

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 fine-grained 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).
- Following an initial appraisal of the Proposed Development, it was considered that any potentially significant effects on landscape character would be limited to the detailed study area of 20km. For this reason, the detailed assessment of effects on landscape character has been concentrated within this area. 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 20 viewpoints (VPs) have been selected in consultation with Scottish Natural Heritage (SNH) and The Highland Council (THC). These VPs form the basis of the visual assessment. The final list of VPs was confirmed with SNH 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 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 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	Distance from Proposed Development (Approx.)	Potential for Significant Effects	Inclusion in Detailed Assessment
National Park			
Cairngorms National Park (CNP)	1.6km	Located in close proximity to the Proposed Development with potential intervisibility indicated by ZTV across some hill slopes and summits and around Glen Spey.	Yes
National Scenic Area (NSA)			
Ben Nevis and Glen Coe	28.4km	ZTV indicates intervisibility with northern high slopes and summits but scoped out in agreement with SNH as significant effects considered unlikely (see Chapter 7, Table 7.2.1).	No
The Cairngorm Mountains	24.6km	Considered as part of the CNP assessment. Scoped out in agreement with SNH (see Chapter 7, Table 7.2.1).	No
Glen Affric	28.3km	ZTV indicates intervisibility enclosing high mountain slopes but scoped out in agreement with SNH as significant effects considered unlikely (see Chapter 7, Table 7.2.1).	No
Glen Strathfarrar	34.2km	ZTV suggests limited intervisibility considered unlikely to result in significant effects at the distance involved.	No
Loch Rannoch and Glen Lyon	38.7km	ZTV indicates only very marginal intervisibility very unlikely to be significant. Scoped out in agreement with SNH (see Chapter 7, Table 7.2.1).	No
Wild Land Area (WLA)			
14. Rannach – Nevis – Mamores - Alder	12.3km	ZTV indicates similar range of intervisibility as for Stronelairg Wind Farm within the wider study area,	No

Designated / protected Landscape	Distance from Proposed Development (Approx.)	Potential for Significant Effects	Inclusion in Detailed Assessment
		considered unlikely to lead to significant wild land effect. Scoped out in agreement with SNH (see Chapter 7, Table 7.2.1).	
15. Cairngorms	17.6km	Scoped out to focus on WLAs 19 and 20 in accordance with SNH scoping response (see Chapter 7, Table 7.2.1).	No
18. Kinlochhourn – Knoydart – Morar	24.7km	ZTV indicates some intervisibility but in areas where existing, closer wind turbines are likely to be already influential. Scoped out in agreement with SNH (see Chapter 7, Table 7.2.1).	No
19. Braeroy – Glenshirra – Creag Meagaidh	4.6km	ZTV indicates potential intervisibility within this WLA. Requested for inclusion by SNH (see Chapter 7, Table 7.2.1).	Yes
20. Monadhliath	1.3km	ZTV indicates potential intervisibility at close proximity within this WLA. Requested for inclusion by SNH (see Chapter 7, Table 7.2.1).	Yes
24. Central Highlands	22.5km	ZTV indicates some intervisibility but in areas where existing, closer wind turbines are likely to be already influential.	No
Sites included on the Inventory of Gardens and Designed Landscapes (GDLs)			
Achnacarry	30.4km	No ZTV coverage.	No
Aldourie Castle	32.6km	No ZTV coverage.	No
Beaufort Castle	37.2km	No ZTV coverage.	No
Corrour Lodge	31.4km	No ZTV coverage.	No
Dochfour	34.6km	No ZTV coverage.	No
Doone of Rothiemurchus	31.1km	No ZTV coverage.	No
Kinrara	28.8km	No ZTV coverage.	No
Leys Castle	37.9km	No ZTV coverage.	No
Ben Alder, Laggan and Glen Banchor	5.0km	ZTV suggests intervisibility with some upland and low ground parts of SLA.	Yes
Drynachan, Lochindorb and Dava Moors	34.8km	Only a very small portion of SLA within wider study area with very limited and peripheral ZTV coverage, unlikely to lead to significant effects.	No
Loch Lochy and Loch Oich	11.5km	ZTV indicates limited intervisibility across mountain areas of the SLA which reflect Special Qualities.	Yes

