

CHAPTER A7: LANDSCAPE AND VISUAL

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A.7. LANDSCAPE AND VISUAL

A.7.1 Executive Summary

- A.7.1.1 Chapter 7 of the EIA Report (January 2019) assessed the potential effects of the Proposed Varied Development on the landscape and visual resource of the study area.
- A.7.1.2 The purpose of this Chapter is to identify and record the potential significant landscape and visual effects of the Proposed Varied Development (Addendum), recording where there is any change to the previous assessment findings as a result of the changes introduced; namely the proposed relocation of Turbine 4 and the relocation/addition of some elements of infrastructure.
- A.7.1.3 The LVIA has concluded that the changes that have been proposed as a result of the Proposed Varied Development (Addendum) would not result in any changes to the findings of the landscape and visual assessment that was carried out for the Proposed Varied Development, documented within Chapter 7 of the EIA Report (January 2019). Overall, the effects of the Proposed Varied Development (Addendum) would remain the same as those of the Proposed Varied Development as assessed in the EIA Report (January 2019): similar to those of the Consented Development but with a reduction in the number and extent of significant effects. These findings are described below.
- A.7.1.4 The LVIA considers effects on the physical elements of the landscape; landscape character; areas that have been designated for their scenic or landscape-related qualities; areas of wild land; and views from various locations such as settlements, routes, hilltops and other sensitive locations. The potential cumulative effects that may arise from the addition of the Proposed Varied Development (Addendum) to other wind farms have not been considered, in agreement with The Highland Council (THC) and Scottish Natural Heritage (SNH), due to the very minor nature of the proposed changes to the development.
- A.7.1.5 In accordance with the 2017 EIA Regulations, a description of the respects in which the likely significant environmental effects of the relevant section 36 consent would differ from the Proposed Varied Development, and Proposed Varied Development (Addendum) is provided.
- A.7.1.6 This LVIA has reviewed the potential effects of the Proposed Varied Development (Addendum) in relation to those receptors that were assessed in detail in Chapter 7 of the EIA Report (January 2019) for the Proposed Varied Development. Following ZTV and wireline analysis, it has not been considered necessary to consider the inclusion of additional landscape and visual receptors or viewpoints.
- A.7.1.7 The findings of the landscape and visual assessment that was carried out for the Proposed Varied Development (as assessed in the EIA Report (January 2019)), are described below. These conclusions remain relevant for the Proposed Varied Development (Addendum), as the proposed revisions result in no changes to the findings of the LVIA.
- A.7.1.8 The landscape character types that cover the site and its surroundings are likely to be subject to significant effects up to a maximum distance of around 6.5km away, although this would only be the case where there is notable visibility of the Proposed Varied Development (Addendum) and landform is orientated towards the site. Beyond approximately 6.5km, the Proposed Varied Development (Addendum) would be a relatively minor influence in the setting to landscape character types and would not result in a significant effect. While some very limited parts of the Loch Fleet, Loch Brora and Glen Loth SLA (a minimum of 1.6km from the Proposed Varied Development (Addendum)) would have significant effects, there would be no significant effects on wild land areas (WLA) or National Scenic Areas (NSA).

A.7.1.9 The assessment of effects on views is informed by a series of 17 viewpoints that were agreed for the 2015 ES with SNH and THC, to represent visibility from sensitive locations throughout the study area. SNH and THC have not requested the inclusion of any additional viewpoints in this Addendum, and this assessment therefore utilises the same 17 viewpoints. In accordance with the January 2019 Proposed Varied Development, this visual assessment has found significant effects on two hilltop viewpoints (Beinn Smeorail and Ben Horn); intermittent significant effects on up to 2km of the minor road from Brora to Rogart, travelling eastwards; intermittent significant effects on approximately 4.6km of Core Path SU06.02 on the west side of Loch Brora; and a significant effect on a part of the access track to Ben Armine Lodge. There would be no significant effects on other routes, including the A9, A836, A839, A897, A949, national cycle routes, long distance walking routes and railway lines.

