

TECHNICAL APPENDIX 7.2: LANDSCAPE AND VISUAL SCOPING APPRAISAL

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1. Technical Appendix 7.2: Landscape and Visual Scoping Appraisal

1.1 Introduction

- 1.1.1 This technical appendix presents the findings of a high level appraisal of landscape areas and viewpoints and sets out the rationale behind, and identification of, the scope for the landscape and visual impact assessment (LVIA) and cumulative landscape and visual assessment (CLVIA). The aim of this appraisal is to focus the LVIA / CLVIA on those areas where there is the potential for significant effects to occur.

1.2 Study Area

- 1.2.1 In line with current guidance (SNH, 2017): Visual Representation of Wind Farms Guidance (Version 2.2) p 12), the Study Area for the LVIA has been set at 40km radius from the Proposed Development site boundary (the wider study area). This is considered to be the maximum distance within which any significant landscape or visual effect may be experienced. However, following initial review and site appraisal, it was identified that the majority of significant effects would be most likely to occur within an area of approximately 20km. A smaller study area of 20km (the detailed study area) has therefore been defined for a more targeted and detailed assessment.

- 1.2.2 The study areas have been applied as follows:

Landscape Assessment

- All designated and protected landscapes within the wider study area have been given consideration within the assessment. However, following an initial appraisal, where effects are identified as unlikely, these areas have been scoped out of more detailed assessment (see Table 1.3.1 below).
- Landscape character have been given consideration within the detailed study area of 20km. A high level appraisal of Landscape Character Types and areas within the detailed study area is provided in Table 1.3.2 below.

Visual Assessment

- Within the wider study area, a series of 21 viewpoints (VPs) have been selected in consultation with NatureScot and The Highland Council (THC). These VPs form the basis of the visual assessment. The final list of VPs was confirmed with NatureScot and THC and was the outcome of a larger number of considered VPs, as discussed in Table 1.4.1, below.
- In addition to the VP based assessment, a more targeted assessment of potential visual receptors within the detailed study area of 20km, has taken place. The scope of this assessment is discussed in section 1.4 of this Technical Appendix.

Cumulative Assessment

- 1.2.3 All landscape areas and VPs and routes included in the main LVIA were considered for inclusion in the CLVIA. However, because the focus of the CLVIA is on potential significant effects, areas or viewpoints which were identified as experiencing a Negligible landscape or visual effect were scoped out of the CLVIA as it is considered that a Negligible individual effect could not contribute to a significant cumulative effect. The scope of the cumulative landscape and visual assessments is detailed in Table 1.3.3 and Table 1.4.3.

1.3 Scope of Landscape Assessment

- 1.3.1 Table 1.3.1 and Table 1.3.2 list the landscape character types and landscape designations / protected areas within the wider and detailed study area and provide an explanation of those which have been selected for inclusion within the assessment.

Designated and Protected Landscapes

- 1.3.2 All designated and protected landscapes within the detailed study area (see Figure 7.2.1) are considered in Table 1.3.1 and reasoning provided for their inclusion or exclusion