Designated / protected Landscape	Distance from Proposed Development (Approx.)	Potential for Significant Effects	Inclusion in Detailed Assessment
Loch Ness and Duntelchaig	5.5km	ZTV indicates theoretical visibility across upland areas and valley-sides which reflect Special Qualities.	Yes
Moidart, Morar and Glen Shiel	29.8km	Only a small part of SLA within wider study area. Limited distant intervisibility is considered very unlikely to lead to any significant effect.	No
Strathconon, Monar and Mullardoch	29.3km	ZTV indicates theoretical intervisibility with peripheral areas and high peaks. Only a small part of this SLA is within the wider study area and distant intervisibility is considered very unlikely to lead to any effect on Special Qualities.	No

Landscape Character

- 1.3.3 SNH 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. Twenty-two individual LCTs are identified within the detailed study area.
- 1.3.4 In addition, the CNPA have developed a separate suite of Landscape Character Areas (LCAs) within the CNP area. These are detailed in the publication 'Cairngorms National Park: Landscape Character Assessment' (Grant, 2009). This separates the LCAs into two types: Upland Character Types and Lowland Character Types. As this is a more detailed categorisation of landscape character the LCAs identified by the CNPA have been used as the basis for the assessment of landscape character within the CNP.
- 1.3.5 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) and Landscape Character Areas (LCAs)

LCT / LCA	Distance from Proposed Development (Approx.)	Appraisal	Inclusion in Detailed Assessment
National Landscape Character Types (LCTs)			
Broad Forested Strath	13.0km	Only marginal ZTV coverage on the edge of the detailed study area	No
Broad Loch and Glen	10.6km	Only marginal coverage by ZTV	No
Broad Steep-Sided Glen	7.8km	ZTV indicates intervisibility with glen-sides and loch-side areas on the western side of Loch Ness.	Yes

LCT / LCA	Distance from Proposed Development (Approx.)	Appraisal	Inclusion in Detailed Assessment
Farmed and Wooded Foothills	6.5km	ZTV indicates limited intervisibility of only very small numbers of tips, mostly within wooded and forested areas, considered very unlikely to be significant.	No
Farmed Strath - Inverness	6.1km	Only marginal coverage by ZTV.	No
Interlocking Sweeping Peaks - Lochaber	18.6km	Only marginal ZTV coverage on the edge of the detailed study area.	No
Isolated Mountain Plateau	8.4km	ZTV indicates intervisibility with high summits and plateaux a key characteristic of the LCT.	Yes
Loch and Glen	17.4km	No ZTV coverage in detailed study area.	No
Rocky Moorland - Lochaber	12.2km	Only marginal ZTV coverage on the edge of the detailed study area.	No
Rocky Moorland Plateau - Inverness	13.9km	ZTV indicates extensive intervisibility with this LCT.	Yes
Rolling Uplands - Cairngorms	6.2km	Covered by Cairngorms National Park Landscape Character Assessment.	No
Rolling Uplands - Inverness	1.6km	The Proposed Development is located within this LCT.	Yes
Rugged Massif - Inverness	11.5km	ZTV indicates intervisibility with higher slopes and summits within the detailed study area.	Yes
Rugged Massif - Lochaber	26.1km	ZTV indicates large areas of intervisibility within the detailed study area.	Yes
Small Craggy Knolls and Hills	13.0km	ZTV indicates intervisibility across large proportion of LCT.	Yes
Smooth Moorland Ridges	6.3km	ZTV indicates intervisibility across some higher open slopes and summits, a key characteristic of the LCT.	Yes
Smooth Rounded Hills – Badenoch and Strathspey	13.6km	ZTV indicates extensive intervisibility with this LCT.	Yes
Smooth Rounded Hills - Cairngorms	11.6km	Covered by Cairngorms National Park Landscape Character Assessment.	No
Summits and Plateaux – Cairngorms	14.9km	Covered by Cairngorms National Park Landscape Character Assessment.	No