A.7.2 Introduction

A.7.2.1 Chapter 7 of the EIA Report (January 2019) assessed the potential effects of the Proposed Varied Development on the landscape and visual resource of the study area.

A.7.2.2 This Chapter provides the Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment (LVIA) for the Proposed Varied Development (Addendum) and has been undertaken by Landscape Architects at Optimised Environments Limited (OPEN). This assessment should be read in conjunction with Chapter 7 of the EIA Report (January 2019) for the Proposed Varied Development. This Chapter follows the same structure as Chapter 7 of the EIA Report (January 2019), and cross reference is made where relevant.

A.7.2.3 This Chapter assesses the landscape and visual effects of the Proposed Varied Development (Addendum) and provides a comparison to the effects arising from the Consented Development and Proposed Varied Development, as assessed in Chapter 7 of the EIA Report (January 2019).

A.7.2.4 Section 7.4 of this Chapter sets out the parameters of the Proposed Varied Development (Addendum) considered in this assessment, compared to those considered for the Proposed Varied Development.

A.7.2.5 This Chapter is accompanied by a series of figures, including ZTV diagrams (see Volume 3: Figures) and comparative wirelines (see Volume 3A: Landscape and Visual Wirelines (SNH Methodology)).

A.7.3 Consented Development

A.7.3.1 Unchanged, please refer to Section 7.3 of the EIA Report (January 2019).

A.7.4 Scope of Assessment

A.7.4.1 The scope of assessment in relation to the Proposed Varied Development is set out in Paragraphs 7.4.1 to 7.4.19 of the EIA Report (January 2019).

The Proposed Varied Development (Addendum)

A.7.4.2 The scope of this assessment in relation to the Proposed Varied Development (Addendum), covering the construction, operational and decommissioning phases, is set out below.

A.7.4.3 The LVIA for the Proposed Varied Development (Addendum) is based on a layout of 11 turbines which are 149.9m to blade tip (assumed 81.9m hub height and 136m rotor diameter).

A.7.4.4 The Proposed Varied Development (Addendum) differs from the Proposed Varied Development in the following respects, all of which are relevant to the landscape and visual assessment:

- Relocation of Turbine 4 by 113m to the north-west, and renaming of Turbine 4 to T4b;
- Construction of an additional stretch of access track approximately 330m long between LiDAR and Turbine 12; and
- Alterations to ancillary infrastructure: including deletion of a Borrow Pit Search Area (2) and inclusion of a new Borrow Pit Search Area (3); relocation of the concrete batching plant, and construction of an additional access track from T12 to Lidar / Borrow Pit Search Area 1.

A.7.4.5 The turbines in the operational Gordonbush Wind Farm are 110m to blade tip (69m hub height and 82m rotor diameter).

Study Area

A.7.4.6 A 40km radius study area has been used for this assessment, in accordance with guidance developed by Scottish Natural Heritage (SNH) (Visual Representation of Wind Farms Version 2.2, February 2017). Zone of Theoretical Visibility (ZTV) analysis has been carried out for this area.

A.7.4.7 The study area is not intended to provide a boundary beyond which the Proposed Varied Development (Addendum) would not be seen, but rather to define the area within which it may have a significant landscape or visual effect. A significant effect is, in reality, very unlikely to occur towards the outer edges of the study area.

Scope of Assessment

A.7.4.8 The comparative ZTV for the Proposed Varied Development (Addendum) and the Proposed Varied Development (Figure A7.1b) indicates that the proposed relocation of Turbine 4 will result in a very slight reduction in the theoretical visibility of the Proposed Varied Development (Addendum) around the fringes of the ZTV. There are no areas where visibility is increased by the proposed relocation of Turbine 4 (e.g. where the Proposed Varied Development (Addendum) is visible and the Proposed Varied Development is not visible).