Table 1.3.1: Designated and Protected Landscapes within the Wider Study Area

Designated / protected Landscape	Approximate Distance to Proposed Development (nearest turbine)	Potential for Significant Effects	Inclusion in Detailed Assessment
National Scenic Area (NSA)			
Assynt - Coigach NSA	9.8 km	ZTV indicates intervisibility with summits and south and easterly facing slopes.	Yes
Dornoch Firth NSA	20.3km	ZTV indicates theoretical intervisibility on enclosing slopes and coastal areas at western end.	Yes
Kyle of Tongue NSA	33.7 km	ZTV indicates intervisibility on higher mountains but at considerable distance and in a part of the context where wind turbines are already present. Significant effects considered very unlikely.	No
North - West Sutherland NSA	32.4 km	ZTV suggests limited intervisibility on high summits at considerable distance and in a part of the context where wind turbines are already present. Significant effects considered very unlikely.	No
Wild Land Area (WLA)			
WLA 29: Rhiddoroch – Beinn Dearg – Ben Wyvis	13.3 km	Scoped out to focus on WLAs 34 and 37 in agreement with NatureScot (see Chapter 7, Table 7.3.1).	No
WLA 32: Inverpolly – Glen Canisp	22.0 km	Scoped out to focus on WLAs 34 and 37 in agreement with NatureScot (see Chapter 7, Table 7.3.1).	No
WLA 33: Quinag	26.6 km	ZTV indicates no intervisibility.	No
WLA 34: Reay – Cassley	Within	The Proposed Development is located just inside the boundary of the WLA. WLA Assessment included as per Scoping Response from NatureScot (see Chapter 7, Table 7.3.1 and Technical Appendix 7.5).	Yes

Designated / protected Landscape	Approximate Distance to Proposed Development (nearest turbine)	Potential for Significant Effects	Inclusion in Detailed Assessment
WLA 35: Ben Klibreck – Armine Forest	16.8 km	Scoped out to focus on WLAs 34 and 37 in agreement with NatureScot (see Chapter 7, Table 7.3.1).	No
WLA 37: Foinaven – Ben Hee	11.6 km	ZTV indicates widespread intervisibility within southern section of WLA. WLA Assessment included as per Scoping Response from NatureScot (see Chapter 7, Table 7.3.1 and Technical Appendix 7.6).	Yes
Sites included on the Inventory of Gardens and Designed Landscapes (GDLs)			
Ardross Castle GDL	34.5 km	ZTV indicates no intervisibility.	No
Balnagown Castle GDL	41.6 km	ZTV indicates no intervisibility.	No
Dunrobin Castle GDL	36.2 km	ZTV indicates no intervisibility.	No
Leckmelin GDL	34.9 km	ZTV indicates no intervisibility.	No
Novar GDL	40.5 km	ZTV indicates no intervisibility.	No
Skibo Castle GDL	20.0 km	ZTV indicates no intervisibility.	No
Special Landscape Area (SLA)			
Ben Klibreck and Loch Choire SLA	17.2 km	ZTV suggests intervisibility with summits and facing slopes within 20 km.	Yes
Ben Wyvis SLA	32.2 km	ZTV indicates very limited distant intervisibility within a part of the context where wind turbines are already a feature. Significant effects considered very unlikely.	No
Bens Grian and Loch nan Clar SLA	35.3 km	ZTV indicates no intervisibility.	No
Fannichs, Beinn Dearg and Glencalvie SLA	15.1 km	ZTV indicates theoretical visibility across upland areas in the north-east of the SLA which reflect Special Qualities.	Yes
Loch Fleet, Loch Brora and Glen Loth SLA	29.8km	ZTV indicates limited, distant intervisibility in areas where existing, closer wind farms are more prominent, considered unlikely to affect the Special Qualities which reflect more immediate features and coastal qualities. Significant effects considered very unlikely	No

Landscape Character

- 1.3.3 NatureScot in conjunction with partner Councils, has undertaken detailed review and classification of various landscape areas and types of Scotland. This study has recently been updated to identify Landscape Character Types (LCTs) on a consistent basis across Scotland. Nine individual LCTs are identified within the detailed study area as shown on Figures 7.3.3 and 7.3.4).
- 1.3.4 All LCTs and LCAs within the detailed study area are considered in Table 1.3.2 and reasoning provided for their inclusion or exclusion