LCT / LCA	Distance from Proposed Development (Approx.)	Appraisal	Inclusion in Detailed Assessment
Upland Farmed Valleys	19.1km	No ZTV coverage in detailed study area.	No
Upland Glen – Cairngorms	5.4km	Covered by Cairngorms National Park Landscape Character Assessment and no ZTV coverage in detailed study area.	No
Upland Glen – Inverness	3.7km	ZTV indicates potential intervisibility at relatively close proximity.	Yes
Upland Strath	7.0km	Covered by Cairngorms National Park Landscape Character Assessment.	No
Wooded Glen - Inverness	14.2km	No ZTV coverage in detailed study area.	No
Cairngorms National Park Landscape Character Areas (LCAs)			
Ardverikie Hills	9.5km	ZTV indicates intervisibility with higher hills and summits.	Yes
The Monadhliath: North Monadhliath	17.5km	No ZTV coverage in detailed study area.	No
The Monadhliath: South Monadhliath	1.6km	ZTV indicates limited intervisibility but close to Proposed Development and in areas considered of importance to the LCA.	Yes
The Southern Hills: Southwestern Glens	14.8km	ZTV indicates limited intervisibility but included due to higher value of CNP landscapes.	Yes
Ardverikie: Glen Shirra	8.0km	ZTV indicates some intervisibility across higher ground and slopes.	Yes
Pattack Glen / Strath Mashie	8.4km	ZTV indicates intervisibility limited to higher ground but included due to higher value of CNP landscapes.	Yes
Badenoch: Insh Marshes	17.9km	No ZTV coverage in detailed study area.	No
Badenoch: Lower Glen Banchor	12.3km	No ZTV coverage in detailed study area.	No
Badenoch: Newtonmore to Kingussie	13.1km	No ZTV coverage in detailed study area.	No
Badenoch: Upper Glen Banchor	6.2km	No ZTV coverage in detailed study area.	No
Badenoch: Upper Strath	12.0km	No ZTV coverage in detailed study area.	No
Cathar Mor	11.5km	ZTV indicates relatively limited intervisibility but included due to higher value of CNP landscapes.	Yes

LCT / LCA	Distance from Proposed Development (Approx.)	Appraisal	Inclusion in Detailed Assessment
Dalwhinnie	18km	No ZTV coverage in detailed study area.	No
Glen Truim	13.8km	No ZTV coverage in detailed study area.	No
Glen Truim: Upper Glen & Dalwhinnie	15.6km	ZTV indicates intervisibility across higher slopes and summits to east of Glen Truim.	Yes
Kingussie	17.2km	No ZTV coverage in detailed study area.	No
Laggan	8.5km	No ZTV coverage in detailed study area.	No
Newtonmore	13.8km	No ZTV coverage in detailed study area.	No
Spey Headwaters: Spey Dam	6.2km	ZTV indicates intervisibility across higher slopes and summits, within 10 km of Proposed Development.	Yes
Spey Headwaters: Upper Glen of the Spey	5.4km	ZTV indicates intervisibility with around half of LCA.	Yes
Upper Spey Farmlands: Coul Farm Pinch Point	7.1km	Only marginal ZTV coverage in detailed study area, considered very unlikely to lead to a significant effect.	No
Upper Spey Farmlands: Laggan Strath	7km	Only marginal ZTV coverage in detailed study area, considered very unlikely to lead to a significant effect.	No
Upper Spey Farmlands: Loch Uvie Pinch Point	11.4km	No ZTV coverage in detailed study area.	No

Cumulative Landscape Assessment

- 1.3.6 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	
Natinal Park	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cairngorms National Park

Landscape Area	Name
Wild Land Area	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 19. Braeroy – Glenshirra – Creag Meagaidh; and 20. Monadhliath.
Special Landscape Area	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ben Alder, Laggan and Glen Banchor; and Loch Ness and Duntelchaig
LCTs / LCAs	
National LCTs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> LCT 85 - Isolated Mountain Plateau (Creag Meagaidh area only); LCT 221 - Rolling Uplands Inverness; LCT 238 – Rugged Massif – Lochaber; LCT 236 – Smooth Moorland Ridges; and LCT 231 – Upland Glen - Inverness.
CNP LCAs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ardverikie Hills LCA; The Monadhliath – South Monadhliath LCA; Ardverikie – Glen Shirra LCA; Spey Headwaters – Spey Dam LCA; and Spey Headwaters – Upper Glen of the Spey LCA.

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 selection, and those which were considered and not included. This includes VPs recommended by consultees in Scoping and Post Scoping consultation.