A.7.4.9 The comparative wirelines (Figures A7.2 to A7.15) provide further illustration of the comparison between the Proposed Varied Development (Addendum) and the Proposed Varied Development. These wirelines show a direct comparison between the position of Turbine 4 in the Proposed Varied Development and its proposed relocation in the Proposed Varied Development (Addendum), where it is referred to as T4b. On the wirelines, the original Turbine 4 location is shown in grey, while the location of T4b is shown in red, along with the other turbines in the Proposed Varied Development (Addendum).

A.7.4.10 The wireline views show that the proposed relocation of Turbine 4 will have very little effect on the appearance of the Proposed Varied Development (Addendum).

A.7.4.11 Overall, it is considered that the Proposed Varied Development (Addendum) would result in effects that are very similar to those of the Proposed Varied Development in terms of both geographical extent and potential for significant effects arising. As a result, this Chapter includes a review of the assessment of effects that was carried out in Chapter 7 of the EIA Report (January 2019) for the Proposed Varied Development (and Consented Development). It has not been considered necessary to consider the inclusion of additional landscape and visual receptors or viewpoints.

A.7.4.12 The EIA Report (January 2019) for the Proposed Varied Development included an assessment of cumulative effects that may arise as a result of the addition of the Proposed Varied Development to other operational, under-construction, consented and application-stage wind farms. In agreement with THC and SNH, the assessment in this Chapter does not include an update of the cumulative assessment due to the very minor nature of the proposed revisions to the Proposed Varied Development, which ensures that the relationship of the development with other wind farms will not be altered.

Consultations

A.7.4.13 THC and SNH have been consulted on the scope of the written assessment that is included within this Chapter and the list of graphics (i.e. ZTV diagrams) and visualisations (i.e. wirelines) to be included in the Addendum. Agreement was given by THC and SNH by email on 29th May 2019 and 30th May 2019 respectively.

A.7.4.14 No objections to the Section 36C Application for the Proposed Varied Development (January, 2019) have been received from statutory consultees, although further consultation responses have been received following its submission. Those relevant to this Chapter are summarised in Table A7.1, below.

Table A7.1: Relevant Consultee Responses Following Submission of the EIA Report (January 2019)

Consultee	Summary Response	Comment/Action Taken
SNH (06.03.19)	We advise that the impacts of this proposal will not result in additional significant adverse effects on the qualities of the Ben Klibreck - Armine Forest Wild Land Area (WLA). However, we advise that there will be a number of landscape, visual, cumulative and wild land effects caused by this proposal. There are very limited areas of additional visibility from within the WLA which will result in a slight increase in attrition. However there are more areas where the degree of effect will be reduced, albeit slightly, as a result of the reduced spread of turbines. This is illustrated at view-point 11, 12 and 13. The increase in turbine height will appear to make the turbines closer to the viewer from these locations, thereby appearing less connected with the existing windfarm. However, this is not considered to result in a change to the significance of the effects. This Wild Land advice has been based on the assumption that the proposal is below the threshold for Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) lighting (lower than 150m to blade tip). However, as the turbines are very close to the 150m threshold, we request confirmation that no CAA lighting is required so that we can advise appropriately on the environmental effects of this proposal. We note in Section 14.2.7 of the EIA Report that there is mention of perimeter infra-red lighting. We can confirm that we do not consider this element will result in any significant adverse landscape or visual effect, if implemented.	Further consultation with SNH and CAA will be carried out with respect to an appropriate lighting scheme for aviation safety.
	In the interest of aviation safety, the MOD will request that the perimeter turbines are fitted with MOD accredited 25 candela omni-directional red lighting or infrared lighting with an optimised flash pattern of 60 flashes per minute of 200ms to 500ms duration at the highest practicable point". The applicant proposes that infrared lighting will be procured.	Further consultation with SNH and CAA will be carried out with respect to an appropriate lighting scheme for aviation safety.