Table 1.3.2: Landscape Character Types (LCTs) within the Detailed Study Area

LCT / LCA	Approximate Distance to Proposed Development (nearest turbine)	Appraisal	Inclusion in Detailed Assessment
LCT 134: Sweeping Moorland and Flows	6.9 km	Found in two locations in detailed study area: Strath Tirry and ZTV indicates widespread intervisibility across both areas.	Yes
LCT 135: Rounded Hills - Caithness & Sutherland	Within	The Proposed Location is located within the LCT.	Yes
LCT 136: Rocky Hills and Moorland	17.6 km	ZTV indicates no intervisibility.	No
LCT 138: Lone Mountains	18.1 km	Small part of LCT within Detailed Study area but ZTV indicates intervisibility and potential to affect key characteristics which include extensive views of the surrounding area.	Yes
LCT 139: Rugged Mountain Massif - Caithness & Sutherland	10.8 km	ZTV indicates intervisibility with this LCT within the Detailed Study Area. Potential to affect key characteristics which include extensive views of the surrounding area and wildness.	Yes
LCT 142: Strath - Caithness & Sutherland	1.1 km	ZTV indicates intervisibility at close proximity.	Yes
LCT 145: Farmed and Forested Slopes with Crofting	8.7 km	ZTV indicates intervisibility with some elevated areas. Potential to affect elevated views recognised as a key characteristic of the LCT.	Yes
LCT 329: Rounded Mountain Massif	20.4 km	Small part of LCT within Detailed Study area but ZTV indicates intervisibility and potential to affect key characteristics including far-reaching views of the surrounding area.	Yes

LCT / LCA	Approximate Distance to Proposed Development (nearest turbine)	Appraisal	Inclusion in Detailed Assessment
LCT 330: Rounded Hills and Moorland Slopes - Ross & Cromarty	17.8 km	ZTV indicates small degree of intervisibility within 20 km considered very unlikely to affect key characteristics of LCT.	No

Cumulative Landscape Assessment

- 1.3.5 The cumulative landscape assessment has considered all designated or protected landscapes and LCTs / LCAs identified for inclusion within the landscape assessment. However, those areas identified as having a Negligible effect in the landscape assessment (for the Proposed Development alone) were not included as it is considered that a Negligible landscape effect could not contribute to a significant cumulative effect. The cumulative landscape assessment therefore includes the areas listed in Table 1.3.3.

Table 1.3.3: Designated / Protected Landscapes and LCTs / LCAs included in the Cumulative Landscape Assessment

Landscape Area	Name
Designated / Protected Landscapes	
National Scenic Area	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Assynt - Coigach NSA.
Wild Land Area	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> WLA 34: Reay – Cassley; and WLA 37: Foinaven – Ben Hee.
Special Landscape Area	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ben Klibreck and Loch Choire SLA.
LCTs	
LCTs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> LCT 134: Sweeping Moorland and Flows; LCT 135: Rounded Hills - Caithness & Sutherland; LCT 138: Lone Mountains; LCT 139: Rugged Mountain Massif - Caithness & Sutherland (Ben-More Assynt sub-area only); LCT 142: Strath - Caithness & Sutherland (Glen Cassley, Strath Oykel and Kyle of Sutherland, and Strath Tirry sub-areas); and LCT 145: Farmed and Forested Slopes with Crofting (Lairg sub-area).

1.4 Scope of Visual Assessment

- 1.4.1 Potential VPs and visual receptor locations which have been selected for inclusion in the assessment are detailed in this section along with the rationale for their inclusion or otherwise.

Viewpoint Selection

- 1.4.2 VPs considered for inclusion in the assessment are outlined in Table 1.4.1. This includes those which were chosen for inclusion within the assessment, and those which were considered and not included. This includes VPs recommended by consultees in Scoping and Post Scoping consultation. The majority of VPs considered for inclusion in the assessment were those used in the 2012 Glencassley Wind Farm application LVIA.
- 1.4.3 The final list of VPs has been confirmed with NatureScot and Highland Council (THC) (see Figure 7.4.1)