1.4.3 The final list of VPs has been confirmed with Scottish Natural Heritage (SNH) and Highland Council (THC).

Table 1.4.1: Appraisal of Viewpoints Considered for the LVIA

Viewpoint	Consultation History	Appraisal	Inclusion in Detailed Assessment
VP1 Beinn a' Mheadhoin (Glen Affric) NH 21906 25555	Included as VP1 in Scoping Report. Mountaineering Scotland (MouS) suggested this VP should move to an adjacent Munro. Subject to a small degree of micro-siting.	This VP was not moved as it was considered adequately representative of views obtained from high points within Glen Affric NSA and Central Highlands WLA.	Yes
B862 - Loch Ceo Glais NH 57645 57645	Included as VP2 in Scoping Report.	Layout iterations resulted in no view being obtained from this VP.	No

Viewpoint	Consultation History	Appraisal	Inclusion in Detailed Assessment
VP2 Great Glen Way, Balbeg NH 49330 24347	Included as VP3 in Scoping Report. The position was adjusted slightly for the LVIA as growth of vegetation had obscured the original view.	Representative of views obtained from properties, minor roads and a section of the Great Glen Way long distance walking route and mid-level views on the west side of Loch Ness.	Yes
VP3 Meall Fuar-mhonaidh NH 45889 22181	Included as VP4 in Scoping Report. Subject to a small degree of micro-siting.	Popular local hill summit and highest point on the west side of Loch Ness, within Loch Ness and Duntelchaig SLA. Representative of views from high ground and summits on the west side of Loch Ness including Burach Cairn.	Yes
VP4 Carn na Saobhaidhe NH 59863 14300	Included as VP5 in the Scoping Report. Subject to a small degree of micro-siting.	Summit of Corbett. Representative of the types of view obtained from high ground to the north of the Proposed Development.	Yes
VP5 Carn Dubh NH 51675 09519	Included as VP6 in the Scoping Report. Subject to a small degree of micro-siting.	Representative of the types of views obtained from high ground to the north of the Proposed Development.	Yes
Sron a' Choire Ghairbh NN 22246 94562 (or thereabouts)	Suggested as replacement to Carn Dubh (VP5) by MouS (or Ben Tee) to represent views from mountains to the south-west.	Carn Dubh (VP5) was considered an important VP and therefore retained. VP 15 (Beainn Teallach) and VP 17 (Carn Dearg (Glen Roy)) were added to represent views from the south-west in consultation with SNH.	No
Ben Tee NN24073 97194 (or thereabouts)	Suggested as replacement to Carn Dubh (VP5) by MouS (or Sron a' Choire Ghairbh) to represent views from mountains to the south-west.	Carn Dubh (VP5) was considered an important VP and therefore retained. VP15 (Beainn Teallach) and VP17 (Carn Dearg (Glen Roy)) were added to represent views from the south-west in consultation with SNH.	No
VP6 Glen Markie NH 54356 07217	Included as VP7 in the Scoping Report. Subject to a small degree of micro-siting.	Representative of views from recreational route (Scottish Hill Track 231)	Yes

Viewpoint	Consultation History	Appraisal	Inclusion in Detailed Assessment
VP7 Carn a' Chuilinn NH 41679 03397	Included as VP8 in the Scoping Report. Subject to a small degree of micro-siting.	Summit of Corbett in close proximity to the west of the Proposed Development.	Yes
VP8 Carn Dearg (Monadhliath) NH 63545 02427	Included as VP9 in the Scoping Report. Subject to a small degree of micro-siting.	Munro summit. Representative of views from high ground near the western boundary of the CNP and within the Monadhliath WLA.	Yes
VP9 Geal Charn (Monadhliath) NN 56145 98766	Included as VP10 in the Scoping Report. Subject to a small degree of micro-siting.	Munro summit in very close proximity to the east of the Proposed Development. Representative of views from high ground on the western boundary of the CNP.	Yes
Cairngorm Funicular Railway NJ 00477 04899	Included as VP11 in the Scoping Report. MouS suggested moving this VP to a Glen Feshie Munro, being closer to the Proposed Development.	Due to the closure of the funicular railway and following comments this was moved to the summit of Braeriach (see VP10).	No
VP10 Braeriach NN 95300 99906	Included instead of Cairngorm Funicular Railway following Scoping comments from MouS and closure of funicular railway. Agreed by SNH.	Popular mountain summit within the CNP, The Cairngorm Mountains NSA and Cairngorms WLA. Representative of more distant mountain summit views from CNP.	Yes
VP11 Carn Liath NN 47216 90352	Included as VP12 in the Scoping Report. Subject to a small degree of micro-siting.	Munro summit. Representative of views from high summits to the south of the Proposed Development and within Braeroy - Glenshirra - Creag Meagaidh WLA.	Yes
VP12 Glen Shirra NN 53411 90479	Included as VP13 in the Scoping Report. Subject to a small degree of micro-siting.	Located on estate track. Representative of types of views obtained from lower level locations and walking routes in the CNP and Ben Alder, Laggan and Glen Banchor SLA.	Yes

