a long term significant effect. There would be little perceptible increase in visible turbines on the Loch Killin / River Fechlin part of the route.	Low	1 – 36	High	Low	Moderate (significant)	Minor (not significant)