Table 1.4.1: Appraisal of Viewpoints Considered for the LVIA

Viewpoint	Consultation History	Appraisal	Inclusion in Detailed Assessment
VP1 A836 above the Crask Inn NC 52294 25050	Originally included in Glencassley 2012 LVIA. Proposed in Scoping Report and Scoping Refresh.	Overlooking local stopping point on otherwise undeveloped route. Also illustrative of cumulative effects.	Yes
VP2 A836 bridge by Dalnessie entrance NC 57475 13940	Originally included in Glencassley 2012 LVIA. It was proposed at Scoping that this VP be excluded from the LVIA as the location was considered adequately represented by VPs 8 and 9. However, the VP was re-introduced at the request of THC.	Representative of views obtained by travellers on the A836. Also illustrative of cumulative effects.	Yes
VP3 Saval NC 59173 08273	Originally included in Glencassley 2012 LVIA. Proposed in Scoping Report and Scoping Refresh. Subject to a small degree of micro-siting.	Representative of views from scattered residential properties. Also illustrative of cumulative effects.	Yes
VP4 Rhilochan NC 74824 06805	Originally included in Glencassley 2012 LVIA, this VP was proposed to be excluded in the Scoping Report but was reintroduced in the Scoping Refresh to ensure adequate representation of views from this area. Subject to a small degree of micro-siting.	Representative of views from residential area to east of Proposed Development. Also illustrative of cumulative effects.	Yes
VP5 Ben Hee NC 42655 33931	Originally included in Glencassley 2012 LVIA. Proposed in Scoping Report and Scoping Refresh. Subject to a small degree of micro-siting.	Popular summit and Corbett within WLA 37 – Foinaven – Ben Hee. Also illustrative of cumulative effects.	Yes

Viewpoint	Consultation History	Appraisal	Inclusion in Detailed Assessment
VP6 Rosehall NC 47028 02032	Originally included in Glencassley 2012 LVIA. Proposed in Scoping Report and Scoping Refresh. VP position adjusted slightly from Scoping to ensure a clear view of turbines.	Representative of views from small settlement and A837 'A' road, close to the site.	Yes
VP7 High Road NC 60226 04804	Originally included in Glencassley 2012 LVIA. Proposed in Scoping Report and Scoping Refresh. VP position adjusted slightly as recently built house obscures view from position proposed at Scoping.	Representative of scattered residential properties. Also illustrative of cumulative effects.	Yes
VP8 A836 - A838 Junction NC 57326 09947	Originally included in Glencassley 2012 LVIA. Proposed in Scoping Report and Scoping Refresh. Subject to a small degree of micro-siting.	Views from public road junction and representative of scattered residential properties.	Yes
VP9 Achnairn caravan and camping site entrance NC 55793 12701	Originally included in Glencassley 2012 LVIA. Proposed in Scoping Report and Scoping Refresh. Subject to a small degree of micro-siting.	Visitor gathering location and representative of scattered residential properties.	Yes
VP10 Ben More Assynt NC 31833 20148	Originally included in Glencassley 2012 LVIA. Proposed in Scoping Report and Scoping Refresh. Subject to a small degree of micro-siting.	Popular summit and Munro within Assynt – Coigach NSA and WLA 34 – Reay – Cassley. Also illustrative of cumulative effects.	Yes
VP11 Glencassley road to south of Castle NC 44489 06224	Originally included in Glencassley 2012 LVIA. Proposed in Scoping Report and Scoping Refresh. VP moved from position north of castle, at Scoping Refresh stage, due to change in theoretical visibility.	Representative of views from minor road and Glen Cassley.	Yes
VP12 Glencassley road by Langwell Hill NC 40664 12269	Originally included in Glencassley 2012 LVIA. Proposed in Scoping Report and Scoping Refresh. Subject to a small degree of micro-siting.	Representative of views from minor road and Glen Cassley.	Yes