A.7.5 Methodology

A.7.5.1 The methodology used for the assessment of the Proposed Varied Development (Addendum) is consistent with that used in the 2015 ES, the 2016 FEI Report, and the EIA Report (January 2019) for the Section 36C Application for the Proposed Varied Development. The methodology is described in full in Appendix 7.1 of the 2015 ES and is summarised in Section 7.5 of the EIA Report (January 2019).

A.7.6 Baseline

A.7.6.1 Unchanged, please refer to Section 7.6 of the EIA Report (January 2019).

A.7.7 Potential Effects

A.7.7.1 Unchanged, please refer to Section 7.7 of the EIA Report (January 2019).

A.7.8 Mitigation Measures

A.7.8.1 Unchanged, please refer to Section 7.8 of the EIA Report (January 2019).

A.7.9 Residual Effects

A.7.9.1 The assessment of effects for the Proposed Varied Development (Addendum) is carried out in four parts: physical effects, effects on landscape character, effects on wild land, and effects on views. These are described below.

Assessment of Physical Effects

A.7.9.2 Physical effects are direct effects on the landscape elements that comprise the fabric of the site, such as changes to ground cover. Physical effects are found only on the site, where existing landscape elements may be removed or altered by the Proposed Varied Development (Addendum). One landscape element was considered to be affected by the Proposed Varied Development (EIA Report, January 2019) - rough grassland/moorland ground cover – and this is also the case for the Proposed Varied Development (Addendum).

A.7.9.3 Paragraph 7.9.4 to 7.9.7 of the EIA Report (January 2019) assessed the sensitivity of this landscape element as a result of the Proposed Varied Development, concluding its effects to be **not significant**.

A.7.9.4 The sensitivity of this landscape element will remain **medium**, as assessed in the EIA Report (January 2019).

A.7.9.5 The implications of the Proposed Varied Development (Addendum) on this landscape element are as follows:

- The relocation of Turbine 4 would result in a minor decrease to the area of vegetation affected due to a short reduction in track length at this location; and
- The proposed revised infrastructure would lead to a minor increase in the area of vegetation to be removed.

A.7.9.6 These factors will lead to a very slight increase in the magnitude of change as was assessed for the Proposed Varied Development as the overall affected area of rough grassland/ moorland ground cover would be slightly increased. This reduction would not, however, be sufficient to reduce the level of magnitude of change, and this would remain as **medium-low**.

A.7.9.7 The effect of the Proposed Varied Development (Addendum) on rough grassland/moorland ground cover would remain **not significant**.

Assessment of Effects on Landscape Character

A.7.9.8 Landscape character is the distinct and recognisable pattern of elements that occur consistently in a particular type of landscape, and the way that this pattern is perceived. Effects on landscape character occur both on the site, where the pattern of elements that characterises the landscape will be directly altered by the addition of the Proposed Varied Development (Addendum) to the landscape; and off-site, around the study area, where

visibility of the Proposed Varied Development (Addendum) may alter the way in which this pattern of elements is perceived. The assessment of effects on landscape character covers two groups of receptors; landscape character types/units and landscape planning designations.

A.7.9.9 Table A7.1 below reviews the landscape character assessment provided in Paragraph 7.9.9 to 7.9.81 of the EIA Report (January 2019) in relation to the Proposed Varied Development and updates this to note any changes in assessment findings as a result of the Proposed Varied Development. The effects of the Consented Development are also included for completeness. The landscape character receptors that are included are those that were considered in the 2015 ES to have potential to undergo a significant effect as a result of the Development, as outlined in the *Scope of Assessment* in Section A7.4 of this report.