Viewpoint	Consultation History	Appraisal	Inclusion in Detailed Assessment
Meall Chuaich NN 71633 87821	Included as VP14 in the Scoping Report.	Considered similar to a VP on Carn na Caim requested by SNH. The VP on Carn na Caim was therefore chosen as preference, in agreement with SNH.	No
VP13 Geal Charn (Ardverikie) NN 50441 81229	Included as VP15 in the Scoping Report. Subject to a small degree of micro-siting.	Munro summit located in in Ben Alder, Laggan and Glen Banchor SLA. Representative of elevated middle distance views from the south.	Yes
A9 near Etteridge NN 65484 86732	Included as VP16 in the Scoping Report	Layout iterations resulted in no view being obtained from this VP.	No
V14 A87, Loch Garry Viewpoint NH 21165 02845	Included as VP18 in the Scoping Report. Subject to a small degree of micro-siting.	Popular stopping point on A87 tourist route. Representative of views obtained by those travelling east on this section of the A87.	Yes
VP15 Beinn Teallach NN 36142 85969	Suggested by SNH in their Scoping Response and agreed by ASH as a good representative VP.	Munro summit located within Braeroy, Glenshirra – Creag Meagaidh WLA. Representative of elevated views from the south-west. Considered to be a good representative VP.	Yes
V16 Footpath East of Loch Spey NN 42847 94138	Suggested by SNH in their Scoping Response and agreed by ASH as a good representative VP.	Located within Braeroy, Glenshirra – Creag Meagaidh WLA. Representative of views from recreational routes within Upper Glen of the Spey. Considered to be a good representative VP for low level views.	Yes
VP17 Carn Dearg (Glen Roy) NN 35029 96630	Suggested by SNH in their Scoping Response and agreed by ASH as a good representative VP.	Corbett summit located within Braeroy, Glenshirra – Creag Meagaidh WLA. Representative of elevated views from south-west in near distance. Considered to be a good representative VP.	Yes

Viewpoint	Consultation History	Appraisal	Inclusion in Detailed Assessment
VP18 Loch na Lairige NN 55806 91384	Suggested by SNH in their Scoping Response and agreed by ASH as a good representative VP.	Located within Cairngorms National Park and Ben Alder, Laggan and Glen Banchor SLA. Representative of elevated views around Strath Mashie. Considered to be a good representative VP.	Yes
VP19 Carn na Caim NN 67701 82147	Suggested by SNH in their Scoping Response. Chosen in preference to Meall Chuaich to agreement of SNH.	Munro summit to east of A9 located in CNP and Cairngorms WLA. Representative of elevated views from CNP to the south-east.	Yes
Doire Duibhe NN 61475 90609	Suggested by SNH in their Scoping Response but ruled out in favour of VP18 Loch na Lairige, in agreement with SNH.	Three VPs suggested by SNH were close together within this area with similar views and it was considered that these could be represented by one VP. Dun-da-Lamh was initially proposed but SNH expressed a preference for Loch na Lairige (VP18).	No
Dun-da-Lamh NN 58192 92908	Suggested by SNH in their Scoping Response but ruled out in favour of VP18 Loch na Lairige, in agreement with SNH.	Three VPs suggested by SNH were close together within this area with similar views and it was considered that these could be represented by one VP. Dun-da-Lamh was initially proposed but SNH expressed a preference for Loch na Lairige (VP18).	No
VP20 Urquhart Castle NH 53103 28638	Included as VP17 in the Scoping Report. The VP has been located on the citadel as this high point is considered to have the greatest opportunity of obtaining a view of the Proposed Development.	Important tourist site and Scheduled Monument located within Loch Ness and Duntelchaig SLA. Representative of low level views from western side of Loch Ness. Whilst layout iterations resulted in no view from this location, it was retained as a VP due to the importance of the location and to demonstrate lack of effect.	Yes