Viewpoint	Consultation History	Appraisal	Inclusion in Detailed Assessment
VP13 Ben Klibreck NC 58527 29902	Originally included in Glencassley 2012 LVIA. Proposed in Scoping Report and Scoping Refresh. Subject to a small degree of micro-siting.	Popular summit and Munro located on the edge of the Ben Klibreck and Loch Choire SLA and within WLA 35 – Ben Klibreck - Armine Forest. Also illustrative of cumulative effects.	Yes
V14 A838 near West Shinness NC 52823 15428	Originally included in Glencassley 2012 LVIA. Proposed in Scoping Report and Scoping Refresh. Subject to a small degree of micro-siting.	‘A’ road and representative of views from scattered residential properties.	Yes
A838 Cnoc an Laoigh NC 49866 19210	Originally included in Glencassley 2012 LVIA as VP15, this VP was agreed to be excluded from the Achany Extension LVIA through the Scoping Process.	Excluded as the relevant receptors are considered to be adequately represented by VP14.	No
VP15 B9176, Struie Viewpoint NC 65267 85756	Suggested by THC in their Response to the Scoping Refresh and agreed by ASH as a good representative VP.	Stopping point and viewing location for travellers on the B9176 public road within Dornoch Firth NSA.	Yes
VP16 Minor road at Inveroykel forest access NC47391 00319	Originally included in Glencassley 2012 LVIA. Proposed in Scoping Report and Scoping Refresh.	Minor road and representative of scattered residential properties. Also illustrative of cumulative effects.	Yes
VP17 A836 at Allt na Fearna NC 58238 01712	Original position included in Glencassley 2012 LVIA on Old Road approximately 250 m to north was Proposed in Scoping Report. Moved to new position at Allt na Fearna in Scoping Refresh as vegetation growth prohibited open view in previous location.	Representative of views from section of A road and Moray Firth National Tourist Route.	Yes

Viewpoint	Consultation History	Appraisal	Inclusion in Detailed Assessment
VP18 Carn Chuinneag NH 48364 83325	Originally included in Glencassley 2012 LVIA, this VP was proposed to be excluded in the Scoping Report but was reintroduced in the Scoping Refresh to ensure adequate representation of views from the south and in accordance with a request by Mountaineering Scotland (MouS).	Popular summit and Corbett within WLA 29 – Rhiddoroch - Beinn Dearg - Ben Wyvis and on edge of Fannichs, Beinn Dearg and Glencalvie SLA. Also illustrative of cumulative effects.	Yes
VP19 Seana Bhràigh NH 28181 87872	Originally included in Glencassley 2012 LVIA. Proposed in Scoping Report and Scoping Refresh. Subject to a small degree of micro-siting.	Popular summit and Munro within WLA 29 – Rhiddoroch - Beinn Dearg - Ben Wyvis and Fannichs, Beinn Dearg and Glencalvie SLA. Also illustrative of cumulative effects.	Yes
VP20 Cul Mòr NC 53103 28638	Originally included in Glencassley 2012 LVIA. Proposed in Scoping Report and Scoping Refresh. Subject to a small degree of micro-siting.	Popular Corbett summit in Assynt Coigach NSA and WLA 32 – Inverpolly – Glencanisp..	Yes
Creich Broch NC 41184 11214	Originally included in Glencassley 2012 LVIA as VP21 but proposed to be excluded in Scoping Report as representative of cultural heritage site rather than visual receptors. Agreed by NatureScot and THC but requested to be included as a Cultural Heritage VP.	Excluded from LVIA through Scoping with agreement of THC, and included as a Cultural Heritage VP only (see Chapter 12: Cultural Heritage)	No
South-east Slope of Leathad Dail nan Claibh NC 38952 14096	Originally included in Glencassley 2012 LVIA as VP22 but proposed to be excluded in Scoping Report as location is unlikely to be visited by visual receptors. Requested by THC for inclusion in WLA Assessment for WLA 34.	Excluded as a VP in agreement with NatureScot and THC. A location nearby on Carn na Ceardaich was used as a survey location in the WLA assessment but does not comprise a VP.	No
VP21 Meall an Aonaich NC 33603 16417	Originally included in Glencassley 2012 LVIA. Proposed in Scoping Report and Scoping Refresh as VP23 for continuity and subsequently re-numbered as VP21.	Summit within Assynt Coigach NSA and WLA 34 – Reay – Cassley.	Yes