Table A7.1: Comparison of Effects on Landscape Character

Landscape Character Receptor	Consented Development (2016 FEI Report)	Proposed Varied Development (EIA Report, January 2019)	Proposed Varied Development (Addendum)
Inland loch: Loch Brora	Significant effect on some areas of Part 3 of the LCT; the southern end of Part 1; and some areas of the western side of Part 2. Not significant elsewhere.	Significant effect on some areas of Part 3 of the LCT; the southern end of Part 1; and some areas of the western side of Part 2. Not significant elsewhere.	Changes result in a negligible alteration to the effect on landscape character No change in assessment findings of the EIA Report (January 2019)
Small farms and crofts (fringe crofting and historic features subtype): Balnacoil area	Significant effect on the majority of the receptor. Not significant effect on the south-eastern end and along the Allt Ach a' Bhathaich valley.	Significant effect on the majority of the receptor. Not significant effect on the south-eastern end and along the Allt Ach a' Bhathaich valley.	Changes result in a negligible alteration to the effect on landscape character No change in assessment findings of the EIA Report (January 2019)
Strath (Strath Brora): eastern section	Significant effect on areas around Sciberscross and south of the graveyard, lower slopes of Cnoc an t-Socaich and Carroll Rock; loch shore south of Carroll Rock; ridge line of Cnoc a'Ghrianain, and very small areas above Oldtown and on Killin Rock. Not significant elsewhere.	Significant effect on areas around Sciberscross and south of the graveyard, lower slopes of Cnoc an t-Socaich and Carroll Rock; loch shore south of Carroll Rock; ridge line of Cnoc a'Ghrianain, and very small areas above Oldtown. Not significant elsewhere.	Changes result in a negligible alteration to the effect on landscape character No change in assessment findings of the EIA Report (January 2019)
Moorland slopes and hills: unit A	Significant effect	Significant effect	Changes result in a negligible alteration to the effect on landscape character No change in assessment findings of the EIA Report (January 2019)

Landscape Character Receptor	Consented Development (2016 FEI Report)	Proposed Varied Development (EIA Report, January 2019)	Proposed Varied Development (Addendum)
Moorland slopes and hills: unit B	Significant effect on west-facing slopes that gain high visibility of the Development, including Cnoc Cragaidh, Beinn Smeorail, Col-bheinn, Meallan Liath Beg and Mor, Carn Garbh, and Cnoc a'Chrubaich Mhoir. Not significant elsewhere.	Significant effect on west-facing slopes that gain high visibility of the Development, including Cnoc Cragaidh, Beinn Smeorail, Col-bheinn, Meallan Liath Beg and Mor, Carn Garbh, and Cnoc a'Chrubaich Mhoir. Not significant elsewhere.	Changes result in a negligible alteration to the effect on landscape character No change in assessment findings of the EIA Report (January 2019)
Moorland slopes and hills: unit C	Significant effect on north-facing slopes in the north-eastern part of the receptor (including Carroll Rock and Kilbraur Hill, and several unnamed hills and high points). Not significant elsewhere.	Significant effect on north-facing slopes in the north-eastern part of the receptor (including Carroll Rock and Kilbraur Hill, and several unnamed hills and high points). Not significant elsewhere.	Changes result in a negligible alteration to the effect on landscape character No change in assessment findings of the EIA Report (January 2019)
Moorland slopes and hills: unit D	Significant effect on east-facing slopes of Meall na h-Amaite and Cnoc Cille Pheadair. Not significant elsewhere.	Significant effect on east-facing slopes of Meall na h-Amaite and Cnoc Cille Pheadair. Not significant elsewhere.	Changes result in a negligible alteration to the effect on landscape character No change in assessment findings of the EIA Report (January 2019)
Sweeping moorland: unit A	Significant effect	Significant effect	Changes result in a negligible alteration to the effect on landscape character No change in assessment findings of the EIA Report (January 2019)
Sweeping moorland: unit B	Significant effect on east-facing slopes within the receptor that gain high visibility and lie within approx. 6km of the Consented Development. Not significant elsewhere.	Significant effect on east-facing slopes within the receptor that gain high visibility and lie within approx. 6km of the Proposed Varied Development. Not significant elsewhere.	Changes result in a negligible alteration to the effect on landscape character No change in assessment findings of the EIA Report (January 2019)
Sweeping moorland: unit C	Significant effect on east-facing slopes of Meall na h-Amaite, Cnoc Cille Pheadair and Druim Torr nan Cliabh. Not significant elsewhere.	Significant effect on east-facing slopes of Meall na h-Amaite, Cnoc Cille Pheadair and Druim Torr nan Cliabh. Not significant elsewhere.	Changes result in a negligible alteration to the effect on landscape character No change in assessment findings of the EIA Report (January 2019)