Viewpoint	Consultation History	Appraisal	Inclusion in Detailed Assessment
B862 South of Whitebridge NH 48080 14539	Included as VP19 in the Scoping Report.	Layout iterations resulted in no view being obtained from this VP. As there was no nearby publicly accessible location to obtain a view here, this VP was removed (views from properties are included as Residential Receptor Location RRL2).	No
Upper Drumnadrochit NH 49860 31710 (or thereabouts)	Recommended for consideration by THC in their Scoping Response to represent views from residential areas above Drumnadrochit.	A VP in this area was considered but a publicly accessible position with a clear view was found difficult to locate. As the view would be similar to VP2 but at least 6.5km more distant, VP2 was considered adequately representative of the view in this direction as the visual effect on the Upper Drumnadrochit area would not be greater and would be highly unlikely to be significant.	No
Upper Great Glen Way (Carn an Doire Mhòir). NH 39763 12899	Requested by THC after Pre-application Consultation to represent views from the upper Great Glen Way through Portclair Forest.	There would be no view of the Proposed Development from this VP location or at any point on either the upper or lower Great Glen Way through Portclair Forest.	No
Upper Great Glen Way NH 39438 12183	Requested by THC after Pre-application Consultation to represent views from the upper Great Glen Way through Portclair Forest.	There would be no view of the Proposed Development from this VP location or at any point on either the upper or lower Great Glen Way through Portclair Forest.	No
Upper Great Glen Way (Allt na Criche) NH 38845 11697	Requested by THC after Pre-application Consultation to represent views from the upper Great Glen Way through Portclair Forest.	There would be no view of the Proposed Development from this VP location or at any point on either the upper or lower Great Glen Way through Portclair Forest.	No

Viewpoint	Consultation History	Appraisal	Inclusion in Detailed Assessment
Burach Cairn NH 38329 14150	Requested by THC after Pre-application Consultation if clear evidence of a path to the cairn's summit could be established, to represent those who choose to deviate from the Great Glen Way in this area.	This VP was visited in February 2020. No clear evidence of a path to the summit which would indicate that this location was regularly visited by those completing the Great Glen Way or others, was found (see Annex 1 to this Technical Appendix). It was therefore considered unrepresentative of views obtained by users of the Great Glen Way who would need to make a substantial diversion of at least 3.4km across difficult, boggy ground. Whilst it is acknowledged that this location may occasionally be visited by keen walkers the type of view obtained is considered adequately represented by VP3, Meall Fuar-mhonaidh and is considered very unlikely have a greater level of effect.	No

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.
- 1.4.5 A review of residential areas and settlements within the detailed study area in relation to the ZTV shows that very few of these areas would have theoretical visibility of the Proposed Development.
- 1.4.6 There would be no view from the majority of established settlements in the detailed study area including:
- Dalwhinnie;
 - Fort Augustus;
 - Foyers (lower);
 - Invergarry;
 - Invermoriston;
 - Kingussie;
 - Laggan; and
 - Newtonmore.
- 1.4.7 In addition there would be no view from most rural property locations including:

- All properties along the base of the Great Glen and around the shores of Loch Ness, Loch Oich and Loch Lochy;
- Properties around Loch Laggan and Kinloch Laggan;
- Most properties in and around Strath Errick;
- Properties in Strath Mashie; and
- Properties along the main A9 corridor of Glen Truim and Strath Spey.

1.4.8 The potential for views from properties within the detailed study area is limited to five small areas of rural properties. The detailed assessment of views from residential areas and settlements has therefore been limited to these five areas. Residential Receptor Locations (RRLs) are included in the detailed assessment (and illustrated on Figure 7.6.2), as follows:

- **RRL 1: Bunloit, Balbeg and Inchterrach House**, a group of scattered residential properties set in an elevated position to the west of Loch Ness.
- **RRL 2: Whitebridge**, a small settlement cluster and surrounding scattered properties located in Strath Errick around the confluence of the River Fechlin and Allt Breineag.
- **RRL 3: Foyers (upper)**, a small community formed of terraced traditional cottages set on the east side of Loch Ness, above the Falls of Foyers.
- **RRL 4: Garvamore and Garvabeg**, a few remote cottage and lodge properties set in the Upper Glen of the Spey.
- **RRL 5: Killin and Garrogie Lodges**, shooting lodges and associated development within River Fechlin glen.

Routes

1.4.9 The visual effects on travellers using routes has been considered within the detailed 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: Visual Receptors included in the Assessment).