Residential Locations and Settlements

- 1.4.4 The assessment of residential locations has been limited to the detailed study area as the potential for significant effects is considered very unlikely beyond this distance. A high level review of any residential areas beyond this distance identified by the ZTV concluded that potential for significant effects would be very unlikely.
- 1.4.5 These areas included:
- Properties at East and West Langwell, Knockarthur, Rhilochan and Rogart (limited distant visibility would be seen in context of existing turbines and unlikely to be significant);
 - Easter Fearn and Fearn Lodge (limited distant visibility would be seen through existing turbines and unlikely to be significant).
- 1.4.6 There would be no view from all other settlement areas beyond 20 km.
- 1.4.7 The detailed study area is characterised by small settlement clusters and scattered individual rural properties. Of the main settlements, there would be no view from the majority of Lairg, or Ardgay. Of the rural areas, there would be no view from Strath Carron or the majority of Strath Oykel.
- 1.4.8 Residential and settlement areas scoped into the assessment (see Figures 7.5.1 – 7.5.3) therefore include:
- Main settlements of Bonar Bridge, Rosehall, Invershin and more elevated parts of Lairg;
 - Scattered rural settlement to the north of Loch Shin including Shinness, Achnairn, Achfrish, Tirryside, Calaboll, Dalchork, Dalmichy, Blarbuie, Rhian, and Crask;
 - Elevated rural properties around Lairg including Saval, Savalbeg, Culmaily, Balcharn, Balnadelson, Tomich, Rhian Breck and Torroble;
 - Elevated individual properties covered by the ZTV around the outskirts of Rogart: Rhaoine, Rossal, Achnalachrach and Preas nan Sgiathanach;
 - Scattered rural properties along the Kyle of Sutherland including Invercharron Mains, Birchfield, Achnahanat, Badarach Strathkyle, Ochtow, Inveroykel, Netherton and Altass;
 - Scattered properties in Glen Cassley; and
 - Remote lodges and bothies including at Amat, Duag Bridge, Corriemulzie Lodge and Dalnessie

Routes

- 1.4.9 The visual effects on travellers using routes has been considered within the wider study area. Routes considered and those included in detailed assessment are described in Table 1.4.2 including the rationale for their inclusion or exclusion, (see Figure 7.6.2: Routes included in the Assessment).

Table 1.4.2: Appraisal of Routes Considered for the LVIA

Route Type	Appraisal	Included in Detailed Assessment
A Roads	A roads within the wider study area include the A832, A835, A836, A837, A838, A839, A893, A894, A9 and A949.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A836 Dornoch Bridge to Bonar Bridge (via Ardgay) (Route R1);

Route Type	Appraisal	Included in Detailed Assessment
	<p>Of these routes, the majority show no theoretical visibility. Potential visibility is indicated on the A836, A837, A838, A839 and A949. Of these, the potential for significant effect is considered unlikely for the following routes or route sections which have therefore been scoped out:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A949 Dornoch Bridge to Bonar Bridge (via Spinningdale) (limited views through existing wind turbines); • A836 Altnaharra to Tongue (limited and very distant theoretical visibility (over 29 km); • A838 Corrykinloch to Laxford Bridge (no view); • A839 The Mound to Pittentrail (no view); • A839 Lairg to Rosehall (visibility of site entrance only would be temporary and likely to be not significant). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A836 Bonar Bridge to Lairg (Route R2); • A836 Lairg to Altnaharra (Route R3); • A838 Dalchork to Corrykinloch (Route R4); • A839 Pittentrail to Lairg (Route R5); and; • A837 Invershin to Oykel Bridge (Route R6).
B Roads	<p>B roads within the wider study area include the B817, B864, B869, B871, B873, B9168, B9174, B9176.</p> <p>Of these, there would be no view from the B817, B864, B869, B871, B873, B9168, B9174 and B9176 between Skiach and Edderton Junction.</p> <p>A small amount of intervisibility is indicated on the B9174 north of Edderton junction. As this comprises an important view over the Dornoch Firth NSA, it has been scoped into the assessment.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • B9176 Edderton Junction to A836 (Route R7).
Minor Roads	<p>Minor roads are present throughout the wider study area providing access to properties and along glens. Where minor roads provide access to properties only, these have been considered in the context of associated residential receptors. Four remaining minor roads were considered for inclusion in the detailed assessment:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • C1022 Brora – Balnacoil – Rogart Road; • C1136 Ardgay – Culrain – Doune – Brae Road; • U2117 Cassley Bridge – Duchally Road; and • U3103 Dunrobin Glen Road. <p>Of these, the C1022 and U3103 were scoped out, as it was considered views would be distant, seen in the context of existing turbines and very unlikely to be significant.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • C1136 Ardgay – Culrain – Doune – Brae Road (Route R8); and • U2117 Cassley Bridge – Duchally Road (Route R9).