Landscape Character Receptor	Consented Development (2016 FEI Report)	Proposed Varied Development (EIA Report, January 2019)	Proposed Varied Development (Addendum)
Loch Fleet, Loch Brora and Glen Loth SLA	Significant effect on some limited parts of Loch Brora; lower slopes of Carroll Rock and the southern loch shore around Carroll Rock; very small elevated areas above Oldtown and on Killin Rock; and west-facing slopes close to the eastern edge of the Development. Not significant elsewhere.	Significant effect on some limited parts of Loch Brora; lower slopes of Carroll Rock and the southern loch shore around Carroll Rock; very small elevated areas above Oldtown; and west-facing slopes close to the eastern edge of the Development. Not significant elsewhere.	Changes result in a negligible alteration to the effect on the SLA No change in assessment findings of the EIA Report (January 2019)

Assessment of Effects on Wild Land

- A.7.9.10 Please refer to Paragraph 7.9.75 to 7.9.81 of the EIA Report (January 2019).
- A.7.9.11 The comparative ZTV in Figure A7.1b shows that visibility of the Proposed Varied Development (Addendum) is very slightly reduced from that of the Proposed Varied Development, with no areas of additional visibility.
- A.7.9.12 The comparative wirelines for viewpoints within the WLA, Viewpoint 11 (Hope Hill), Viewpoint 13 (Creag nam Fiadh) and Viewpoint 15 (Ben Armine), indicate that the relocation of Turbine 4 would have very little effect on the appearance of the Proposed Varied Development (Addendum) as seen from the WLA. The assessment of the effects of the Proposed Varied Development (Addendum) on these viewpoints, described later in this Chapter, has concluded that the assessment at these viewpoints would remain as it was for the Proposed Varied Development, with the effect at all three viewpoints remaining not significant.
- A.7.9.13 This review indicates that the effect on the WLA would remain **not significant**.

Assessment of Effects on Views

- A.7.9.14 The assessment of effects on views includes effects on the 17 viewpoints (as assessed in the EIA Report (January 2019) for the Proposed Varied Development), which represent visibility of the development from around the study area and effects on principal visual receptors such as settlements and routes.
- A.7.9.15 Table A7.2 below reviews the assessment of effects on views provided in Paragraph 7.9.84 to 7.9.193 of the EIA Report (January 2019) in relation to the Proposed Varied Development, and updates this to note any changes in assessment findings as a result of the Proposed Varied Development (Addendum). This includes the assessment of the 17 viewpoints that constitute the viewpoint assessment and the principal visual receptors that were considered in the 2015 ES to have potential to undergo a significant effect as a result of the proposed Development.