Table 1.4.2: Appraisal of Routes Considered for the LVIA

Route Type	Appraisal	Included in Detailed Assessment
A Roads	Including the A9, A82, A86, A87, A887 and A889. Of these routes, only the A82 shows any noticeable degree of potential theoretical visibility. Tiny areas of theoretical visibility on the A86 and theoretical visibility outwith the detailed study area on other routes are considered very unlikely to lead to any significant effects.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A82 (Route R1)
B Roads	Including the B862 and B852. The ZTV indicates potential intervisibility with both these routes within the detailed study area.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • B852 (Route R2); and • B863 (Route R3)
Minor Roads	Comprising a number of roads, mostly around the main settlement areas, or up rural glens.	None

Route Type	Appraisal	Included in Detailed Assessment
	The ZTV shows that the majority of these routes would have very little if any intervisibility with the Proposed Development. No minor roads are considered individually in the detailed assessment because, where the ZTV indicates potential effect, these routes are either combined with path routes which are otherwise included in the assessment, or considered to be adequately represented by either the surrounding Residential Receptor Area assessment or nearby viewpoint assessment.	
Railway Lines	The Perth to Inverness railway line passes through the west of the detailed study area through Glen Truim and Strathspey. The ZTV indicates no theoretical visibility from this route.	None
Waterways	This includes Caledonian Canal and Great Glen Canoe Trail. The ZTV indicates that there would be only an extremely small area of theoretical visibility to these routes on a small part of Loch Ness south of Drumnadrochit. This is considered very unlikely to lead to any noticeable effect.	None
Core Paths	Core Paths within the detailed study area are mostly focussed around settlement areas and by and large there would be no visibility of the Proposed Development from these routes. Potential limited views from very short sections are indicated to a few paths around Foyers and one route through woodland to the Falls of Pattack. Due to the presence of woodland, any noticeable effect is considered very unlikely to the Falls of Pattack Core Path. Routes around Foyers are considered as part of the South Loch Ness Trail (Route R9). No Core Paths are therefore considered individually in the detailed assessment.	None individually. Some Core Paths around Foyers are assessed as part of the South Loch Ness Trail (Route R9) .
Scottish Hill Tracks (Scotways)	Sixteen Scottish Hill Tracks fall within or partly within the detailed study area (see Figure 7.6.1: Potential Visual Receptors): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 153: Loch Rannoch to Dalwhinnie by Loch Ericht; • 154: Loch Rannoch to Kinloch Laggan; • 155: Corroul Station to Kinloch Laggan; • 200: Dalwhinnie to Feagour (Strath Mashie) • 201: Kingussie to Laggan; • 231: Tomatin to Whitebridge; • 233: Kingussie to Tomatin by the River Findhorn; 	(see Figure 7.6.2: Visual Receptors included in the Assessment) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Scottish Hill Track 200 (Route R5); • Scottish Hill Track 231 (Route R6) (also RoW HI106); • Scottish Hill Track 235 (Route R7) (also RoW HI109 and Heritage Track 'Glen Markie Track');