Route Type	Appraisal	Included in Detailed Assessment
Railway Lines	The Far North Railway line passes through the south-western section of the wider study area. The ZTV indicates potential intervisibility near Fearn on the southern shore of the Dornoch Firth, at Invershin and to the south and east of Lairg. To encompass all these areas of visibility, a passenger would need to travel between Tain and Rogart stations as a minimum	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Far North Railway Line – Tain Station to Rogart Station (Route R10).
Core Paths	<p>185 Core Paths were identified in the wider study area. Of these 21 were identified as having theoretical visibility:</p> <p>The following were scoped out due to distance or location within forestry or woodland considered unlikely to lead to significant effect, limited views which would be experienced through other existing turbines, or location within residential areas which have been otherwise considered within the assessment of residential receptors:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • RC01.08: Stac Pollaidh circular • RC15.04: Struie Hill, Mast Track • SU03.01: Cornhill – Culrain, via Invercharron Hill/Carbisdale • SU03.03: Badvoon Forest, Forest Road • SU03.05: Badvoon Forest, Allt Eiteachan Path • SU05.02: Dornoch Road - Cherry Grove • SU05.03: Kyleside Walk • SU05.05: Swordale Road - Cherry Grove • SU05.06: Balblair Wood - Invershin • SU07.01: Croick – Glen Einig • SU08.01: Culrain – Invershin • SU08.02: Carbisdale • SU09.05: Ledmore Oak Wood • SU16.05: Loch Shin Hide • SU16.07: Balloan – Lairg • SU20.01: Meall Mor Fire Track • SU21.02: Sika Trail Cycle Route • SU21.04: Rosehall Forest Walks, Deer Park and Wildwood Trail • SU21.05: Rosehall Forest Walks, Cassely Trail • SU21.06: Rosehall Forest Walks, Achness Burn Trail • SU21.07: Rosehall Forest Walks, Pine Martin Trail. <p>The remaining five Core Paths comprise:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SU16.02: Gunn's Wood; 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SU16.02: Gunn's Wood (Route R11); • SU21.03: Allt an Tuir Burn Walk (Route R12); • SU21.08: Rosehall Estate (Route R13); • SU21.09: Achness Waterfall (Route R14); and • SU21.10: Oykel Bridge – Glen Einig (included as Group of paths around Duag Bridge (Route R15)).