Table A7.2: Comparison of Effects on Views

Viewpoint/ Visual Receptor	Consented Development (2016 FEI Report)	Proposed Varied Development (January 2019)	Proposed Varied Development (Addendum)
1. Beinn Smeorail	Significant effect	Significant effect	Relocation of T4 has a minor effect on the view Proposed batching plant location will be visible Proposed borrow pit search area will be visible Proposed new sections of access track will be visible No change in assessment findings of the EIA Report (January 2019)
2. Loch Brora (south-west side)	Significant effect	Significant effect	Relocation of T4 has a negligible effect on the view No change in assessment findings of the EIA Report (January 2019)
3. Brora - Rogart minor road south of Killin	Not significant effect	Not significant effect	No visibility of T4 or T4b No change in assessment findings of the EIA Report (January 2019)
4. Brora - Rogart minor road north of Killin	Not significant effect	Not significant effect	No visibility of T4 or T4b No change in assessment findings of the EIA Report (January 2019)
5. Strath Brora near Balnacoil	Significant effect	Significant effect	Relocation of T4 has a negligible effect on the view No change in assessment findings of the EIA Report (January 2019)
6. Brora - Rogart minor road near Sciberscross	Significant effect	Significant effect	Relocation of T4 has a minor effect on the view Proposed new sections of access track are theoretically visible but will have a negligible effect No change in assessment findings of the EIA Report (January 2019)
7. Brora - Rogart minor road near Dalreavoch	Not significant effect	Not significant effect	Relocation of T4 has a minor effect on the view No change in assessment findings of the EIA Report (January 2019)
8. Craggie Beg	Not significant effect	Not significant effect	Relocation of T4 has a minor effect on the view Proposed new sections of access track may be theoretically visible but will have a negligible effect No change in assessment findings of the EIA Report (January 2019)
9. Ben Horn	Significant effect	Significant effect	Relocation of T4 has a minor effect on the view Proposed batching plant location will

Viewpoint/ Visual Receptor	Consented Development (2016 FEI Report)	Proposed Varied Development (January 2019)	Proposed Varied Development (Addendum)
			be theoretically visible Proposed borrow pit search area will be theoretically visible Proposed new sections of access track will be theoretically visible No change in assessment findings of the EIA Report (January 2019)
10. Beinn Dhorain	Not significant effect	Not significant effect	Relocation of T4 has a negligible effect on the view No change in assessment findings of the EIA Report (January 2019)
11. Hope Hill	Not significant effect	Not significant effect	Relocation of T4 has a negligible effect on the view No change in assessment findings of the EIA Report (January 2019)
12. Track to Ben Armine Lodge	Significant effect	Significant effect	Relocation of T4 has a negligible effect on the view Proposed new sections of access track will be theoretically visible No change in assessment findings of the EIA Report (January 2019)
13. Creag nam Fiadh	Not significant effect	Not significant effect	Relocation of T4 has a negligible effect on the view No change in assessment findings of the EIA Report (January 2019)
14. Ben Bhraggie	Not significant effect	Not significant effect	Relocation of T4 has a negligible effect on the view No change in assessment findings of the EIA Report (January 2019)
15. Ben Armine	Not significant effect	Not significant effect	Relocation of T4 has a negligible effect on the view No change in assessment findings of the EIA Report (January 2019)
16. Portmahomack	Not significant effect	Not significant effect	No visibility of T4 or T4b No change in assessment findings of the EIA Report (January 2019)
17. Ben Giam Beg	Not significant effect	Not significant effect	Relocation of T4 has a negligible effect on the view No change in assessment findings of the EIA Report (January 2019)
Brora - Rogart minor road	<u>Eastbound:</u> significant effect on approx. 2km between Sciberscross and Point (intermittent) and approx. 1km	<u>Eastbound:</u> significant effect on approx. 2km between Sciberscross and Point (intermittent)	Relocation of T4 has a negligible to minor effect on views No change in assessment findings of the EIA Report (January 2019)

Viewpoint/ Visual Receptor	Consented Development (2016 FEI Report)	Proposed Varied Development (January 2019)	Proposed Varied Development (Addendum)
	between Balnacoil and graveyard (very intermittent) <u>Westbound</u> : not significant effect	<u>Westbound</u> : not significant effect	
SU06.02 ('Loch Brora - West Track')	Significant effect on approx. 4.6km (partly intermittent), between the coniferous forestry and Carroll Rock and approx. 1km near the western end of the path as it passes Kilbraur	Significant effect on approx. 4.6km (partly intermittent), between the coniferous forestry and Carroll Rock	Relocation of T4 has a negligible effect on views No change in assessment findings of the EIA Report (January 2019)
SU06.14 ('Doll Bridge – Loch Brora')	Significant effect on approx. 100-150m	Significant effect on approx. 100-150m becomes not significant	Relocation of T4 has a negligible effect on views No change in assessment findings of the EIA Report (January 2019)