Route Type	Appraisal	Included in Detailed Assessment
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 234: Newtonmore to Laggan by Glen Banchor; • 235: Laggan to Whitebridge; • 236: Laggan to Fort Augustus via the Corrieyairack Pass; • 237: Laggan to Roy Bridge or Glenfintaig Lodge (Spean Bridge); • 238: The Dark Mile (Loch Arkaig) to Invergarry or Loch Garry; • 239: Loch Garry to Laggan Locks; • 259: Fort Augustus to Invergarry, by Loch Lundie; • 260: Fort Augustus to Achlain or Torgyle Bridge (Glen Moriston); and • 261: Torgyle Bridge (Glen Moriston) to Tomich (Strathglass). <p>The ZTV shows theoretical visibility from four of these routes which have been included in the detailed assessment. Some of these routes also combine with Rights of Way (RoW), Heritage Paths and other Hill Tracks. These overlaps are noted where relevant.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Scottish Hill Track 237 (Route R8) (also includes part of 236 and Heritage Path ‘Corrieyairack Pass’);
Long distance walking route and trails	<p>The Great Glen Way (upper and lower routes) passes through the west of the study area within and on the slopes of the Great Glen. Mapped routes, the South Loch Ness Trail, Trail of the Seven Lochs and Monadhliath Trail are also present on the eastern side of Loch Ness sometimes combining with parts of roads, Core Paths and Scottish Hill Tracks. The Loch Ness 360 comprises a combination of the South Loch Ness Trail and Great Glen Way to make a circular route.</p> <p>The ZTV shows theoretical visibility of the Proposed Development from parts of the Great Glen Way, South Loch Ness Trail and Monadhliath Trail (which passes through the Proposed Development site). No theoretical visibility is shown for the Trail of the Seven Lochs. As the Loch Ness 360 is composed of the Great Glen Way and South Loch Ness Trail, it has not been assessed individually.</p>	<p>(See Figure 7.6.2: Visual Receptors included in the Assessment)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Great Glen Way (Route R4); • The South Loch Ness Trail (Route R9); and • The Monadhliath Trail (Route R10).
Cycle Routes	<p>National Cycle Route 7 passes through Glen Truim and Strathspey within the detailed study area. The ZTV shows that it would have no intervisibility with the Proposed Development.</p> <p>National Cycle Route 78 follows the towpath of the Caledonian Canal, the B852 and B862 through the detailed study area. It is therefore considered as a component part of these</p>	<p>(See Figure 7.6.2: Visual Receptors included in the Assessment)</p> <p>None individually.</p> <p>National Cycle Route 78 considered as part of the B852 (Route R2) and B862 (Route R3).</p>

Route Type	Appraisal	Included in Detailed Assessment
	<p>routes, but is not considered as an individual route.</p> <p>The potential for cyclists to be using roads, long distance walking routes and trails and Scottish Hill Tracks within the detailed study area is considered throughout.</p>	

Cumulative Visual Assessment

- 1.4.10 The cumulative visual assessment has considered all VPs and routes identified for inclusion within the landscape 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 – Beinn a’ Mheadhoin (Glen Affric); • VP2 – Great Glen Way, Balbeg; • VP3 – Meall Fuar-mhonaidh; • VP4 – Carn na Saobhaidhe • VP5 – Carn Dubh • VP7 – Carn a’ Chuilinn • VP8 – Carn Dearg (Monadhliath); • VP9 – Geal Charn (Monadhliath); • VP11 – Carn Liath; • VP13 – Geal Charn (Arkverikie); • VP15 – Beinn Teallach; • VP16 – Footpath East of Loch Spey; • VP17 – Carn Dearg (Glen Roy); • VP18 – Loch na Lairige; and • VP19 – Carn na Caim.
Routes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • R4 – The Great Glen Way; • R5 – Scottish Hill Track 200: Dalwhinnie to Feagour (Strath Mashie); • R7 – Scottish Hill Track 235: Laggan to Whitebridge; • R8 – Scottish Hill Track 237: Laggan to Roybridge or Glenfintaig Lodge (Spean Bridge) by Leckroy; and • R10 – Monadhliath Trail.

Technical Appendix 7.2 – Annex 1: Photos of Burach Cairn

This Annex is intended to provide evidence that no established path is present to Burach Cairn, and therefore it is unlikely that users of the upper Great Glen Way habitually divert to access this point.



Photo 1.

Burach Cairn viewed from the Great Glen way at Allt na Criche. The cairn is 2.5 km from the Great Glen Way at this point and comprises a lengthy trek with just under 400m elevation gain across difficult and boggy ground, taking over one hour.



Photo 2.

Ascending via Allt na Criche, faint deer paths, such as the one shown in this image, are present in some locations but do not provide a direct route up to the Cairn.



Photo 3.

From NH 390 123 looking towards Burach Cairn. No evidence of an established path is present within the wider area. Ground is difficult and boggy.



Photo 4.

From approximately NH 390 123 looking back towards the Great Glen Way. No evidence of an established path is present within the wider area. Ground is difficult and boggy.



Photo 5.

From approximately NH 386 138 looking towards the summit area. No clear path route is present and ground is difficult and boggy.



Photo 6.

From the cairn looking across the summit. Although low cloud has descended, photos 6, 7 and 8 clearly show that there is no established path reaching this summit.



Photo 7.

From the cairn looking across the summit. Although low cloud has descended, photos 6, 7 and 8 clearly show that there is no established path reaching this summit.



Photo 8.

From the cairn looking across the summit. Although low cloud has descended, photos 6, 7 and 8 clearly show that there is no established path reaching this summit.