Route Type	Appraisal	Included in Detailed Assessment
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SU21.03: Allt an Tuir Burn Walk; • SU21.08: Rosehall Estate; • SU21.09: Achness Waterfall; and • SU21.10: Oykel Bridge – Glen Einig. <p>Of these, SU21.10: Oykel Bridge – Glen Einig has been considered as part of a group of paths with Scottish Hill Tracks as detailed below.</p>	
Scottish Hill Tracks (Scotways)	<p>34 Scottish Hill Tracks or Track alternatives fall within or partly within the wider study area: The ZTV shows theoretical visibility from six of these routes which have been included in the detailed assessment.</p> <p>Areas of theoretical visibility cover a group of three Scottish Hill Tracks following similar routes around Duag Bridge. These have been included within the assessment as a group together with Core Path SU21.10: Oykel Bridge – Glen Einig, as detailed above.</p> <p>Some of these routes also combine, Heritage Paths and other Hill Tracks. These overlaps are noted where relevant.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Scottish Hill Track 319 a and b (Route R16); • Scottish Hill Tracks 321, 323 a and b and 324 a and b (included as Group of paths around Duag Bridge (Route R15) (also partly covering Heritage Path ‘Ullapool to Strath Carron Track’); • Scottish Hill Track 332 (Route R17); • Scottish Hill Track 341 (Route R18) (also includes Heritage Path ‘Strath Tirry to Badenloch Tracks’;
Long distance trails and routes	<p>A number of driving, walking and cycling routes are present within the wider study area which consist of combinations of other roads and paths. The following were considered for inclusion within the assessment:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The North Coast 500: within the wider study area, following the A832, A835, A837, B869, A894, A838 and A9 (driving / cycle route); • Moray Firth Tourist Route: within the wider study area, following the B9176, A836 and A839 (driving / cycle route); • National Cycle Route 1: within the wider study area, following a number of minor roads in the south of the study area where there is no view, then the A836, deviating onto the C1136 to Carbisdale and B864 between Invershin and Lairg (cycle route); • Cape Wrath Trail / Scottish National Trail, within the wider study area, following Scottish Hill Tracks 324, and 330 and 331, 334 and 335 as well as 	<p>(See Figure 7.6.2: Visual Receptors included in the Assessment)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Moray Firth Tourist Route (based on assessments for Routes R1, R2, R5 and R7); • National Cycle Route 1 (based on assessments for relevant parts of Routes R1, R2 and R3); and • Cape Wrath Trail / Scottish National Trail (based on assessment for Group of paths around Duag Bridge - Route R15).

Route Type	Appraisal	Included in Detailed Assessment
	<p>other cross country routes (walking route).</p> <p>Of the above trails, there would be no views from the North Coast 500. Intermittent views would be available from others routes. The assessment of the potential effect to the visual amenity of these trails is based on the assessment of component routes.</p>	

Cumulative Visual Assessment

- 1.4.10 The cumulative visual assessment has considered all VPs and routes identified for inclusion within the main assessment. However, where visual effects (for the Proposed Development alone) have been identified as being Negligible, these receptor locations have been scoped out of the cumulative assessment as it is considered that a Negligible visual effect could not contribute to a significant cumulative effect. The cumulative visual assessment therefore includes the VPs and routes listed in Table 1.3.3.

Table 1.4.3: VPs and Routes Included in the Cumulative Visual Assessment

Receptor Location	Name
Viewpoints	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> VP1: A836 above the Crask Inn; VP2: A836 bridge by Dalnessie entrance; VP3: Saval; VP5: Ben Hee; VP6: Rosehall; VP7: High Road; VP8: A836 - A838 Junction; VP9: Achnairn caravan and camping site entrance; VP10: Ben More Assynt; VP11: Glencassley road to south of Castle; VP12: Glencassley road by Langwell Hill; VP13: Ben Klibreck; VP14: A838 near West Shinness; VP16: Minor road at Inveroykel forest access; VP18: Carn Chuinneag; VP19: Seana Bhràigh; and VP21: Meall an Aonaich
Routes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> R3: A836 Lairg to Altnaharra; R4: A838 Dalchork to Corrykinloch; R6: A837 Invershin to Oykel Bridge; R8: C1136 Ardgay – Culrain – Doune – Brae Road; R9: U2117 Cassley Bridge – Duchally Road; R12: SU21.03: Allt an Tuir Burn Walk; R14: SU21.09: Achness Waterfall; R15: Group of paths around Duag Bridge; and R17: Scottish Hill Track 332.