A.7.10 Comparison of Effects

- A.7.10.1 Tables A7.1 and A7.2 indicate that the proposed relocation of Turbine 4 and revisions to infrastructure proposed as part of the Proposed Varied Development (Addendum) will result in negligible or minor changes to landscape character and to the views gained from viewpoints and the relevant visual receptors, compared with the Proposed Varied Development (EIA Report, January 2019). There is therefore no change to the findings of the landscape and visual assessment that was carried out for the Proposed Varied Development in the EIA Report (January 2019). The findings of the January 2019 Proposed Varied Development landscape and visual impact assessment therefore remain valid for the Proposed Varied Development (Addendum).
- A.7.10.2 The tables also show that the reduction in significant effects that resulted from the Proposed Varied Development in comparison with the Consented Development are maintained for the Proposed Varied Development (Addendum).

A.7.11 Conclusion

- A.7.11.1 The assessment of the effects that the Proposed Varied Development (Addendum) would have on the landscape and visual resource indicates that the proposed relocation of Turbine 4 and minor revisions to infrastructure will not result in any changes to the findings of the assessment that was carried out for the Proposed Varied Development in Chapter 7 of the EIA Report (January 2019).
- A.7.11.2 The following likely significant effects are therefore predicted:
- Landscape character types that cover the site and its surroundings up to a maximum distance of around 6.5km away, including:
 - *Inland loch: Loch Brora* LCT: intermittent significant effects on parts of the loch;
 - Small farms and crofts LCT (fringe crofting and historic features subtype): Balnacoil area: significant effect on the majority of the receptor;

- *Strath (Strath Brora) LCT: eastern section*: intermittent significant effects on areas around Sciberscross and south of the graveyard, parts of the southern/western side of the strath; the ridge line of Cnoc a’Ghrianain, and very small areas above Oldtown;
 - *Moorland slopes and hills LCT*: significant effects on the site area and other areas within approximately 6.5km that gain a high level of visibility of the Proposed Varied Development (Addendum);
 - *Sweeping moorland LCT*: significant effects on the site area and intermittently on other areas within approximately 6km that gain a high level of visibility of the Proposed Varied Development (Addendum); and
 - Loch Fleet, Loch Brora and Glen Loth SLA: intermittent and localised significant effects on small parts of the SLA, including some parts of Loch Brora, the southern loch side around and to the south of Carroll Rock, very small elevated areas above Oldtown; and west-facing slopes that rise close to the eastern edge of the Proposed Varied Development (Addendum).
- Two hilltop viewpoints, as seen in Viewpoint 1 (Beinn Smeorail) and Viewpoint 9 (Ben Horn);
 - Parts of Strath Brora that people may visit for informal recreation, as seen in Viewpoint 2 (Loch Brora, south-west side) and Viewpoint 5 (Strath Brora near Balnacoil);
 - Intermittent/very intermittent significant effect on up to 2km of the minor road from Brora to Rogart travelling eastwards only, as seen in Viewpoint 6 (Brora to Rogart minor road near Sciberscross);
 - Intermittent significant effects on approximately 4.6km of Core Path SU06.02 on the west side of Loch Brora, as seen in Viewpoint 2 (Loch Brora, south-west side); and
 - A part of the access track to Ben Armine Lodge, as seen in Viewpoint 12 (Track to Ben Armine Lodge).

A.7.11.3 In no case has the assessment of the Proposed Varied Development (Addendum) found an increase in magnitude of change, or an impact that would result in a not significant effect becoming significant compared to the conclusions of the EIA Report (January 2019). Overall, the effects of the Proposed Varied Development (Addendum) would remain the same as those of the Proposed Varied Development as assessed in the EIA Report (January 2019): similar to those of the Consented Development but with a reduction in the number and extent of significant effects.